



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

December, Vol. IX, No. 11

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Brookwood's Christmas Wish: New Sidewalks

by Betsy Crosby

We're fortunate that Santa doesn't travel by foot, or chances are he'd break his neck on our sidewalks. The good news is that the City of Atlanta has agreed to repair our sidewalks and streets, using FEMA funds available from Hurricane Opal. The bad news is that it's unlikely any repairs will take place before the end of the year.

With the coordination of the BWH Board of Directors, the Public Works Department has identified twenty-three sidewalk ruptures related to Hurricane Opal. The city will undertake to repair free of cost to the homeowner the following sidewalk areas: **25 Palisades, 38 Palisades, 90 Palisades; 38 Huntington, 66 Huntington, 220 Huntington; 35 Wakefield, 36 Wakefield, 64 Wakefield, 77 Wakefield (park side); 55 Montclair; 52 Woodcrest, 56 Woodcrest; 7 Camden, 12 Camden, 29 Camden, 33 Camden, 34 Camden, 42 Camden, 46 Camden; 52 Brighton, 67 Brighton and 69 Brighton.** Duane Stocks, the Public Works supervisor, stated that only those parts of the sidewalk directly affected by the uprooting of the city tree will be repaired. If there are other locations in which Opal has damaged the sidewalk, please call Mr. Stocks at 330-6087. Be aware that he is familiar

with the neighborhood, and is cognizant of which areas were pre-existing conditions.

According to Kay Beynart, assistant to our City Councilman, Lee Morris, The Public Works Department and the Parks Department are coordinating efforts to get the stumps removed and the remaining debris from the storm picked up. Stump removal will require some special tools that will need to be brought in, since some stumps are too big to be ground up. The sidewalk repair crews claim that they stand ready to schedule our repair work as soon as the stump removal is completed. The number of complaints from this neighborhood to the Parks Department and the Public Works Department appear to have had some effect. Members of the BWH Board will continue to monitor the situation, with the assistance of Lee Morris's office, until we receive a satisfactory result.

Duane Stocks did suggest that once city crews are in the neighborhood, it may be a good time for other homeowners to schedule sidewalk repairs at their own expense. Despite dire warnings last year that the price of sidewalks was due to rise, they are still \$1.50 per square foot. Driveway aprons are \$2.00 per square foot and repairs to concrete curbing are \$5.50 per linear

foot. If the curbing on the entire frontage of the property is in need of repair, the city will not repair it with concrete, but instead will install granite curbing at the price of \$7.00 a linear foot. These prices are less than those charged by private contractors.

Mr. Stocks suggested that the quickest way to accomplish these additional repairs is to wait until the crews are in the neighborhood. They can quote the homeowner a price for repair, collect a check, and undertake the work without going through the usual procedural channels.

...And Some Trees

by JoAnn Hagaman

The results of a four-month study by the Brookwood Hills Tree Committee was shared with the Board of Directors at its December 4th meeting. Spence Rosenfeld, President of Arboguard Tree Specialists, showed slides of Brookwood Hills storm damage and discussed problems and solutions. Be sure to attend the neighborhood annual meeting February 4, 1996. Spence will again be joining us to present slides. Solutions for longterm maintenance and reforestation will be discussed.



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Brooknotes is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Civic Association, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. *Brooknotes* is sponsored by Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

Brooknotes Staff

Editor: Betsy Crosby 351-8821

Circulation: Judy Horton 351-6257

Contributors this month:

JoAnn Hagaman, Alison Caughman,
Kay Ottley, Diane Kellum, Libby
Simons, Laranne Oser, Lombard Puri.

Artwork by Kay Summers

Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *Brooknotes* is Friday, January 12, 1996. Submissions should be in writing and should be dropped off at Betsy Crosby's house, 34 Brighton Rd.

Letters to the Editor

Brooknotes received the following letter in November:

For three years we have bought wrapped candy, put it in little bags and decorated for Halloween. We have no children living at home so we do this for the neighborhood children as we enjoy seeing them in their costumes. This year is the last time that we will do this. Some cute little teenage girl with her cute smile said "Thank you - Happy Halloween," turned around in the yard and returned to our door stoop and stole the decorations off of the front door wreath.

We won't be home again for Halloween!

Ethel and Bill Prescott

201 Brighton Road

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Property Tax Appeal Update

by Alison Caughman, President of BWH Community Club

On Monday, December 4th, I called Webster Pope (Chair of the Fulton County Board of Assessors) to find out what had happened to the 1995 property tax appeals which many Brookwood Hills neighbors filed last spring. When could we expect a response from the Board? What would the process be?

Mr. Pope told me that the Board still has 4,017 1994 appeals to hear. He said they are moving quickly with these and expect to finish them by February. If a taxpayer appealed his or her assessment in 1994 as well as in 1995, the Board will lump the two years together and will handle them both in one appeal process. For those who appealed only in 1995, according to Mr. Pope the goal is for all appeals to be heard by the end of the summer. There were approximately 12,300 1995 appeals filed.

If you are one of those who appealed your 1995 assessment, you will eventually receive a letter from the Board of Assessors either offering you a settlement or scheduling a hearing with the Board of Equalization. You will be given between 20 and 30 days advance notice of the hearing. The hearings are being held at 236 Forsyth Street, S.W., adjacent to the Garnett Street MARTA stop. Mr. Pope says that there is a large secure parking lot adjacent to the building, for those who wish to drive. The hearings are held between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They are scheduled for every 30 minutes, so it is definitely not a lengthy proceeding.

The Board of Equalization reaches its decision on the day the hearing is held, but results are mailed out on the Monday or Tuesday following the hearing. Thus, you can expect to receive the decision in the mail within a week of the hearing. If you don't like the results, you have 30 days to appeal the decision to the Superior Court.

If you have any further questions about all this, Mr. Pope's phone number is 730-6434. It has been my experience that he does return phone calls, that he is polite and that he will do the best he can to answer your questions.

Arborist Resources

Many neighbors may not realize that a representative from the Georgia Forestry Commission, a state agency, will come to your home free of charge to consult with you concerning the state of your trees. Robert Mason, Senior Forester with the Commission, offers the following advice before you hire someone to remove or trim a tree:

- * Be sure the arborist has adequate liability insurance.
- * Search out an arborist in current good standing with the International Society of Arborists ("I.S.A."). It is the best guarantee of competence.
- * Your contract should be in writing and include in detail the work to be done, the total cost, and the date of completion. Obtain a "Hold Harmless" clause that frees you from liability if they are injured on your property. Require that the work meet or exceed professional arboricultural standards.
- * Remember that a fifty-year-old tree is a valuable investment, worth as much as \$57,000. Don't skimp on tree care.

To obtain a list of ISA arborists, call Mr. Mason's office at (404) 294-3550.

BULLETIN BOARD

Even with the Olympics in town, teenagers will be making plans for travel, adventure and learning next summer. The Westminster School's Summer EXPO offers a world of opportunities. This community event, free and open to the public, will take place January 31, noon-6:30 p.m. at the Westminster Schools, 1424 West Paces Ferry. For more information, call 609-6327.

While you are tucked in under cozy covers on these frigid December nights, think about our security officers who are patrolling our neighborhood. Please consider a contribution to the Security Bonus Fund. Drop off your donation to Nancy Kennedy, 35 Northwood Avenue, 874-0746.

The next meeting of the BWH Board of Directors will be on Monday, Jan. 8 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Alison and Wright Caughman at 200 Camden Road. If you would like to attend, please call Alison at 355-7662. All Community Club members are welcome.

Sign up for new players for Buckhead Baseball will take place on Saturday, January 6. Registration lasts from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Lower Field Press Box in Frankie Allen Park on Pharr Road. You must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and a check for \$128. Children born between 8/1/88 and 7/31/90 may register for T-ball.

It's a Camp Cool Christmas! This Holiday Season, Camp Cool is offering a Christmas workshop for ages five to seven on December 22nd. The cost is \$25 (babysitting rate + \$5 for supplies). For more information and to reserve your space, contact Emily Withrow (352-1315) or Sarah Parker (355-2303).



Head Coach Mike Nadal; from left, top row: Neil Hanlon, Everett Nadal, Harrison Marsteller, and Jake McCune; middle row: Carlos Duralde, Jeff Oser, Scott Dunlevie, Tom Kellum; bottom row: Tom Clarke, Christopher Grunewald, William Morse. Missing: David Pless

The Dragons of Brookwood

by Laranne Oser

Head Coach Mike Nadal and Assistant Coach Bob Grunewald led their soccer team, the Dragons, to a winning season. The team consisted of twelve 4 & 5 year-old boys, ten of whom were from Brookwood Hills. It was the first soccer experience for many of the players, who were sometimes confused about which goal was theirs. Martha Dunlevie was Team Mom, and son Scott was MVP. Scott's father, Craig, made the mistake of promising Scott a gift for every goal he scored. Scott scored four goals the first game, and led throughout the season. Mike and Bob did a great job, and all the boys played well.

WORD OF MOUTH

Laranne Oser sends the following recommendations, two of which are based on repair work she commissioned for the pool in her capacity as Parks Chairman. Laranne can be reached at 351-4825.

Brick and Stone Mason

Barrows Masonry 631-8929

They rebuilt the brick wall above the clubhouse at the pool. They were quick, perfectionists, and professional.

Electrician

Steve McCurry 732-1304

He did a fantastic job at the clubhouse. Georgia Power was the hold-up, but all is working and there are lights on the tennis courts!

Odd Jobs

Ronald Banks 794-0781

He will do odd jobs, yard work and clean gutters. Recommended by Laranne Oser (351-4825) and Mary Marsteller (352-2388).

Favorite Holiday Recipes



by Lombard Puri

Once you've decorated the house, bought the presents, mailed the Christmas cards and baked the cookies, who has time to figure out a Christmas menu? The following recipes may help solve that last minute panic about what to feed the family.

Christmas Morning Hot Sausage Quiche

1 8-inch deep dish pie shell, cooked until lightly browned

1 lb. hot sausage, browned and drained

1 1/2 cups sharp grated cheddar cheese

4 eggs

3/4 cup milk

Spread cooked sausage in pie shell; cover with grated cheese. Beat together eggs and milk. Pour over cheese. Bake at 350 until browned and bubbly, 35-40 min. Can prepare ahead and freeze after baking. Serve with medley of fresh melon, raspberries and blackberries and your best coffee or tea. Serves 6.

Rockefeller Oysters

2 dozen fresh oysters (one pint)

8 slices cooked bacon (crumbled)

2 cups bread crumbs

1 lb. frozen chopped spinach, thawed & drained well.

1/2 lb. butter, melted

parsley, green onion tops, juice of 1 lemon

salt & pepper to taste

Parmesan cheese to taste

Drain oysters and place in 3 quart casserole. Cover oysters with 1 cup bread crumbs. Spread spinach over oysters. Combine butter, parsley, green onion tops, lemon juice, salt & pepper. Pour mixture over spinach. Cover casserole with remaining bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese to taste, and bacon. Bake at 350 until hot and bubbly, about 20 minutes.

Crab Bisque

6 Tablespoons butter

1 cup minced green onion

1/2 cup minced celery

1 Tablespoon minced carrot

6 Tablespoons flour

2 1/2 cups milk

2 1/2 cups chicken broth

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon white pepper

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 cup cream

1/4 cup sherry

1 lb. fresh lump crabmeat

Pick through crabmeat for shells. Melt butter over low heat in saucepan. Mince green onion, celery and carrot in food processor. Add to butter and cover for about 5 min. Whisk in flour and cook for 2 min. Whisk in milk and broth. Bring to boil, whisking occasionally. Add seasoning, cream, sherry and crab. Serve immediately, or make base ahead and add crab when reheating.

Lombard Puri recently retired from the catering business where she specialized in casseroles to go.



Buckhead Office 3650 Habersham Road Atlanta, GA 30305

BROOKNOTES
sponsored by your neighbor

Patti Junger
Broker Associate

237-5227(off) 872-3652(res)