



BrookNotes

June 2009

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Volume XXII, No. 5

The Pool Is The Place To Be

By Lesley Carroll and Deborah Gebhardt

Summer is upon us and there are rave reviews for the newly renovated pool and pavilion. Members are enjoying the expanded bathrooms and their amenities. The enlarged pavilion has become party central, with events scheduled 18 out of the 30 days of June! Traditionally the pool is busier early in the season, but we have seen record crowds and usage.

The pool hours (through August 30th) on Mondays through Saturdays are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays noon to 9 p.m. The popular Friday night hamburger/hot dog/grilled chicken cookouts are continuing from 6 to 8 p.m., with a more upscale, catered menu on the last Friday of the month. These have proven to be immensely popular: it is a bargain at \$15 per person for the food, the drink and the camaraderie. The special menu for Friday, June 26th will include cocoa crusted leg of lamb and grilled snapper, with delicious sides. Make your reservations online by Wednesday at bwhcookout@sweetwaterpools.net. Please remember these pool rules designed to make the operation of the pool both more pleasant and more safe for everyone:

- The National Weather Service recommends waiting 30 minutes after thunder before getting back into the water. Our lifeguards are responsible for calling and timing these alerts, mindful of everyone's safety.
- All children under the age of 4 must wear an authorized swim pant. For your convenience these swim pants can be bought for \$10 at the concession stand. The goal is for a zero brown-out summer season.
- There is a \$5 guest fee for each guest, who must be accompanied by a member. Please remember to bring your wallet so that you can make payment at the time of entry.
- There can be **absolutely no glass** within the gates of the pool. We do not allow glass in the trash cans because while emptying the trash bags last year, several lifeguards sustained cuts from broken glass. If you want to bring drinks in glass bottles to the pool area you must decant them into plastic bottles before leaving home. Plastic carafes can be purchased at the concession stand.
- Please respect the space of members who have reserved the pavilion for a private party. If you use the pavilion grill for cooking, you are responsible for cleaning it afterwards.
- Check the Lost & Found regularly. Items left at the pool will be donated every other week, on the same schedule as the neighborhood recycle dates.
- All members must sign in at the pool entrance -- and then are required to have fun!



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 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**.

Tree Pruning Class

July 25th, 2 - 5 PM

Have you received a tree in your front yard through Trees Atlanta's Neighbor-Woods Program? Have you ever wondered if you'll hurt any of your trees by pruning them?

Join your Brookwood Hills neighbors and Trees Atlanta's Susan Pierce on July 25th to learn all about pruning your young trees for good structure and health. You'll learn how to recognize what to prune, how much to prune, what tools to use, how to make proper cuts, and how to make your tree stronger by creating a pruning plan.

This workshop is free and open to all Brookwood Hills neighbors. Everyone who has a young tree on their property is encouraged to come. We want to make sure this next generation of Brookwood Hills trees is as strong as possible.

Meet at the park and bring gloves and hand pruners or hand saws if you have them. We have tools you can borrow if you don't own any.

Bruce Wanamaker, Tree Chair

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, July 8th, 2009. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 22 Northwood Avenue.

Uncle Sam Wants You!



**Don't miss the Annual Brookwood Hills
Fourth of July Picnic and Parade**

Sponsored by The Brookwood

Saturday, July 4, 2009

Noon till 1:30

Brookwood Hills Park

**Bring your own decorated bike, wagon, etc. and
join in our festive parade. Enjoy a delicious and
free picnic as well as many fun games.**

New Faces



Cara and Jay Weaver of 48 Northwood Avenue joyfully announce the arrival of their newborn son, James Moore "Jay" Weaver III, on April 24, 2009. Welcome to Brookwood Hills, Jay!

Recycling Tips

Thanks to Sharon Williams for her suggestion for an article on Atlanta's recycling program. The tips below can be found with additional information at www.atlantaga.gov/government/publicworks/recycleinfo_061107.aspx.

The every-other-week system clearly is not sustainable with the small black recycling boxes issued to every home. As noted in a prior *BrookNotes*, a large blue recycling herbie can be purchased from the city for \$70. Send checks to City of Atlanta, Dept. of Public Works, 55 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 4800, 30303. But any container can be used, as long as it has a lid and is small enough (under 50-gallons) to be lifted by the crews; alternatively any 95 gallon herbie (like the ones the city provides) can be used. The one other requirement is that any recycling container must be clearly identified as such. City issued recycling stickers are available upon request by calling 404/330-6333 or by emailing publicworks@atlantaga.gov.

Items eligible for curbside collection include: all paper products not contaminated by food; cardboard boxes as long as they are broken down and dry; shredded paper in a clear plastic bag; all glass bottles and jars (rinsed, no lids); aluminum, steel, or tin cans; and all plastic food containers and bottles (rinsed). The city program does not accept plastic bags, hoses, pipes or furniture. Note that the city does not accept Styrofoam either.

Clear Creek Corner

By Pamela Watson

Welcome to the 1st installment of Clear Creek Corner, created by the Clear Creek Committee in an effort to educate and inform neighbors on the beauty, benefits, and diversity this green space offers us. In each article we will highlight a different plant or animal species which dwells within Clear Creek and by extension, often within our own yards.

Ophidiophobia: an intense or debilitating fear of snakes. Many suffer from a milder case of this phobia. Understanding and learning to identify varieties of these amazing creatures can often turn this fear into respect. I am a nature nut who grew up in rural North Carolina, determined that our city kids will develop an appreciation of all our outdoor friends. Outdoor exploration and adherence to this proclamation has resulted in having 3 children who love snakes. The common refrain in our house beginning in late April through October is "Mom! Mom! Come see the snake we found!" Having Clear Creek as an "extension of our back yard" has enabled our children to identify a variety of snakes and appreciate their importance within the ecosystem. They have discovered snakes common in our region: black rat snake, garter snake, black racer, rough green snake, eastern kingsnake, and copperhead. They have learned that all these snakes, except for the copperhead, are non-venomous and generally harmless.

Black rat snakes are a favorite, mostly because as their name implies, they are primarily rodent eaters. For those of you with lovely lawns, rat snakes eat moles and chipmunks too. Mature black rat snakes are completely black with a white chin. Black snake hatchlings are pale grey with black splotches on their backs. The behavior of rat snakes is really cool to observe. Typically when a rat snake experiences danger, it will freeze and remain motionless. However, last summer we observed a black rat snake hunting a chipmunk. As we approached, it coiled itself and vibrated its tail in the leaves, which made a rattling sound. The children thought it was funny that the rat snake was pretending to be a rattlesnake! Rat snakes also have a stinky defense mechanism which they invoke when picked up by a predator. They release a disgusting musky stench designed to get the predator to release it. We experienced this stink firsthand!

The snakes we see most frequently are common garter snakes. These snakes eat earthworms, insects, slugs, snails, amphibians, and other snakes. Our children are intrigued by the variety of color patterns found on these snakes: black, brown, gray, or even olive stripes. They have discovered that some garter snakes have dark spots that run along these stripes which look like a checkerboard pattern. Many neighbors mistake these patterns for those of venomous snakes, such as copperheads.

Copperheads have a light brown, coppery or tan background color, and distinctive dark brown shapes that look like hourglasses. Our children know what copperheads look like and leave them alone. Copperheads are rarely aggressive and rarely injure people. However, their beautiful color patterns act as excellent camouflage and bites can occur when a hand or foot is placed near one. Copperhead bites are not considered life threatening, but should be treated as serious and receive immediate medical attention. Copperheads use their camouflage to protect themselves from predators which include: hawks, eastern kingsnakes, black racers, possums, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes. (Cont'd. next page)

Clear Creek Corner Continued

One of the biggest predators of snakes is man. We kill them out of irrational fear, we take their habitat, and we remove their natural predators. All the predators of our native species of snakes dwell within Clear Creek. This is the key to the importance of snakes within Clear Creek and our community. They are evidence of a flourishing environment and are an essential part of the food chain and ecosystem. Whit Gibbons says it best in his article "Snakes are Signs of a Healthy Environment": *the discovery of a rich biodiversity of native snakes in a region should be viewed as a positive sign. You may not be fond of snakes, but when they are not found where they are supposed to be you may dislike the deeper-lying environmental problems even more.*"

Mr. Gibbons' article is excellent and can be read in full at www.uga.edu/srelherp/ecoview/Eco29.htm.

Coyote Facts For Brookwood Hills Residents

By Esther Stokes

Coyotes are thriving in virtually every urban area in the country and are found in every state but Hawaii. We know they have roamed Brookwood Hills' Clear Creek stream corridor for years and the neighborhood has carried out several trapping programs to target them. Recently, however, the Board decided to suspend the trapping program, as it was unintentionally removing more wild animals than just coyotes. The Clear Creek Committee has done some research which has revealed the following facts:

1) We will never be able to eliminate coyotes from the area; these primarily nocturnal animals can travel as much as twenty miles in one night! 2) It has proven nearly impossible to solely target coyotes with any trapping effort. 3) Coyotes are very adaptable. In urban areas they have everything they need (people throwing out garbage, pet food and water left outside, bird feeders stocked, animals that are small enough to appear as prey). 4) Coyotes eat primarily small mammals, such as voles, rabbits, squirrels and mice, but they will eat whatever food sources are available. This includes small dogs and cats as well.

So what should we do if we have to coexist with these animals?

- Don't unintentionally feed coyotes. Avoid overflowing bird feeders, and don't feed pets outside. Keep garbage containers tightly closed.
- Obey leash laws. Small dogs on the loose are attractive prey, especially at night.
- Keep cats inside.
- Coyotes naturally fear humans. If you see a coyote, shout or yell or make loud noises, or wave your arms. Most coyotes avoid contact with people, though; learning to be wary is part of a coyote pup's upbringing. The key to coexisting is not to undo this wariness that coyotes have learned so well.

Please remember, wildlife control in our neighborhood is a collective effort. Your continued individual commitment to these measures is the single greatest success factor in preventing the growth of unwanted species.

Calendar

- **Sunday, June 21, Dive Meet & Father's Day Cook-Out**, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the pool
- **Thursday, June 25, Swim Team Spaghetti Supper**, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the pool
- **Tuesday, June 30, Swim Team Awards Banquet**, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the pool.
- **Saturday, July 4, Parade & Picnic**, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the park.
- **Monday, July 6, BWH Board Meeting**, 7:15 p.m. at the home of Wendy & Dan Granot, 24 Northwood Avenue.

Tennis Clinics On Our New Court

Ms. Lee King is once again conducting both Junior and Women's Tennis Clinics, this year on our new world class Rebound Ace courts. These dazzling blue and green courts are a delight to the eye as well as to the tennis fanatic soul. The clinics run Mondays through Fridays for one hour. The price per person is \$90 for the week. Please contact Lee directly to sign up or to get answers to any questions at 404/261-8643 or at leekingtenpro@aol.com. The clinics scheduled over the remainder of the summer are:

June 22 - 26	9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	9 & 10 year olds
June 22 - 26	10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Intermediate Women
June 29 - July 3	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	3 & 4 year olds
June 29 - July 3	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	3 & 4 year olds
July 6 - 10	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	5 & 6 year olds
July 6 - 10	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	5 & 6 year olds
July 13 - 17	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	7 & 8 year olds
July 13 - 17	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginning Women
July 20 - 24	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	9 & 10 year olds
July 20 - 24	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Intermediate Women
July 27 - 31	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	7 & 8 year olds
July 27 - 31	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	7 & 8 year olds
August 3 - 7	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	5 & 6 year olds
August 3 - 7	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	5 & 6 year olds
August 10 - 14	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	3 & 4 year olds
August 10 - 14	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	3 & 4 year olds

C L A S S I F I E D S

Professional Construction Management Services – M Junger Homes, LLC. Matt Junger, son of Patti and Phil Junger of 60 Palisades Road, grew up here in Brookwood Hills. Since 2003, Matt has fulfilled his dream of designing, building and renovating residential homes. Whether creating new living space in an existing home or starting from scratch on a bare lot, M Junger Homes aspires to make dreams into reality. "I enjoy the challenge each project presents, be it adding a second story, renovating a master suite or building from the ground up," says Matt, who is attuned to each home's existing character, fostering coherent growth to both the house and its neighborhood. Matt and M Junger homes aspire to meet your construction needs today with the confidence you will return for future building ventures. References are available upon request. www.mjungerhomes.com, 404/493-1555, or mjungerhomes@mac.com

Tutor/Swim Instructor. Westminster graduate with tutoring experience, going to Columbia University this Fall, can tutor math, French, or SSAT/SAT prep. Three years experience as a swim instructor. I teach lessons at the pool for individuals or small groups, beginners and stroke work. Please call if you would like help preparing your child for testing or swimming this summer. Contact Palmer Greene for more information. 404/693-5563 or jpg160@gmail.com

Part-time Housekeeper/Babysitter. How many people do you know who can hold a baby in one arm and vacuum with the other? If you're looking for someone who loves babies and hard work, your search ends here! Jessica McGibbon highly recommends Dilia Flores, her housekeeper/babysitter of 4 years. Dilia has helped Jessica care for 3 of her children from infancy while taking on the herculean task of housekeeping for a family with 6 children. Jessica only wishes Dilia could move with her! Contact Dilia at 404/438-6687.

Babysitter/Dogsitter. Julia Bray, student at Auburn University and resident of Brookwood Hills, is available for babysitting and dogsitting during the months of June and July. She's had experience in both areas and has references if needed. To contact, please email her at JAB0021@auburn.edu or call 404/226-7137.

Swim Teacher/House & Pet Sitter. I am Kathleen Summers, I grew up in Brookwood Hills, and I was on the Swim Team from the first day! I want to teach your kids, even as young as 3 years old, to swim. I was a lifeguard here through high school and college. I've taught swimming lessons at Brookwood, Haverty Hollow, and Westminster Summer Camp. Currently I teach lessons at the Westminster After School Kids Program and lifeguard at Westminster events. I assist with the Westminster Junior High and High School swim teams. I have maintained my water safety instructor, CPR, and first aid certifications. I also am available to babysit and house sit. Please contact me at 404/351-4597 or at kathleensummers@westminster.net. Many references are available.

Handyman. Sergio Chaparro has been our project manager throughout the recent pool renovation and has done an outstanding job. What has impressed me most is the dedication and love he has given our pavilion and restrooms. I am thrilled to provide the neighborhood with his eager willingness to offer his personal and handyman services. Sergio Chaparro can be reached at 678/577-2338. I could not recommend a person more highly, but if you have questions please contact me, Deborah Gebhardt, at 404/403-3331.

Apartment Needed. A very fine young man has been teaching Bible in Asia for two years and is coming to Atlanta to "Teach for America" in the Atlanta Public Schools, arriving July 16th. He is looking for a place to live at a reasonable price. He is also willing to house sit and is recommended by Bill Rabel (homeowner of 191 Camden Road) at whrabel@bellsouth.net. Strongest references. Contact Carson Rockett at rockett@dodomail.net.

Congratulations to Our Graduates

Elizabeth Bray, daughter of Sims and Laurie Bray, graduated from The College of Charleston with a major in Communication Studies. She will join Arcadia Publishing as an Acquisitions Editor.

Rebecca Jablonski-Diehl, daughter of Mary Grace Diehl and Michael Jablonski, graduated *cum laude with high honors* from Mount Holyoke College with a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Discourse on Terrorism. She will pursue a Masters in Marine Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle.

James Porter, son of Celeste and Jim Porter, graduated from Vanderbilt University with a double major in Engineering Science and Economics. In September he will begin work for FTI Consulting Company in Nashville.

Andrew Wilder, son of Lee Wilder and Pelham Wilder III, graduated from Elon University with a major in History.

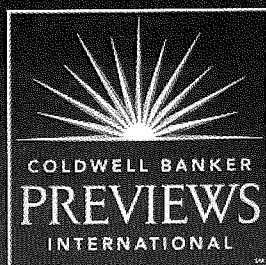
Clayton Young, son of Mimi and Nils Young, graduated from The George Washington University with a major in Business Administration in Finance.

Anna Pless, daughter of Dana Halberg and Larry Pless, graduated from Lesley University with a major in Counseling and a minor in Studio Art. She is working in Germany this summer. Brother David graduated from Asheville School and will attend Bates College.

Claire Gambrell, daughter of Micki and Carl Gambrell, graduated from The Lovett School and will attend Elon University.

Palmer Greene, son of Allyson and Scott Greene, graduated *cum laude* from The Westminster Schools, where he was the Salutatorian and a National Merit Scholar. He will attend Columbia University as a Robert Byrd Scholar.

Everett Nadal, son of Elizabeth and Mike Nadal, graduated from Pace Academy and will attend The University of the South (Sewanee).



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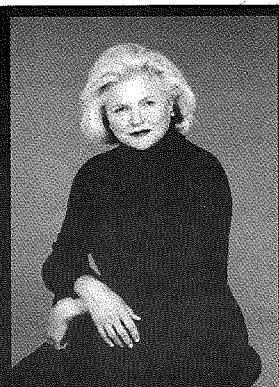
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