



BrookNotes

February 2007

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XX, No.2

The Children of Brookwood Return!

By Sarah Hagood

From suburban enclave to urban residential oasis, Brookwood Hills has been a delightful home for adults and children alike for generations. Today, with its rambling tree-lined streets insulated from city traffic, it is a welcoming and peaceful place for adults to come home to after a long day's work. For children, the neighborhood's landscape, park, pool and tennis courts offer ample opportunities for exploration and play. It is not surprising that many who grew up here have chosen to return and develop new family memories in the neighborhood.

Benefits of returning to the neighborhood include confidence in a wonderful place to raise children, close proximity to friends and family and recreation of favored childhood memories. Molly Jackson, the daughter of Jane Wheeler of 35 Palisades Road, has fond memories of the park, the pool and many close friends nearby. Molly now lives with her husband, Joe, at 110 Palisades Road. Molly said, "I knew I wanted to raise my children here. It's simply the best place to grow up." She enjoys having many lifelong friends as neighbors as well. Her childhood friend and neighbor, Cannon Sayers, has returned to the neighborhood and lives at 27 Wakefield Drive with her husband, Gary. Cannon's parents, Sandra and Tom Player, live at 90 Wakefield Drive. Cannon agreed, "Growing up in the neighborhood was the best!" She looks forward to giving her daughter some of the same experiences that she enjoyed when she was growing up and also close proximity to grandparents. Dr. Hayes Wilson, who grew up at 32 Huntington Road, has recreated his love for the neighborhood pool. As a youngster, he served as lifeguard and lifeguard manager. He now lives with his wife Kimberly at 63 Huntington Road and has volunteered twice as co-chairman of the Brookwood Hills pool.

Four other current Brookwood Hills residents, possibly more, have lived here both as children and adults. Deborah Gebhardt and her children live at 98 Huntington Road near where she grew up with her parents, David and Beverly Stacy of 28 Brighton Road. Chris Moorman's childhood home at 45 Brighton Road is not far from where he now lives at 23 Woodcrest Avenue with his wife Debby. Matt Tolleson grew up at 37 Northwood Avenue and now lives with his wife Caroline at 241 Camden Road. Just across the street, Brad Walker, son of Betty and Stephen Walker of 145 Brighton Road, is the new owner of 238 Camden Road with his fiancée, Evangeline.



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/Buckhead Brokers 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.

Please Renew Your BWHCC Membership

A: \$675

B: \$260

C: \$725

S: \$450

\$75 late fee after March 1, 2007

Please log on to www.brookwoodhills.com and follow the payment instructions.

Contact Allyson Greene (404.872.8077) or Barkley Laing (404.815.2084) with questions.

Order Your Pike Gift Cards benefitting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

BWH Friends is offering \$25 and
\$50 Pike Family Nurseries Gift
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(cards available through May 1, 2007)

Order online at www.choa.org/store or contact
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or 404.892.2922

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of BrookNotes is Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Submissions may be either e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 49 Huntington Rd.

Brookwood Hills Native and Comedy Superstar Ed Helms To Star in Horizon Theatre's Gala Evening, "Atlanta Stories"

By Mary Anne Chew

Growing up at 323 Camden Road, Edward Helms seemed like a typical Brookwood Hills kid. He played little brother to Susan and Paxton, climbed trees, rode bikes, and swam for the neighborhood team, like so many other Brookwood kids. But soon there were glimmers of the Superstar he would become. He took piano lessons from the neighborhood's own Georgia Manry and began to play for Westminster assemblies. In high school, he fooled around on the guitar he'd received for Christmas, found himself a teacher in Garden Hills, and unbeknownst to his parents, was soon strumming away at Westminster pep rallies. He sang in the Westminster Ensemble and Chorale, and performed with the Westminster Players in shows like Greater Tuna, Cotton Patch Gospel, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Into the Woods. He even attended Interlochen's summer arts camp in improv jazz.

After graduating from Oberlin College, where he performed in Equus and a bluegrass band called Weedkiller, Ed moved to New York. He began his career there as a film editor, moved on to voice-overs, then dove headlong into stand-up and improv comedy at clubs like The Upright Citizens Brigade. Eventually he came to the attention of the critically acclaimed news spoof, "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," where he carved a niche for himself as an arrogant know-it-all reporter in the field. This led to his current stint on "The Office," where he plays smarmy sidekick Andy to Steve Carell's boss. (Not surprisingly, both "The Daily Show" and "The Office" are Emmy-winning shows.) On the side, Ed has performed in four films, built an impressive portfolio of TV scripts and screenplays and even won a Grammy Award for his contribution to the audio version of the best-selling "Daily Show" tie-in, America: The Book.

And to think it all began in Brookwood Hills!

Want to see Ed perform? Come to Horizon Theatre Company's star-studded evening, "Atlanta Stories," on Saturday, March 24th. That night at the Georgia Tech Hotel, Ed will be honored along with two other Atlanta-connected celebrities (American Idol finalist Diana DeGarmo and Civil Rights leader and media pioneer Xernona Clayton) as short, original plays written by and about themselves are performed in a fun-filled evening of silent and live auctions, an elegant dinner and complimentary wine. (Rumor has it that Ed will draw on his "years of toiling in the stand-up comedy trenches" as he delivers a deadpan 10-minute comedy routine.)

Join Ed's parents, Pam and John Helms, some of your Brookwood Hills neighbors and other Horizon Theatre enthusiasts on March 24th and support this talented guy with neighborhood roots. For more information about "Atlanta Stories," please call Brookwood Hills neighbor Mary Anne Chew, co-chair of the event (404-355-4377), or e-mail her at fchew@mindspring.com.

Brookwood Hills Yard Sale April 21st and May 5th

Going on the premise "the more, the merrier," if you are interested in participating in a neighborhood-wide Brookwood Hills Yard Sale on Saturday April 21st and Saturday May 5th, please contact Ann Dibble at 404.724.0393 or awdibble@earthlink.net.

Coyote Trapping Begins This Month

Please note that our coyote trapping near Clear Creek is about to begin. Coyote traps will be placed between February 22nd and February 27th and will remain in place for four weeks. Traps are set near the creek, so please ensure that your children and pets do not wander back that way. This is especially relevant for residents on lower Camden, as well as on the creek side of middle/upper Camden, Wakefield, and Huntington. These traps are humane and will help rid our neighborhood of this potentially dangerous situation.

Thank you,

John Mulcahy

Park, Tennis & Common Areas

Clear Creek Committee Update

Clear Creek Committee Gets Suggestions for Sidewalks, New Tennis Court, Vacant Land Purchases - Seeks More Input and Members

The Clear Creek Committee is taking suggestions from all neighborhood residents and C members for capital items to be purchased with Clear Creek easement funds. Some four months ago, the Club received approximately \$1,700,000 from the City in return for agreeing never to develop most of the land the Club owns along Clear Creek. The funds will not be taxable to the Club if they are spent on capital items within the next three years. Capital items are those that have a useful life of one year or longer. Scott Bass, the chairman of the committee, requests that all residents of the neighborhood as well as C members make suggestions as to how these funds are best spent. Scott also asks that those who feel strongly about their suggestions, as well as others who want to help, to serve on the committee.

At its first meeting on February 12th, the committee received a number of suggestions. Some wanted to bury the power lines in the neighborhood, others wanted sidewalks on lower Camden and Brighton. Some suggested a tennis ball machine, a wading pool for toddlers, new pool equipment, another tennis court, the purchase of a vacant and/or tear-down lot adjacent to the pool, and so on. If you have suggestions, send them to Scott at scott_bass@ml.com. If you want to help, let Scott know. More about the work of the Committee will appear in future editions of BrookNotes and on the Web site at www.brookwoodhills.com.

By Jerry Luxemburger

Chinese Takeout For Lun Lun And Yang Yang

By Carla Fackler

The Zoo Atlanta Giant Panda Nutrition Crew stopped by our Brookwood Hills backyard in mid-November to harvest bamboo leaves for Lun Lun and Yang Yang, the zoo's two adult Giant Pandas.

My call offering our backyard stand of bamboo became part of Zoo Atlanta's quest for over a thousand pounds of bamboo leaves each week. The crew harvests 250 pounds of bamboo leaves a day, Monday through Friday. (Weekend meals are in cold storage to keep the leaves from wilting, a real turn-off for these finicky eaters.)

The two adult pandas will spend the day snacking on 180 pounds of bamboo, eventually consuming about 30 pounds each.

Jan Fortune, who leads Zoo Nutrition for the Giant Pandas, describes their "table manners" as a bit rough. The staff clumps the leaves in piles around the pandas, since they won't get up to eat. If it's not to their taste, they'll throw the bamboo behind them. As the eating progresses, she describes the pandas covered with bamboo debris and surrounded with piles of rejected leaves.

Around the zoo, Yang Yang is known for "sleeping his full belly off." Since September 6, Lun Lun has been busy caring and feeding for their little baby panda – the only cub born outside of China in 2006! Sporting a couple of new teeth, the little panda will begin to "manipulate" small amounts of bamboo leaves in January and to ingest sizeable amounts sometime next October.

Zoo Atlanta's three-person crew harvests bamboo throughout Atlanta and northeast Georgia. Not just any bamboo. Jan recalls that when Lun Lun and Yang Yang first arrived from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China, they were offered leaves from many of the 200 species of bamboo in the United States and would only eat two. These finicky eaters will now munch on 20 species but only at certain times of the year. In the panda dictionary, finicky is defined as "seasonally and species selective."

Back to our backyard: Once I called the zoo offering our bamboo, Jan stopped by to see if we possessed one of the 20 selective species. We did! Yellow groove, which the pandas were currently eating! A few days later, the crew showed up and spent two hours selecting and cutting bamboo based on leaf size. The shoots or leaves were cut and bundled, while the stems or culms were cut into four-foot lengths for fencing and other projects at the zoo. The crew harvested again two days later, just in time to catch the end of Lun Lun and Yang Yang's yen for yellow groove. We plan to trim our stand of bamboo to ground level in the next few weeks but anticipate that it will be ready to harvest next year sometime.

If you would like to share your bamboo with Lun Lun and Yang Yang, please call Jan Fortune, 404-624-5978, at the Nutrition Center.

About bamboo: A recent issue of *Organic Gardening* reports that there are close to 1,500 species of bamboo in the world; 600 in Japan alone.

- No other living thing grows so tall so fast.
- These giant woody grasses generate more oxygen than a similar-size grove of trees.
- A small stand of bamboo can reduce temperatures in their immediate environment by as much as 10 degrees.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 21st-Friday, February 23rd — E. Rivers Elementary Scholastic Book Fair, E. Rivers Elementary

Monday, March 5th, 7:15 p.m. — BWHCC Board Meeting, at the home of Bill Lynch, 21 Northwood Avenue

Saturday, March 17th, 7:00 p.m. — BWH FRIENDS Casino Night, King Plow Arts Center

Sunday, March 25th, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — Spring Fling, Brookwood Hills Park (if you want to help with this or other social events, contact Sarah Howe at sarahhowe@bellsouth.net or Burch Hanson at burch.arvin@mindspring.com)

Saturday, April 21st & Saturday, May 5th — BWH Neighborhood Yard Sale

The Atlanta Preservation Center (APC) will present *The Fifth Annual Phoenix Flies: A Citywide Celebration of Living Landmarks* on **March 10-31, 2007**. With 22 Preservation Partners, this award-winning event gives a fun and informative insider's view of 31 historic venues through guided walking, trolley and bike tours; lectures and storytelling; open houses and a workshop. Most events are free. Details of each event are easily accessible on the new Web site, www.phoenixflies.org.

C L A S S I F I E D S

- **HOUSEKEEPER AVAILABLE:** I would like to recommend my friend Luzia Rosende and her family to clean your house. They have worked for me for over a year now, and I have found them always pleasant, conscientious and dependable. They can be reached at 678.615.2222 or 678.334.7773. For further information, please call Mickie McKenzie at 404.874.7855.

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