



BrookNotes

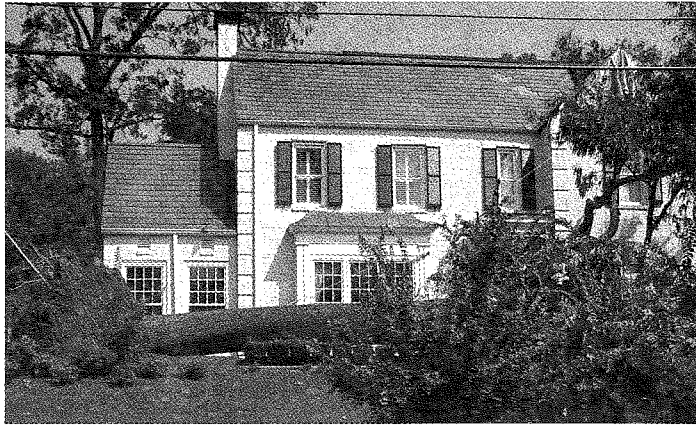
August 2008

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXI, No. 7

Storm Rips Through Brighton Road

By Alison Caughman



Around 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, a fierce thunderstorm blew through Brookwood Hills, taking special aim at Brighton Road. Falling trees damaged property at the homes of Chris and Kellam Mattie at 97 Brighton; Shana & Bill Magruder at 110 Brighton; Ellen and Kevin Murphy at 130 Brighton (pictured to the left); Celeste and Jim Porter at 142 Brighton; and Betty and Steve Walker at 145 Brighton.

Chris and Kellam Mattie remained philosophical about the tree that took out their garage and two cars (see picture below). "No one was injured or killed," said Kellam. "Cars and garages can be replaced." Celeste Porter stated that the tree that came down on their brand new (and gorgeous) fence had been dead for some time,



despite her having reported that fact to the tree's owners (the apartment complex behind the property). Betty and Steve Walker made lemonade out of lemons by harvesting wonderful oak firewood from the tree (pictured above) that luckily largely missed their house. It did, however, smash into Betty's car. "The car was fourteen years old," said Betty. "It was about time to replace it anyway I guess." The storm caused power to go out through much of the neighborhood but was restored to everyone within 24 hours.



BROOKNOTES

BrookNotes is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. BrookNotes is sponsored on alternate months by Patti Junger of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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Security Alert Signs

When you see the **Security Alert signs** posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline.

Pool Hours & End of the Season Festivities

Take note that the pool hours will be abbreviated during the last two weeks of the season. Regular hours (10:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday and noon until 9:00 pm Sunday) will remain in effect through Labor Day, September 1st. For the next two weeks thereafter the pool will remain closed during the week but will be open on the week-end.

Pool Operating Hours

Closed September 2 - 4 and 8 - 11

Open Fridays Sept. 5 & 12, 4 pm to 9 pm

Open Saturdays Sept. 6 & 13, 10 am to 9 pm

Open Sunday, September 7 noon to 9 pm

Open Sunday, September 14 noon to 5 pm

Last Day

Sunday, September 14th will be the last day of the pool season. From 3:30 to 5:00 there will be an Ice Cream Social sponsored by Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc. There will be train rides and many fun activities in the park for all to enjoy, followed by the one annual Brookwood Hills event spotlighting our canine neighbors: **The Dog Swim**. Chaotic fun reigns supreme as neighborhood pooches have their time to frolic in the cool water. Don't miss it!

Hayes Wilson, Pool Chair

Wendy Granot & Burch Hanson, Social Chairs

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of BrookNotes is Wednesday, September 10th, 2008. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 22 Northwood Avenue.

BWH Loves the Peachtree Road Race



Mary Barret and son Ivan Duralde, Jenni Junger and Joe Gardner were four of the Brookwood Hills residents who ran the Peachtree Road Race on July 4th. Thanks to Ken Bernhardt for the photos.



Brookwood Hills Neighbor Spotlight: Florence Sumner

By Lee Wilder

Q. You have just retired after teaching at Sutton Middle School! What led to your decision?

Florence: After twenty-two years, it was just time. I always wanted to retire before the magic was gone. I was the chair of the Science Department for many years and gave that up last spring so the school could have an easy transition. I had a great year with wonderful students so it was just perfect to go out on a high. Plus, I have a business that needs a great deal of my time.

Q. We will get to the business later but I am curious – many people (including loads of parents) just roll their eyes when someone talks about middle school. You must love that age.

Florence: I think middle school kids are delightful. Of course, they are the most trying but they are uninhibited, they respond naturally, they are not as guarded. They truly appreciate it when people take a personal interest in them. There are a lot of emotional currents during those years – personally, with friends and family. You would be surprised to know how many students sometimes just give me a hug. You can make a difference in the life of a young person during middle school.

Q. And you taught science?

Florence: I taught physical science for many years but have also taught earth science, life science and science for the gifted and talented. These are bright, bright kids. I would stack them up against any students in the city.

Q. Did you want to teach when you were growing up?

Florence: Actually, I wanted to be an astronomer. I was always interested in science, but I also remember playing school.

Q. Tell me about Sutton Middle School.

Florence: Sutton is a wonderful environment. It is like a local United Nations. I have taught children from all over the world. The degree of diversity is a strength – everyone is “different” in some way. One of my brightest students this year just moved from Austria. He speaks three languages and is fairly conservative. On the last day of school, he came with spiked hair and all the kids applauded and said that he was now “American.” Sutton also has great neighborhood support, and the percentage of neighborhood kids is significantly higher than 5 or 10 years ago.

Q. What have been your highpoints of teaching?

Florence: I enjoyed my whole experience in the classroom. I have so many anecdotes, but I admit that I am proud to have served for six years on the Georgia Student Finance Commission which oversees the Hope Scholarship and lottery funds. I was appointed by Zell Miller to represent the Fifth District. Also, my class was on the NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw once – we were talking about the riots in Los Angeles after the Rodney King incident.

Q. You were talking about Rodney King in science class?

Florence: On some days, a current event can be much more important than science. These kids were really disturbed and confused by what they had seen on television. They wanted me to help with a protest so we started talking. We talked about the situation for a couple of days. NBC videotaped three hours of frank and candid classroom discussion. One of the frustrations of this age student is that they often feel as though they can't make a difference. I pointed out that their opinions were on national television.

(Brookwood Hills Neighbor Spotlight, cont.)

Q. Do you think middle school students are able to discuss race more openly than adults?

Florence: I think so, particularly at Sutton. These young people know each other first as individuals. They can talk and even joke about stereotypes without it becoming personal. They are direct and honest. This ability to talk candidly is such a positive development for our society.

Q. Your three girls grew up in Brookwood Hills and graduated from Sutton and North Atlanta.

Florence: Yes, and all three graduated from Duke University. Anne is an attorney and has taught at the college level. She will receive her Doctorate in Justice Policy this winter. Hannah taught in DeKalb County and then at North Atlanta. She is currently working at First Presbyterian Church overseeing their nursery/preschool ministry. Sarah is a Senior Principal with RCLCO, a real estate advisory firm. And, I have six young grandchildren – five boys and one girl. They're so much fun.

Q. We will be seeing you and Bill and Cameron (the beloved Dalmatian) taking long walks around the neighborhood?

Florence: Hopefully soon, but I have a small manufacturing company in Kentucky. The company, CeraTech Media, produces ceramic tumbling media that is used in polishing metal. Bill and I are spending a fair amount of time in Kentucky these days.

Q. After teaching so long, you must run into former students frequently.

Florence: Absolutely. I see former students all the time. They're everywhere. Sometimes, a stranger will run up to greet me and is surprised that I don't recognize the skinny little Eighth Grader in a 6'5" adult body. I have had a great career teaching, and it was a truly rewarding experience. I will miss my colleagues and students, but I have very good memories.

New Faces by Patti and Sarah



Dave and Judy Higgins have moved to 160 Huntington Road, together with children Emma, who will be a Seventh Grader at Holy Innocents and Sam, who will be a Sophomore at Westminster. The Higgins family members are no strangers to Brookwood Hills as they have been Community Club members for well over 10 years and Sam worked in the concession stand this summer. Dave is a Financial Advisor at Smith Barney and Judy has experience in interior design.

Calendar

- **Monday, September 8, BWH Board of Directors Meeting, 7:15 p.m.** at the home of Harold & Laurie Solomon, 17 Palisades Road
- **Sunday, September 14, Ice Cream Social & Dog Swim,** details page 2
- **Friday, October 31, BWH Halloween Party at the park**
- **Saturday, November 15, Trees Atlanta Tree Planting in Brookwood Hills**

C L A S S I F I E D S

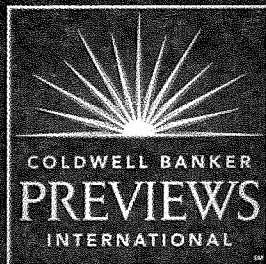
Guitar Lessons. Kirk McAlpin is offering guitar lessons at 247 Brighton Road to all ages and levels. Kirk is an Atlanta native and brother of Brookwood Hills resident Lila Retnasaba. He has been playing acoustic, electric, and classical guitar since childhood, and attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. Kirk is a great teacher, appealing to both beginners and advanced musicians, young children and adults. For more information please contact Kirk at 404-216-6661 or at kmmcalpin3@yahoo.com. (Submitted by Lila Retnasaba.)

Space Design. Tagie Tate Perez has started a new and creative business, Roomio, LLC, which provides space design for nurseries or any other kind of "kid's space." Given all the baby carriages I have seen in Brookwood Hills lately, I believe this service would be of interest to any number of neighbors. Tagie can be reached at 404-520-0304 or at tagie@roomiohappy.com. (Submitted by Larry Pless.)

Tutoring. I am available to tutor your child (pre-K through Fifth Grade) at my home if he/she is struggling in school. I can provide enrichment activities in math, reading, language arts, homework, and organizational skills. I have a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education, am nationally certified and have 11+ years of teaching experience. Flexible schedule/hours. Alison Roedder, 287 Camden Road, 404-351-3830.

House Cleaning/Babysitting. Renee Richardson and Maureen Zent enthusiastically recommend Elise Douglas as both a house cleaner and a babysitter. Elise is available mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and can be reached at 404-634-5425 or 404-644-5425.

Nanny Wanted. Our daughter is a 4 1/2 year old pre-K at 1st Presbyterian Preschool in Midtown. Our nanny is moving to full-time employment the day after Labor Day. We are looking for someone to spend afternoons with our daughter at our house on Camden Road. Hours are M-W & F from 1-6 and Thurs. 2-6. Open to a Nanny-share arrangement as well. If interested contact Susan Booth or Max Leventhal, 404-351-0912 or 404-759-9060.



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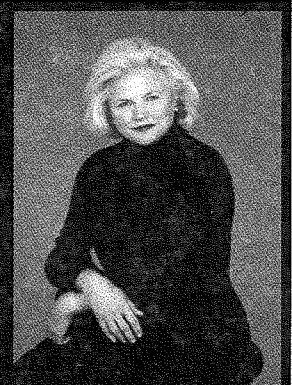
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