



BrookNotes

January 2012

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXV, No. 1

Brookwood Hills Street Parking Initiative

By Peter Kotchen

As many of you are well aware, Park Atlanta, a private contractor hired by the City to handle parking enforcement, has identified BWH as a good source of revenue and recently has begun to aggressively ticket neighbors, babysitters, contractors working in our houses, etc. Park Atlanta is incentivized to maximize ticket revenue, so we should expect strict enforcement to continue.

Parking restrictions in the neighborhood are generally found on streets closest to Peachtree. It is safe to assume that these signs were originally placed on BWH streets to keep them free of commuters and other non-resident parkers seeking to avoid paid parking lots on Peachtree or at Piedmont Hospital—not to tax homeowners. While the parking restrictions are there for our benefit, we are also subject to the recent increase in enforcement.

To the extent neighbors want to take action on the parking restrictions, possible solutions could include petitioning the City to (i) eliminate current parking restrictions; (ii) alter current parking restrictions; or (iii) evaluate a permit parking program in certain parts of the neighborhood. Granted, applying for permit parking is a long, drawn out process and it is far from certain that any streets in BWH would qualify.

Volunteer street “captains” are in the process of polling each of the neighbors on the affected streets about their desired course of action. Not all streets are required to act in unison—the approach that is best for one street may not work for another. The street captains are as follows:

Brighton (upper part)	TBD (volunteer pending)	
Huntington (upper part)	Amanda Szwast	aszwast@yahoo.com
Montclair	Mary Long	5longs@bellsouth.net
Northwood	Peter Kotchen	pkotchen@cgradvisors.com
Palisades	Dana Halberg	dana.halberg@bnymellon.com
Woodcrest	John Wheeler	jwheeler@cortcap.com

If they have not already done so, neighbors on these streets should be receiving a letter from the street captains setting forth a plan of action. Please pass along any feedback or questions you may have to one of the street captains or to me at pkotchen@cgradvisors.com.



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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Social

Heidi Leithleiter 404-358-1368

Caroline Normark 678-772-5050

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Boyd Gentry 404-394-6596

Security Alert Signs

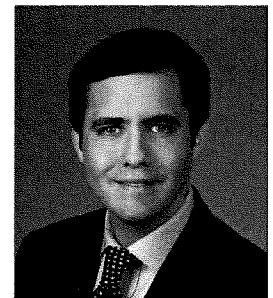
When you see the **Security Alert signs** posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line at 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is **404-242-3321**.

Support for E. Rivers

Sarah Hagood, a neighborhood realtor with Specialty Homes, Inc., would like to encourage all Brookwood Hills residents to be active in supporting our neighborhood school, E. Rivers. Not that many years ago, Brookwood Hills was less desirable due to the public school situation. With strong parental involvement, E. Rivers has become an especially esteemed neighborhood school. Regardless of whether or not we have children enrolled, this issue affects all of our property values significantly. In other neighborhoods, strong community involvement has led to surprising protection in city school redistricting decisions. Let's all raise our voices!

Neighbor Recognized for Business Success

Leo Welf, our neighbor on Montclair Drive, was recently recognized as an outstanding alumni by the UGA Alumni Association in its top "40 under 40." In 2004, Leo founded Payscape Advisors, a financial services company, with three employees. The company has grown to include more than 100 account managers with revenues of more than \$5 million. Additionally, in 2010 and 2011, the company was ranked in the top 10 of the UGA List of Top 100 Bulldog Businesses.



BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Friday, February 10, 2012. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 144 Huntington.

BWHCC Annual Meeting

By Ramsay Battin

The Brookwood Hills Community Club's annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 29, at 7pm in the Rich Auditorium in Piedmont Hospital.

All current members are invited to attend. As in years past, the Board will provide an update on the Club's financial state, a review of the past year's activities, and provide a glimpse for what 2012 holds for the Club.

We will also be introducing and voting on a slate of new Board member candidates and we have invited Councilman Howard Shook to provide neighbors with a broader perspective of what's happening in Buckhead and the City of Atlanta. These meetings are always an interesting event, providing neighbors with an inside look of how the neighborhood and Club are doing – please join us!

Atlanta's Bulk Waste Pick-Up Service

By the Beautification and Livability Committee

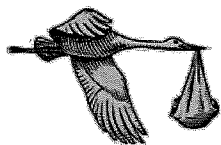
You may have noticed the "Bulk Waste Pick-Up" signs that appear periodically in the neighborhood. We have received some questions on this recently. These signs are part of a new City initiative to pick-up bulk waste in our section of the City on the first Monday of the first week of each month. The City posts notices at neighborhood entrances prior to pick-up.

In terms of what qualifies for bulk waste pick-up, the City provides these guidelines:

- Bulk waste refers to materials with a total weight, volume and/or size too large for the City's residential garbage collection trucks to remove. This includes items such as appliances, large furniture, large piles of tree branches, large metal or wooden playground equipment, or similar items.
- Yard trimmings in excess of piles 4 ft in length and 6 inches in diameter are considered as a bulk waste pick up and will not be picked up on the scheduled pick up day for household garbage and recycling. Bulk yard trimming will be picked up per the posted bulk pick up schedule described above.

The City asks that residents place all bulk items at the curb. At this point, there is not a fee for bulk waste pickup – it is a service that is included in the overall Solid Waste bill. More information can be found at http://www.atlantaga.gov/client_resources/dpw/faqs%20-%20swws%203n1.pdf.

Baby Announcement



Michelle and Alex McGee on Huntington Road are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Alexander "Davis" McGee. He was born on December 23, 2011 at Piedmont and was named after his paternal grandmother, Dana Davis McGee.

New Public Elementary and Middle School for Brookwood Hills Kids?

By Elizabeth Wickland

No matter your age or if you have children that don't attend public school, public school zoning issues greatly affect all property owners and residents of Brookwood Hills (BWH). Real estate brokers have confirmed that BWH being rezoned to a new elementary and middle school could have severe consequences on home prices in the neighborhood.

Thanks to strong support of public schools over the past decade in Buckhead and Virginia Highlands/Morningside, the public elementary, middle and high schools in these areas have evolved to become high-achieving academic communities. Much of the success is owed to the respected International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum in place at all 6 Buckhead public elementary schools (Brandon, Jackson, Sarah Smith, E. Rivers, Garden Hills and Bolton Academy) and the middle and high schools (Sutton Middle and North Atlanta High School). As these schools have strengthened, they have attracted more students and are now facing over-enrollment issues, including E. Rivers Elementary and Sutton Middle School which are attended by BWH children. At the same time, schools in the southern part of the city, some also high-performing and great assets to their community, are experiencing under enrollment due to population shifts.

To address changing demographics, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) is nearing the end of a long process to develop an enrollment plan. Working with demographers and census data, APS' goal is to put in place a plan that will sustain anticipated population growth patterns over the next ten years. Solving these capacity issues will require a multifaceted plan that will include school expansions, new school construction, closure of under-enrolled schools, and rezoning of neighborhoods that have attended the same schools for literally the past 100 years. This is a difficult task because there are no easy answers and all communities in the city of Atlanta will be affected.

In December, demographers hired by APS presented the 4 options they proposed for our district, SRT IV. In three of the four elementary school options, Brookwood Hills children would continue to attend E. Rivers. Many of the options included building an additional APS elementary school in the Buckhead area, most likely in Peachtree Hills, next to ADAC on currently undeveloped land. In one of the four options, BWH children were slated to attend this new elementary school along with Lindberg corridor residents. This option was of particular concern because it takes a new school a minimum of four years and significant PTA funding to become IB certified.

Of the four middle school options, two proposed that BWH children attend a new Midtown Middle School, possibly located on Armour Drive. This middle school would serve the southern half of Buckhead and part of Virginia Highlands/ Morningside/ Lenox Park. In this scenario, BWH children who attended the new middle school would go on to North Atlanta High School on newly acquired land by the Chattahoochee River next to Trinity School. Their Midtown Middle friends from Virginia Highlands/ Morningside/ Lenox Park would go on to Grady High School. This scenario does not allow for academic continuity of the International Baccalaureate curriculum of students currently in the Buckhead area.

Wear Your Heart on Your House for Children's

Many Brookwood Hills neighbors wear their hearts on their sleeves for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) - so we thought why not wear your heart on your house? Brookwood Hills is so beautifully decorated for Halloween and the winter holidays, wouldn't it be fun to continue that spirit and raise some money for CHOA.

Brookwood Hills Friends is selling beautiful heart-shaped, red foil garland wreaths in the hopes that these wreaths will become part of everyone's outside décor for Valentine's Day. The wreaths have a metal frame, include a hanger and are approximately 15 ½ inches.

The cost of the wreath is \$25 with over 75% of the proceeds going to CHOA. The wreaths will be delivered to your home in the coming weeks in time to display for Valentine's Day. They make great decorations and even gifts! Order deadline is January 31st. Thank you for supporting CHOA.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of wreaths: _____

Total Payment: _____

Please drop off payment to 97 Brighton RD

Or, order online at: www.choa.org/valentine

Payment Information:

_____ Cash _____ Check (make payable to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta)

_____ Credit Card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, Amex - minimum \$25 order)

Account #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please note: Charge orders will appear as "Children's - Community Friends" on your statement

(continued from previous page)

Many of the neighborhoods currently attending E. Rivers—Loring Heights, Underwood Hills, Berkeley Park, Chattahoochee Avenue, and Peachtree Hills—are rezoned to other schools in all four of the initial APS proposals. The E. Rivers PTA and Local School Council (an elected body mandated by the school board) have written a letter of solidarity to the school board. The letter stressed the importance of keeping these neighborhoods together at E. Rivers because of the tight bonds that have been formed and the diversity these neighborhoods bring to the school, both of which have helped the school excel. Many of the parents of these neighborhoods serve as PTA committee chairs and the school fears this loss of leadership. The PTA proposes remodeling the school to accommodate 750 students so that current neighborhoods can remain in attendance.

Given the impact to our neighborhood and schools, in December, BWH parents of children attending E. Rivers Elementary, Sutton Middle, and North Atlanta High sent an email blast asking neighbors to feedback via the APS online survey using the discussion points we had developed to vote on the options we believed best for our neighborhood. We appreciate you taking the time to voice your opinion.

The demographers have compiled the information you submitted through the on line community survey and have gone back to the drawing board to alter the original proposed options. **The updated options for our district will be presented on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012 at 6:30 pm at North Atlanta High School.** Following this meeting, APS will again open for a limited time an online survey for the community to respond to the new options presented. At that time BHW parents of children currently attending public school will develop points to argue the proposal we feel is in the best interest of our neighborhood and we will again ask the neighborhood to voice your opinion via the survey.

In March, the demographers will give their final recommendation to head of the school board, who at that point (and not before) will own the process and will render a final decision in late March/early April. APS currently says that the plan, including rezoning, will go into effect for the 2012-2013 school year. However, APS has not commented on what that would mean under proposals that re-zone students to schools that haven't been built, like the proposed Buckhead Elementary and Midtown Middle schools. We have heard that \$14.0 million of SPLOST funds have been set aside for an E. Rivers renovation but there has not been a statement relative to when the construction would begin. The rezoning process must be completed first to determine the size of the student body a renovated E.Rivers should serve.

What can you do? Voice your opinion to APS about how you want your tax dollars used. Read the talking points formed by current APS parents in the neighborhood. Take the APS online Community Feedback Survey in February.

Stay tuned for more information in February which will include a recommendation to contact your elected school board representative, Nancy Meister, based on the proposals presented February 1st. All final decisions made by the APS board will affect our entire neighborhood and we want to insure our voice as a neighborhood is heard loud and clear by APS.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Wickland, E. Rivers Brookwood Hills Neighborhood Captain, at 404-375-7455 or Lizzy.wickland@gmail.com.



“Legacy Ladies” Celebrate a Decade

By Kay Summers



When you have lived, carpoled, worked, played, and shared raising your children in the care and nurture of your neighbors in the wonderful environment of Brookwood Hills you never want to give up that connection, that warmth you shared with these people who supported you through it all. Sometimes these ties are still there, but new activities, jobs, and responsibilities lead to formerly close friends drifting apart, and not “keeping up” with each other.



Legacy Ladies Steering Committee: Anne Donaldson, Kay Summers, Mary Lynn Eckl, Dianne Ray, Nancy Walton, Flo Dawson, and not pictured, Beverly Stacy, Betsy Primm, and Sara Jean Burke.

It was in response to just that situation that led sixteen ladies who lived in Brookwood Hills to meet for lunch at the soon-to-be-defunct Legacy Restaurant in Brookwood Village. From this enthusiastic gathering, on a very cold Monday, January 21, 2002 to be exact, began the now decade old institution, *Legacy Ladies of Brookwood Hills*. The original members are Harvie Abney, Linda Copeland, Flo Dawson, Jean Dennis, Anne Donaldson, Marge Henson, Priscilla Hopkins, Nancy Kennedy, Marilynn Kohla, Elaine Luxemburger, Mary Ann Massey, Mickey McKenzie, Margaret Shirley, Beverly Stacy, Kay Summers, and Joy Turnage.

Now, with more than 120 immensely attractive women on the roster, “LL” is unquestionably the premier social organization in the neighborhood. “LL” hosts an event each month on the third Monday. Parties with significant others take place in May and December. There are lunches or teas in the other months. Members host these gatherings in their homes or arrange them at near-by restaurants or the pool pavilion. All members share the hosting responsibilities. Monthly e-mails announce the location and cost of the upcoming activity, and members must make reservations before a stated deadline. Dues are \$10 annually and members pay for their participation in individual events. A Steering Committee of nine members, who serve staggered three year terms, keeps things running smoothly.

Though the only stated purpose of the organization is to enjoy the pleasure of the company of peers, “LL” took on the major project of compiling the history of all the houses in BWH into a notebook which was given to the Atlanta History Center, History Center and partnered with the BWH Garden Club on a garden tour.



Legacy Ladies First Meeting—January 21, 2002

The membership is limited only by the criteria for members. You must be a resident of Brookwood Hills, or have lived here at least 20 years before moving away. You must be female, and most importantly, you must have had your sixtieth birthday. If you fit these qualifications you will be welcomed into the group. All you need to do is contact Nancy Walton (nwalton213@gmail.com) with your e-mail address. If you are smart enough to want to live in Brookwood Hills and have attained maturity, “LL” wants you!

Wear Your Heart on Your House for Children's

By Laurie Hood

Many Brookwood Hills neighbors wear their hearts on their sleeves for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) - so we thought why not wear your heart on your house? Brookwood Hills is so beautifully decorated for Halloween and the winter holidays, wouldn't it be fun to continue that spirit and raise some money for CHOA.

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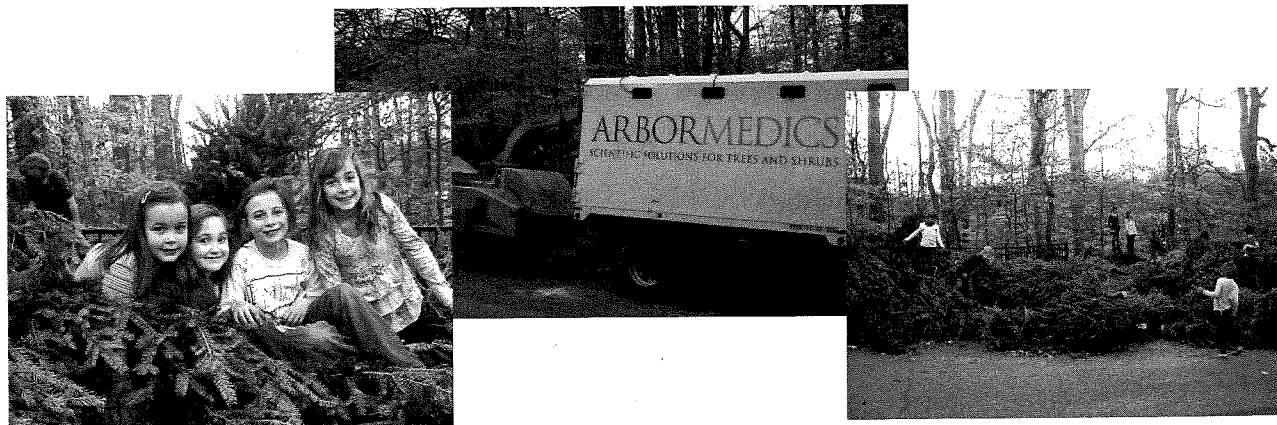
The cost of the wreath is \$25 with over 75% of the proceeds going to CHOA. The wreaths will be delivered to your home in the coming weeks in time to display for Valentine's Day. They make great decorations and even gifts! Order deadline is January 31st. You can use the enclosed flyer to order or order online at www.choa.org/valentine.

Thank you for supporting Brookwood Hills Friends and CHOA!

Christmas Tree Recycling

By Margaret Mertens

A big THANK YOU goes out to ArborMedics for grinding our trees into mulch free of charge!



Mady Mertens, Ryan Thompson, Isabel Carter, and Julia Jackson take a quick break from their "fort building" to smile for the camera!

Many neighborhood children discovered that a huge pile of Christmas trees can be loads of fun!

CALENDAR

- **Sunday, January 29, BWHCC Annual Meeting,, 7:00 p.m., Rich Auditorium @ Piedmont Hospital.**
- **Saturday, April 21, Acorn Auction, Brookwood Hills Pool Pavilion. Hosted by the Brookwood Hills Garden Club.**

C L A S S I F I E D S

Dog Supplies: Everything you need, in the best quality, for that new Christmas puppy!

- 3 denim LL Bean dog beds. 2 are size 19"x24" and the other is a 24" diameter round bed. They are sanitized, in excellent condition, sturdy cotton denim.
- 2 LL Bean Waterhog dish and food bowl mats; clean, navy blue.
- 2 Cloak and Dawggie leashes with matching "running togs" in blue nylon with reflective strips and velcro fasteners for small dogs. Clean, like new.
- 2 Navy blue china water bowls, dishwasher-safe.
- 8 lb. supply of Purina One Puppy Chow.

Call Karen Klare at [404.352.0101](tel:404.352.0101)

House Painter: I had a great experience with having my house painted recently and wanted to pass on the name of my painter in case anyone is looking: Thomas Sheets with Georgia Painting and Design Co., georgiapainting@gmail.com. Lucy Mueller, 226 Huntington Rd.

Model/Craft Supplies: Do you have a child who loves making model planes, boats or race cars? I have 9 colors in tiny bottles of Testor's model paints. They are opened but barely used and brand-new. If you have someone who can use them please call me. They are free for the asking. Karen Klare, 404.352.0101 .

Nanny Share: I wanted to see if anyone could recommend a nanny and if anyone would be interested in nanny-sharing. I'm looking for someone to start part-time as soon as possible and full-time the beginning of April. Please contact Michelle McGee: McGeeM@advisory.com or [404-885-9750](tel:404-885-9750).

Preschool: Karen Klare would like to recommend the preschool her granddaughter attends, Tallulah Montessori (www.tallulahmontessori.com). Heather Wolf, the school's Director, is expanding the school in a new location at 1950 Bolton Road. The school is a homey, warm setting with newly renovated schoolrooms and a beautiful new playground. The school accepts children from 3-5 years old. After completing the program they enter first grade with strong social skills and advanced education. Students can start as early as Feb. 1 this year, or can be considered for the fall term of 2012. Heather Wolf is a superbly talented teacher who draws the light from within children after only a few days of work with them. They learn respectful behavior, helping those around them, sharing, and the positive rewards of their work. Her environment is open and loving. Her classroom is home for any little child. She can be reached at: heather@tallulahmontessori.com or (404) 788-7680.

Wanted—Dog Crate: We need a large dog crate for our soon-to-be Golden Retriever puppy. If anyone has one, please call or email Elaine & Jim Moynihan at 404-351-5479 or emoynihan@bellsouth.net.

BROOKNOTES

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