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BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

December 1999, Vol. XII No. 10

THIRD ANNUAL MULCHING IN THE PARK

(Editors note: This year, rather than running the success story of our Christmas tree mulching project after the fact, it seemed appropriate to feature it this month and encourage all neighbors to participate.)

Arboguard Tree Specialists has agreed to mulch our Christmas trees for what is becoming a wonderful neighborhood tradition. The recycling effort is a great way for the neighborhood to benefit from our Christmas trees, rather than just placing them in a landfill.



This project began in 1997 when neighbor Cookie Frank noticed that Christmas trees seemed to linger longer and longer on the curbs every year. Cookie and friend/neighbor Carla Fackler decided to do something about it. Both ladies are quick to point out, however, that it was the cooperative efforts of the whole Brookwood Hills community that really made it happen. In the first year, neighbors pitched in picking up trees from other neighbor's curbs, making signs, and calling for volunteers to help the day of the mulching. "We

are a community and we work together to get things done" says Cookie, a 26 year resident of Camden. In January of 1998 we mulched 150 trees, the following year that number jumped to 250 trees! Again, it was neighbors who made the difference, bringing trees to the park that had been left out on the curbs and letting neighbors know about the mulching program.

This year we hope that even more neighbors will bring their own trees down to the park. It is a wonderful family project that reminds us all of the value of recycling. The children will see that something they have enjoyed so much during the holidays can also be a part of their park or yard in the form of mulch all year long.

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BROOKNOTES

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of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Brooknotes is sponsored on alternate months by Patti Junger of Coldwell Banker/Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is **January 14, 1999**. Submissions may be e-mailed to *Deirdre63@aol.com*, faxed to 404-815-0682 or dropped off at 23 Northwood Ave.

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Trees – Susan Connell 404-351-1633

Zoning – Leigh Furrh 404-873-7369

FROM THE EDITOR

My time as editor of the *Brooknotes* newsletter is drawing to a close and I want to let you know that many new and exciting things are in the works for the coming year. First of all, let me thank everyone who has helped me over the years on *Brooknotes* especially Betsy Crosby who held my hand for the first year and continued to be my proof-reader on many occasions over the last three years. Also, thanks to all the contributors who kept me up-to-date on important neighborhood news including Button and Chad Cook who always made sure I had great articles on the BWH Swim Team, Kathy Bernhardt who gave me equally terrific coverage on the Dive Team activities, and all the Board members who took the time to write articles about the happenings in the neighborhood that kept us all informed. Then there are the many friends who took pictures at events I missed or friends who gave me inspiration at the last minute when I had no idea what to put on the cover. It was always something of a miracle to me that *Brooknotes* got out each month but it was never a solo effort.

The good news is we not only have a neighbor who has agreed to stand for election to the Board as editor of *Brooknotes* but we also have a current, seasoned Board member who has agreed to be the layout editor fulfilling a dream I've had of finding a team to work together on this publication.

Katrina Newton, currently the Communications Chairman and Nicole Cook, nominee to the Board, are both wonderfully talented women who are slated to be the new *Brooknotes* editors. Along with new blood, there will be some format changes. Expect much shorter issues on a monthly basis with longer issues quarterly. The format changes are a reflection of what we believe are the best uses of our newsletter as a form of communication. So, bear with the new editors as they embark not only on a new job but a new format as well.

I have had a wonderful three years as editor of our neighborhood newsletter. Certainly, there have been a few late nights trying to type through half-open eyes, but more often than not it was a joy to sit down and actually finish something once a month – even if I knew it had typos. Above all else it has been a pleasure and privilege to be a member of our wonderful, dedicated Board of Directors.

Deirdre Stiles

SURVEY CORRECTION

Katrina Newton's e-mail address was incorrectly listed in the survey that went out in last month's *Brooknotes*. Her e-mail address is: **fnewton@mindspring.com**. **Surveys are still welcome!**

SPEED HUMPS – a letter from the Presidents

Recently, each of you received a letter asking support for a petition to delay the installation of speed humps on Huntington Road and Brighton Road until a traffic evaluation of the neighborhood could be conducted. The letter was drafted by a group of concerned residents on Palisades Road, although some neighbors erroneously assumed that it had been distributed by authority of the Board of Directors. While the Board has met with the Palisades residents to discuss their concerns, it has not endorsed either a delay or a termination of the speed humps. In order to provide the neighborhood with a greater understanding of the actions leading to the current controversy, we have joined, as presidents of the Board, to write this letter.

The problem of speeding in the neighborhood is a long-standing one, and had been discussed at Board meetings annually since the 1960s. Self-monitoring had not proved effective. In the spring of 1997, then president Betsy Crosby received two requests from neighbors asking that the problem of speeding on Huntington Road and Brighton Road be addressed by the Board. At the May and June '97 Board meetings, the Board discussed numerous options for resolving this problem, including speed humps, stop signs, ticketing, and 25 mph signs. Requests to the City from previous BWH presidents for more stop signs and more police officers to monitor speeding traffic had not been successful. The Board determined that speed humps might be a promising solution to the speeding problem.

Mayor Campbell had initiated the speed hump program in 1997. For the first time in the City's history, the program allowed changes to the configuration of residential city streets for traffic control. The humps were required to follow a specific format, and City representatives gave no indication that any other street designs would be permitted.

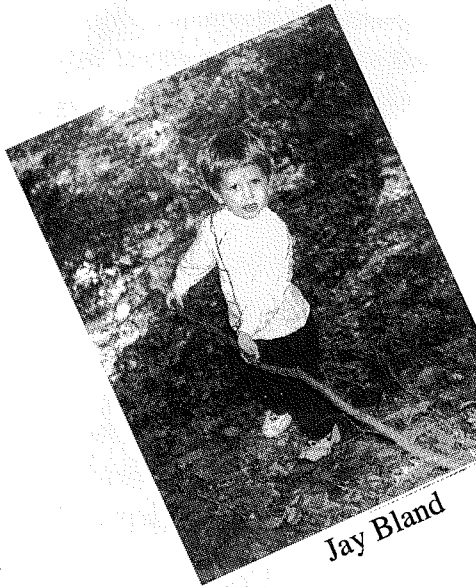
As directed by the Board, Betsy Crosby wrote the City requesting that all BWH streets be evaluated for speed humps. Additionally, she made a written request to the City for more stop signs, which was denied. During the summer and fall of 1997, our streets were evaluated by the City, with only Huntington Road and Brighton Road meeting the City's criteria for speed hump installation. Neighbors on Huntington and Brighton volunteered to gather the necessary approval signatures from 75% of the residents of their respective streets. These signatures were submitted to the City and approval for installation of speed humps was granted early in 1998.

On several occasions, Brookwood Hills residents were invited to comment on speed humps. Specifically, the May '97 Brooknotes asked for comments pro and con from the neighbors and invited them to attend the next Board meeting. Before signature gathering for Huntington Road began, a second article appeared in the September '97 Brooknotes discussing the appearance of the proposed humps and inviting comment from the neighbors. No objections were addressed to the Board on either occasion. Finally, outgoing president Betsy Crosby gave a status report on speed humps at the Annual meeting in January, 1998, where special guest Councilman Lee Morris addressed his support for the program.

Although the City has pushed back the installation of speed humps on Huntington and Brighton Road a number of times, the humps are currently slated to be installed in February or March of 2000. A notice of the pending installation of speed humps in the October Brooknotes prompted the concerned residents to circulate their request for delay. At the December Board meeting, the Palisades residents voiced their concern and reported that they had collected over 100 signatures in support of a delay of installation.

(Continued on page 4)

PARK CLEAN-UP MONTAGE



Jay Bland



Amy Butler



Walter Bland and Crew



Margy Pastor

Neighbors of all ages and sizes pitched in to help clean up and repair the park on Sunday, November 7th. The park clean-up days are a great way to help the neighborhood, meet neighbors and enjoy a day of good outdoor activity. Frampton Simons, Park Co-chairman spearheaded the effort. Many thanks to Frampton and Co-chairman Diane John for all their efforts on behalf of the neighborhood in maintaining the park and planning all the activities there.

(Continued from page 3)

The City of Atlanta considers the petition to install speed humps by the residents on Brighton and Huntington to be a mandate from the individual residents and not one from the Board of Directors of the Brookwood Hills Community Club. It is unclear at this time whether the Board has any further input on this issue, and the Board has not voted to take any action. In view of the number of residents that appear to support a delay, representatives of the Board are planning to meet with Lee Morris, our City Councilman, and Sandra Jennings (who runs the City's Streets & Highways Division) in order to explore what alternatives, if any, are available to the Board, the neighborhood, and the streets in question.

The Board will communicate all relevant information as quickly as possible to all residents of the neighborhood on this and all issues of concern. It is vitally important that you read all communications and act on requests for comment promptly.

Betsy Crosby, BWH President 1997

Nick Sears, BWH President 1998

Anne Sapp, BWH President 1999

Walter Bland, BWH President-Elect 2000

So, bring your trees to the Brookwood Hills park on **Sunday, January 2nd**. Arboguard crews will chip our trees on **Monday, January 3rd and Tuesday, January 4th**, creating beneficial mulch. **Please remove all metal debris (tinsel) and tree lights before bringing the trees for recycling.**

Arboguard is appealing to BWH residents to join Park Pride, a nonprofit group dedicated to the care and preservation of Atlanta's parks. It was Park Pride that helped with the New Camden park. Park Pride is a non profit group dedicated to the care and preservation of Atlanta's city parks and their trees. For more information call 404-817-6760.

TREE PLANTING DATE



The date for the new trees to be delivered under the 1999 Replanting Program is **Tuesday, January 4th**. Neighbors who requested a tree will receive an orange flag landscape marker to place in the location where the tree is to be planted. On a separate but related note, if you purchased a tree in the last few years, please be sure to keep the tree mulched with pine straw or bark to help retain moisture and to protect the tree roots from the cold.

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.

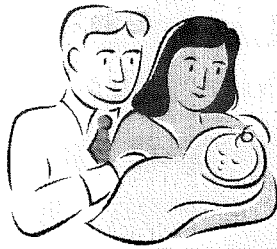
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BERNHARDTS



The rabbit that sits beside the front door of Marge Henson's house at 42 Woodcrest Avenue now has a name. Marge sent a letter to each house in Brookwood Hills offering a prize of \$100.00 to the family that named the bunny. The Bernhards on Parkdale suggested "REB," which is short for Real Estate Bunny since Marge is a sales associate with Harry Norman Realtors. She has someone design and make outfits for the rabbit to celebrate the various holidays. Come by to see the rabbit in its glorious angel outfit for this holiday.

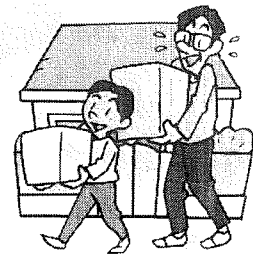
Book Club Breaks for Holidays

The BWH Book Club is taking a break but will be back in January to discuss Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. If you are interested in joining the group, just call Carolyn Cooper at 404-351-0555. If you have already given Carolyn your e-mail address but have not received any e-mails from her, please let her know or send her an e-mail at CCC Camden@aol.com.



New Faces

By Sarah and Patti



50 Huntington. The **Sillimans** have just moved into their new home at 50 Huntington. **Wendy and Todd Silliman** are both lawyers; Wendy is a real estate lawyer with Troutman Sanders and Todd is an environmental lawyer with Long, Aldridge & Norman. They have two children; **Alexander** 2 years 8 months, and **Margaret**, 8 months.

CALENDAR

January 2nd, Sunday. Drop off Christmas trees to be mulched at BWH park. For details see page 1.

January 4th, Tuesday. Tree planting day for those neighbors who ordered trees. For details see page 5.

January 10th, Monday 7:15 p.m. BWH Board meeting at the home of Diane John 226 Huntington Road . All Community Club members are welcome. Please call the Johns at 404-870-0484 if you plan to attend.

WORD OF MOUTH

Our neighbor **Sandra Player** and her daughter, Cannon have opened a new gift basket business – called **B.B. Wolf (Big Bad Wolf) Gift Baskets**. They are located on Pharr Road in the Pharr Plaza and they have gift baskets for all occasions from corporate thank yous and holidays to new baby, new homeowner, birthday, etc. They offer local delivery as well as UPS. Their telephone number is 404-760-9248. Delivery to Brookwood Hills is FREE!

BROOKNOTES
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