



# BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

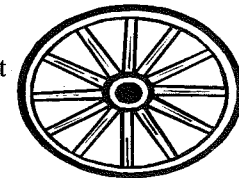
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March 2000, Vol. XIII, No. 2

## Marta Wheel Squeal Evaluated

By Larry Pless

Marta is in the process of building a major repair and maintenance facility on Armour Drive, where there will be substantial rail car activity. Armour Drive is just off I-85, about half a mile from the New Camden section of BWH. Construction is scheduled to be finished in early December.



After learning that a number of cars will enter and exit that site on a regular basis, the Brookwood Hills Community Board became concerned about the impact that "wheel squeal" might have on the neighborhood. (Wheel squeal is the annoying, high pitched sound that results from the trains' solid steel wheels when trains traverse short radius curves.) Accordingly, the Board hired Hugh Saurenman of the engineering consulting firm Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. in Burlington, Mass. to review a Marta-produced report on noise from the proposed Armour Yard. Mr. Saurenman is a noise engineer recognized nationally as an expert on rail line wheel squeal.

Summarizing greatly, Mr. Saurenman concurred with the Marta report that noise impact is unlikely and that noise mitigation for Armour Yard is unnecessary, but with the following qualifications:

1. Wheel squeal is hard to predict and control. The worst occurs immediately after new facilities go into service. Reduction is a trial and error process with levels dropping as supervisors gain familiarity. There is a chance that wheel squeal will be substantially higher (5 to 10 decibels) than predicted, which could put noise in some parts of the neighborhood close to the Federal Transit Administration impact threshold. If so, Marta will likely find control methods within a few months, including erecting sound walls near the tracks and lubricating the track.
2. Mr. Saurenman's noise projections exclude noise reduction caused by shielding from intervening buildings or terrain. Any structure or terrain blocking a direct view of the yard site will reduce noise levels. Trees and shrubbery that block direct view are unlikely to measurably reduce noise levels.
3. As most of Brookwood Hills is more than ½ mile from the yard, atmospheric conditions such as wind direction and inversion layers may strongly influence sound propagation. Some noise, particularly wheel squeal, may be audible when atmospheric conditions promote efficient propagation to the southwest.
4. Sound walls next to the tracks could be very effective noise mitigators for communities within about 500 feet of the yard, but as the closest part of Brookwood Hills is over ½ mile from the site, sound walls would be less effective for our neighborhood's purposes.

The Board also spoke with Mr. Saurenman at the January meeting, where he confirmed his conclusions, and offered the overall opinion that wheel squeal is less likely to be a problem for BWH than it would be for a rural neighborhood, because we already experience a high level of background noise.

Please contact Larry Pless, Board member for governmental relations, at 4-892-2100 (day) if you would like a copy of Mr. Saurenman's report or other information.



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

### Brooknotes Staff

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Contributors this month: Larry Pless, Rick Jackson, Susan Connell, Diane John, Kem Lee and Alan Simmons.

Brooknotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is Thurs., April 6, 2000. Submissions may be e-mailed to [mncook@bellsouth.net](mailto: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  
Carolyn 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 404-35-9101

**Parks** – Clark Landers 404-355-3392

**Pool** – Steve McCollam 404-350-0408  
Hayes Wilson 404-876-4618

**Security** – Rick Jackson 404-350-3389

**Social** – Diane John 404-870-0484

**Trees** – Susan Connell 404-351-1633

**Zoning** – Leigh Furrh 404-873-7369

**Security Hotline – 404-325-5114**

## Police Zone 2 Citizens Get Advice from New Zone Commander

By Rick Jackson, Security Chairman

A few weeks ago I attended the Zone 2 Precinct Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. There were two hot topics of discussion: (1) suspicious looking solicitors and (2) neighborhood speeding.

Major Spillane, our new Zone Commander, is eager to crack down on unwanted solicitors. If enough calls come in at once in a particular area, he will send out a patrol officer immediately and book the person on not having a solicitor's license. So if a suspicious solicitor knocks on your door, call 911 immediately. You may also want to call your neighbors to give them a heads up. Major Spillane made an important point: *as long as people are giving out money, solicitors will continue to be a problem.*

As far as neighborhood speeding is concerned, Major Spillane noted that, according to their statistics, *most speeding in residential neighborhoods is done by the residents themselves.* Let's all be more conscientious.

One final reminder, we have had several car break-ins in the last few months. Most of these were in cars that were left unlocked and/or parked on the street. Keeping your car locked, hiding valuables, and parking in your driveway will significantly reduce the chances that your car will be vandalized.

### Addition of Porta-John to Park

Recent visitors to the park may have noticed the addition of a porta-john. The BWH Board approved the placement of the porta-john on a temporary basis only, and will consider whether to extend the contract through completion of the long-range plan at the next Board meeting on April 3. Any comments may be sent to Clark Landers at 222 Camden or Nicole Cook at [mncook@bellsouth.net](mailto:mncook@bellsouth.net).

### Sewer Capacity Concerns

The BWH Board has learned from a sewer maintenance contractor that the sewer main which serves the neighborhood is operating at capacity during daytime hours, when usage is supposed to be light. If you have noticed a lack of pressure on your line, it may be due to the demand level on the main. The Board asks that neighbors who have noticed this or other sewer line problems contact the office of Public Works Commissioner, Norman Copeland at 404-330-6240. In addition, please send a written notice to Walter Bland, BWH Board President, at 57 Northwood or [walter.bland@bankofamerica.com](mailto:walter.bland@bankofamerica.com).

# Proposed Schematics for Long-Range Plan

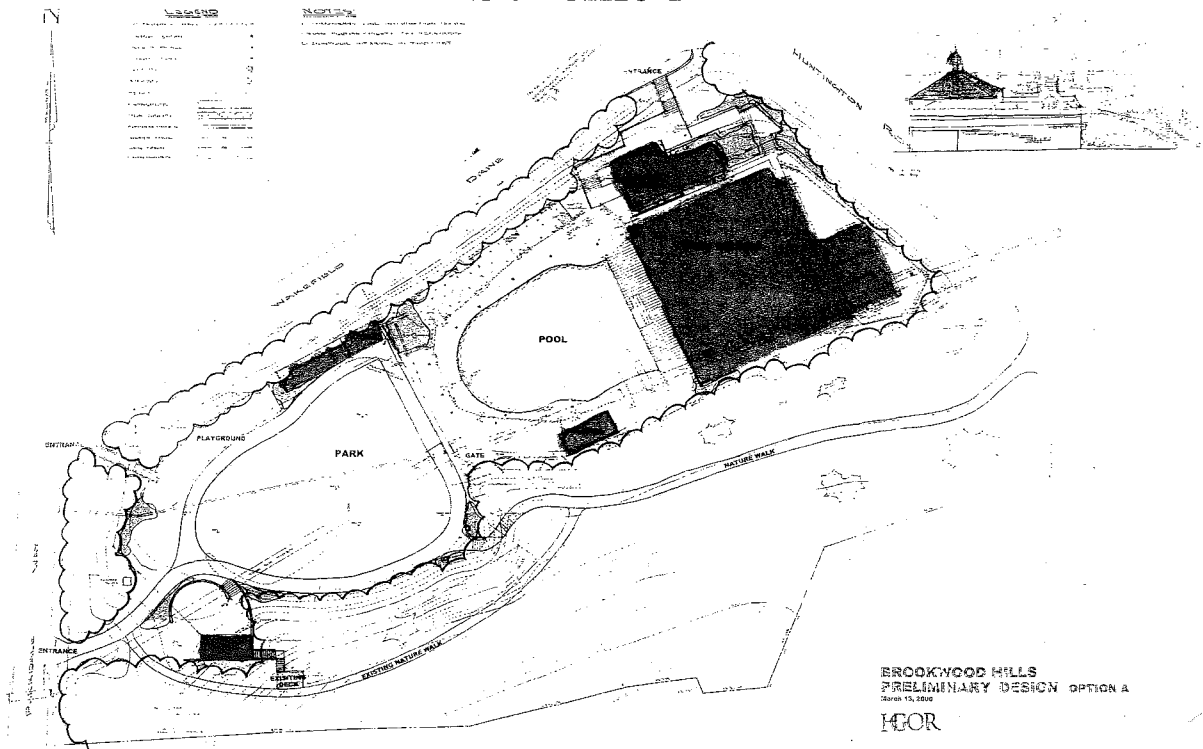
By Susan Connell

Envision yourself in an airplane looking down on Brookwood Hills as you peruse the proposed schematics for our amenity area; in other words, the schematics represent the big picture, not the details. We are in the conceptual phase and welcome your comments, reactions, and concerns on which direction is best for the neighborhood.

Included in all plans and cost estimates are corrections to the erosion problems, new tree wells as needed, stabilizing of steep banks, general landscape clean-up, and a new fence on street level.

Our goal is to improve the accessibility, workability and overall appearance of Brookwood Hills amenity area while maintaining its inherent character. **Please forward any comments to your pod person or a steering committee member by Sunday, March 26.**

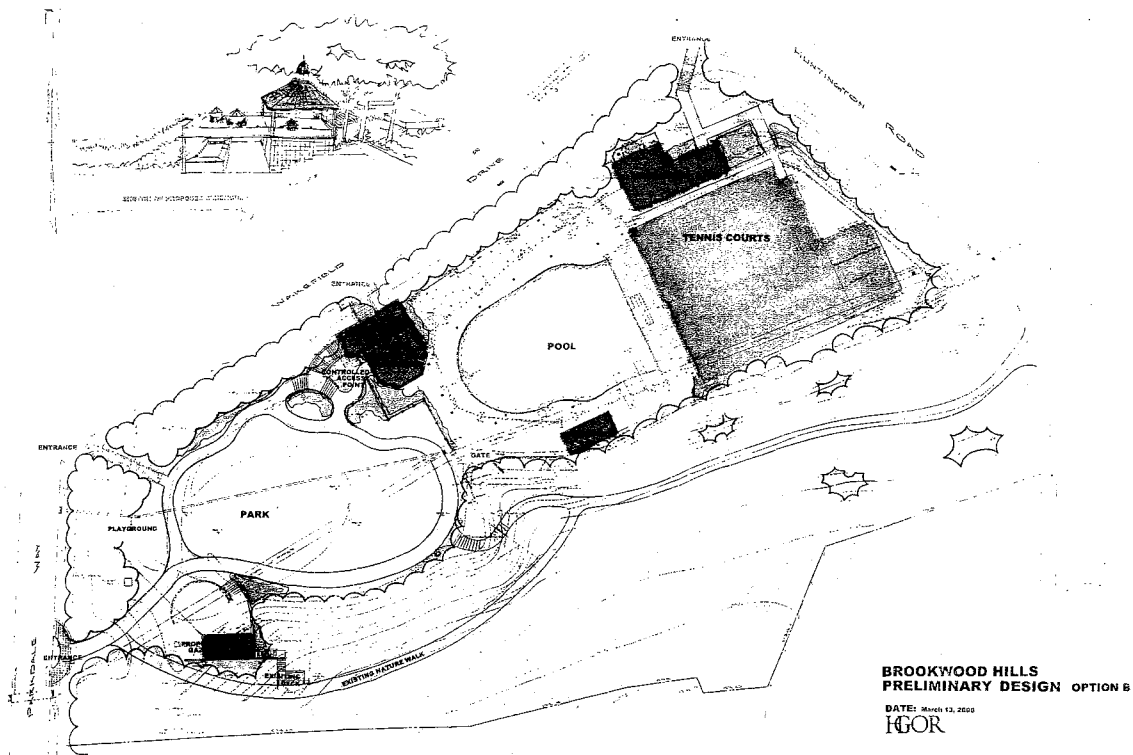
## Scheme A



PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved accessibility via the existing concessions building entrance.</li> <li>- Improved and unified clubhouse, poolhouse and storage building appearance.</li> <li>- Improved overall appearance.</li> <li>- Paved nature trail with additional steps.</li> <li>- Maintains the historical park plan.</li> <li>- Covered viewing area for the tennis courts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional square footage of building provided.</li> <li>- Limited access points.</li> <li>- No internal connectivity.</li> <li>- No ADA wheelchair/ stroller access to the pool.</li> <li>- Difficult access for resurfacing of Tennis Courts and Pool Chemicals delivery maintained through the park.</li> </ul>
<p>Cost: \$306,400</p>	



# Scheme B



## Pros

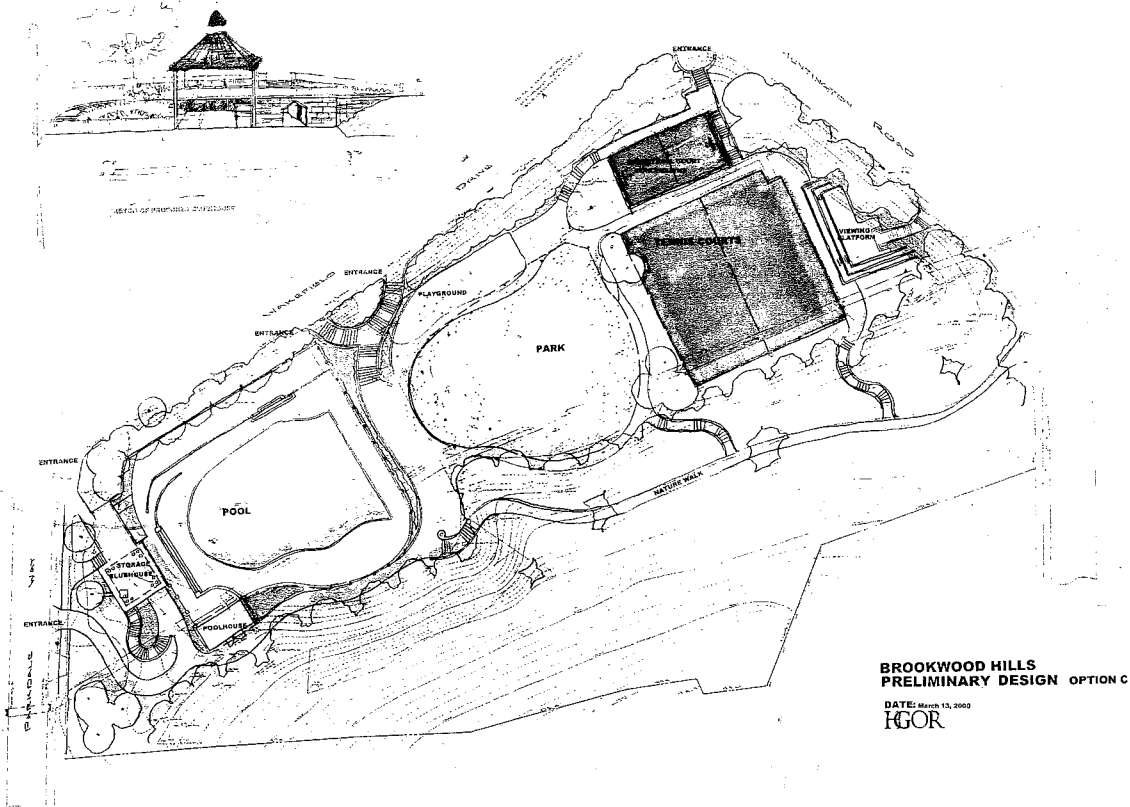
- Improved accessibility via the new clubhouse/concessions building entrance.
- Mid Block access point to both the Pool and the Park.
- Paved nature trail with additional steps.
- Improved and unified clubhouse, poolhouse and storage building appearance.
- Improved overall appearance.
- Covered viewing area for the tennis courts with existing concessions area converted to storage space.
- Covered viewing area with seating and access to both the park and pool. Upper deck level a potential sunning area and observation point, notion of additional deck space.
- Better bathroom/changing areas.
- Improved ADA access to the pool via the Loop de Loop to Parkdale Way.
- Maintains the historical park plan.
- Maintains existing pool.
- Maintains view through to the park from the pool.

## Cons

- ADA wheelchair/stroller access to the pool still not direct.
- Difficult access for resurfacing of Tennis Courts and Pool Chemicals delivery maintained through the park.
- Diminishes some field area affecting T-Ball.

Cost: \$780,900

# Scheme C



## Pros

- One park vs. Two separate areas.
- Improved grade relationship positively affecting access into the area and movement within the area.
- Multiple additional access points including a mid-block access point to both the Pool and the Park.
- Paved nature trail with additional steps.
- Improved and unified clubhouse, poolhouse and storage building appearance.
- Improved overall appearance.
- Covered viewing area for the tennis courts with existing concessions area converted to storage space.
- Clubhouse provided with easy grade changes.
- Better bathroom/changing areas.
- ADA accessibility to the pool is direct.
- Access is provided for mowing, and resurfacing of tennis courts.
- Can be developed to recreated the historical character of the area.
- Maintains existing pool size.
- Creates view through to the park from the pool.

## Cons

- Cost
- Most disruptive to existing layout.

Cost: \$1,294,600

Bring your Easter Basket to  
the  
Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

The Easter Bunny is coming to Brookwood Hills Park on Saturday, April 15th. The hunt will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. and all neighborhood children are invited. The younger children will hunt in a separate area reserved especially for them. Patti Junger of Coldwell Banker/Buckhead Brokers is once again generously sponsoring this popular event. If you are interested in helping, please call Diane John 4-870-0484 or Peggy Hatcher 4-815-1235. In the event of rain, the hunt will be held on Sunday, April 16th at 4:00 p.m.

## BWH Alta Team Shines!

By Alan Simons



The Brookwood Hills mixed doubles team won the Atlanta A-5 City Championship on March 12 with a sweep of positions 1,2 and 3 without losing a set! Shown above are team members (left to right): Captain Melanie Dixon, Cheerleader Cate Simons, Alan Simons, (middle row) Tracy Kennedy, Susan McDavitt, Jennifer Brooks, Tonya Spivey, (back row) Adam Polakov, Michael Shirley, John Breton, John Tyers, David Miller, Paul Pacevick, Eric Viberg and J.P. Gingras.

# CALENDAR

**Membership dues** must be paid in full by **March 27, 2000** to avoid a late fee.

The 2d Annual **March Madness Basketball Tournament** will be held **Saturday, April 1**, in the park. Interested persons should contact Rob Donovan at [Rob@highlandsprogram.com](mailto:Rob@highlandsprogram.com) or call 4-872-9974 ext.52. See Insert.

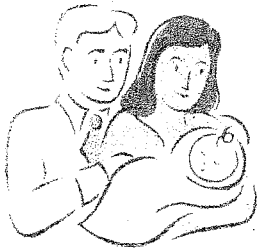
The next **BWH Board Meeting** will be **Monday, April 3, at 7:15 pm** at the home of Jean and Kevin O'Halloran, 41 Camden Rd. All members are welcome. Please call the O'Hallorans at 4-352-0802 if you plan to attend.

The annual **Easter egg hunt** in the park will be held **Saturday April 15 at 4:00 pm**

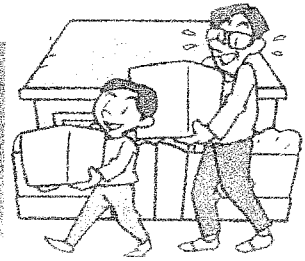
The next **BWH Friends' meeting** will be held **Tuesday, April 25, 2000, at 6:30 pm**, at the home of Binney Granade. The meeting will cover final preparations for the Symphony in the Park and as well as Board nominations. Persons interested in joining BWH Friends should call Kem Lee at 4-892-3406.

BWH Friends will be holding a **Symphony in the Park** to benefit Childrens' Healthcare of Atlanta on **Sunday, May 7, from 5:00-8:00 pm**. See insert for details.

The semi-annual **Park Clean-up** will be held on **Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon**. More details to follow in the May issue of *Brooknotes*.



## New Faces By Sarah and Patti



The **Johnston** family recently moved into 233 Camden Road from their former home in Peachtree Heights East. **Bill** is an investment banker for Wachovia Securities and **Kim** is a second grade teacher at Lovett, where their son **Will** is in the pre-K class.

The **Loughran** family is moving to Brookwood Hills from Morningside. **Lee, Trey, Joe** (age 2), new baby sister (due any day now), and **Boo** (their dog) will soon be moving into their new home at 201 Brighton Road. **Trey** works for Global Food Exchange., and **Lee** is with McKinsey & Company. They look forward to settling in and getting to know their new neighbors.

The **Speeds** -- **Stewart, Erica, Isabelle** (age 3), and baby brother **Warner** (8 mos.) -- have moved into their new home at 172 Huntington Road from Jackson Mississippi. **Erica** is a second generation BWH resident: both she and her father grew up on Wakefield. **Erica** is a Lovett and UGA grad, and is now a full time mom. **Stewart** grew up in Jackson, and works for Southeast Capital Partners.

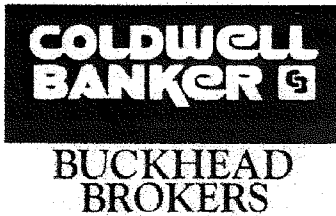
# CLASSIFIEDS

**Neighborhood Young Adults** who would like to be considered for a job at the Brookwood Hills pool, as a lifeguard or in the snack bar, for this summer should call Swim Atlanta at 770-992-7665.

**Housekeeper wanted:** Looking for housekeeper 2 days/week for cleaning, laundry, and errands. Please call Kelley Berman (36 Wakefield) at 404-351-2224.

**For sale: Saab 900 S (1996).** 4 door. Black with tan cloth. 5 speed, sunroof, 6CD changer, power doors & windows. 38,500 miles. Great condition. \$13,900. Contact Sandy Draper at 4-367-5472.

**Wanted:** Part-time office help for retired businessman (4 – 8 hours per week, flexible). Prefer computer literate. Great job for student or stay-at-home mom. Call Grady Black (Libby Simons's dad) at 404-355-1357.



**BROOKNOTES**  
sponsored by your neighbor  
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