



BrookNotes

July/August 2009

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXII, No. 6

Preserving the Historic Character of the Neighborhood

By John Mulcahy, President BWH Community Club

One of Atlanta's earliest neighborhoods, Brookwood Hills was developed in four phases:

- Phase 1 (1921) – Includes Palisades, Woodcrest, Northwood and Huntington, from Palisades to Peachtree Street;
- Phase 2 (1924) – Includes the balance of Huntington, Montclair, Wakefield, Parkdale, upper Camden and upper Brighton;
- Phase 3 (1938) – Includes the balance of Brighton and middle Camden.
- Phase 4 (1961) – Includes new Camden.

Since the creation of the Brookwood Hills Community Club in 1939, the neighborhood has taken several important steps to protect the charm and character that has made our neighborhood one of the most desirable in the City. In 1979, the portions of the neighborhood constructed in the first two phases were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1994, this same area was designated a Conservation District by the City of Atlanta. Most recently, the neighborhood agreed in 2006 to a conservation easement with the City for the Clear Creek property pursuant to the City's Greenway Acquisition Program, ensuring that the property remain a natural green space in perpetuity. In addition to these milestone steps, the neighborhood has responded to specific threats as they have arisen. There are many examples of these threats, including the routing of I-85 and MARTA, the proposed extension of Palisades to Piedmont Road, the construction of a cement batch plant on Armour Drive and the possible options for routing the BeltLine near the neighborhood. Significantly, the inclusion of the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places and its designation as a Conservation District were crucial to the Community Club's success in dealing with most of these threats.

In addition to remaining vigilant about external pressures, the Board is concerned that the replacement and redevelopment of existing homes can, over time, eliminate much of the architectural distinction the neighborhood now enjoys with its great variety of large and small houses typical of the 1920's and 1930's. Brookwood Hills is a part of Neighborhood Planning Unit E (NPU-E), a citizen advisory council that makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning and other issues. NPU-E solicits input from the BWHCC Board prior to recommending to the Zoning Review Board (ZRB) approval or denial of re-zonings that might impact the neighborhood. NPU-E similarly solicits the neighborhood's input before making recommendations to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) for variances that lie within or might otherwise impact the neighborhood. (Cont'd. on page 5)



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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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. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is 404-242-3321.

Pool Season Winding Down

What a terrific pool season we have enjoyed this summer. It is always hard to see the fun times come to an end in September. Abbreviated pool hours will commence on Monday, August 31st until the pool's final closing for the winter on Sunday, September 13th. Make a note on your calendars for these end-of-season hours:

August 31 - September 6

Monday - Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, noon - 9:00 p.m.

Labor Day, Monday, September 7

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., with pool games from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and a Classic American Cookout 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. No reservations required. Great way to enjoy dinner after returning home from the long holiday week-end!

September 8 - 12

Tuesday - Thursday, pool closed

Friday, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13

Noon - 6:00 p.m., ice cream and games in the park 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and the annual dog swim 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thanks to Bruce Wanamaker and his law firm Ledbetter, Wanamaker, Glass LLP for sponsoring the Ice Cream Social!

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, September 16th, 2009. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 200 Camden Road.

Clear Creek Corner: You Can Control Invasives

By Mitch Wickland

For about the past eighteen months, some of the Clear Creek Easement funds have been used to remove and then control the spread of non-native, invasive species within the roughly fifty acre Clear Creek Preserve. Our progress is quite noticeable, but the battle against non-native invasive trees, vines, and groundcovers will continue indefinitely, and ideally will be enhanced with your help.

Why? For starters, the spread of plants like kudzu, English ivy, or privet can literally overtake a healthy forest in a matter of years if left unchecked. The Clear Creek Preserve contains many beautiful native tree and plant species that have not yet adapted proper defenses to these invading plants and, before our control efforts, were particularly threatened by the unchecked growth of privet and kudzu. It turns out that much of the wildlife we see in Georgia find non-native plant species repellent and rely exclusively on the native flora to survive. Curtail or eliminate the native flora, and we will see ever fewer of the birds and other wildlife that visit the neighborhood or call it home. Tree hugger or not, a sea of kudzu in your back yard is not going to increase the value of your home!

How can you help? Though our efforts to date have accomplished a great deal of the heavy lifting, many invasive species remain in isolated pockets, some in direct contact with your private property. It is especially important for neighbors abutting the Clear Creek property to know which species are invasive and how to control them, thus ensuring that both private property and the Clear Creek Preserve stay beautiful and healthy.

What to look for? You may be shocked to see the familiar species that are currently included in our continuing non-native, invasive species maintenance plan. They include:

Pueraria Montana (kudzu); *Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese Wisteria); *Humulus japonicus* (Japanese Hops); *Lonicera maackii* (bush Honeysuckle); *Albizia julibrissin* (Mimosa); *Paulownia tomentosa* (Princess tree); *Hedera helix* (English Ivy); *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle); *Euonymus fortunei* (Winter Creeper); *Vinca major/minor* (Periwinkle); *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese Privet); *Elaeagnus umbellata* (Autumn Olive); *Elaeagnus pungens* (Silverthorn); *Nandina domestica* (Nandina); *Prunus laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurel); *Multiflora rose* (Nonnative Roses); and *Liriope muscari* (Lily Turf)

A quick Google search for any of the above will provide pictures, descriptions and effective control methods for you to follow. And look for a future "Clear Creek Corner" article to address the question of what native species are good-for-the-environment replacements for the invasives listed above. The Clear Creek Committee will soon be sending an educational packet via email to those residents bordering the Clear Creek Preserve. We will also be adding this material to the neighborhood website at www.brookwoodhills.com. In the meantime, please contact Mitch Wickland at vicepres@brookwoodhills.com with any questions or concerns.

Even if it's just on your property, appreciation for our neighborhood's natural assets and attention to invasive species is greatly appreciated.

Neighbor's Pumpkin Patch Produces a Star Year

By Susan, Specialty Homes Inc. Business Manager



Michael, the son of Anna & Harry Rinker, has always enjoyed Halloween. He visits realtor/neighbor Sarah Hagood's annual pumpkin give-away every year. Several years ago, his pumpkin fell from the front of the family's home at 58 Montclair Drive after the holiday's festivities. The pumpkin landed on a patch of ground in their front yard. For a couple of years, Michael has been the proud owner of what is likely Brookwood Hills' only pumpkin patch! Unfortunately, this year his most prized pumpkin was stolen. A colorful sign now warns the bandit away, "To the Pumpkin Thief: Shame on You!" Still, this has been a banner year for Michael's crop. In addition to the large pumpkin shown in this picture, smaller pumpkins dot

the hillside behind him. Sarah Hagood said his pumpkins are prime specimens in both color and stem. She only hopes the ones she purchases for this year's 26th Annual Great Pumpkin Give-Away will be just as beautiful!

Dive Team Rocks

By Mary Long

The Brookwood Hills Dive Team successfully completed another exciting and fun-filled season. The 70 divers on the 2009 team brought home a perfect 5-0 record in dual meet competition, including a dramatic win over rival Wynterhall to clinch the South Division Championship.

The season came to a dramatic end at the Greater Atlanta Diving League Championship held at Georgia Tech. With over thirteen teams competing in the meet, the competition was tough, but Brookwood made a dramatic comeback to claim second place, matching its best finish of all time. Other fun team events included a team bowling bash, a tie-dye party, a movie outing, a parents dive meet, and our annual team banquet and slide show. The picture at right is from the tie-dye party, with team members Kendall Chan, Allison Nichols, and Emma Dixon having fun with Coach Emily Kaplan.



The dive team, also led by coach Alex Long, was anchored by numerous Brookwood Hills resident divers who received incredible support from their parents. Every diver improved a lot, and the team is already looking forward to next summer!



26th Annual Great Pumpkin Give-Away! Friday, October 9th - Sunday, October 11th 2009

For best selection, pick up your pumpkin at 205 Huntington Rd. on these days. If you are unable to come October 9th -11th, your pumpkin will be awaiting you through the end of October. One pumpkin per BWH residence, please. Details will follow in flyer.



Sponsored by your Neighbor and Realtor

Sarah Hagood & Specialty Homes, Inc.

Message From the President (Cont'd. from Page 1)

These issues are discussed at a Community Club Board meeting prior to the NPU meeting, with supporting and dissenting neighbors invited to speak. If properties lie within the Urban Conservation District (Phases 1 & 2), individual property owners must also appear before the Urban Design Commission -- even when variances are not required -- as a precondition to obtaining building permits for renovations, additions, demolition or reconstruction. Property owners have the opportunity to explain the proposed work and anyone in opposition to such plans is also given the opportunity to speak. Shortly thereafter, the UDC makes a recommendation. The UDC recommendation is advisory only and owners may modify plans or proceed with the original plans as filed with the building permit.

For more information on this subject I encourage you to read a "Brief History of Brookwood Hills" as well as the neighborhood's Long Range Planning Report. Both of these documents can be found on our website. I also encourage you to continue to voice your opinions and to help preserve the unique heritage that others have left for us to enjoy.

Fine Dining at the Pool

All summer long, Friday night dinners at the pool have been the place to be for fun for all ages, with a special menu provided on the last Friday of the month. This Friday, August 28th, will feature Caesar Salad, Fresh Grilled Catch of the Day, Grilled Italian Sausage with Sautéed Peppers & Onions, Pesto Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast over Penne Pasta with Alfredo Sauce & Toasted Pine Nuts, Grilled Garlic Bruschetta served with Tomato Caponata, Olive Relish, Peppered Salami, Prosciutto, & Cheese, Pasta Marinara, and Aged Balsamic & Roasted Garlic Grilled Vegetables, all topped off with a dessert of Fresh Strawberry Mountain with Chantilly Cream, Chocolate Shavings & Amaretto Cookies. And all this for the unbelievable Great Recession price of only \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children! Come early for the best selection. Reservations for this dinner must be made online at bwhcookout@sweetwaterpools.net. The 4th Friday dinners have been such a success that pool chairs Deborah Gebhardt and Lesley Carroll are looking into the possibility of doing one more in September even though the pool will be closed at that point. Stay tuned for more details.

Larry Joe Burnett

August 4, 1951 - April 12, 2009

By Hank Harris



A lot of us will miss Larry Burnett. For those of you who didn't know Larry, for over twenty-five years he was the 6'2" gardener/yard guy for many Brookwood Hills neighbors. Larry was 57 years old and died too young from an assortment of the diseases that afflict poor people. He left two children, a daughter in Gadsden, Alabama, and a son in Stone Mountain.

Larry arrived in Brookwood Hills having been a resident of the All Saints' Episcopal Church night shelter. Its successor, the Covenant Community, still provides housing and rehabilitation services to drug and alcohol addicted men. For those of you who know drug and alcohol addiction and recovery efforts, you know the recidivism rate is extraordinarily high. I'm proud of Larry as one of the examples of the efforts made by All Saints. If not for institutions like that,

and if not for the employment provided by Brookwood Hills residents, it is likely Larry would not have made it to 57.

The Harris family moved into the neighborhood from Ardmore Road some fifteen years ago and Rick Oser told me to hire Larry as our yard guy. At that time, I was more into gardening than I am now and there was no better person to double dig a flower bed or chop down a tree. Larry would do anything you asked him to; it always just took a little longer than you thought it might. Often people would ask if we had a yard service and I said "No, we have Larry."

We started off with Larry on Huntington Road and he willingly followed us to Brighton when we moved. We enjoyed a great fifteen year relationship. He was always kind to our children and dog and since he was used to taking orders from former Brookwood Hills resident Barbara Slick, he had no problem at all doing anything we asked. I suspect that through the years, Larry spread close to a million bales of pine straw on the Slick's properties on Woodcrest and later on Peachtree Battle, and I am sure that Larry kept Chuck Slick from ever having to mow a lawn or pull a weed!

One of the great jobs Larry undertook for us and many other neighbors was the planting of mondo grass. Our landscape design at 81 Huntington was a combination of four great artists: Esther Stokes, Ryan Gainey, Keith Summerour, and Larry Burnett. Because we had a huge oak street tree out front, we decided to put mondo on about half of the front yard. For those of you not familiar with this process, it involves buying a number of flats of mondo in 3-inch pots. If you are good at it, you take the mondo out of the 3-inch pot and divide it into about 6 shoots, then plant the 6 shoots very close to one another and rapidly you have a beautiful, full mondo spread over any shaded plot. Larry undertook this with the detail of a man building a ship in a bottle. (Cont'd. on the next page)

Remembering Larry (Cont'd. from Page 6)

Next time you ride by 81 Huntington, admire that mondo grass. It cost me a lot of money.

It was Esther and Jim Stokes who always supported Larry in his efforts. Larry used their garage as his office and used Esther's tools to take care of all his business around the neighborhood. Every morning for 25 years, he would wander up the Stokes' driveway to get his tools and begin the day's challenges. I don't think there was a dishonest bone in his body and toward the end, when Larry was ill and Grady suggested he go on disability, he said he didn't want to. He wanted to keep working.

Recently I learned that Tom Player, one of Larry's Brookwood Hills employers and a now-emerging sculptor, planned to do a bust of Larry. He was impressed with Larry's face and his demeanor, and after thinking about it a while, he asked Larry what he thought about sitting to have the sculpture crafted. Larry agreed to the idea! Unfortunately, it was not to be.

Barbara Slick, Sharon McClure (who lives in Ansley Park) and Esther attended Larry's funeral in Gadsden, Alabama on April 18th. They returned with a program containing two pictures of Larry and lots of reports of Larry's welcoming and impressive family from Gadsden, Detroit, and Buffalo. He was laid to rest in the family plot in Gadsden.

Larry Burnett has left throughout our neighborhood many memories which are reflected in all the gardens he touched so meaningfully. He made it from day to day, hand to mouth, one daily job to the next. Particularly in these trying times, always remember "the least of these" among us.

Graduation Announcement

Devon Simons, daughter of Carol Simons and the late Lon Simons, graduated from Oglethorpe University with a major in Politics and a minor in Communications. In September she will pursue a Masters in Politics with a concentration in International Trade at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England.

Welcome to Brookwood Hills!



John and Mary Susan Wheeler, who live at 57 Woodcrest, welcomed the birth of their first child, daughter Jane Winifred Wheeler, on August 17th. Baby Jane's grandmother is Jane Wheeler at 35 Palisades and her aunt and uncle are Molly and Joe Jackson at 110 Palisades.

Look for Something New in *BrookNotes*

BrookNotes would like to begin publishing a "Celebrations" section to include not only birth and graduation announcements, but in addition weddings and milestone anniversaries. We also want to continue recognizing folks new to the neighborhood. To do that, though, the editors need your help! Email your submissions to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or drop them off at 200 Camden Road. Announcements dating as far back as January 2009 will be accepted.

Brookwood Hills Swim Team Finishes Its 30th Year!

By Lea Tranakos

This season the Brookwood Hills Bullfrog Swim Team celebrated it's 30th year! The team was started by Alan Joel in 1979. Since he started the team he has remained involved and has been the Swim Team Chairman for every one of those thirty years.

This year there were 252 swimmers on the team from ages 4 to 18! The season started May 1st and ended with the final banquet on June 30th. There were five dual swim meets versus Hanover West, Windward, Grand Cascades, Vermack and Chastain. Including the final event, the Atlanta Swimming Association's Championship Meet held at Georgia Tech, the team placed 4th overall out of ninety teams and 3rd in our Division! Way to go Bullfrogs! Led by mom Becky McKnight, the team also raised over \$2,800 for Cystic Fibrosis at the annual Swim-A-Thon. There were many fun events, which included pizza/movie nights, banquets, and a tie-dye party.

A big thanks to our 2009 coaching staff: Tim Storsteen, Head Coach; Allison Riley, Co-Head Coach; Barbara Jones, Co-Head Coach; Rob Cochran, Assistant Coach. Additional assistant coaches were Brooke Butler, Addison Lange, Ciara O'Halloran, and Ursula Rogers. First assistant coaches were Amy O'Halloran, Laura Myers, and Elizabeth Grice. Junior coaches were Connor Perkey and Hayes Bynum.

The Team Mom was Lea Tranakos, helped immensely by assistants Shelley Sawyer and Kerri Clark. Shelley and Kerri will be the Head Team Coordinators next season with Marianna King and Lisa Aman assisting. For information on next season's registration please check the swim team website (<http://bwh.swim-team.us>) in early spring. The same information will also be posted on the Brookwood Hills website at the same time.

Fun Times on the Fourth of July

Thanks to Patti Junger and Wendy Granot for the photos from the neighborhood's 2009 Fourth of July celebrations.



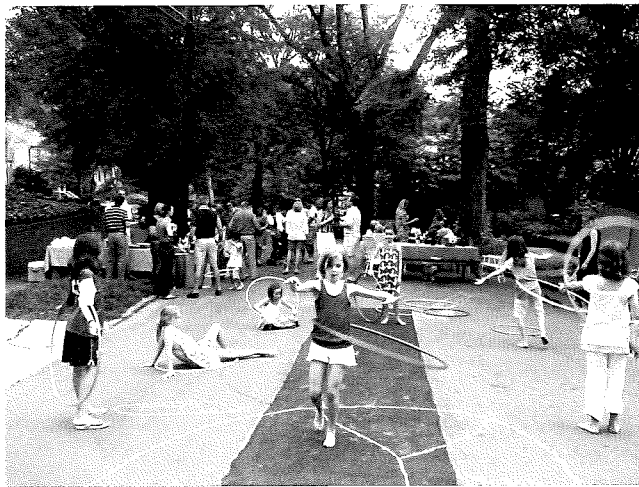
Calendar

- **Friday, August 28, Dinner at the Pool, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, details page 5
- **Monday, September 7, Labor Day Celebration**, at the pool, details page 2
- **Sunday, September 13, Ice Cream Social & Dog Swim**, details page 2
- **Monday, September 14, BWH Board of Directors Meeting, 7:15 p.m.** at the home of Stephanie & Shannon Brown, 265 Brighton Rd.
- **October 9 through 11, 26th Annual Great Pumpkin Give-Away**, details page 5
- **Saturday, October 24, Trash Pick-up in the Conservation Easement, 8:30 a.m. to noon**
- **Saturday, October 31, BWH Halloween Party at the Park**
- **Saturday, December 5, Trees Atlanta planting in the neighborhood**

A Note from the Webmaster

By Simms Jenkins

The Brookwood Hills website, www.brookwoodhills.com, is being used more and more as a source of information and as a means for transacting business with the community club. New and existing neighbors *who are members of the community club* and who have not created a profile on the website should do so in order to receive the email alerts that are sent out periodically about events of importance to the neighborhood. Creating a profile will not subject you to a flood of junk mail; typical email alerts relate to security issues, neighborhood social events, pool closings, and so on. To create your profile, go to the website and click on "register," and then fill out the form. While you're at the website browse around to see what's there. You'll find Board information, a BWH directory, a message board, back issues of *BrookNotes*, neighborhood planning documents, and much more. If you have any questions or experience difficulty, please email me at sjenkins@brightwavemarketing.com.



Northwood Has a Ball

On May 10th neighbors on Northwood organized their annual street party. No cars allowed! As is clear from the photo on the left, hula hoops ruled the day. Thanks to Mike Wilbert and Wendy Granot for the photo. Several other neighborhood streets have these annual parties. Be sure to send your photos to *BrookNotes*!

C L A S S I F I E D S

Housekeeping and Ironing. Stacey Beardsley would like to recommend her housekeeper Hattie Williams, who is looking for extra hours. She currently comes to the Beardsley's three times a week and does everything from the cleaning to the laundry. She loves pets and children too. Her schedule is flexible. Contact Hattie at 404-822-1228.

Babysitting. Lovely sitter/nanny available. Nina genuinely adores our children and is a HUGE help around the house. Please call Megan Drinan (cell) at 773-301-8706 or Nina Santos at 404-671-6962.

Babysitting. Elle Oser, a sixteen year old Lovett Junior, is available to babysit after school and on week-ends. Elle is CPR certified, absolutely loves kids, and has lots of experience. The Oser phone number is printed incorrectly in the directory, so please make note of how to reach Elle, at 404-351-4825.

Babysitting. My name is Caitlin Weems and I am a recent graduate of Duke University and a life-long resident of Brookwood Hills. I have lots of babysitting and Day Camp experience and am available to babysit at all times of the day. You can reach me at home at 404-355-4716 or on my cell at 404-934-0799. References available upon request.

2005 Ford Escape XLT V6. Black exterior, tan leather interior. Excellent condition. Great college car. Low mileage: 44K miles. Alloy wheels, new tires, moon roof, upgraded sound system, towing package. Must sell, \$12,000. Call or email Boyd Gentry, 84 Palisades, 404-394-6596, bpgentry@comcast.net.

Pet Sitter. If you need a reliable and trustworthy pet sitter, Scott Bass highly recommends Lydia Kimball. Lydia has worked for the Bass family for several years and is great. She also works for other families in the neighborhood so she is in BWH on a regular basis. She has taken care of Bass dogs, lizards, hamsters, etc. and does an exceptional job for a very reasonable fee. You can reach Lydia at 404-409-5471 or email her at LydiaKay27@Gmail.com.

BROOKNOTES

Sponsored by Your Neighbor

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