



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

March 1996, Vol. X, No.2

Up In Smoke

by Betsy Crosby

Sara Jean and Fred Burke were entertaining out of town guests the evening of Friday, March 8, when they saw the smoke and heard the sirens of the fire trucks racing to the home of Anne and Bradley Hale at 61 Brighton Road. "Let's go watch the fire," said the son of one of the guests. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

If only it were true. Twice in one month, three times in the last two and a half years, homes in Brookwood have suffered destructive fires. As we gather on the sidewalk and watch helplessly, we can't help wonder, "Can't the firemen work faster? Why does it take so long to put out a fire?"

Five firemen from the Atlanta Fire Department came to the Brookwood Hills Board Meeting Monday, March 11, 1996 to respond to those questions. Present were Assistant Fire Chief William Ware, the officers in charge of the trucks which first arrived on the scene, and the Incident Commanders, Capt. H.B. Dodson and Capt. Donald Zachary, who took over upon their arrival.

The first concern the officers

addressed was the response time to each of the fires. In the case of the O'Halloran fire at 41 Camden, the fire department records show that the dispatcher got the alarm at 6:06, and the first unit was on the scene at 6:11. Similarly, department records show that in the Hale's fire, the dispatcher received the call at 9:11 p.m.; trucks were dispatched at 9:12 and arrived on the scene at 9:17. Neighbors reported seeing a truck on Palisades searching for the fire. This was a second truck, responding to a call from a Palisades

neighbor who thought the smoke drifting from the Hale's fire was coming from a house on Palisades.

Calls to 911 are turned over to the fire department dispatcher. The firemen did not have the information as to what time the calls to 911 were received.

Neighbors attending the meeting asked why the firemen did not immediately spray water on the flames escaping from the roof of each house. Captain Dodson explained that shooting water on the fire from the outside produces steam and gases that could endanger the lives of the firemen working on the inside. "Our strategy is to go to the inside to put the fire out," said Capt. Dodson. "We try to put the fire out at the point of origin.... We fought this fire very aggressively from the inside."

The first truck dispatched is a pumper truck which carries 500 gallons of water. In each of the two fires, hoses from this truck started pouring water inside the house immediately upon arrival at the scene. The natural gas lines to the house were also turned off upon arrival.

The Hale fire was an electrical fire caused by wiring in a
Continued on page two



61 Brighton Road



BROOKNOTES

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Brooknotes Staff

Editor : Betsy Crosby 351-8821

Circulation: Judy Horton 351-6257

Contributors this month:

Elaine Moynihan, Kathy McCune, Cary
Weems

Photographs provided by Harvey Ross
and Mike Nadal

Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work,
photographs and story ideas. The
deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes
is Friday, April 12, 1996. Submissions
should be in writing and should be
dropped off at Betsy Crosby's house, 34
Brighton Rd.

Reminder: Annual Fees Due by March 31

INTERESTED IN A SUMMER JOB?

Work at your own
neighborhood pool as a
lifeguard or in the
concession stand. Must be
16 to lifeguard and 15 for
concession stand duty.

Call Kathy McCune
(872-1177) or Jim Porter
(355-8876) for an
application.

Smoke, continued from page 1

recessed light in the ceiling of an upper story bedroom. Firemen fought the fire from inside the attic. They also used pipe poles to expose the attic rafters through the bedroom ceilings. Firemen on ladders poured more water into the attic through these holes in the ceilings.

The O'Halloran fire began in the kitchen when food was left unattended on the stove. It spread quickly through the frame siding on the back of the house and then into the attic. The initial call to the station reported that flames could be seen coming up the back of the building. When the firemen reached the scene, the damage was already extensive. Their battle was made more difficult because heavy fire and smoke obscured the access to the attic.

Of concern to neighbors attending the meeting was the issue of whether there was enough water pressure. The firemen at the meeting stated that fire hydrants are checked in the fall and the spring. "There's no reason to be concerned," reassured Chief Ware. "You've got good pressure out here. We had to make adjustments to the dump valve to keep the valves from popping because of the pressure."

Residents were perplexed by the unhurried actions of firemen laying hoses in the streets at both fires. Capt. Dodson explained that these firemen were "laying off" the hoses: dropping them in the street and straightening them so there would be no impediment to the flow of water once the outside hoses took over.

Board member Elaine Moynihan asked what strategy the firemen used to protect neighboring houses. "Anything near a fire is called an 'exposure,'" explained Chief Ware. "We put men on a ladder with a hose on the left side of the Hale's house [to protect the Masseys' home], but this fire was burning up rather than out." Chief Ware pointed out that they were successful in saving other exposures, particularly the roofline of the new addition and the earlier addition the Hales had constructed several years ago. Damage was contained to the upper floors and roof of the original structure.

With fifteen months of renovation nearly completed, Anne and Bradley Hale were planning to move back into their home shortly. The house was completely empty of furniture and memorabilia, even in the attic. Ironically, fire detectors were set to be installed by the contractor the morning after the fire. Sheffield Hale stated at the Board meeting his parents' appreciation for the efforts of the firemen. "They have no criticisms whatsoever," said Sheffield.

Insurance Check

Liz Primm reminds us that if your house has not been rewired in the last five to ten years, you may need to add to your homeowner's insurance policy a special rider. The rider will require the insurance company to bring your home up to current code in the event of a disaster. Without the rider, the insurance company will only pay to restore the home to its condition immediately preceding the incident. Our older homes have hardwood floors and wooden lathing, which can be a dangerous combination with out-of-date wiring.

FREE SMOKE DETECTORS

As all of us know, the earlier a fire is detected, the easier it is to put out. The Atlanta Fire Department, Tandy Corporation (Radio Shack) and WXIA TV Channel 11 have joined together in an effort to give away 8,000 smoke detectors to low income and elderly citizens. If you know someone in need of a smoke detector (perhaps in the homes of maids, gardeners and babysitters), call 853-7069.

Board Supports Paris Market Variance

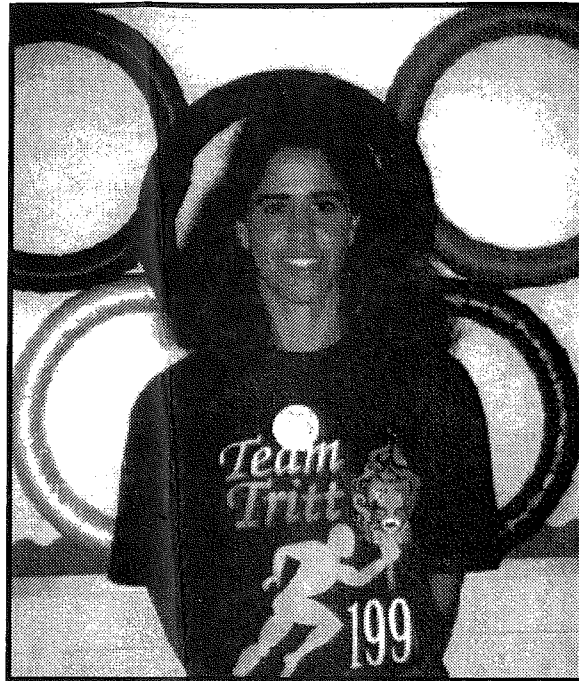
The owner of Paris Market, Bob Barnes, appealed to the Board of Directors on March 11 for support of his application for a variance to allow the Paris Market to have seating on its patio and inside the store. Zoning regulations currently prohibit any more restaurants with sit-down seating along the block of Peachtree between Palisades and Brighton due to the lack of available parking.

Mr. Barnes argued that his store would not contribute to the problem of spillover parking in the neighborhood, which tends to be late at night on the weekends. He claimed that his gourmet take-out was largely a day-time business, aimed at people who live and work in the neighborhood. He offered to sign stipulations and conditions to the variance which would limit the number of seats requested and the hours of operation, and would require Paris Market to remain primarily a gourmet take-out shop rather than a full-service restaurant.

Included within these conditions, drafted by our zoning chairman Nick Sears, would be a stipulation signed by Mr. Barnes's landlord James Cumming that the conditions to the variance are specific to Paris Market and that subsequent tenants must apply for a separate variance.

Mr. Barnes mentioned that many of his steady customers are residents of the neighborhood and that without the proposed seating for lunch customers he may have to close his business. The Board voted to support Mr. Barnes's application subject to the conditions drafted by Nick Sears. Those who would like to show their support for Paris Market should attend the NPU-E meeting at 7:00 p.m. April 3 at the midtown public library at Sixteenth Street and Peachtree, in the second floor auditorium.

NEW POOL MANAGER HIRED



Margarita Cabrera

Pool Committee Co-Chairs Jim Porter and Kathy McCune are pleased to report that a new pool manager has been hired for the 1996 pool season. Margarita Cabrera will be familiar to some of you. She is the diving coach at Westminster School and a 5th grade teacher at Tritt Elementary School. Margarita was the diving coach for our Community Club in 1983. She has experience in managing a pool and will be a great addition to our staff. Please welcome Margarita when you return to the pool!

BULLETIN BOARD

The Membership Committee of the BWH Community Club would like to remind you that if you have ever been an A member and subsequently dropped or changed your membership status, you can rejoin as an A member without paying the initiation fee a second time. All that is needed to reactivate your membership is payment of the annual dues. Please contact Nancy Bramlett at 351-3609 or Elaine Moynihan at 351-5479 for more information.

Come join the BWH Swim and Dive Team! Jessica Stokes will return as Head Coach and Chad Cook as Assistant. A third coach will be hired by May to help with the team. Sara Ferguson is back as head coach for the dive team.

The swim team will offer more instruction for those who want it, while still keeping flexible practice times. We will try to have early after-school

practices starting in mid-May due to the accelerated meet schedule (a consequence of the Olympics). Once school is out of session, practice times will be morning and afternoon as in previous sessions. Call Nancy Sample (350-7883) regarding the swim team, and Kathy Bernhardt (874-5067) for information on the diving team.

Camden Road tree replanting will begin during the last week of March. Post Landscape Residential Services will plant 13 new trees in the green space. The Camden Road Tree Committee has met several times to select trees in order to replace our tree canopy which was lost by Hurricane Opal. The Committee chose to plant maples and allee elms. There will be "NO PARKING" along upper Camden on the planting date (to be announced A.S.A.P.).

Calendar

March 26-27 Trunk Show

Sale of Kids Only clothes at the home of Elizabeth Nadal, 90 Huntington. March 26 from 7-9 p.m., March 27, 9:30-12. Part of proceeds donated to Garden Club.

March 31 Brookwood Girls

The next outing for the Brookwood Girls will be on Sunday, March 31. The event will be bicycling in Peachtree City, which has many miles of separate paved pathways for bicycles and golf carts. Caravan leaves from the park at 2:00 p.m. To RSVP or if you need a bike or rack, call Lon Simons (404) 892-0802.

March 31 Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny is planning an Easter Egg Hunt in Brookwood Hills Park on Sunday, March 31st. The hunt will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. All neighborhood children are invited. The younger children will hunt in a separate area reserved especially for them. Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers Realtors has once again generously offered to sponsor this popular event. If you are interested in helping, please call Harvey Ross, 897-1077.

April 1 BWH Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the BWH Board of Directors will be on Monday, April 1 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Jim and Celeste Porter at 142 Brighton Road. If you would like to attend, please call Jim or Celeste at 355-8876. All Community Club members are welcome.

April 16 Olympic Town Hall Meeting

North Atlanta High School, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Bill Campbell and the City Commissioners will be present to address concerns relative to the City of Atlanta's preparation for the 1996

Summer Olympic Games, including the city's traffic plan.

April 17 Northwood Garden Club Sale

Come to The Inspired Gardener, a garden plants and accessories sale sponsored by the Northwood Garden Club on Wednesday, April 17, from 10 til 2 at 51 Palisades, the home of Triff Phillips. You will have the opportunity to buy unusual perennials, annuals, flowering shrubs, roses and topiaries, plus unique garden treasures.

April 20 - May 12 Decorators' Show House

Come support the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at the 26th Annual Decorators' Show House. Featured this year is the Shelton House, 2740 Habersham Road. Complimentary shuttle from Buckhead Plaza, at the corner of West Paces Ferry and Peachtree Road. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 advance purchase). Neighbor Carla Fackler is this year's president of the

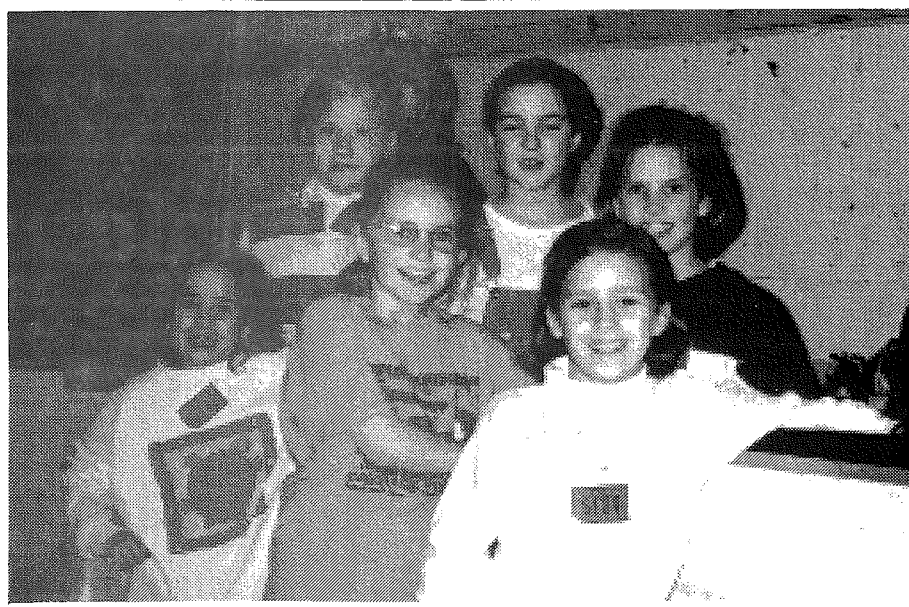
Atlanta Symphony Associates, the volunteer group sponsoring the Showhouse. For more information, call (404) 733-4935.

April 26 Garden Club Auction

The Garden Club Acorn Auction will be on Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Katie Bollman, 84 Wakefield. Tickets are \$25 per person, includes dinner and wine or beer. Invitations will be appearing in your mailbox soon. Send in your checks early--reservations are limited.

April 26 - 28 Inman Park Tour of Homes

Friday, April 26, from 10-2; Saturday and Sunday, the 27th and 28th, from noon to six. Featured will be homes representative of the first 30 years of Inman Park (1890 to 1920) and its last 25 years of renovation. For more information, call Sue Tierney at (404) 524-3612 or the Festival Hotline at (770) 242-3612.



Brookwood Girls enjoy ice skating on February 25, 1996: from left Caroline Nadal; Anna Pless; Devon Simons; Anna Mintz; Katie McCune and Caitlin Weems

Letters to the Editor

Dear *Brooknotes*.

Two months ago, our son Bo lost his glasses. We searched everywhere and when we couldn't find them we purchased a new pair for him.

Yesterday, Bo found his glasses in the park. Actually, I should say that he found 1/2 of his glasses. Upon inspection of the break, my husband Herron realized that the glass had been deliberately broken. The metal nose piece had been twisted until it snapped.

Obviously, Bo had not taken good care of his glasses by leaving them in the park in the first place. But the truly upsetting part of this story is not that he was careless but that whoever found the glasses made no attempt to find out to whom they belonged. Instead, they deliberately destroyed them. I know of another neighbor whose child's stuffed animal was deliberately smashed to pieces after it was left in the park.

Both of these incidents are extremely upsetting to us. I am assuming that the person or persons who found the glasses is under the age of 18. Are we teaching our children so little respect for other people's things that nothing is safe in the park?

Cary Weems

Correction

Longtime Brookwood resident Mrs. Mary Adair Bird couldn't remember seeing the home of Brookwood at the location across from the Brookwood Train Station as described in the January issue of *Brooknotes*. Her call to Elaine Luxemburger prompted Elaine to call historian Franklin Garrett, who placed the home at the southwest corner of Peachtree and 25th Street. He then called Elaine back to say he wasn't completely sure, but knew he was close. Can anyone else solve the mystery?



Andy Solley

Patrick Forquer

BROOKWOOD BUZZ

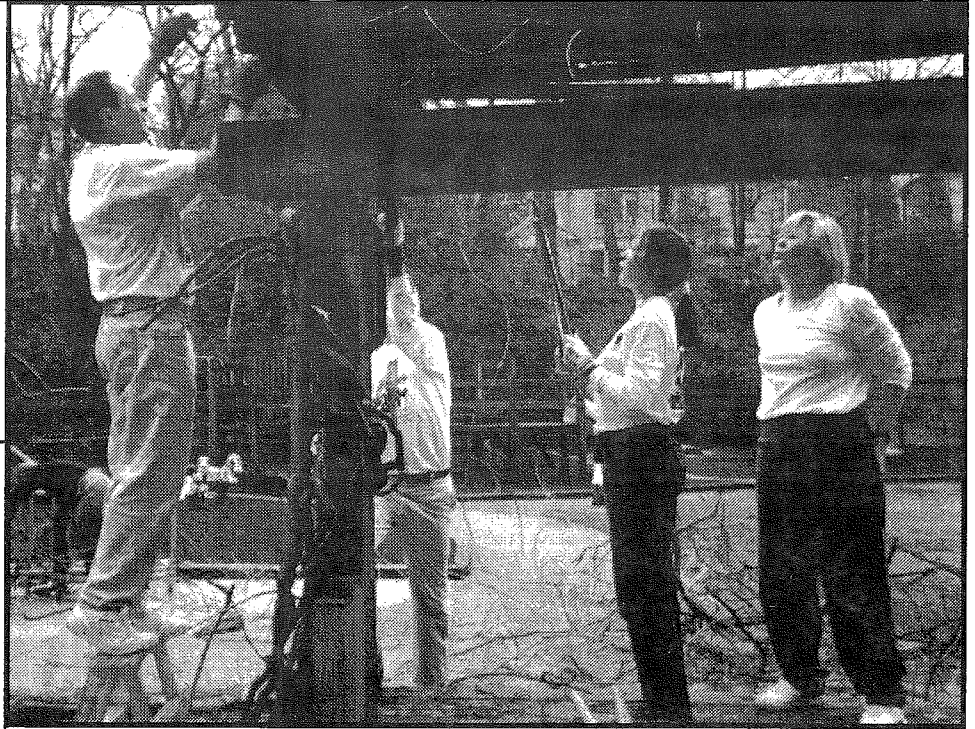
Since all the students who applied for the Atlanta Olympic Youth Ambassador's Program were so qualified, the Board of Directors resorted to a lottery system to select our neighborhood representative. Andy Solley's name was drawn from the hat, and Patrick Forquer was selected as an alternate. Andy is thirteen and attends Marist; Patrick is in the fourth grade at E. Rivers Elementary. Since not all neighborhoods have indicated a willingness to participate in the program, Brookwood Hills may be able to send both Andy and Patrick.

Naomi Debra O'Halloran kindly waited ten days following the fire in her parents' home before making her arrival. Her parents Jean and Kevin O'Halloran were safely settled in their rental home with big sisters Ciara (5) and Amy (2 going on 3) before Naomi appeared on February 23, 1996. Seems that Naomi, who weighed 10 lbs. 2.3 oz., was waiting for all the fuss to die down so that she could command the family's full attention. If you would like to do something to welcome the baby, please contact Patty Griffith at 350-9994 or Susan Young Grunewald at 351-7202.

Sheridan and Pat Watson of 83 Huntington Road welcomed their new addition, Haley Frances Watson, on March 5, 1996. Haley has a big sister Cole (2) who she strongly resembles. "They look like little twins," said their mother Sheridan. Haley weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz. at birth.

Special Thanks to Neighbor Karen Mullinax of the Buckhead Northwest Office of Harry Norman Realtors for the generous donation of \$1000 to the Brookwood Hills Garden Club Auction for the purchase of neighborhood trees.

Good neighbors Mickey Ross, Mike Nadal, Laranne Oser and Beth Gaffney cut back the wisteria on the arbor at the park. Other volunteers for the Park Clean-up March 15 included Alison Caughman, Harvey Ross, Deirdre Stiles, Hank Harris, Katrina Newton, Mary Marsteller, Jimmy Love, Sheldon Jeter, Mary Long and Dottie DeRosa, plus numerous offspring. Many thanks to all, especially to Katrina Newton for donating play sand and to Mickey Ross for the Krispy Kreme donuts!



WORD OF MOUTH

Fence Man

Billy Shuford 394-5783 (home)
360-7532 (work)

Extremely reliable and nice - has worked on many fences in BWH and has built a wonderful children's playhouse for me. Nancy Sample, 350-7883.

Floor Waxing. Furniture Repair. Upholstery. Caning

James Pryor 622-1152

James has a solid Brookwood Hills reputation and has done work for me for many years. Lillan Watt, 351-3588. (I have used James for floor wa

Bartender/Server

Edward O'Connell (770) 682-1797
(404) 282-7233 (pager)

If you are in need of help at an upcoming party, Ed O'Connell did an excellent professional job for us as a bartender/server. Ed will do a lot of the leg work required in preparation for the event as well as coordinate other help (male or female) that might be needed. His rates are very reasonable. Clark Landers, 355-3392.

CLASSIFIEDS

- **For Rent.** 231 Huntington, 3 BR, 2 baths, LR, DR, full basement and attic, fireplace. Brick home, freshly painted inside and out, new carpeting. \$2500/month. Call for appt. (770) 394-2387.
- **Wanted to Rent.** Apartment or garage apartment in Brookwood Hills. Needed beginning May or June. Call Elaine Moynihan, 351-5479.
- **For Sale.** Hard-to-find cobblestones, belgian blocks, and mill stones. Any quantities available. Reference: Letsa Marietta, 872-2888. Call Jimmy Mock (404) 843-9011.
- **Wanted to Buy.** Gently used wooden bookcase(s) or bookshelves needed for a craft project--any size is fine. Call Nancy Sample, 350-7883.
- **Beach House Available.** Every year we rent a wonderful house for a week at Litchfield Beach, S.C. We can't use it this summer, but would like to sublet it to a special family to rent it in our place. (The owners have approved our doing this). The house sleeps 7, has a dock on the creek and is a 3-5 min. walk to the beach. The cost is \$775, plus a refundable \$100 security deposit. Dates are June 15-22. Call Alison Caughman, 355-7662.
- **French Lessons.** Parlez-vous francais? French tutoring for students at all levels with flexible after-school hours in my home or yours. Call Deirdre Stiles, 249-9544.

*Specialty
Homes
Inc.*

BROOKNOTES
sponsored by your neighbor
Sarah Hagood
Owner/Broker
231-5678