



BrookNotes

February 2009

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

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NPU-E Supports The Brookwood Hills Stance On The Beltline

By Joe Gardner

On February 3rd Neighborhood Planning Unit E unanimously supported Brookwood Hills in its efforts to protect the environment of our Clear Creek Conservation Area by incorporating a key condition in its approval of the December 2008 "Atlanta Beltline Master Plan for the Peachtree Northside Piedmont Segment," technically known as Subarea 7 (SA7). The vote followed a month of final consideration by various community groups of the Master Plan document initially presented to the NPU in January. More importantly, it represented the positive impact of 4+ years of intensive involvement by Rod Cook and Alex Summers representing the interests of Brookwood Hills in the Beltline planning process. Eve Goldstein and Jerry Luxemburger have also spent many hours working behind the scenes.

At stake in the Master Plan is the routing of the Beltline Trail and the potentially harmful environmental impacts on the Clear Creek Property currently protected under the Conservation Easement granted to the City. The all important condition of the approval establishes for the record a carefully worded "Statement of Support" approved by the Board of Directors of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, Inc. on February 2nd and submitted to NPU-E the following evening:

Brookwood Hills has consistently supported the Atlanta BeltLine Transit and Trail concept since it was introduced in 2004. Under the BeltLine Master Plan, dated December 2008, Brookwood Hills strongly supports Beltline Trail Option #1 (green line). Brookwood Hills has and continues to strongly oppose Trail Option #2 (red line) and Trail Option #3 (blue line) which would have significant negative environmental impacts primarily on the Clear Creek greenspace which is permanently preserved by a conservation easement with the City of Atlanta, as well as other areas owned by Brookwood Hills.

Prior to the Board's approval of the "Statement" the matter was discussed at the January 11th Annual Meeting. The "Statement" clarifies the neighborhood's position on the Trail Options as noted in the Brookwood Hills Long Range Plan and corrects an error contained in the Beltline SA7 Master Plan document itself regarding BWH's stance on one of the trail options. Those attending the NPU-E meeting on behalf of Brookwood Hills included current Community Club President John Mulcahy, and four former presidents, Alex Summers, Jim Stokes, Rod Cook, and Joe Gardner, who is currently the NPU representative. Councilperson Howard Shook, representing District 7 (which includes Brookwood Hills), was instrumental in requiring NPU review and approval of all segments of the Beltline Master Plan so as to ensure community input to the City Council as it considers approval of the plan.

(Cont'd. on page 8)



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.

BrookNotes Editors

Alison Caughman 404-355-7662 (200 Camden Road)
Tony Wilbert 404-815-9752 (22 Northwood Avenue)

Contributors this month: Lee Wilder, David Adams, John Mulcahy, Gary Sayers, Patti Junger, Mary Mac Saunders, David Withers, Joe Gardner

Brookwood Hills Board

President

John Mulcahy 404-351-4881

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Lee Morris 404-355-3351

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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.

Sanitation Pick-up Calendar

As of January 5th the City of Atlanta has changed its schedule for collecting solid waste. While "regular garbage" continues to be collected every Monday as usual, pick up of yard trimmings and recycled materials now occurs on an every-other-week schedule. The system has been in place over a month now, but quite a few fully loaded recycle bins are still being left out on the street on the "wrong" week, sometimes resulting in newspapers, plastic bottles, and so on blowing onto yards and sidewalks. It hasn't helped that much of the neighborhood never received the calendars that were supposed to be both mailed and hand-delivered to all customers. Here is the schedule for the remainder of 2009:

- **Recycle Pick-up Dates:** Feb 23; Mar 9 & 23; Apr 6 & 20; May 4 & 18; Jun 1, 15, & 29; Jul 13 & 27; Aug 10 & 24; Sep 8 & 21; Oct 5 & 19; Nov 2, 16 & 30; Dec 14 & 28.
- **Yard Trimmings Pick-up Dates:** Feb 16; Mar 2, 16 & 30; Apr 13 & 27; May 11 & 26; Jun 8 & 22; Jul 6 & 20; Aug 3, 17 & 31; Sep 14 & 28; Oct 12 & 26; Nov 9 & 23; Dec 7 & 21.

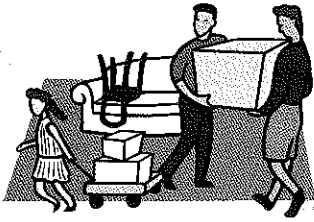
Cut this out and post it where you can refer to it during the year.

And speaking of recycling, *BrookNotes* received a note from Mary Mac Saunders, who wondered why we recycle anyway when everything just gets dumped, un-separated, into a truck. A good description of this process, known as "dirty recycling," can be found at http://wasteage.com/mag/waste_large_small_clean.

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is March 4th, 2009. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 22 Northwood Avenue.

New Faces

By Patti and Sarah



- Rob and Liz Davies are currently living at 51 Woodcrest, but have just closed on purchasing 294 Camden, which they will be renovating over the next several months. Rob is a Software Sales Manager for HP. Liz is President of Revival Homes, Inc., a residential construction and remodeling company. Carter (age 5) and Finn (age 3) attend The Cathedral Preschool. The Davies moved from Springlake to Brookwood Hills in November.
- Donna-Marie and David Clemons are the Davies' neighbors at 40 Woodcrest. Their children, also ages 5 and 3, are Caroline and Dylan and they attend St. James Preschool. Donna-Marie sells residential real estate through her own company, Clemons & Co. Realty. David also has his own company, The Clemons Group, which conducts residential real estate appraisals.

Brighton Road Misses "Miss Nancy"

By David Withers

Brighton Road lost Miss Nancy Keeler Rhodes on December 28th at the age of 96. An original resident of 82 Brighton, "Miss Nancy" was a wonderful neighbor and friend who will be dearly missed. Her parents built 82 Brighton around 1925, so Nancy Keeler was in her early teens when she moved there. When we moved in across the street in 1993 she regaled us with tales about the builders, architects and successive owners of every house on upper Brighton. What stories she could tell! A wry smile and a tilt of the head and you understood a little more.

Our family loved to visit Miss Nancy for a ginger beer, a story or two, and a look at her photo albums. She often spent Halloween and Christmas Eve with us, enjoying the children and a glass of wine or eggnog. As the niece of O.B. Keeler (the writer who traveled with Bobby Jones for many years), she observed Atlanta through very interesting times, which she clearly relished. She was married briefly, widowed from "Dusty" in the late fifties, and had no children. She never remarried and lived at 82 Brighton until a couple of years ago when she finally had to move to St. Anne's Terrace after a fall.

I'm not sure of the chronology but among a long list of accomplishments she taught dance to young girls, worked for the USO during WWII and got to drive Bob Hope around town, was a bridal director for Rich's, instructed over 800 debutantes in protocol at the Phoenix Society, and taught a course called "Gracious Living" at Westminster. That was the course she never stopped teaching.

Miss Nancy preached "circulation" as the key to her longevity, and she started each day with a little exercise. We all loved having this "extra grandmother" on our street.

Brookwood Hills Neighborhood Spotlight: Judy Simmermon

By Lee Wilder

Q. You have a PhD in Psychology – tell me about your practice.

Judy: I started out as a school psychologist and then went back for my PhD with a specialization in educational assessment.

Q. What does that mean?

Judy: I specialize in diagnostic testing and assessment to determine what is interfering with a child's success in school.

Q. Has testing changed over the years?

Judy: There have been tremendous changes. Research has yielded significant strides in the understanding of brain function. Better testing makes it possible to pinpoint processing issues.

Q. Is it easier to test and diagnose a five year old than a nine year old?

Judy: Clearly, it is much easier to test a nine year old – many of the variables associated with development are removed. With a five year old, you have to use a great deal of clinical judgment to arrive at accurate assessments. The expertise and experience of the clinician is terribly important. But, early assessment is critical. By nine, you have wasted precious years to intervene. The brain is so malleable in the early years that early intervention can make all of the difference in the world. In addition, by nine a child with learning difficulties often has painful wounds to self-esteem.

Q. Are teachers normally the first to suggest testing?

Judy: Often that is the case but parents with an older child may be proactive. Parents are much more aware these days of learning issues. Sometimes parents are too anxious, but testing can give them comfort. Often a parent's instincts are correct and we can take action.

Q. And you help identify appropriate schools for your clients?

Judy: I do know a great deal about the schools offering remediation for learning differences.

Q. What general advice would you give parents about selecting schools for their children?

Judy: There are so many factors to consider, but most important is to match the spirit of the child to the spirit of the school. Clearly, the educational environment must be good, but you need to consider factors such as the competitive environment, and whether or not the school is a good match with your child's passions (sports, theater, music for example). I have identical twin daughters. One went to a private school in the city and one went to a public school in DeKalb County. They had identical SAT scores and were admitted to the same colleges though their high schools were quite different. My daughters had different temperaments and thrived in different environments. You just need to find a good fit with your child.

Q. And what are your daughters doing now?

Judy: Julie is an attorney with Georgia Pacific and Jill is a consultant with Bearing Point. She is working on a project for the CDC in developing an ethics fellowship.

(Brookwood Hills Neighborhood Spotlight, cont'd)

Q. When did you move to Brookwood Hills and how did you pick the neighborhood?

Judy: We moved to Montclair Drive around 1991. My husband Bob and I are both from the Midwest (Illinois and Indiana) and the sidewalks and houses reminded us of our hometowns.

Q. And Bob is a psychologist and playwright?

Judy: Yes, Bob is a psycho-therapist in private practice working with adults and couples and he has had some of his plays produced. He is very creative – he also does some media consulting, on documentaries for example.

Q. Are the two of you finding people with higher levels of stress and pressure?

Judy: Absolutely. People are worried like they never have been worried. They need therapy the most when they can afford it the least. I just tell people to hang on.

Q. How do you deal with stress? Hobbies?

Judy: I knit! I am not very good yet but I find it very meditative. I love to travel, cook and am an avid reader.

Q. What have you read recently?

Judy: I really enjoyed *Julie and Julia, My Year of Cooking Dangerously* by Julie Powell. It is about a woman who cooked every recipe in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. I found myself laughing out loud.

Author's note: I hope to find a cheese soufflé on my doorstep!

BWH Boots Unwelcome Visitors

By Gary Sayers, Park Chair

If you had a chance to read the coyote e-mail blast a couple of weeks ago, then you know that we've had some recent unwelcome wildlife visitors in Brookwood Hills. While there have been no serious incidents, new coyotes do pose a threat to pets. After reported sightings, we quickly enlisted the services of John Underwood and Atlanta Animal Evictions Inc. Twelve traps were placed near the end of Palisades and throughout the Clear Creek area. The first week's returns were two raccoons and a coyote, all of which were removed from the neighborhood and taken to new homes in a more rural setting. Thanks to everyone for keeping their dogs leashed during this time, because in the past there have been instances of dogs springing the traps. We have had zero such occurrences this time around.

According to John, there may be more coyotes roaming the Clear Creek area so we will continue to trap for the next week or two. Please continue to keep your dogs leashed and monitor your outdoor pets during this time. If you happen to sight a coyote in the neighborhood, please make sure to notify me via the website. We will continue to trap as long as the coyotes roam the neighborhood and nearby area.

Summer Job Opportunities

The summer is approaching quickly and that means the swimming pool will be open before you know it. Sweetwater Pools is currently hiring lifeguards and concession employees for the summer. Lifeguarding is a great way to earn money for college, develop communication skills, build your resume, enhance leadership skills, and have fun at the same time. Positions fill up quickly so don't let this great job opportunity pass you by. Sweetwater is also the only pool company in the area to offer the chance to receive a scholarship. Contact Christy Wahl at 770-939-5757, ext. 104 or at Christy.wahl@sweetwaterpools.net.

Babysitting opportunities also abound in the summer, and *BrookNotes* is a great way for BWH residents to advertise their services. Be sure to take advantage of the classified section in future issues by emailing your information to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com.

Tennis Players Need To Be Cautious

The Brookwood Hills pool and pool pavilion are active construction sites. Please do not enter the construction site under any circumstances. To access the tennis courts, descend the stairs at the corner of Huntington and Wakefield. Bear left through the hardscape to the court entrance. Please watch your step and observe all safety signs. *Spectators must not access the pavilion deck*. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we complete our renovations.

Brookwood Hills Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget that Brookwood Hills membership renewals are due **March 15th**. All renewals should be paid online at www.brookwoodhills.com. Log on today and pay your bill, as those waiting until after March 31st will be charged a \$100 late fee. Any questions should be directed to Membership Chair David Adams, david.adams@wcsr.com or 404-355-3880.

The 2009 dues rates are:

- "A" Members with pool/tennis/park privileges: \$735
- "B" Members with park privileges: \$285
- "S" Members (60 years or older) with pool/tennis/park privileges: \$485

And **new this year**, those on Facebook can join the Brookwood Hills Group by contacting Mitch Wickland at mitch.wickland@gmail.com

Barnhart Rejoins The BWH Board

Lisa Barnhart is returning to the Brookwood Hills Board as Chair of Security. She held the same job from 2003 to 2005. Lisa is a native Atlantan, born at Piedmont Hospital. She works at Peachtree Hills Place as a Residency Counselor helping people transition from their homes to a continuing care residential community. Lisa and her husband, Steve, moved to 310 Camden Road in 1996 with their children Allison (16) and David (14). Welcome back, Lisa!

C L A S S I F I E D S

Free Model Train Layout Board. Crafted by a professional artist (my uncle) in the 60's, with "figure 8" layout for a Lionel Train set. Transformer and track have been removed. Perfect for the train enthusiast with an artistic touch. Paper Mache tunnel needs repair. Rigid board measures 10 feet by 4 feet, and rests on two sawhorses (included). Pictures available upon request. Contact Betsy Crosby at 4/351-8821 or at egcrosby@aol.com.

Need Repairs? Mike and Susan Brooks highly recommend Moore Repairs. Danny Moore and Keith Smith updated our kitchen, built a new bathroom, and performed other small jobs. Pleasant, dependable, and can do anything! Call 4/352-3140 or email www.moorerepairs.com.

Childcare Available. Looking for a caregiver to come to your home a couple of days a week? I am delighted to recommend Violet Kirby, who has been part of our family for many years, but now as our kids are growing up, we no longer need her babysitting services. Violet is responsible, reliable, and really great with young children and babies. Let me know if you would like her phone number or any further information. Jill Perkey, 4/603-3499.

Pet Care. Brooke and Casey Gentry would love to take care of your dog or cat while you are on vacation. We have lots of experience caring for our own dog and four cats, as well as nurturing foster kittens for the Atlanta Humane Society. Please email our mom Kathy Gentry at kathygentry@comcast.net or email Brooke directly at 1bgentry4@gmail.com. Or call Kathy at 4/876-4480 or Brooke at 4/423-1512.

BWH Book Club. The March book will be *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, an "enthraling first novel" (according to the NY Times) based on the real life love affair between architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney, a learned, lovely woman who scandalized Chicago when she left her husband and two young children to flee to Europe with Wright — who left behind a wife and six children of his own. For more information or to get on our email list, contact Maureen Zent at mzent1@bellsouth.net or at 4/724-0959.

Free Organ Concert. Covenant Presbyterian Church (2461 Peachtree Rd. just north of Peachtree Battle Shopping Center), is hosting a program of orchestral music transcribed for solo organ. On Sunday, February 15th at 1:00, Covenant's Organist Dr. John Coble will perform works by J.S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, G.F. Handel, Camille Saint-Saens, and Charles Widor. All are welcome to attend. While attendance is free, a canned food donation for distribution to those in need would be welcomed. (Submitted by Alison Caughman)

Donations Needed for Nan Mango, Haiti. Lee Wilder will be traveling to the extremely remote and impoverished Haitian community of Nan Mango the first week of March. Items she can bring include bars of soap, chewable vitamins, electrolyte powders, protein bars, medicinal ointments, shoes, sunglasses, summer clothing (no pants or shorts for women, no shorts for men, no large sizes), fabric, yarn, thread/sewing notions, pencils, crayons, markers, inflatable balls, jump ropes, French language children's books. Each member of the trip will bring 100 lbs. with them. Contact Lee at leewilder@comcast.net.

CALENDAR

- **Monday, March 2nd** — **BWHCC Board Meeting**, 7:15 p.m., at the home of Simms & Kelly Jenkins, 331 Camden Road
- **Monday, March 16th** — **BWH Book Club Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., location TBD
- **Sunday, April 19th** — **BWHCC Spring Fling**, 4:00—5:30 p.m., in the park

NPU-E Vote On The Beltline (cont'd.)

Members of the Brookwood Hills Board through official representative Harold Solomon – as well as the continued involvement of Rod Cook and Alex Summers - remain intensely engaged with the impact of the routing of the Beltline Trail as well as other aspects of the Beltline:

- The Transit Plaza at the Beltline as it crosses Peachtree (near the current location of the Citgo Service Station)
- Land use intensity along the Peachtree Corridor
- Potential associated traffic and streetscape improvements
- Impacts on nearby neighborhoods comprising the Brookwood Alliance.

Please refer to the Brookwood Hills website, www.brookwoodhills.com, for a color-coded map delineating the three Beltline Trail Options being considered alongside our neighborhood, and to the Beltline's website for the complete SA7 Peachtree Northside Piedmont Master Plan found under the "Resource Library" and "Planning" tabs at www.beltline.org.

Thank you not only to the BWH neighbors mentioned above who have worked tirelessly to understand and respond to the ever-changing Beltline plans, but also to those neighbors who took time from their evenings to provide input to the Board on February 2nd: Doug Connell, Linda Britton, Barry Wabler, Alan Simmons, and Lauren Monroe. It will continue to be essential that we remain vigilant and aware as the Beltline planning process proceeds.

Brooknotes

Sponsored by Your Neighbor at 205 Huntington Road

*Specialty
Homes
Inc.*

Sarah Hagood

Owner/ Broker

Residence

404-881-0808

404-231-5678

www.sarahhagood.com

specialtyhomes@mindspring.com