



BrookNotes

July 2012

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXV, No. 7

FROM THE BWHCC BOARD: *This article is a response to a June BrookNotes article and is being published in fairness to both sides of the issue. BrookNotes is not a forum for political discussion or debate and, in the future, BrookNotes will not publish articles which could be construed as taking a position on an upcoming vote or political issue.*

Additional Important Information About Transportation Referendum

By David Watson

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the article in the June issue of *BrookNotes* regarding the upcoming July 31 referendum to increase the sales tax by 12.5%.

Before any new taxes are considered, we should examine our current tax situation and use of those funds. The sales tax in Atlanta is 8%, which includes:

- 4% state rate
- 1% for Fulton County local option (not sure where this money goes)
- 1% for Atlanta/Fulton County "E-SPLOST" (for school construction; first passed in 1997; since re-authorized three times)
- 1% for Atlanta "MOST" (for water and sewer repairs; first passed in 2004 for four years; since re-authorized twice)
- 1% for MARTA (as a result of previous extensions, this will go through 2047)

You would think with all these existing add-ons, along with our 6% state income tax and exorbitant property taxes, funds could be found to address the problems cited in the previous article.

It is estimated that some 52% of the new tax revenues in our region will go toward mass transit, including \$700 million toward development of rail transport from the Lindbergh area to Emory. Yet mass transit is currently used by only 3.6% of commuters. This is because Atlanta has low density. Like it or not, the average Atlanta commuter drives a car, and will continue to drive a car. If we must spend this money, it should be devoted to improving the current use of our roads, such as better timing of traffic lights and application of advanced technology.

This specific referendum is supposed to enact a tax for just ten years. However, in some instances the initial tax will only raise enough funds for studies, surveys, and initial-phase completion of projects. Given the repeated extensions of the other sales tax additions described above, I think it is safe to assume that in 2022 we will be asked to renew the tax to complete unfinished projects. In other words, this will probably become a permanent tax.

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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 Dorsey Alston Realtors 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 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**.

Junior Tennis Program

Tennis drills for children of BWHCC members will start the week of August 13th:

- 3.00 to 3.45, 4-6 year-olds, \$12.50 per session
- 3.45 to 4.30, 6-8 year-olds, \$12.50 per session
- 4.30 to 5.30, 8-10 year-olds, \$15.00 per session

These drills will be offered Monday through Friday. Drills for more advanced and older children will also be offered from 5.30 to 7.00 on Monday, Tuesday and Friday at a cost of \$22.50 per session.

All drills are payable month to month and will be limited to 4 to 5 kids per instructor. Spaces are limited so to get more information and sign up, please contact: brookwoodhillstennis-program12@gmail.com.

More Graduates!

Connor Perkey graduated from Pace Academy and will be attending Davidson College.

Congratulations again to all of our Brookwood Hills graduates!

Neighborhood Yard Signs

It has been brought to the attention of the Board that yard signs—those promoting political candidates or issues—have been taken out of some yards. Yard signs are the personal property of the homeowner and should not be removed unless express consent has been received from the homeowner. Thank you!

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

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Additional Important Information About Transportation Referendum (cont.)

It is said that “200,000 jobs will be created or saved”. This is speculative at best. If those jobs do not materialize, will any of the tax proponents be held accountable? Furthermore, has there been a study conducted on the adverse impact of the additional tax on a family’s purchasing power and resulting reduction in sales by local businesses?

In these difficult economic times, we do not need to add another bill to our struggling residents and businesses, especially where the benefits cannot be easily quantified. A 9% sales tax is just too much. This time, let’s say “No”.

(For more facts about “T-SPLOST”, please visit www.traffictruth.net .)

BWHCC Open Board Positions—2013

Serving on the Brookwood Hills Board is a rewarding way to give back to our community, network with neighbors and participate in decisions that impact our neighborhood. The following Board positions will be open effective January 2013:



**Treasury
Clear Creek
Government Relations
BrookNotes co-Editor
Park
NPU/Zoning co-Chair
Website**

Board members serve a term of 3 years. We encourage you to contact the current Board members to find out more and see how you might contribute as a future Board member. If you are interested in being nominated for any of these positions, please contact Matt Tolle-son, BWHCC President.

Community Recycling Location in Buckhead

Keep Atlanta Beautiful has established a community recycling drop-off location at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church on Peachtree. The program operates the first Saturday of each month from 10:00AM—3:00PM and accepts electronics, latex paint and Styrofoam with certain restrictions. The program also offers paper shredding.



For more information on guidelines, processing fees for select items and other locations, visit: www.keepatlantabeautiful.org.

Beltline Trail and Transit Plans

By Jim Stokes

On June 14, a group of interested neighbors met at the Pool Pavilion for a discussion about the Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.'s plans for a trail and a transit line near Brookwood Hills.

We addressed three issues that are raised by the Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the BeltLine:

- The impact of the BeltLine trail on the Clear Creek Conservation Area covered by our Conservation Easement with the City of Atlanta.
- The impact of the BeltLine transit line on homes in our neighborhood.
- The impact of any transit station on BWH.

First, through the good work of Alex Summers and Rod Cook, the final BeltLine trail near BWH will not impact either the Conservation Area or any property in BWH.

Second, the Final EIS calls for the BeltLine transit line near us to go to the north of BWH "adjacent to, but outside of the CSX ROW," which passes under Peachtree Street just to the south of Fresh Market. This means that the line would either be north of the CSX ROW, which would probably be acceptable to us so long as it does not have an adverse impact on the Peachtree Hills neighborhood. Or it would be south of the CSX ROW, which would not be acceptable to us because the line would encroach on the backyards of some homes on Lower Brighton and Lower Camden.

We have expressed strong opposition to the route south of the CSX ROW in our comments on the Final EIS. We have been advised that this is too detailed a decision to be made at the Tier 1 level and must be made later at the Tier 2 level. We have met with Brian Leary, the BeltLine CEO, and his entire senior staff and believe that they favor our position. However, they cannot express that view at this point in the process.

Third, the Final EIS appears to show a BeltLine transit station in the backyards of some of our BWH neighbors on Lower Camden. We have expressed strong opposition to any station that would be located on or impact properties in BWH or Peachtree Hills.

As with the location of the transit line, we have been advised that the location of transit stations is too detailed a decision to be made at the Tier 1 level and must be made later at the Tier 2 level. We raised these issues at the meeting described above and again came away believing that the BeltLine leadership favors our position but cannot express that view at this point in the process.

The concern of everyone at our June 14 meeting was about how soon we would know more about developments with respect to BeltLine transit line and station locations. Ann Curry suggested that we ask a representative of the BeltLine to meet with us periodically to let us know about any developments. I have spoken with Brian Leary about this, and he has agreed to meet with us, probably at our annual meeting next January, or sooner if there are any significant developments.

We will continue to keep the neighborhood posted about developments in this very important issue for all of us.

Construction Projects on Northside & Deering

Two converging road construction projects in Buckhead have the potential to make travel in our general area challenging in the coming months.

The first project is the replacement of the AMTRAK parking lot at Deering Road and Peachtree Road. This project will necessitate the closure of Deering and was originally reported to begin after July 4th. However, in a recent response to a BWH neighbor email inquiry, the Georgia Department of Transportation indicated that the project would start in October or November and last for a period of 8 months.

The second project is the Northside Drive upgrade reported in the May issue of BrookNotes. This project involves the replacement of the water main along Northside Drive between Interstate 75 and Northside Parkway as well as extensive roadway improvements. This project, which will proceed from south to north, is slated to start in July as well and will necessitate construction lane closures on weekdays and weekends from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The Northside Drive project will have a special contract provision that states the contractor shall not close lanes along Northside Drive between I-75 and Collier Road until Deering Road is open to traffic. The City of Atlanta will monitor all traffic in the area and adjust the plan as necessary.

The Buckhead Council of Neighbors wanted reschedule the projects but City officials have said that is not possible due to funding issues. As a result, neighborhood association leaders and the City of Atlanta have worked out a detour route around the Amtrak station. Among other issues, the BCN asked the City to provide police officers in neighborhoods along the detour routes to help with traffic as other projects in the area, including construction at E. Rivers Elementary School, could further contribute to traffic in the area.

The Georgia DOT Office of Communications will provide a two week notice through the media before the closure begins. They will also place portable message signs advertising the upcoming closure.

Fig Jam Offer for BWH Residents



In recognition of the importance of our neighborhood to their business, Fig Jam is offering a 15% discount on the total dining bill to every home in the BWH neighborhood.

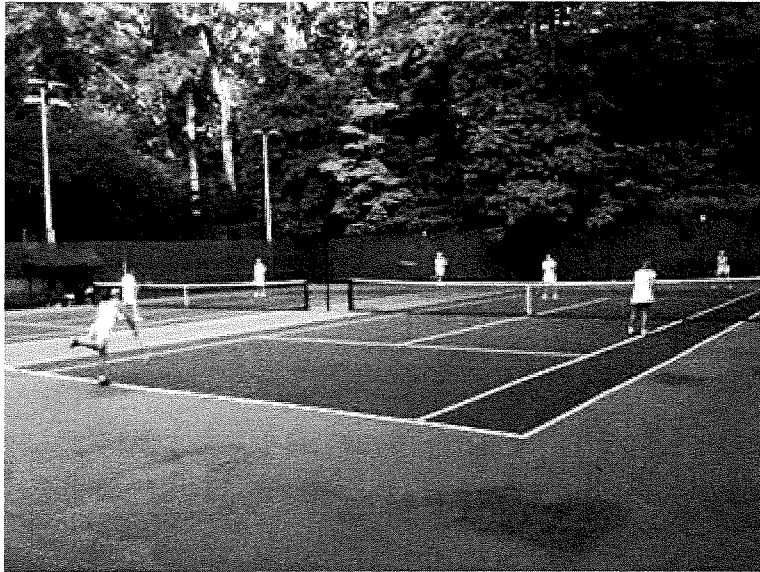
Fig Jam Kitchen & Bar believes in great customer service and prides itself on the menu that Chef Andrew Thoms has created, which captures the idea of fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

The restaurant, which is located where Wolfgang Puck and Baroni were located, is a great location for private events because of its convenience to our neighborhood and free parking. The restaurant has offered to host a Brookwood Hills event, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

For more information contact Damiano Pak of Fig Jam, 404-724-9100. Fig Jam looks forward to serving you!

Wimbledon Comes to BWH

It was all white with plenty of Pimm's Cups at the Wimbledon Mixer! If you missed this event, keep your eyes open for a US Open mixer coming this fall.



C L A S S I F I E D S

Nanny Available: Our nanny, Cheryl Padgett is looking for a part time/full time position. She has watched children from birth to pre-teen. She can drive children to and from school, help with home work, and prepare their meals. She is excellent. You can contact Cheryl at clpsierwest@att.net or 404-663-5165. Please feel free to contact Catherine Kotchen for a reference at 404-375-7540 or ctkotchen@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

- **Monday, August 6, BWHCC Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m., location to be announced.**

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