



BROOKNOTES

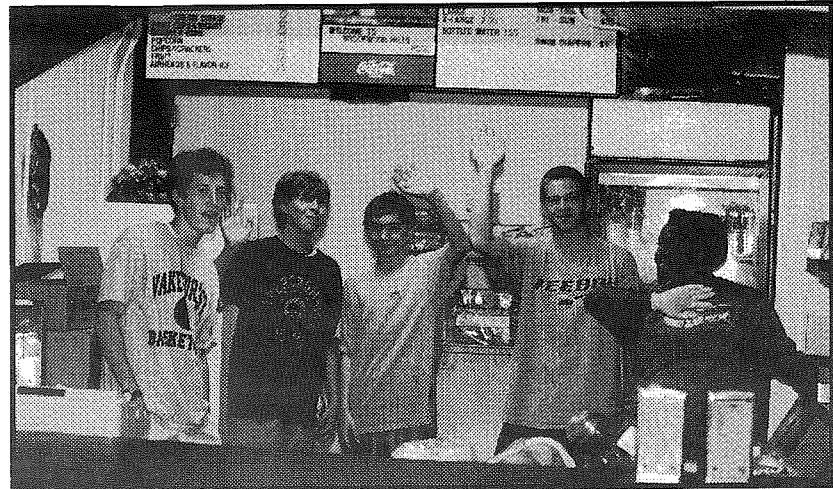
The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

June 2000, Vol. XIII No. 5

Pool Opens!

By Hayes Wilson

May 27th was opening day for the new pool season and it was a glorious day! The sun was shining, the pool was beautiful, cool, and inviting, and everything was ready (except for a minor malfunction of the popcorn popper). Charlie Austin is in charge of the concession stand this year and she had her crew in ship shape. The new hot dog rotisserie was cooking such delicious dogs that they were almost out of buns around 4 p.m. and had to send for replacements. Fruit and yogurt were selling well, but the Papa Johns pizza-by-the-slice was going faster than they could deliver them. Pool manager Brian Johnson, and Eddie Crownover had the guards up and they were not shy about blowing their whistles often to remind swimmers to not cross under or over the ropes (particularly from the baby pool where a child might follow into deep water and get into trouble).



Our new concession stand manager, Charlie Austin, and some of her crew, including Wil Cramer, Bradley Taylor, Taylor Wimberly and Ryan Marietta.

Chad Cook was getting a little workout in the lap lanes. He has three more days of teaching and then he will be with the swim team full time. Weekday afternoons for two weeks just prior to the pool opening, both the swim team and the dive team have been getting some practices in so that Brookwood Hills can win the championship again this year.

Bob McCamy commented how nice it was to be able to get to the pool from the back gate, which will be open all summer during regular pool hours. The back gate has a sign-in book on a podium and people were signing in as if they were at the front entrance. If you come in this way, you will notice that the lifeguard break table is just to the left inside the gate (that may account for the diligent signing in). The orange cones were out at the entrance and we want to thank everyone for

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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/Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is Thursday, July 27, 2000. Submissions may be e-mailed to mncook@bellsouth.net, faxed to 404-607-7568 or dropped off at 30 Woodcrest Ave.

BWH Board – Quick Reference

President – Walter Bland 404-897-1384
Community Relations – Diane Light 404-876-3797
Gov't Relations – Larry Pless 404-892-6024
 Carolynn Cooper 404-351-0555
Membership – Jean O'Halloran 404-352-0802
 Belinda Donovan 404-817-7551
Neighborhood Relations – Karen Mullinax
 404-724-9545
NPU – Everett Puri 404-355-9101
Park Maintenance – Clark Landers 404-355-3392
Pool – Steve McCollam 404-350-0408
 Hayes Wilson 404-876-4618
Security – Rick Jackson 404-350-3389
Social/Park Reservations – Diane John 404-870-0484
Trees – Susan Connell 404-351-1633
Zoning – Leigh Furrh 404-873-7369

Security Hotline – 404-325-5114

Harris Teeter Changes Plans for Door on Peachtree

Harris Teeter *Will* Have Door on Peachtree

According to Sonya Elam, Harris Teeter's Director of Corporate & Customer Relations, the company has "modified the store design to create an entry from Peachtree Street." Hurray! And thanks to those of you who wrote and urged the company to include the Peachtree entry. We hope to have more details in future issues of *Brooknotes*.

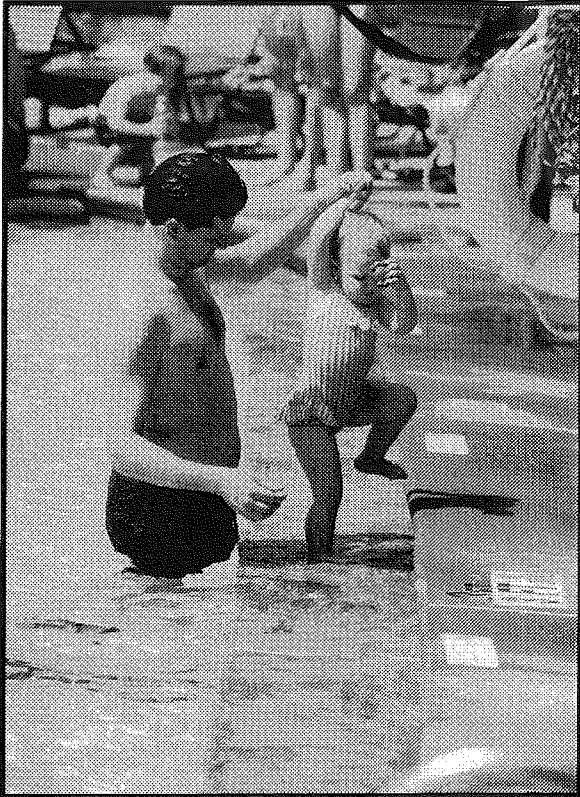
A few quick reminders . . .

Please remember to clean up after your pets. Neighbors recently have noticed "remains" directly on the sidewalks – which will become more and more of a problem as the days grow warmer. So please be considerate, and remember to scoop!

Also, neighbors who received a tree from the neighborhood under the Fall Replanting Program are reminded that they agreed to **keep the trees watered**. This is critical during the current drought! Tree Gators are available by calling Sandy Wilcox, the new tree planting chairman at 404/870-5927. These green bags, which drip water to the tree over a ten hour period are available for \$25.50.

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.



Moms and Dads often have to get in the water with our youngest members!

Belladonna Repertory Theater Opens July 14

By Jocelyn Kuritsky

A new theater company, Belladonna Repertory, will be performing its first show at the Lademacher Performing Arts Center at the Atlanta International School (2890 North Fulton Drive). The show consists of a series of one-act plays and three short “transitional” pieces that explore the multiple dimensions of ordinary people. Proceeds will benefit the National Literacy Foundation. Performances will run on selected weekend dates between July 14 and August 13. For ticket information and seating availability, please call Luan Ivey at 770-516-8351. For other questions, please contact Jocelyn Kuritsky at 404-870-5927 or JKuritsky@hotmail.com.

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following the parking rules. Having the back gate open should make access easier, and we hope that neighborhood members will consider combining a little walking exercise with their swim workout and leave their car at home.

All and all, it was a great opening day and a great opening weekend. We hope the rest of the summer is as safe and enjoyable. Have fun!

BWH Community Club Welcomes New Neighbors

By Diane John

As part of an annual tradition, all new neighbors were welcomed into Brookwood Hills with a party in their honor on Sunday May 21st. Despite threatening weather, which moved the location of the party from poolside to pool house, all in attendance had a splendid time. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know all the new faces. This year’s newcomers left with a recently created packet of information on Brookwood Hills. The packet is a valuable resource explaining all the inner workings of BWH and even providing information on the basics such as garbage pick-up regulations. Many thanks to the Welcome Committee for their help in compiling this information: Peggy Hatcher, Marian Hull, Judy Porter, Pamela Watson, and Sharon Williams. Thank you also to the entire Board for their food and beverage contributions to the party, and especially to Jean O’Halloran for organizing the event.

Do you have a new neighbor? Please let us know! BWH now has a Newcomer’s Committee. Call us with your neighbor’s name and address and we will provide them with a welcome gift and packet of information about the neighborhood. Please report new neighbors to Diane John at 404-870-0484.

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Ed Ellis worked with Hughes, Goode and the Long-Range Planning Committee to develop the plan illustrated in the accompanying diagram. There are several recommendations.

Narrow and change the surface of the entryways on Brighton, Palisades, and Huntington, to signal drivers that they are entering a pedestrian neighborhood and should slow down. Such changed-surface entryways are used presently at the Peachtree Battle Shopping Center.

Create traffic circles at the intersections of Brighton/Montclair, Palisades/Northwood, and Palisades/Huntington. An example of the use of traffic circles can be seen at the intersection of Rock Springs and East Pelham in Morningside.

Create all-way stops at Brighton/Wakefield, Camden/Wakefield, Camden/Montclair, Wakefield/Parkdale, Huntington/Northwood, and Huntington/Woodcrest.

Place bump-outs with trees on Brighton, Camden, and Huntington, with the option of putting textured crosswalks, raised speed tables, or speed humps between them. (A textured crosswalk is level with the road, a speed table is raised but flat on top, and a speed hump is raised all the way.)

Place a raised crosswalk/speed table at Brighton/Wakefield and a raised intersection by the pool at Huntington/Wakefield. Examples can be seen in the Lenox Mall parking lot.

Place changed-surface crosswalks on Camden at Wakefield, on Wakefield at Parkdale, and on both ends of Parkdale.

A Summary of Residents' Comments

Overall, the people who attended the June 5 Board meeting and saw the plan seemed to think there is much to recommend it. The bump-outs, however, were not well received. Neighbors expressed concern that bump-outs would restrict on-street parking, create drainage problems during heavy rains, and be rendered ineffective by large cars and SUVs parked near them. It is important to note that we could still use changed surface crosswalks, speed tables, or speed humps at the points where the bump-outs are designated in the diagram, if the neighborhood chooses to do so.

The stop signs appeared to be particularly popular. However, the City believes that stop signs on thoroughfares are often dangerous: if drivers do not believe that there is likely to be all-way traffic, they tend to run all-way stops and cause accidents. The Board and Ed Ellis, with the support of Councilman Lee Morris, have argued that an all-residential neighborhood like Brookwood Hills is an exception to this rule. Hopefully, the City will be persuaded.

There is still no consensus over speed-humps vs. speed tables vs. textured crosswalks. Proponents of City-installed speed humps argue that they are effective, immediate, and free. (This assumes, of course, that Brighton Road can satisfy the City's recent requirement that the street be repaved.) Proponents further worry that if the Board implements the traffic calming plan in stages, we will never get to speed humps or even to speed tables. Opponents respond that speed humps are ugly and noisy, inconsistent with Brookwood Hills's historic character, slow down the response time of emergency vehicles, and tend to divert traffic to other streets. In addition, if the City installs the speed humps, the neighborhood cannot influence their placement, their shape, or their appearance. Speed tables would solve some, but not all, of the issues. They do slow traffic while being less noisy, and the neighborhood can decide where to place them. They can be built with materials such as brick or paving stones, which are more attractive than asphalt humps.

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The State of the Traffic Calming Plan

By Nicole Cook

In recent months, speeding – and the means by which to halt it – has been a hotly debated topic in Brookwood Hills. On Monday, June 5, the neighborhood's Long-Range Planning Committee and Ed Ellis, a traffic engineer with the nationally recognized firm of Dames & Moore, presented a traffic calming plan to the Brookwood Hills Board. After much discussion, the Board voted unanimously to seek the City's approval of the entire plan, and to postpone decisions regarding implementation of the plan until the City had had an opportunity to comment. In this article, I try to do four things: (1) briefly to set out the history behind the development of the traffic calming plan; (2) to describe the plan as it presently exists; (3) to summarize the arguments that have been made for and against certain elements of the plan, as well as those made for and against City-installed speed humps; and (4) to describe the Board's next steps.

It is important to note at the outset that almost everyone who has weighed in on the matter wants to see speeding in BWH either reduced or eliminated. Everyone cares about our children's safety and wants to protect Brookwood Hills's pedestrian nature. The debate, then, actually centers on how best to balance aesthetics, cost, and efficacy. The final outcome has already been determined: we will solve the speeding problem.

The History

In 1997, the City of Atlanta instituted a speed hump program, and Brookwood Hills promptly sought consideration. After taking traffic measurements, the City determined that only Brighton and Huntington Roads qualified for the program, and in the summer and fall of that year, those streets gathered the necessary 75% approval signatures from their residents. The City approved the petitions for speed humps in early 1998, but then repeatedly pushed back their installation. There appeared to be little if any opposition to speed humps until November 1999, when residents on Palisades, concerned about the impact that speed humps might have on traffic patterns, circulated a petition requesting that the Board consider alternative traffic calming measures.

Coincidentally, the Board in late 1999 had just created the Long-Range Planning Committee and had charged it with investigating possible capital improvements for the neighborhood and community club facilities. The Committee in turn had hired the urban design firm of Hughes, Goode, O'Leary & Ryan to help develop a capital improvements plan. Over time, it became clear that the issues of speeding and speed humps were important to a great many residents, so the Committee's scope was expanded to include the development of a traffic calming plan. At the suggestion of both the City and of Hughes, Goode, the Board hired Ed Ellis, the leading traffic engineer in the City of Atlanta, to help develop that plan.

Throughout the spring, the Board and Long-Range Planning Committee gathered residents' input on various traffic calming proposals, and continued to work with Ed Ellis and Hughes, Goode to develop an overall traffic plan. On May 17, 2000, Brighton Road (along with other city streets that had experienced extended waits for speed humps) was notified by the City that the street's residents must be repetitioned, and a super-majority in favor of speed humps must still exist before the City will install them. Representatives from Brighton Road are currently discussing this process with the City.

The Traffic Study and Proposed Traffic Calming Plan

On May 10 and 26, Ed Ellis conducted 24-hour speed surveys, and discovered that most cars in BWH are in fact being driven within the speed limit. While the measurements merely sample the neighborhood, and do not cover all locations or dates, they do offer some support for the argument that Brookwood Hills's speeding problem can be solved without resorting to City-installed speed humps.

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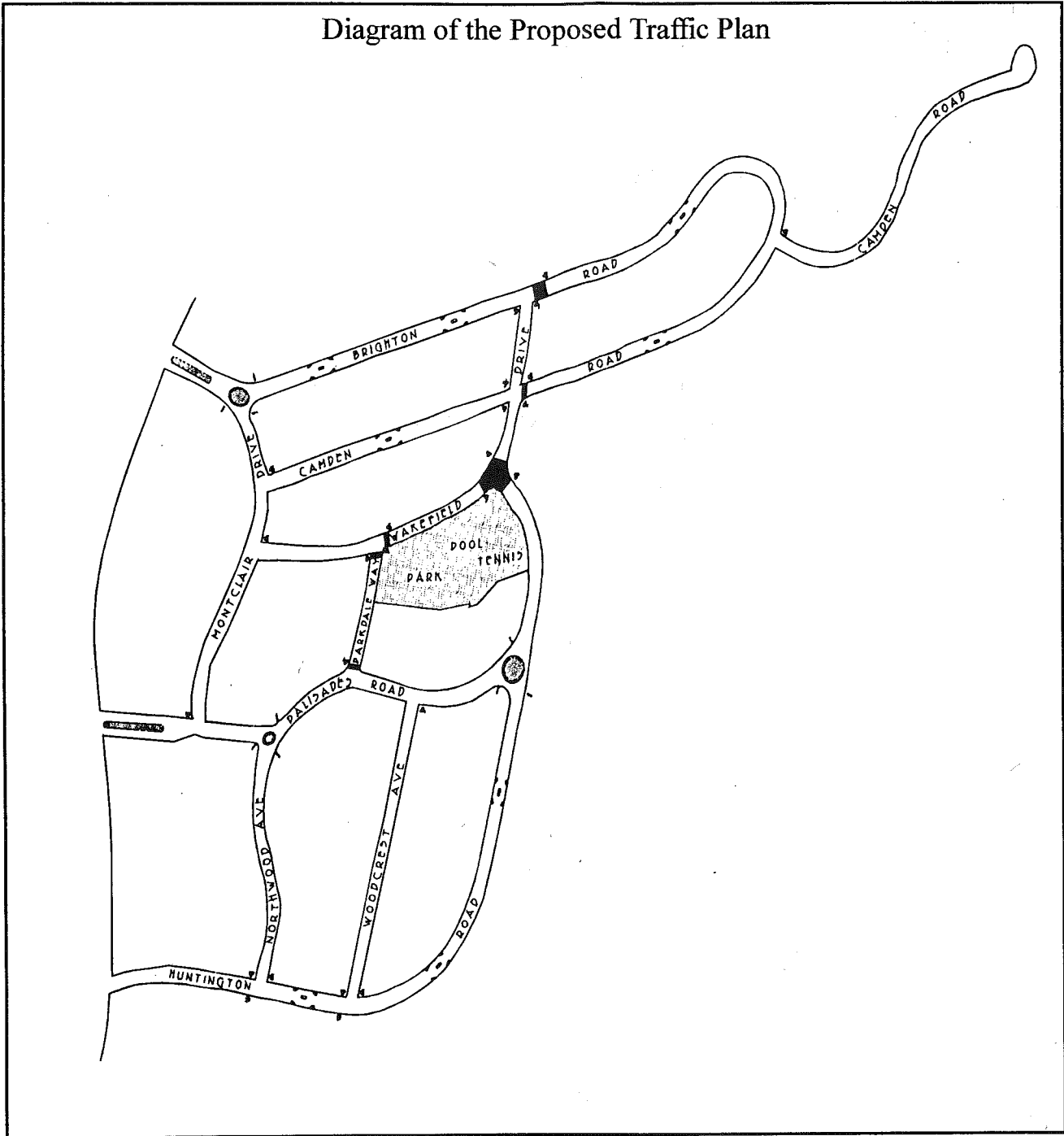
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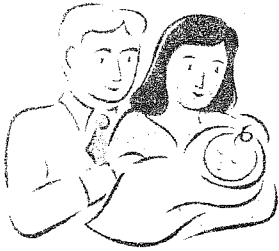
However, they would still slow the response time for emergency vehicles, and they are expensive.

Where We Are

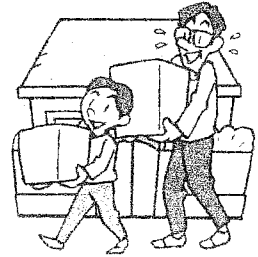
On June 6, Ed Ellis and representatives from the Board met with the City to present the traffic calming plan. The City expects to have comments on the plan by late June. Once the Board knows exactly what tools are available, we will develop a final plan, including an order of attack, and a proposal for financing the improvements. As always, the Board and the Long-Range Planning Committee welcome your input and suggestions.

Diagram of the Proposed Traffic Plan





New Faces By Sarah and Patti



Sara and Julius Lennard, formerly of 111 Huntington Road have moved to Presbyterian Village, 2000 East West Connector, #307, Austell, Ga 30106-1123. The Lennards moved to Brookwood Hills with their two daughters, Sue and Sara Jane, in 1956. Mr. Lennard helped form the Brookwood Hills Association, and was membership chairman for a number of years. He also helped set up the neighborhood security watch. They will be missed, and we wish them happiness in their new home.

Mike and Denise Wilbert with their 11-month old daughter **Katherine** will be the new owners at 31 Northwood. Mike works for Reliance Standard Life and their family belongs to Christ the King. Welcome to BWH.

Please also welcome **Dr. Stanley Wood** as he moves into his new home at 238 Camden Road.

Finally, **Don and Elizabeth Cook** and Jed, their big yellow lab, are moving into their new home at 110 Palisades. They've come to Atlanta from Ruston, Louisiana, and Don has joined the Marketing Department of Georgia State University. Elizabeth is a registered nurse, but she probably won't practice here, preferring to spend time on her artistic pursuits.

CLASSIFIEDS

Our wonderful housekeeper/cleaning service has time for 2 or 3 more homes in BWH. If interested, please call Nicole at 404-892-9495.

Helping Hands for Hire, serving Brookwood Hills for 8 years with watering, mail and paper pick-up, and pet care while you are out of town. Call Virginia or James Porter at (404)355-8876.

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