



BrookNotes

December 2011

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

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BWH Sidewalks Get a Makeover

By Ramsay Battin

As most everyone has seen, the sidewalks and curbs in Brookwood Hills have undergone a dramatic improvement over the past eight weeks. What is less visible is the behind-the-scenes work to get this project off the ground. This effort came from neighbors working as individual property owners and from neighbors working as advocates for the entire Brookwood Hills neighborhood.

The sidewalk project got its start back in February 2011, when the neighborhood Sidewalk Committee (comprised of Ramsay Battin, Sara Jean Burke, Phil Junger and Jim Moynihan) notified neighbors that the City would pay for repairs to sidewalks and curbs caused by damage from "street trees" located between the sidewalks and curbs. As a result of that notification, approximately 50 neighbors told the Committee that they believed their sidewalks and curbs had suffered from such tree-related damage.

At that point, the Committee walked each property, taking photos of the damage and noting the total linear footage of the damage. This neighborhood-wide information package was then submitted to the City in early May. Based on that package, the City then asked Tony Bryant, one of its sidewalk inspectors, to make an official determination on the cause of the damage. Over the following six weeks, members of the Committee walked each property with Mr. Bryant (often in the early summer heat!), advocating on behalf of our neighbors, especially in situations where the physical evidence of an old tree (e.g. roots) were no longer visible.

During that inspection process, the Committee also asked Mr. Bryant to provide an estimate for what the City would charge to fix the general wear and tear damage (e.g. damage not caused by street trees). The Committee then provided that information to each homeowner, so they could decide whether to also have the wear and tear work completed at the same time as the tree-related work.

In mid-June, the Committee was thrown for a loop when the City announced that after June 30, it would no longer accept checks to do the general wear and tear work. That announcement caused a major amount of activity between the Committee, affected



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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 at 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. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is **404-242-3321**.

Remembering Beloved Neighbor

Bradley Hale

William Bradley Hale (known by all who knew him as Bradley) was a long-time resident of Brookwood Hills and lived on Brighton Road until 2010. Mr. Hale passed away on November 14 in Marengo County, Alabama at the age of 78. Mr. Hale left behind many devoted friends in the neighborhood who will miss him greatly.

Mr. Hale was known for his wit and sense of humor, and liked to inject an element of fun into everything he did. According to his son, Sheffield Hale, "He thought that if they had a good time, people could accomplish more. He said man's greatest sin was to be boring."

Mr. Hale was a former attorney and a managing partner at King & Spalding. He had a strong fascination with Georgia and Alabama history, and was a former chairman of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, a founding chairman of the advisory board of the Georgia Historical Society, a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and served as chairman of the Atlanta Historical Society.

Mr. Hale is survived by his son Sheffield, his daughter, Ellen Hale Jones of Atlanta, his brother, Dr. Everett Hale of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and five grandsons.

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Friday, January 13. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 118 Brighton Road.

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homeowners and the City sidewalk inspector to make sure that everyone understood the deadline and had firm quotes from the City. At the same time, the City told the Committee that City law required the City to complete any work that was paid for directly by neighbors within 45 days after receiving payment. This 45-day deadline turned out to play an interesting and critical role in the project.

After submitting checks from approximately 37 neighbors in late June, the Committee began to count down the 45-day waiting period, expecting the City to do all the work (tree-damage plus wear and tear damage) at the same time. When mid-August arrived, the Committee called the City to find out where we stood in their work cue. Over the course of the next four weeks, the Committee and individual neighbors made multiple phone calls to the City's North Avenue maintenance facility checking on the status of all the work. We had a flurry of City sidewalk work in late August at two houses on Brighton, but then all worked ceased in explicable.

At that point, the Committee began to make additional inquiries further up the food-chain at the City, bringing into the fold Councilman Shook's office, Public Works Commissioner Richard Mendoza's office, and then ultimately Peter Aman, the City's Chief Operating Officer. The fact that the City hadn't lived up to its 45-day commitment provided the neighborhood with leverage in dealing with the City. Ultimately, the City determined that the size of the Brookwood Hills project was beyond the capabilities of its limited sidewalk crews, given all their other work, to complete within a timely manner.

At that point, Public Works held an RFP to have private sidewalk contractors bid on the Brookwood Hills work. Ultimately, SD&C, Inc., run by Tony and Charles Adibe, was selected by the City, who then put the contract before City Council in early October. Upon Council approval, the Mayor signed the legislation on October 14, 2011, and work commenced in early November.

At this point, more than 88 properties in the neighborhood (including the shopping centers on Brighton and Palisades) have had work completed on their sidewalks, curb and/or driveway aprons. Many of the properties joined into the project only after SD&C began working in BWH. If you think about the fact that almost all of this work was concentrated in the "older" part of the neighborhood (e.g. excluding middle/lower Camden, lower Brighton), it represents about 33% of the homes in this area!

From a raw numbers perspective, the rough final tally in terms of work completed is as follows:

	Linear Feet Of Sidewalks		Linear Feet Of Curbs		\$ Paid by Neighbors
Tree Damage	869		514		\$0
Wear and Tear Damage	<u>2,171</u>		<u>2,990</u>		<u>119,000</u>
Total	3,040		3,504		\$119,000

The Sidewalk Committee is thankful that this project is (almost) over and want to thank all the neighbors for bearing with us! We certainly had our share of issues, between miscommunications with the City, the occasional problems with SD&C's work, and traffic congestion within the neighborhood due to all the trucks. But, all in all, it's been a great project and we're just amazed at the financial commitment that private neighbors have made to improve what is, in reality, public assets. Thank you, thank you!!

Editor's Note: The Sidewalk Committee wants those who have had their sidewalks and curbs worked on by SD&C to know that if they have any outstanding issues to please contact Ramsay Battin (rbattin@arcapita.com) or Sara Jean Burke (sarajeaneburke@bellsouth.net). We'll do our best to help you get those issues resolved.

Great News for Brookwood Hills! —WATERSHED SET FOR SPRING OPENING AT THE BROOKWOOD

Liz Lapidus Public Relations, submitted by Tony Wilbert

Atlanta's Only LEED Certified High-Rise Condominium Community Welcomes Watershed Owners Ross Jones, Indigo Girls' Emily Saliers And Award-Winning Chef Joe Truex

Watershed restaurant, an award-winning Southern-inspired eatery that pioneered the Decatur dining scene when it hung its shingle on a converted gas station 13 years ago, is re-locating to The Brookwood, a 219-unit, mixed-use condominium community located on Peachtree Street in the heart of the historic Brookwood neighborhood. The move will empower owners Ross Jones, Indigo Girls' Emily Saliers and Chef Joe Truex to realize their dream of growing the business with private dining, a patio and a wealth of parking. They plan to maintain the integrity of the Watershed brand, including the inspired cuisine of acclaimed Chef Truex, while updating it with a modern sensibility reflective of the new location. Diners can expect to see General Manager Jones on the floor and Chef Truex in the kitchen of this Smith Hanes-designed 175-seat jewel.

"It's a new day in the neighborhood for the Atlanta family and foodie community and I am thrilled to be a part of it," said Saliers. "I can't wait to bring family and friends out to the new location to taste Chef Truex's new menu."

With the new location – set to open in Spring 2012 – comes a refined editing of the menu. Truex plans to update Watershed's Southern-inspired cuisine with flavors from the Georgia Coast to the Louisiana Bayou and everything in between including the diverse ethnic flavors found throughout the South. The restaurant will continue to boast an expansive wine program – including the monthly wine club tastings – and bring back Fried Chicken Night with a twist.

The toque was tapped to Truex in 2010 with the departure of long-time chef Scott Peacock. A Louisiana native, Truex came to Watershed after closing his award-winning eatery, Repast. With a degree from the Culinary Institute of America his career has taken him from New Orleans to New York and Basel, Switzerland. He came to Atlanta as executive chef of the Swissôtel and later Château Élan Winery and Resort in Braselton, before opening Repast in 2005.

An in-town estate with magnificent floor plans and striking interiors, The Brookwood rises 18 stories above street level in one of the city's most desirable and walkable neighborhoods.. Built green for both healthy living and energy conservation, The Brookwood is Atlanta's only LEED certified high-rise condominium community.

***** Remember the BWH Security Patrol Holiday Fund *****

Please don't forget to donate to the BWH Security Patrol's holiday bonus fund this season. Checks are to be made out to the Brookwood Hills Community Club (BWHCC) and can be dropped at either the 77 Wakefield mailbox (pool pavilion entrance) or at the house of Lisa Barnhart (310 Camden Road). A big thank you to those of you who have already donated!

2012-2013 Brookwood Hills Directory Is Here!

By Mary Long

Thanks to the generosity of Sarah Hagood and Specialty Homes, the new and improved Brookwood Hills Directory is scheduled for release this month. In a bow to the 21st century, the directory now includes cell phone numbers and email addresses. Directory information is also accessible at our website, www.brookwoodhills.com.

Brookwood Hills President Ramsay Battin, who gets the credit for the additions to the directory and the new format, shared the following tabulations:

Entire Membership: 674 households make up the Brookwood Hills Community Club, including A, B, C and S members.

These 674 households include 1278 adults and 1164 children, for a total of 2442 people.

Neighborhood Membership Data: Of the 342 homes in BWH, 303 are members of the BWHCC, a 90% participation rate!

Based on our member data, there are 955 people living in BWH (of which 393 are kids).

2 families in BWH have 6 children (the Laws and the Franks.)

The most popular girl's name in BWH is Caroline, with 15 of them.

The most popular boy's name in BWH is Will, with 9 of them (plus another 2 William's).

44 homes in BWH do not list a home phone, and instead list only a cell phone (or 15%).

C Member Data: The most popular zip code for our C members is 30318, which includes Collier Hills and neighborhoods off Howell Mill (30% of C members and 30327, which includes neighborhoods west of Northside Drive and north of Peachtree Creek (26% of C members).

The location of the C member that lives the furthest away: Smyrna (or 9 miles away).

41% of the homes on Beaverbrook Drive (off Howell Mill) are members of BWHCC (12 homes), representing the largest block of C Members living on one street.

Again, a huge Brookwood cheer and thank you to Sarah Hagood and Ramsay Battin for our new directory.

Brookwood Hills Friends Update

By Laurie Hood

The Brookwood Hills Friends continue to actively raise funds on behalf of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). We want to thank our very generous BWH neighbors for their continued support of this great cause. This year CHOA decided not to do their annual city-wide poinsettia and wreath sale (I know many BWH residents were very disappointed). We are in the process of planning a fun new activity for early next year and look forward to the neighborhood's participation. Stay tuned and look for details in the January issue of Brooknotes!

C L A S S I F I E D S

Garage Band Forming Edward Katz and Tom Dierdorff are looking to form a BWH garage band to drink beer, hang out, play some good music and some periodic neighborhood parties, blow off some steam and drink beer. Presently we have an experienced drummer and decent rhythm guitarist. Looking for lead guitar, bass and possibly keyboards. Some vocal ability welcome, too – we can share singing duties. We plan to play covers – mainly roots rock and alt-country - think Faces, Humble Pie, The Band, Sticky Fingers-era Stones, Uncle Tupelo, etc. 2-3 times per month rehearsal. PA and practice space helpful. Call or e mail Edward Katz or Tom Dierdorff. E mail ewkatz@comcast.com or text 404-291-9303.

Found An adult's light-weight jacket and a child's sweater were found on a bench in the park in Brookwood Hills. Please call me if you think either item is yours. Margaret Mertens 404-249-7279.

Cozy Cashiers Cottage If spending a cozy weekend in the mountains is something you've been wanting to do, now is the time to do it! Enjoy our three bedroom, three bath cottage nestled on a private wooded lot in Cashiers, NC. Sit by the fire and enjoy the view! Though just 5 minutes from great restaurants and shops, you will hear no highway noise - just the sounds of nature. Please go to VRBO.com, enter property ID 265787, and mention that you are a BWH neighbor. We are offering lower rates to our neighbors than those posted on the Vacation Renter By Owner website. If you have any questions, please call Margaret Mertens 404-249-7279.

Reminder—Please instruct your contractors, workers and guests not to park in your driveways in such a way that they block the sidewalks for pedestrians. There have been several complaints recently about trucks and cars parked improperly on neighborhood driveways.

January BWH Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 10, 7:15 PM (Location TBD)



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