



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

November 1994, Vol. VIII, No. 10

Work Day Dresses Up the Park

by Sarah Ellen Love
Park Committee Chair



A strong core of neighbors turned out on a beautiful Fall Saturday (November 9th) to help refurbish the park. Many necessary projects were tackled, saving the Community Club money that would have had to come from member dues. We owe a thank you to those neighbors who helped, as the park is one of Brookwood Hill's greatest assets. All of our individual property values are enhanced when the park looks its best. The volunteers included: Alison and Wright Caughman, Barbara Croft (pictured above with helpers Erskine Love and Caitlin Weems) and Dave Forquer, Terry Comer, Linda and Hank Harris, Paige Hayes, Jimmy Henderson, Jane and Sheldon Jeter, Clark Landers, Mary Long, Sarah Ellen and Jimmy Love, Elizabeth and Mike Nadal, Barbara and Chuck Slick, Herron Weems, and Lee and Pelham Wilder. Sheldon Jeter is due a special vote of thanks. After completing several jobs that required carpentry skills, Sheldon single-handedly repaired the water fountain which had been broken for some time. The Community Club plans to sponsor a work day once each year, so watch for the Fall 95 announcement and plan then to give back to our park a small token of thanks for the great contribution it makes to our quality of life.

Inspect Sidewalk Trees

by JoAnn Hagaman
Trees Committee Chair

The trees which lie in the green space between the street and the sidewalk belong to the City of Atlanta. It is the City's job to prune and maintain them. Please look at your city trees and check for any of the following trouble signs: large dead limbs; a trunk which leans more than a few degrees; large or profuse fungus-type growth; rotting at the root (sidewalk) level.

If you would like to have the City check your tree or trees, leave your name, address, and potential problem list in my mailbox (115 Palisades) or call me at 876-2606. (Note: the phone number in the neighborhood directory is incorrect.) I will shortly be writing the City a formal letter listing the properties we would like them to inspect.

Christmas House Revisited

Christmas House, a benefit for the Alliance Children's Theatre, is a magnificent English Georgian residence open to the public November 27 - December 4. This year's selected home is Knollwood, located at 3351 Woodhaven Road. Over 30 noted interior designers, decorators, architects, landscapers and florists have elaborately decorated each room (as well as the exterior) with live Christmas trees, inspired by the theme "Spirit of Dickens." Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. Christmas House will be open Sunday, November 27, noon to 7:00 p.m.; Monday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 4, noon to 8:00 p.m.

Olympic Rental Update

The first meeting of neighbors considering renting their homes during the Olympics was held October 21st. It was agreed that a packet containing a list and description of homes that might be available should be sent to several brokers who have contacted Brookwood Hills residents. It was also agreed that, at this stage, interest in no way implies commitment. If you are interested in pursuing this, contact Mary Lynn Eckl, 348 Camden Road, at 351-9876. If you already left a message for Mary Lynn but did not get a response, please try her again. The infamous answering machine virus invaded her home last month, resulting in some lost messages. Also, Mary Lynn will be happy to add the names of additional potential broker/agents to the current list.

Buckhead Baseball Already?

Parents with children interested in playing Buckhead baseball this Spring, it is time to sign up for the program. If you have a 1994 player returning for the 1995 season, or if you have a sibling of a returning player, the deadline is December 1st for getting in your registration materials. Also, siblings of children who played last year but who are not playing this year are eligible to enroll at this time.

Open registration for new children (not those in the paragraph above) will be held on Saturday, January 7th at the lower field press box at Frankie Allen Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Open registration will be limited to the maximum number of player slots open in each league. For any age group for which there are more applications than slots available, the league will conduct a random lottery involving all open registrants of that age group.

The league also sponsors a Challenger Program for children 6 to 18 with physical or mental disabilities, or for any child who might benefit from this type of team. If you are interested or know of anyone that could benefit from this experience, contact Janis Pease at 876-5019.

The Tee League, which is for children age 6 and 7, assigns teams on the basis of geography, using zip codes. In the past, Brookwood Hills children sometimes have ended up being assigned to teams with the 30309 zip code, but outside the neighborhood. Parents who are interested in their child or children (boys and girls) playing on a Brookwood Hills T-Ball team this Spring, please contact Team Manager Lee Robinson (875-3631) or Coach Wright Caughman (355-7662) prior to December 1st. They will try to coordinate placement of all Brookwood Hills children on our team. Since the team practices in the neighborhood park, this makes for a golden opportunity to cut down on afternoon carpooling!

You're Invited to Come

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, December 5th, at 7:00, at the home of Alison and Wright Caughman, 200 Camden Road. In order for them to have an idea of how many people to expect, if you would like to attend, please call Alison or Wright at 355-7662. All members of the Community Club are welcome.

November Cultivations: A Thanksgiving Digression

by Daphne Coley for the Brookwood Hills Garden Club

From their inception, cities have been artificial constructs, masses of people huddled together as a giant diversion from the natural order. In ancient times, people banded together for shelter from the unknown terrors of the wild and the dark aloneness of the night. Unfortunately terror and aloneness have nothing to do with place. The two conditions are occupants of the heart.

The growth of community-dwelling societies began in the Neolithic Era. The nomadic hunters and gatherers generally followed the same route each year. Through animal and human droppings (euphemism) the seeds of their favorite foods would lay dormant, only to sprout and flourish upon their return the next year. Then some early Mensa member with a bad back decided that staying in one place was preferable to all that stooping to gather and bending to hunt. That family chiseled out an opening in the rock, planted a few seeds, and set up camp. A crude system of agriculture began. Soon other families followed and a community started.

The Neolithic Revolution is one of the real turning points in history. Humans moved from "subsistence, no-growth, egalitarian, matriarchal, Earth-centered, goddess-worshipping, cyclical, mobile societies who were dominated by their environments to progressive, growth-oriented, hierarchical, patriarchal, sun-god-worshipping, ones." Definite territories were established. As these ex-hunters and gatherers settled in, the old nine to five cities grew and standing armies formed to protect them. Written language emerged as a primitive forerunner to Brooknotes. Technology became more and more sophisticated and there was a division of labor. Humans increasingly imposed their will on the environment. Industrialization helped mass humanity in even tighter quarters. Workers had to live close to their jobs. Soon urban enclaves spilled over to the suburbs and urban sprawl began. Metropolitan centers gobbled up more and more counties.

We live like clans in these giant communities of people. Each neighborhood represents a geographical area with a certain homogeneity of self interest. Like the bear clan of old, the Brookwood Hills Clan protects its territory. We stoke our home fires and nurture our young. We hunt and gather through the supermarkets, department stores, and the vast array of goods and services some of the other clans offer. Sometimes we have to go to the fitness clan's gym to work off this largess.

In modern society the interconnections are more complicated than in the Neolithic Era. We belong to more clans and have more allegiances. We can belong to the Brookwood Hills Clan, a professional clan, a church clan, an ALTA clan, and many others along the way, without really infringing on any loyalty. Computers, car phones, and facsimile machines have made the world one big easy access. We can lie on the beach at Pawleys Island and talk to Hong Kong and San Francisco simultaneously. Our cave has gotten a lot bigger. What happens to someone else has a greater impact on us because of all this interconnectedness. We know more about our neighbors. In some ways our society is like one big organism lumbering down the evolutionary path.

Drug pushers don't haunt the corners of Brookwood Hills. There aren't any crack houses. Drive-by shootings aren't here. They are down the way, where another part of the organism lives. The same human stock lives there, but the conditions that formed them are rawer, closer to physical survival. Violent crime is humanity turned in on itself. It is a way that society discharges some of its basest and most animalistic emotions. It is survivorship at its crudest. The hierarchy of the dogs eating the dogs with the Alpha male on top. It is driven by the basic fear of death. If we can be on top or near the top we will survive. Every part of society shares these instincts. With our middle class insulation, it may be harder for us to claim this part of our humanity. It is not a truth that one readily wants to acknowledge.

All these thoughts came about one afternoon as I enjoyed a nice mother-daughter talk with my daughter. We sat in front of the tall, clear windows in her room, freely discussing some important teenage topic. It was a vulnerable space, a moment of human closeness. As I listened, I watched the warm stream of sunlight play lazily with the dust motes. I was enjoying this time, a time to tuck away in my Mother Memory. (Continued on back page.)

Goblins Reign Supreme on Halloween

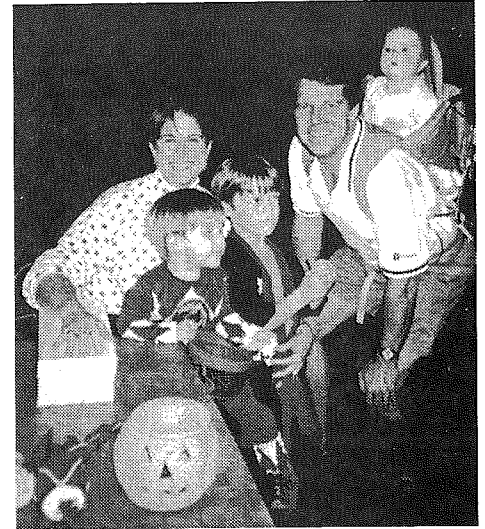
A surprisingly warm Halloween afternoon drew a great crowd of families to the park for pizza and soft drinks before the door-to-door trick-or-treating began in the neighborhood. A cleverly disguised Mary Long lead the children in a festive parade around the park. Many thanks to Laranne Oser and Chuck Wood of Dorsey-Alston Realtors, who generously provided the party with balloons, treats, candy, soft drinks, and paper goods. Thanks also to Jane Jeter and Janet Fredericks, who helped serve pizza, and to Linda Harris who photographed the event for Brooknotes.



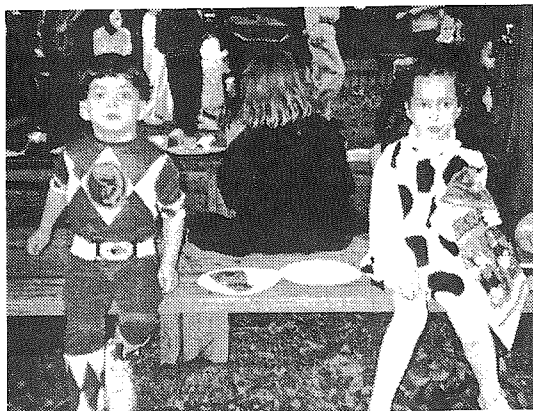
John and Caroline Robinson are ready to head out on the streets.



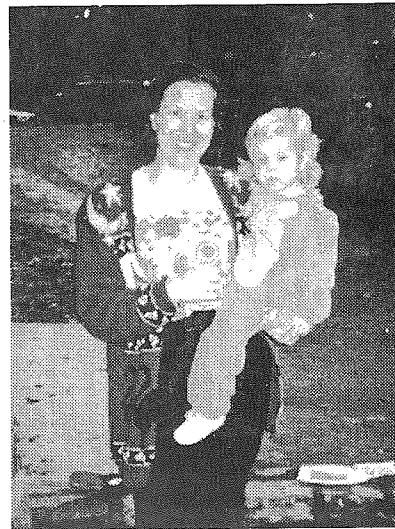
Jennifer and Claire Gambrell rest up for the hard work of trick-or-treating ahead.



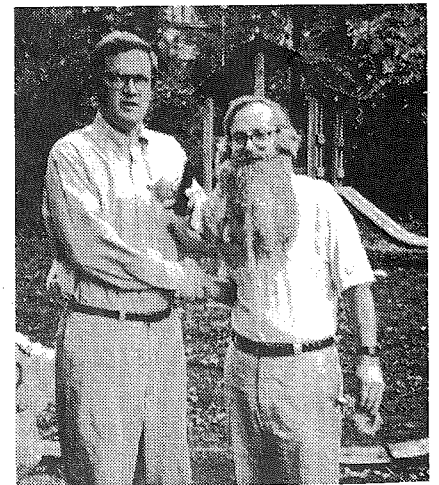
But where's Margy? Sarah Ellen and Jimmy Love pose with Walter, Erskine and Frank.



Everett and Caroline Nadal enjoy some pizza in the park.



Laranne Oser takes a break from organizing the party to visit with daughter Elle.



Hank Harris congratulates Randy Coley for getting in the Halloween spirit.

Twigs Barbecue



On October 16th Twigs held its Second Annual Barbecue in the Park. A big crowd enjoyed barbecue and hot dogs from Sonny's. A special treat for all the children was a surprise visit from Henrietta Egleston, an elephant who serves as mascot for the hospital. In the above picture, surrounding Henrietta are (seated on the ground): Leslie Peard, Jack Peard, Katie Long, Kathryn Hays, Alice Sample, Amanda Newton, and Carolyn Harris. Second row: Grace Lancaster, Margy Love, Caroline Nadal, and Carter Sample.

Welcome New Neighbors

Lynne and Michael McAlevey have moved in to 70 Huntington Road. They are expecting their first baby in March.

Lilla Costilla is the new owner of 68 Wakefield Drive, which is currently undergoing a major renovation.

Welcome to Mary and Phil Goode, together with children Julia (10), Ginna (9), Katherine (7), and Madeline (3).

Listen to History

If you're looking for something fun to do on a week-end or holiday afternoon, Marianne Mowry Gardner has produced an audio tape driving tour based upon the 1864 Battle of Peachtree Creek. The 25 minute tour is narrated by the ghosts of a Confederate soldier, a Union soldier, a nurse, and a young girl who lived on a nearby farm. The tour circles down Brighton Road and back up Camden Road before moving down Peachtree Road. The final stop is at Tanyard Creek Park. The tape is available for \$12.95 at Kings Drugs, Oxford Books, and The Atlanta History Center Museum Shops. For further information, call Ms. Gardner at 636-6204.

Classifieds

I am interested in "trading down" with someone whose family is growing and needs more space. I love my neighborhood and wish to stay here. 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Please call if interested. Teed Lowance, 873-3962.

Wreath Sale still in progress through BWH Twigs group. Wreath is 24" Noble Mixed Variety and will arrive in your home by the first weekend of December. \$18. Questions? Contact Mary Marsteller, 352-2388.

Going Away for the Holidays? Responsible 6th Grader saving money for class trip to Quebec. Will collect mail and newspapers, feed pets, water plants and roll trash cans to the street while you're gone Thanksgiving or Christmas. Pelham Wilder, 876-0716.

Part time job available. Flexible hours, excellent pay, office work, 3 hours 2-3 days per week. One block off Peachtree near Collier Road. Stock market Investment Analyst needs assistant with computer skills. Prepare research mailings, type letters on word processor, promote lodging reservations at Snow Resort, publish brochures, prepare/mail research papers, assemble seminar/stock market analysis reports. Apple/IBM available. 607-8080.

Thanksgiving (cont'd)

A flash of another memory, of the morning paper's headlines, tore at this languid cocoon. A young child had been shot as he lay sleeping in his bed, the victim of the toxic mixture of drugs and gangs. I started thinking about a mother in that housing project trying to have this same teenage conversation with her daughter. She can't sit in front of her windows. Her rooms can offer none of this comfort. Guns shoot bullets into these homes where children try to grow. Perhaps they could barricade themselves in a bathroom and feel safe. It wouldn't be the same. There would be no sunlight. The lazy intimacy would be marred by fear.

Fear brings out the base emotions, the emotions that kill. When we are powerless we live in fear. We resort to violence to mark our territory and protect our camp. We isolate ourselves from the other side and any sort of compromise or mutual well being becomes impossible. We operate on an animal level. We kill or are killed. Everyone is a victim.

Somewhere that mother's pain and grief came inside me. She wants the best for her child. I want the same for mine. The odds are against her. The odds are against her child. It always hurts when this most human of connections, the love of a mother for her child, grows on hard, spent ground. I wish I knew how to support that mother in her mothering. Her burden is too heavy. Her underpinning is too weak. Her footing wavers. Her strength and courage are strained beyond my knowing. I can feel the echoes of her pain. I can sense the hopelessness in her cry. She and I will always be joined, quietly, the way women are joined. We are part of the same circle. I see her child with my mother eyes and I weep.

This Thanksgiving I will eat a second helping of turkey and relish the warmth of family and friends. Guilt is not a helpful emotion in this process. In thinking about that mother, I think that I will put politics aside. She deserves my intentional respect. Understanding and love will also help -- and maybe a prayer or two.

Happy Thanksgiving to every part of the organism.

Conservation District Update

On Thursday, November 3rd, the City of Atlanta Zoning Review Board considered Brookwood Hill's request to be designated a "Conservation District." After waiting until nearly **11:00 p.m.** for our place on the agenda, Dave Forquer, President of the Community Club, and Nancy Swann, the tireless volunteer who has headed up the effort, spoke in favor of the resolution. It was passed unanimously and is expected to receive final approval by the City Council on November 21st.

Want to Get in Brooknotes ?

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes will be Friday, December 9th. Brooknotes submissions must be in writing and should be dropped off at Alison Caughman's house, 200 Camden Road. Occasionally someone will drop off an unsigned submission; you must include your name and address or phone number in order to have your item published. If you have any questions or problems regarding Brooknotes delivery, call Laura Inman at 352-5072.

The logo for Specialty Homes Inc. features the word "Specialty" in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below it, the word "Homes" is written in a smaller, similar cursive font, and "Inc." is written in a simple, sans-serif font at the bottom left of the logo.

BROOKNOTES

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Sarah Hagood

Owner / Broker

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