

BrookNotes

January 2011

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXIV, No. 1

Snow Followed by Ice Ushers in 2011

By Alison Caughman



Katy Fransen poses with daughters Annabelle and Julia while Julia takes a break from sledding on Brighton Road.

The flakes began to fall fast and furiously on Sunday evening, January 9th, blanketing Brookwood Hills in a coat lovely to look at and enjoy. But by the time we were headed to bed we could hear the ominous ping-ping-ping of freezing drizzle bouncing off the windows and roofs and when we awoke Monday morning the brilliant snow was wearing a crispy cover of the dreaded ice. Luckily the freezing rain did not accumulate to any great extent on the tree branches and thus we were spared the power outages that frequently accompany Atlanta ice storms. Good thing too, because instead of the usual pattern of a snowfall followed by a quick melt, this time we stayed in the deep freeze all week. It's one thing for the city to be paralyzed by snow and ice for a day or two. But for five days? No school . . . no mail . . . no newspaper delivery . . . no garbage pick-up. While it was

possible with 4 wheel drive to get around -- albeit slowly -- for the rest of us cabin fever reigned supreme. Still, the first couple of days were a lot of fun, as documented in just a few of the photos submitted to *BrookNotes*. See more photos on page 3.



Roland and Diane John find a novel way to walk the dog on Northwood.



Eliza Normark, Sasha Fuson and Marion Kronauge have a great time throwing snowballs.



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)
Nathalie Fuson 404-254-2826 (144 Huntington Road)

Contributors this month: Nathalie Fuson, Amanda Szwast, Stephanie Brown, Chris Caughman, Peter Kotchen, Mary Long, Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan,

Brookwood Hills Board

President

Mitch Wickland 404-343-2631

Vice President

Ramsay Battin 404-355-5998

Secretary

Matt Tolleson 404-664-2427

Treasurer

Jeff Koebler 404-351-2288

Government & Community Relations/Clear Creek Preserve

Amanda Baxter 404-805-1230

Membership

David Adams 404-355-3880

Webmaster

Peter Kotchen 404-375-7541

NPU & Zoning

Lee Morris 404-355-3351

Jim Stokes 404-876-1809

Park, Tennis & Common Areas

Travis Szwast 404-724-0242

Pool

Lesley Carroll 404-352-5433

Merrell Thompson 404-352-4724

Security

Lisa Barnhart 404-355-3707

Pool Pavilion & Park Reservations

Harvey Ross 404-897-1077

Social

Wendy Granot 404-733-6130

Stephanie Brown 404-355-9925

Trees

Boyd Gentry 404-394-6596

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**.

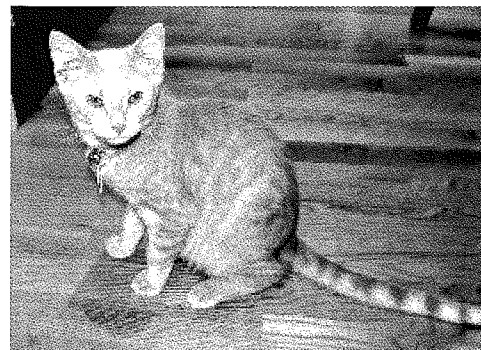
Free Mulch Still Available

At the intersection of Palisades and Huntington there is still a pile of mulch left over from the stump grinding project. It is fairly high quality, with a minimum of leaves and other compost. There are several large black buckets to the rear of the pile that can be *borrowed* for hauling the mulch back to your yards.

Park Temporarily Closed

The Brookwood Hills Park is expected to remain closed through February 4th while the contractors complete demolition of the pool deck. Please be careful negotiating your way around the dumpsters on Parkdale and keep in mind that bad weather could add to the number of days needed for the removal of the debris. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Lesley Carroll at lesleycarroll@comcast.net or at 678-570-3839.

Happy Medical Outcome

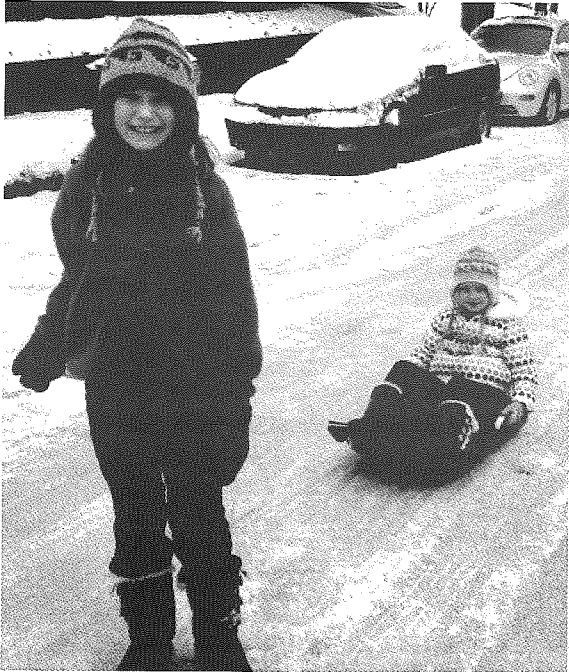


Despite the odds, Thunder Tough Guy has recovered from his encounter with the car on Montclair. The Longs thank you for your good thoughts on his behalf. Please remember to drive with care.

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, February 9th, 2011. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 144 Huntington Road.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Thanks to Nathalie Fuson, Peter Kotchen, and Chris Caughman for submitting pictures from our snowy week, shown here and on page one.



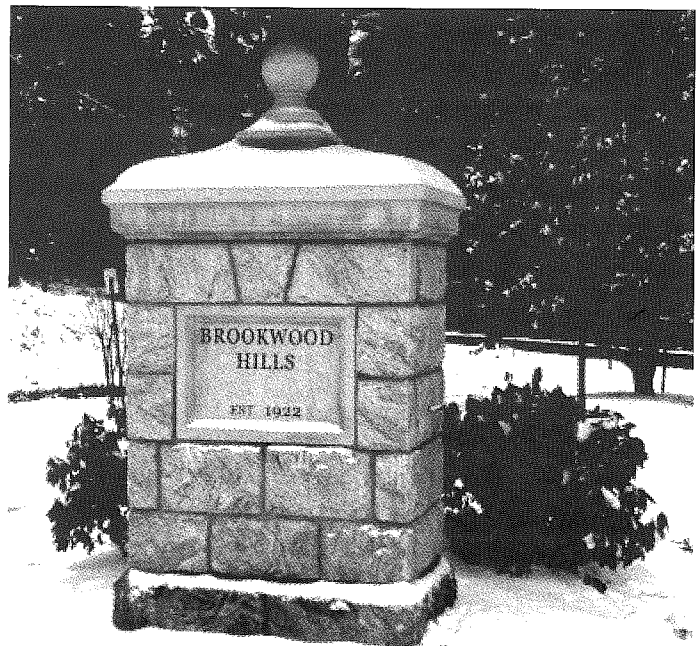
What greater love does one sister have for another but to haul her up Brighton Hill for another fun run down the slope? Liza Millican does exactly that for Ellie.



Parkdale Way is eerily quiet on Monday afternoon.



Katie Kronauge tries out her sled on Huntington Road.



The new neighborhood entryway at the Brighton Road intersection looks especially elegant dressed in freshly fallen snow.

Actually Using a Dining Room

By Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the January 7, 2011 issue of The Wall Street Journal and features our Palisades Road neighbor Vern Yip.

The formal dining room, for many, is a waste of space.

People tend to eat more casually in the kitchen or living room these days, using dining rooms for special occasions. "It's impractical to have that huge room saved for something that happens just a few times a year," says Vern Yip, an interior designer and HGTV host.

But a dining room can be redesigned so that it's easy to use for multiple purposes. All it takes to make a dining room into a home office, conference room, craft room, game room or hangout room is enclosed storage space, good lighting and comfortable seating. One thing he doesn't advise: "If, however, you want to still keep it looking like a presentable dining room, converting it into a playroom would not be a great idea."

In Mr. Yip's Atlanta home, he uses the dining room almost every day for business meetings, work or chores like wrapping presents.

Anchoring the room is a dining room table that seats eight, can be expanded and is made of cherry wood that doesn't look too fragile. To protect the finish, he sometimes works on "cheese boards made out of slate" with felt-covered backs. If your table is antique and you want to use it regularly for work, Mr. Yip suggests having a protective glass surface installed on top.

The choice of chairs is important. "Get some chairs that people can actually sit in for a good length of time," he says. In Mr. Yip's home, he has modern chrome and black chairs that have a padded leather seat and back and flex as their occupant moves. "They're sculptural and beautiful but also really comfortable," says Mr. Yip, who notes that leather is easy to clean. Actual swivel desk chairs can work around the table, he says. Pottery Barn makes traditional-looking versions in wood. "The fact that they both have casters on their bases makes them versatile and fun," he adds.

Art or decorations shouldn't be too fussy. Mr. Yip's dining room features artifacts he's picked up from trips to India and Bhutan and a pair of antique bronze champagne buckets that he uses as planters for orchids. Lighting is key as well. "Make sure you have a light fixture that can illuminate your space well, but put a dimmer on it so when you're wrapping presents you can turn the lights up, but if you want a more romantic atmosphere you can turn them down," he says.

Closed storage is essential, he says. Glass-fronted china cabinets put their contents on display, so it's harder to store work files or supplies in them. Mr. Yip stores his work supplies in antique Chinese cabinets.

He also makes sure that all the electrical outlets are easily accessible. "I want to make sure that I can plug in my laptop," he says. Still, it's important to keep in mind that you still want some elegance in your dining room. "The moment you put in real office furniture into your dining room" he says, "you have crossed the line."

New Website Launched!

By Peter Kotchen, Webmaster

We are excited to announce the launch of the new Brookwood Hills website! While we're certain there are many kinks to be ironed out over the coming weeks, we believe the new site is a significant upgrade for the Brookwood Hills Community Club. *In order to access the member section of the site, you must be a current member of the Community Club. If you would like to join the club and gain access to the site, please email membership@brookwoodhills.com.* Residents of Brookwood Hills can join at any time. There is a wait list to join for those who live outside the neighborhood.

When you go to www.brookwoodhills.com you will see a completely different look. On your first visit to the site, please click on "Sign In," and then sign up as a new user. You will select a Sign In Name and Password as part of the sign in process. If you have problems signing in, please contact webmaster@brookwoodhills.com.

Through the website, members of the Brookwood Hills Community Club can now access the following:

Directory: We have updated the searchable resident directory to include all members as of November 2010. *Note that a new neighborhood directory will be printed this year and it will rely on the online membership data. Please check your profile online to be sure it is accurate.*

On-Line Reservations: Through the site, members can now make reservations for the pool and park pavilions and the poolside party table. The site allows for online payment of reservation fees, which should make the process easier for all involved.

Street-Specific Email Distribution Capabilities: The site allows us to send street-specific emails to those members who live on certain streets. So, the next time lower Camden, for example, wants to hold a block party, it's simple to get the word out!

Classifieds: The site allows for certain classified listings specific only to Brookwood Hills Community Club members. We have already pre-loaded the site with several old classifieds from *BrookNotes*, including notices and recommendations for babysitters, pet sitters, house cleaners, plumbers and stone masons. Going forward, we encourage neighbors to submit their own recommendations, which will be approved and then posted by the webmaster. The latest list of local stores and restaurants participating in the BWH discount card can also be found here. Note that outside vendors will not be permitted to post on the classifieds section.

A Prettier Face: While much of the website content is limited to Brookwood Hills Community Club members, there are certain sections, like the "History of Brookwood Hills" and "Tour the Neighborhood," that are accessible for visitors to the site. We believe this public facing content is a significant upgrade from our prior site and can serve to enhance the qualities of the neighborhood to prospective purchasers of homes.

We can use your help in making the new website more useful and user-friendly. Send your feedback and suggestions for improving or enhancing the site to me at webmaster@brookwoodhills.com.

Club Annual Meeting Ushers in New Board

The Annual Meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club will take place Sunday evening, January 30th, at 7 p.m. in the Rich Auditorium of Piedmont Hospital. President Mitch Wickland will report to members about events of the past year, including an update on the club's finances. Ramsay Battin will be installed as the 2011 President, with Matt Tolleson assuming the position of Vice President (in line to assume the presidency in 2012). The following neighbors are rotating off the Board: Lee Morris (NPU/Zoning), Deborah Gebhardt (Pool), David Adams (Membership), Wendy Granot and Stephanie Brown (Social), Harvey Ross (Reservations) and Alison Caughman (*BrookNotes*). Please be sure to thank these folks for their service to the neighborhood next time you see them. We are still looking for a replacement for Alison to join Nathalie Fuson as co-editor of *BrookNotes*. Otherwise all other open Board positions have been filled by neighborhood volunteers. The new Board members are:

Sara Jean Burke. Sara Jean will be the new NPU/Zoning Co-Chair. She and husband Fred have lived in Brookwood Hills for over 20 years. They have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren. Over the years Sara Jean has served on the Community Club Board as Security Chair and Trees Chair and she most recently has been an active member of the Clear Creek Committee. Sara Jean also chaired *The Festival of Trees* benefit for Children's Hospital of Atlanta in 1997 and chaired the 1999 *Southeastern Flower Show* benefitting the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. She has been on the boards of Teach for America and Catholic Charities and was President of the ABG Associates. The Burkes are members of Christ the King, where Sara Jean is a ladies' bible study facilitator.



Jaime Cirincione. Jaime will be the new Board Secretary. He and his wife Laurie have lived in Brookwood Hills since 2008. Originally from Maryland, he is a graduate of Colgate University and Vanderbilt Law School, where he met Laurie. They moved to Atlanta from Chicago. Jaime works in the litigation department of the law firm DLA Piper. He and Laurie have a two year old son, James.



Mary Long. Mary will be the new Membership Chair. She and her husband Bill (a former Brookwood Hills Community Club Board Member) live on Montclair Drive and have three kids: Katie, Alex, and David. Katie and Alex both served as coaches of the Brookwood Hills Dive Team, and David is a current diver on the team and Eighth Grader at Paideia. Mary has finally retired as Dive Team Mom! She is a managing partner of Abrams, Davis, Wallace, Mason & Long, a law firm specializing in wills, trusts, and estates.



Jill Malino. Jill will be the new Reservations Chair. She and her husband Daniel, daughter Meyrav (4) and son Ezra (1) moved to Brookwood Hills last year from their home in East Lake. They've been Atlantans for 8 years. Jill works as an art consultant for ConsultArt, Inc. and Daniel works in commercial real estate for QR Capital. Jill has a degree in art history from UNC Chapel Hill and a masters degree in architectural history from Georgia Tech.

New Board Members (cont'd.)

Caroline Normark. Caroline will be the new Social Chair. She and husband Paul have three daughters: Eliza (10), Larson (7) and Millie (6). They have lived in Brookwood Hills for three years, after moving from Garden Hills. Caroline works for herself as an interior designer and as a volunteer at the children's schools.

Come Join the Social Committee

By Stephanie Brown

The organizational meeting of the Community Club Social Committee will take place (with cocktails!) at my home (265 Brighton) at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 10th. We will divide up the work of executing the Club's five annual parties. A job can be as simple as filling Easter eggs for Spring Fling or blowing up balloons for the Fourth of July, or it can be as big as chairing one (and only one) of the parties. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and spread the word that "C" (outside the neighborhood) members are welcome to join the committee as well. Come join the fun of party planning with your friends and neighbors!

Spotlight on Art Artists Market

By Amanda Szwast, 2011 Market Chair

Over the years, Brookwood Hills residents have contributed greatly to the success of Trinity School's Spotlight on Art, as many of our neighbors have chaired the event. Come see the culmination of their hard work as Spotlight on Art celebrates its thirtieth year January 31st through February 5th at Trinity's Northside Parkway campus. Attendees will be interested to see the new Spotlight Master's section of the market, featuring once-upon-a-time market regulars such as Herbert Creecy and Sidney Guberman. There will also be an online auction this year. Anyone with internet access will be able to bid on thirty one-of-a-kind bamboo bowls painted by artists in honor of Spotlight's big anniversary year.

Free and open to the public, the Spotlight on Art Artists Market is one of the largest and most diverse exhibits of fine and decorative art available for sale in the Southeast. This acclaimed collection of art (and jewelry!) by established and emerging talents happens once a year and offers a carefully curated selection with all styles and price points.

Stop by for coffee any morning, bring a friend and browse away the afternoon, or attend one of the fun evening cocktail events. To see the full schedule and lots more information go to www.SpotlightOnArt.com. Or you can check out the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TrinitySpotlightOnArt. See you there!

Thank You, Generous Neighbors

So far over one hundred neighbors have contributed to the 2010 bonus pool for the five officers who make up our intrepid security patrol. It was Officer Barry Miller of the patrol who interrupted a December Palisades Road break-in in progress, which then led to the arrest of the two perpetrators. Because of the inclement weather we have extended the opportunity to contribute. Drop off checks made out to the Brookwood Hills Community Club at the home of Lisa Barnhart, 310 Camden Road.

C L A S S I F I E D S

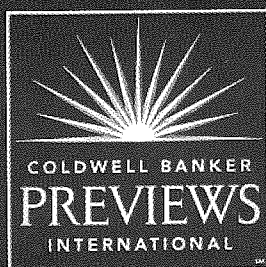
Catered Meals. Neighbor and Caterer Robin Churchill with "To Dine For" is opening her garage freezer to friends and neighbors. The "Come and Get It" freezer is located in her garage at 10 Palisades Rd. Pull down the drive on the left side of the house, poke your nose into her freezer, make your selection(s), and drop a check in the box. Menu items include soups, kid-friendly meals, entrees and desserts at reasonable prices. 3-7 p.m. M-F. To receive a copy of the menu offerings, contact comeandgetitmeals@gmail.com.

Bookkeeping Service. Did you know you can decrease small business overhead and increase focus on your core business simply by switching your company to outsourced bookkeeping through BBW Bookkeeping, owned by BWH neighbor Cannon Sayers? Decrease operating costs, increase company focus, grow your business, free up capital. Contact Cannon at cannon@myatlbookkeeping.com or 404/808-1134.

Dog Care Available. Need dog care? Call the McCollum Brothers (Will, Clarke and Sam) at 404/401-4449 or email us at sammccollum2000@gmail.com. We do things like walk and feed dogs when you are out of town, toenail clipping, Bone of The Month Club, and even training (sit, come, stay). Best of all we do it for affordable prices!

Calendar

- **Sunday, January 30, Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,** Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hosp.
- **Monday, February 7, BWHCC Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,** at the home of Matt and Caroline Tolleson, 241 Camden Road
- **Thursday, February 10, Social Committee, 6:00 p.m.,** 265 Brighton Road
- **Monday, February 21, Legacy Ladies Tea, 4:00 p.m.,** at the home of Lenore Conroy, 247 Brighton Road



Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage

3650 Habersham Road
Atlanta, GA 30305

BROOKNOTES
SPONSORED BY YOUR NEIGHBOR

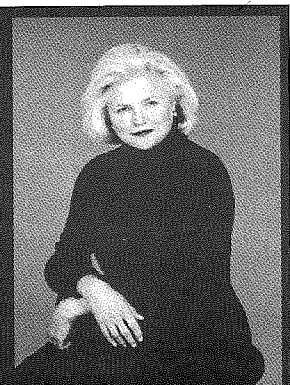
Patti Junger

TOP AGENT COMPANY-WIDE

404-504-0801

404-262-1234

www.pattijunger.com



Your Neighbor @
60 Palisades Road