



BrookNotes

January 2010

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXIII, No. 1

A Letter from the President

By John Mulcahy

In many ways, it seems like it was just yesterday that I was standing in line at Publix, minding my own business, when Lauren Whitehurst asked me to take over her responsibilities as the Brookwood Hills Park Chairman. The three years that followed are chock full of memories that reinforce the reasons why I accepted that role and eventually had the opportunity to become Board President. This month I roll off the Board more confident than I was when I joined that this is the best neighborhood in the city.

There are many reasons why I believe this to be true. For example, our park, tennis and pool amenities are the envy of in-town neighborhoods. Our Clear Creek Nature Preserve, which has received significant time and attention this year, is unparalleled in Atlanta. The new Brighton Road entrance is on its way to becoming a gorgeous and fitting gateway into the neighborhood.

But the main reason this is the best neighborhood is the people of Brookwood Hills. We have a tremendous amount of pride and passion here and I see it every day as evidenced by a large showing for a Trees Atlanta planting or by working with those who volunteer to serve on the various committees which seek to maintain and enhance the character of the neighborhood. The number of people who go out of their way to help is nothing short of impressive.

I'd like to specifically thank those who served with me on the Board these past three years. Also "retiring" from the Board positions are Harold Solomon (Government & Community Relations), Simms Jenkins (Webmaster), Joe Gardner (NPU & Zoning), Gary Sayers (Park, Tennis & Common Areas), and Wendy Granot (Social). Their efforts have improved our community in countless ways. I truly appreciate the time and energy that they have invested into Brookwood Hills. I'm confident that the 2010 Board, under the leadership of Mitch Wickland, will continue to identify ways to improve and protect our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board for the past three years. I hope those of you who have not yet volunteered to contribute your time to a neighborhood initiative will consider doing so. Add that to your list of New Year's resolutions!

Editor's Note: John is due a very special note of thanks by virtue of the fact that he kept right on top of his presidential duties after the unprecedented September floods drove him and his family out of their home. We all look forward to the day when the repairs to their home are complete and we have the Mulcahys living back in Brookwood Hills once again.



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.

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Trees

Boyd Gentry 404-876-4480

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**.

Annual Meeting Reminder

The Annual Meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club, Inc. will take place at the Rich Auditorium of Piedmont Hospital on Sunday, January 24th, at 7:00 p.m. Our City Councilman Howard Shook will speak to the issues facing Atlanta in 2010. Sergeant Jeff Baxter will report on 2009 security incidents -- of which there were thankfully very few. Our new mayor, Kasim Reed, has also been invited to attend.

The 2010 Board of Directors will be installed, with the following neighbors filling new roles:

- Mitch Wickland, President
- Ramsay Battin, Vice-President
- Matt Tolleson, Secretary
- Jeff Koebler, Treasurer
- Amanda Baxter, Clear Creek Preserve and Government & Community Relations
- Peter Kotchen, Webmaster
- Alan Simons, Park, Tennis & Common Areas

Please make every effort to attend. It's a great opportunity to get together with your neighbors.

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 200 Camden Road.

A Look Back in Time

By Alison Caughman

Editor's Note: In November 2006 Elaine Luxemburger and Priscilla Hopkins interviewed former Brookwood Hills resident Stuart Ward as part of a project to document the neighborhood's history for the Atlanta History Center. This article is based upon that interview.

Stuart Ward was born in 1923. He moved with his family into Brookwood Hills when he was five years old. Over the following seventy-five years many members of his family lived here. His parents built 84 Wakefield (sadly, now slated for demolition) and that is where he grew up. His sister, Jane Ward Girardeau, bought 84 Wakefield from their mother and she lived there into the nineteen-eighties. Stuart raised his five children in Ansley Park, but he also lived at one time or another at 119 Palisades (home of Roy and Karlenne Trimble); 16 Woodcrest (home of Harvey & Mickey Ross); 67 Huntington (home of Gene and Jo Novy); and 33 Wakefield (home of Shane and Jewel Nichols). Stuart's grandmother lived for a time at 125 Palisades (home of Elisabeth and Wade St. John). His daughter Erica lived at 172 Huntington (home of Lys and Michael Paulhus).

Stuart has many stories to tell about Brookwood Hills. The original developers of the neighborhood, the Burdette family, dammed the water from a stream that came up out of the ground near Montclair, thereby creating a lake where the tennis courts are now, and an adjacent pool. The lake had a sand bottom and a high tower. The pool, one of four pools in north Atlanta, had a slide and some kind of spinning wheel. Unfortunately the stream died out in the thirties, so the community club no longer has access to a free water supply. Stuart's father selected Brookwood Hills to build his home in 1928 because of the pool and also because of the proximity to Brookwood Station (home to Amtrak). During the Great Depression it was not uncommon for hungry men to ask for work and food in Brookwood Hills because they could get off the train as it slowed down near the neighborhood on the approach to the station.

The Burdetts had restrictions written into the original deeds that each family could have "only one tethered cow for personal use." Stuart thinks this was because Mr. Burdett had a cow that he wanted to keep at his home on Peachtree, just north of Palisades.

Stuart spent a lot of time playing in what is now the Clear Creek Nature Preserve. He wrote a paper on the topography of the area, including a description of the breastworks built at the time of the Battle of Peachtree Creek. He collected many Civil War era minnie balls from in and around the creek. While he was growing up, the city limits line passed through the neighborhood and as a result some children went to E. Rivers Elementary while others went to the old Spring Street Elementary School. This created quite a rivalry among the children.

One final memory: When the second phase of Brookwood Hills development took place along Montclair, Wakefield, upper Camden and upper Brighton, Stuart says Brighton was known as home to "The Bigs." Apparently at one time the presidents of the four major Atlanta banks lived there. Well into his eighties, Stuart now lives in Chapel Hill. Thank you, Elaine and Priscilla, for tracking him down and sharing these stories with us.

Book Group to Meet

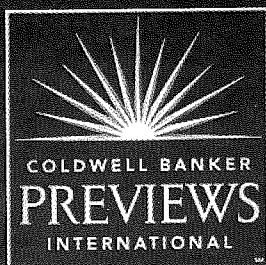
The Brookwood Hills Book Club will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25th. The selection to be discussed is Eudora Welty's Delta Wedding. The plan is to meet at a Southern-themed restaurant, but as of press time the location had not yet been confirmed. Please contact Maureen Zent for more information at mzent1@bellsouth.net. The Brookwood Hills Book Club is open to all residents. No invitation required, so anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Calendar

- **Sunday, January 24, Annual Meeting of the Community Club**, 7:00 p.m., at the Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital
- **Monday, February 1, BWHCC Board Meeting**, 7:15 p.m., at the home of Boyd & Kathy Gentry, 84 Palisades Road

C L A S S I F I E D S

Get (or stay) in shape. Sarah Armstrong highly recommends Inspire Health as a convenient and personalized place for Pilates or other wellness focused services. It is located on the fourth floor of the MacQuarium Building at 1800 Peachtree Street and offers individualized programs in the areas of Stott Pilates, physical & occupational therapy, acupuncture, and nutrition counseling. Their website is www.inspireatlanta.com and their phone number is 404/605-9091. They are offering a 15% discount to Brookwood Hills residents for the months of January and February. Sarah has been going to Inspire Health for the past three years and would be happy to talk to anyone interested in learning more. She can be reached at 404/352-0110.



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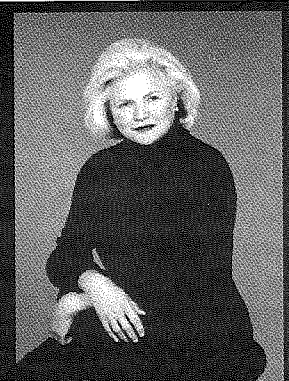
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