



# BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

Special Disaster Edition

October, Vol. IX, No.9



## OPAL UPROOTS BWH

In the early morning hours of Thursday, October 5, 1995, the storm of the century, Hurricane Opal, churned through Atlanta with sustained winds of 75-85 mph and gusts up to 100 mph. Many of our beloved water oaks succumbed to the storm, as winds slammed them onto power lines, slate roofs and parked cars. "Brookwood Hills was definitely one of the hardest hit neighborhoods in the city," said Ellis Stanley head of Emergency Management for the City of Atlanta. Unofficial estimates of downed trees numbered over 40, with at least 33 landing on houses.

Thursday morning those of us who actually slept awoke to find trees stretched across the streets, making virtually every road in the neighborhood impassable. With schools throughout the city cancelled, children scrambled into the branches of the fallen oaks. The line for hot coffee at The Original House of Pancakes wound down Brighton, filled with patient customers

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## BROOKNOTES

# Report From Our Trees Chairman

*Brooknotes* is published monthly for residents of Brookwood Hills on behalf of the Brookwood Hills Civic Association, 77 Wakefield Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. *Brooknotes* is sponsored by Patti Junger of Buckhead Brokers and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes Inc.

by JoAnn Hagaman, Trees Chairman

### Brooknotes Staff

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Robbin Churchill, JoAnn Hagaman, Laranne Oser, Sandra and Tom Player, Kay Summers, Madeline Hagaman

Photographs provided by: Kathy Bernhart, Mary Lyn Eckl, Katrina Newton

*Brooknotes* welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. Please join us, whether on a regular or sporadic basis.

### 1995 BWH Community Club Board

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The clean-up continues in Brookwood Hills to clear the terrible destruction caused by Hurricane Opal. We have all suffered, some more than others, but we can be thankful that no one was seriously hurt.

A subcommittee of Brookwood Hills neighbors is presently studying the twin issues of maintenance and reforestation. Part of the maintenance issue may involve the occasional elimination of diseased city trees with the homeowner's permission. There are lots of issues involved in reforestation, including but not limited to: maintaining the canopy effect, life span, root structure, adaptability during climatic changes, and, of course, the sources of the trees. The City of Atlanta, for instance, will donate up to 50 trees to a neighborhood a year, particularly if the neighborhood agrees to be responsible for the planting. A full report is due at the Board of Directors meeting in December.

Before the storm, the City agreed to come through the neighborhood and trim dead limbs from city trees and prune where necessary. Once the storm damage has been cleared, we hope that the City will be able to fulfill its promise. Please call me at 876-2606 and leave your name and property address if you are concerned about dead or broken limbs. City of Atlanta trees lie in the greenspace between the sidewalk and the street. It may take a while to get this done, but at least we can get on the waiting list.

Almost everyone has piles of dead limbs on the street. Jay Lowery, the City's Chief Forester and head of the Department of Parks and Recreation says that a massive clean-up effort for Brookwood Hills will focus on the

dates October 17-21st. All city services will cooperate to pick up limbs and storm debris. Please remove all such debris to the curb for pickup. Roll logs to the street if necessary.

Many thanks to the city crews who worked tirelessly to clear the storm damage. I believe that they did their best considering that the number of downed city trees exceeded 2,500. Many of the trees blocked main routes and threatened vital services.

Finally, feel free to call me at 876-2606 to discuss any additional thoughts on reforestation or maintenance.

### GASLINE REPLACEMENT

As most of you know, Atlanta Gaslight has contracted with Flint Construction to replace the old cast iron gas lines with poly-ethylene plastic which will be inserted into the old cast iron pipes. Brighton, Camden, and New Camden are not scheduled for work at this time, and it is not known whether those gas lines lie under the street or in the greenspace between the sidewalk and the street. The gas lines in the areas scheduled for work at this time lie in the street with two exceptions: Parkdale (on the park side) and Huntington (on the Armour Circle side) from Palisades to Wakefield. In these exception areas, gas lines are directly under city trees in the greenspace. Unfortunately, several trees on Huntington Road have been damaged, but the President of Flint Construction has agreed to stop work on these areas and to try to renegotiate their contract with Atlanta Gaslight to include gas reroutes in the greenspace areas. Flint Construction wants to promote a good working relationship *continued next page*

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with the neighborhood and to keep disruption to a minimum. If you have any problems, please contact one of the supervisors, Jeff Morris or Doyle Ford.

#### TREE TRIMMING

Asplundh Tree Service, the subcontractors for Georgia Power Company, should not be in the neighborhood trimming trees except to clear up any power lines affected by broken limbs or downed trees. They may find it necessary to cut away any limbs threatening the power lines. If you experience any problems with Asplundh, call me or call Tony Ward's beeper at 390-4331. Tony Ward is Georgia Power's chief forester for the Atlanta District. Georgia Power has agreed to do a general trimming every three years.

#### Editor's Note:

Mary and Jack Heisel, whose oak tree was disturbed by the work of Flint Construction expressed to *Brooknotes* their gratitude for JoAnn Hagaman's hard work on this issue. "JoAnn has acted like a real CEO. She has just been super," said Mary.

## CLASSIFIEDS

- **Found.** Men's sport watch found Wed. Oct. 4th (day Opal hit) on west sidewalk of Montclair. Call 874-3254. Barbara Croft.
- **Free.** Animal hutch. Call Anne Slick, 872-9393.
- **Apartment Needed.** Single Woodward Academy Teacher/Coach seeks small private rental in Buckhead/Brookwood Hills area. Looking for efficiency, carriage house, garage type accommodations. Call Scott Crook, 763-3814. For references call Lisa Bankoff, 355-9795.



### "I Thought I Came From The Cabbage Patch"

The punkin in this picture is Burgess Foster, who seemed somewhat puzzled to find herself in a patch of pumpkins. The patch was, of course, part of the Great Pumpkin Patch Give-Away the weekend of October 13-15, sponsored by Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

## Neighbors Unite (To Clean Out the Fridge)

by Robbin Churchill

Elaine and Jerry Luxemburger's front patio was the site for an Upper Palisades and Montclair Road gathering the Friday night after OPAL. With baby strollers, dogs, barbeque grills, wine, paper plates, glasses and bags of food in hand, the neighbors rallied round to compare storm stories and to have some serious fellowship. BOY - did we ever NEED it. The invitation slapped on neighbors' doors read - "Clean out the fridge, B.Y.O. everything, meet and greet at 6:30." I'm here to report that your neighbors harbor a wealth of gourmet products in their fridge/freezers. Shrimp, beer, tenderloin, quiche, tomato and brie salad, spicy quesadillas, homeshot and marinated quail (thank you Pelham Wilder), blueberry pie, and lemon pound cake appeared on the tables. Eat your heart out Bon Appetit.

The organizers, Elaine Luxemburger, Flo Dawson and your reporter spent about 1/2 hour rallying the troops, setting up card tables, lighting the candles, putting ice in the coolers and the rest....Great fun and camaraderie...Just happened... We need to package the OPAL party--without the OPAL part.

The success of Brookwood Hills Garden Club Auction April 12, 1996 is now more important than ever with the loss of our beautiful trees and damage to our neighborhood landscaping. PLEASE REMEMBER that all appropriate donations of items, (vacation homes, event tickets, services, etc.) that help us raise money during our auction will directly benefit us all in the neighborhood. Call Sandra Player at 352-9253 with your donations as soon as possible.

# INSURANCE INSIGHTS

by Sandra and Tom Player

Sandra and I found that putting the pieces back together when your home has been in contact with one of our beloved oaks (don't those suckers look BIG on the ground?) requires a mix of patience and perseverance. Sometimes the most expedient method of keeping the roof on and water out violates the architectural and aesthetic character of our neighborhood and your distinctive home. You don't have to settle for a quick fix.

When a big oak caused roof, structural and interior damage to our home at the corner of Camden and Wakefield in late February of this year, we experienced many of the ups and downs you will no doubt experience in getting your home back to normal. What follows are some observations, which for the most part are based on common sense. Being a lawyer did me little good in the process and our comments here come not from us as a lawyer and his wife but as your neighbors.

Contractors with roofing experience, especially with expertise in the older roofing materials used on many of the Brookwood homes, are few and far between. Get specific references and check them out.

You are not bound to use the contractors recommended by the insurance company and you are not bound to use the contractor with the lowest bid if you are uncomfortable with the contractor's credentials or experience on a job like yours.

Make sure your contractor has adequate liability coverage and workers compensation coverage should one of his workers be injured on your

job. Your insurance company can assist you in making this inquiry. Get a copy of the contractor's policies to pass on to your insurance adjuster for review.

Always get a written contract for repair. Some of the elements are: total price or repair, use of new, first quality materials, time limits for making repairs (good if you can get it), scope of repairs (what condition will premises be returned to you: removal of all debris?) insurance covering the contractor (discussed above) and his continuing guarantee of workmanship and materials.

Read your insurance policy. Ask your agent, who is YOUR agent, to give you as the insured his or her assessment of coverage most beneficial to you.

Most insurance adjusters are fair and competent. If in your opinion yours is incompetent or if the personal chemistry is all wrong, ask for his supervisor. Either request that you deal with the supervisor (which in my experience results in the most professional payment of the claim) or another adjuster with experience in older neighborhoods.

Many times materials needed to repair our older homes are more expensive than materials needed to repair newly built homes. You do not have to accept short cuts. For example, if you have plaster and don't want it walled-over with sheet rock, you can insist upon the repair of the plaster.

If your home took a "direct hit," you may want to engage a structural engineer in addition to your contractor to examine for structural damage which may not be apparent. Your insurance policy would cover this cost, but confirm this with your adjuster.

Make a list of all losses, whether you believe they may be covered by insurance or not. For example: personal property, such as clothing, which must be replaced or cleaned; water damage occurring because of the hole in the roof; or, landscaping damage caused by heavy equipment moving onto your property. Armed with your list, discuss each item of loss with your agent or your adjuster and satisfy yourself as to coverage according to a reasonable interpretation of your policy.

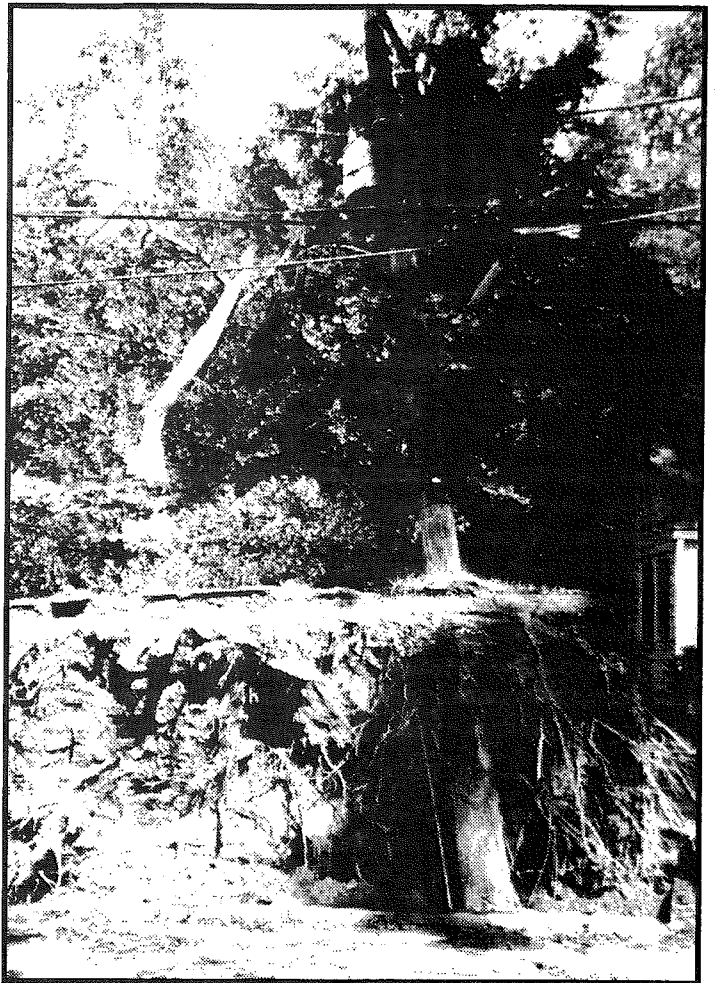
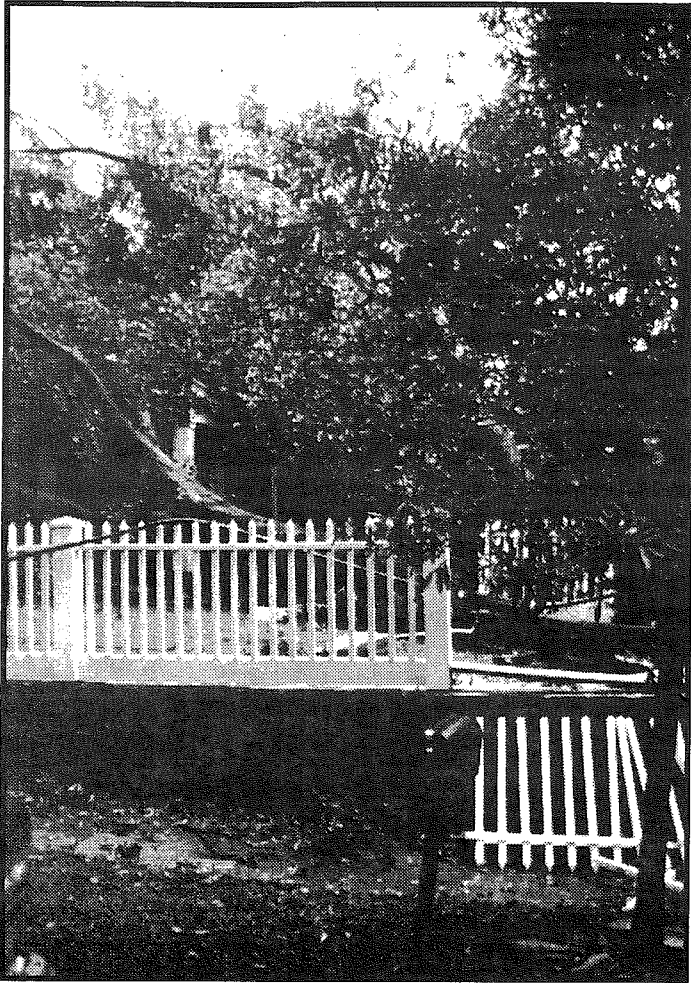
Almost always there are some losses which can be interpreted either way, covered or not. My recommendation is not to concede that a disputed loss is not covered until you understand the total extent of your losses and the total extent of your proposed coverage. Then you can "trade out" the disputed items.

You should not be required to give a release from any future liability in return for payment from your insurer. The adjuster may ask you to sign a "Proof of Loss." If so, you should indicate this to be an interim itemization of known losses at the time of signing not precluding recovery from the insurer if further losses from the accident become known.

For those with very high deductibles or substantial uninsured losses, it is my understanding that we will be designated a Federal Disaster Area which allows you to apply for a long-term low interest federal disaster loan. It is my impression that such a loan is not underwritten according to your financial condition. [Editor's Note: Federal Aid Number on p.6]

If you feel your insurance company is being unreasonable or uncooperative, I suggest you call and file a formal complaint with the Georgia Department of Insurance. Their number is 656-2056. While they won't "take sides" in a genuinely disputed claim, they will usually assign an investigator who will determine if the insurer is being responsive to you as a consumer.

Good Luck!



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who had no other place to go. Those few who refused to let a hurricane keep them from work climbed around debris in their business suits, heading for Marta while talking on their cellular phones. Neighbors gathered to gape at the hole burned in the asphalt by a live wire on Montclair and to shake their heads sadly over the remains of the white picket fence painstakingly constructed by Ken Stricklin around his front yard. For once, the sound of chain saws brought cheer to our hearts as clean-up began. Blue tarps joined blue skies over Brookwood.

Still and all, the night of the storm was a night of small miracles. No one was seriously hurt. Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam were out of town when a tree demolished their bedroom at 64 Wakefield. Two porches parked in the driveway at 81 Wakefield rested safely under the canopy of tree limbs teetering above. A chimney stopped a tree

from crashing into Kay Whipple's bedroom at 52 Brighton where she and her two children had taken refuge. Most miraculous of all was John Adler's discovery. When his neighbor on Huntington Road didn't answer her door the morning after the storm, John, a rock climber, climbed the oak that had toppled into her bedroom. He found her bruised but otherwise unhurt, pinned in her bed underneath the fallen roofing debris. Once the debris was lifted, she climbed out of her bed and walked away.

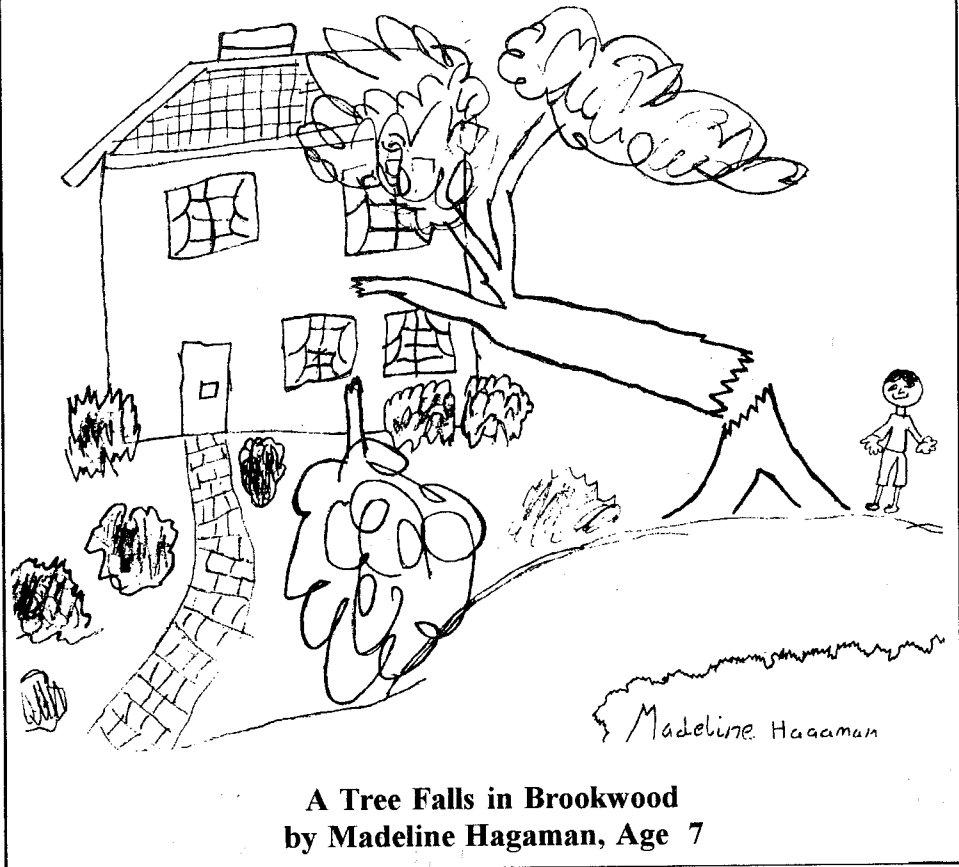
Opals are known to be bad luck to everyone except those born in October, for whom opal is the birthstone. For many of us, Hurricane Opal proved to be equally unlucky, especially as it seemed drawn to those of us who had just finished new additions. It afflicted us in other ways, as well. Elizabeth St. John advised her husband and tenants to move their cars out of the way of a certain tree. The result: a different tree from the neighbor's yard squashed all four. At Jean and Brown Dennis's house, the guests had started to arrive for daughter Julie's wedding on Saturday. Jean scrapped plans for the elegant dinner she planned to serve her fourteen guests on Thursday night. The revised menu? "Cold cuts!" said Jean. "And we had to go to Macon to buy them."

Larre Halliday refused to watch while the 65-ton crane parked in the front yard of her home at 41 Palisades reached over the roof for the great oak that had fallen in her back yard. All was going well until the crane lurched forward from the weight of the tree. The operator dropped the tree onto the house. The tree glanced off the roof, ripped off some of the gutters and hit a retaining wall. "At least it didn't take out my patio or my husband," said Larre. The damage to the house was surprisingly minimal. "This showed us that this house is built like a fortress," she said.

For at least four days after the storm, most residents made do without electricity, phone service, and that most important utility of all, cable TV. ("I really haven't missed the sound of that clicker in Sheldon's hand," said Jane Jeter.) Neighbors shared food from their freezers to cook on gas grills and gas stoves, and made new friends as they viewed the common tragedy on walks through the streets. All of us tried to find the silver lining. "This is great," said my son Sam, surveying the crushed car in our driveway. "We get to get a new car." "Sam," his older sister Kate patiently explained. "That was the new car."

Betsy Crosby

Ellis Stanley, head of Emergency Management for the City of Atlanta, urges all residents to report their damages from Hurricane OPAL so that we may qualify for federal aid as a Presidential Declared Disaster Area. You can be insured but still qualify for low interest FDA loans for your home or business, especially if you are on a fixed income. Call 1-800-462-9029.



**A Tree Falls in Brookwood**  
by Madeline Haggaman, Age 7

# BROOKWOOD BUZZ

A number of new neighbors have moved into Brookwood Hills since last spring. So that we could introduce them in *Brooknotes*, Laranne Oser set about calling each to get some vital statistics. Despite having a phone out of service, and finding many others in similar circumstances, Laranne was able to contact the majority. If we have missed someone, please let us know. Welcome to the following:

**91 Huntington 876-2031**

**Tom and Renee Quinn** were married two weeks ago. Renee is from Vero Beach, Florida, and will work at Rockdale Hospital as a management engineer. Tom, an Atlantan, is a general contractor and has his own firm, T.E.Quinn. They have a sheltie named Maggie.

**155 Huntington Road 892-2076**

**Bob Sheppard and Howard Smith** have moved into 155 Huntington. Bob is the assistant Executive Director of the Golden Key National Honor Society. Howard, an avid tennis player, has relocated from Los Angeles and is a sales manager for Howmedica.

**226 Huntington 870-0484**

**Roland and Diane John** met in the MBA program at Indiana University. Following graduation, they lived three years in Germany, Roland's native country. Roland's hobby is photography and Diane has taken up jogging. Their jobs keep them on the road: Roland is with McKinsey & Company and Diane works in marketing at Coca-Cola.

**50 Woodcrest 873-0023**

**Mike and Dana White** have two children: Caroline, age 2, and Jimmy, 10 months. The Whites also have a dog named Floyd, who is half-basset/ half-cocker. Dana is a realtor with Harry Norman, and Mike is an attorney with Sirius Systems, a software company.

**56 Woodcrest 888-9501**

**Richard and Jill Perkey** and their two-year-old son Connor moved to their home at 56 Woodcrest in August. Jill is in the organizational development department at First Union, and Rich is with Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm.

**53 Camden Road 355-1831**

**Marcie and Jay Bowen** were married July 15. Jay is an investment counselor and President of Bowen Hanes & Company. Marcie is a self-employed interior designer from the Nashville area.

**233 Camden 351-7277**

**Page and Alan Dickens** moved from Winston- Salem so that Alan could complete a Fellowship in Ophthalmology at Emory. They have a daughter Taylor, 18 months, and another baby due in November. Both Page and Alan love dogs, especially their golden labs, Sam and Abby.

**347 Camden 351-0938**

**Tom and Stella Martin** are native Atlantans returning after six years in Macon. Tom is chief financial officer of Taracorp, Inc. Stella runs her own import business, a result of the years she and Tom spent in Hong Kong. They have two sons: Everett, who is in the sixth grade at Westminster, and George, who is in the third grade at the Wardlaw School.

**399 Camden**

**Mary Garneau** has just moved from Collier Hills. She works as an employee benefit consultant with Buck Consultants, enjoys jogging and has two dogs--Katie and Clementine.

**152 Brighton 355-6329**

**Bob and Margie Pastor** are back in Atlanta, having lived most recently in

Mexico. Bob is an Emory professor who works with the Latin American Caribbean Program at the Carter Center. Their children, daughter Tiffin (15) and son Kip (13), attend Pace.

**68 Wakefield 876-3797**

Married in March, **Bert and Diane Light** are native Atlantans with two cats, Mookie and Sweet Pea. Bert and his brothers are co-owners of Art Lite Office Supply.

**84 Palisades 870-0388**

**Sandy Wilcox and Joel Kuritsky** and their daughters Nikki (10) and Jocelyn (14) moved here in August from Bolivia where Joel, an epidemiologist, was on loan from the CDC. While in Bolivié, both Sandy and Joel worked for programs sponsored by USAID to promote child survival, population control and AIDs prevention. Nikki and Jocelyn miss the small-town atmosphere of La Paz, but are enjoying Paideia School.

**110 Palisades 888-9123**

**Suzanna and Peter Cullen** moved into their newly renovated home with their 14-month old son George mid-September. Three weeks later OPAL put a tree through their bedroom window. Suzanna grew up on Camden and is a partner with her mother in the Levison-Cullen Gallery at 2300 Peachtree, which specializes in 18th and 19th century American antiques. Peter is a Health Care Consultant with Peat, Marwick.

**40 Northwood 874-2996**

**Molly and Mark Padilla** are in the process of renovating their new home by themselves. Molly is the Atlanta Journal and Constitution Sports Marketing Manager and is involved with the AJC Olympic plans. Mark is an attorney with GTE.

## Card File

Atlanta City Council 330-6030 (We are in District 7. Lee Morris is our councilman.)

Trees - Dept. of Parks (Jay Lowery 817-6754 or Susan Newell 817-6814)

Dead Animals - Dept. of Public Works (Claudette Brantley, 330-6250 weekdays, 523-0632 weekends)

Debris Removal -Dept. of Sanitation (Eddie Jacobs, 330-6250)

Hydrants - Bureau of Water (Stan Walling, 658-7220)

Street Lights - Dept of Public Works (Howard Harris, 330-6255)

Sidewalks - Dept. of Public Works (Jim Harden, 330-6087)

Stump Removal - Dept. of Public Works (658-7110)

Potholes - Bureau of Highways and Streets (John Griffin, 330-6245)

## WORD OF MOUTH

### Painter and Wallpaper Hanger

Greg Foster 768-1251

Great painter and wallpaper hanger! Greg Foster came highly recommended by several friends and has done a wonderful job painting and papering for us. He's honest, professional, works quickly and well. His father was a painter, and Greg is able to glaze windows properly, etc.

Laranne Oser, 204 Camden Rd., 351-4825

### NOTE:

WORD OF MOUTH also welcomes information regarding companies that our residents cannot recommend. Brooknotes received the following from Sandra and Tom Player of 90 Wakefield:

"Sandra and Tom Player cannot recommend the general contractor used by them, especially as to overseeing roof repair. The contractor is G&H Contractors, Dathon Mitchell, principal."

## Calendar

### ● October 26 Public School Forum

Forum of principals, teachers and neighborhood families from North Atlanta's public schools to answer questions about attending public school. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at North Atlanta H.S. Lecture Hall.

### ● October 29 Brookwood Girls

Join Brookwood Girls for a pumpkin carving at Berry Patch Farms. Meet at Brookwood Park at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Bring a snack, a blanket, a knife, markers and scoop for pumpkin carving, games (frisbees, etc.) and money to pay for your pumpkin. RSVP

to Robert Banta, 815-6394 by Oct. 27.

### ● October 31 Halloween Party

Laranne Oser and Chuck Wood of Dorsey-Alston Realtors are once again sponsoring the annual Halloween Party. Ghosts, ballerinas, witches and ninja warriors, come to the park at 5:00 p.m. for a parade and refreshments. Sodas and treats will be provided; cheese pizza will be \$1.00 a slice

### ● November 4 Park Clean-Up.

From 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come for a morning of gardening, camaraderie and refreshments at the annual Park Clean-Up. Call Laranne

Oser, 351-4825 to volunteer (or just show up!)

### ● Nov. 6 BWH Board Meeting

The next meeting of the BWH Board of Directors will be on Monday, Nov. 6, at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Jan and Mac Irvin at 40 Brighton. If you would like to attend, please call Mac or Jan at 351-2136. All Community Club members are welcome.

### ● Nov. 10 Brooknotes

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes is Fri., Nov. 10. Submissions should be in writing and should be dropped off at Betsy Crosbys house, 34 Brighton Road, 351-8821.



Buckhead Office 3650 Habersham Road Atlanta, GA 30305

## BROOKNOTES

*sponsored by your neighbor*

## Patti Junger

Broker Associate

237-5227(off) 872-3652(res)