



BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

September 1994, Vol. VIII, No. 8

Disputes Quiet After Favorable Rulings

by Mac Irvin

The past month has seen a lessening of disputes regarding zoning issues over the use of property adjoining Brookwood Hills. A public hearing scheduled for September 9th regarding a variance for 1923 Peachtree was canceled. The property is now for lease and no zoning petition is pending, according to city representatives.

Two lawsuits filed by the neighborhood have been active during August. On August 25th, an arbitration was conducted under the program administered by the Superior Court of Fulton County. The three-person arbitration panel ruled favorably for the neighborhood on the suit that challenged city action on two distinct issues: issuance of a liquor license and enforcement of zoning regulations regarding parking for a restaurant. The lawsuit had been filed in November, 1993, challenging the city's issuance of a liquor license to an establishment that lacked the required parking spaces. The zoning dispute hinged on a requirement that the Metropolis Cafe adhere to a 1978 requirement to provide a minimum of three off-street parking spaces.

An earlier lawsuit filed against the city over similar issues regarding the predecessor restaurant, Reggio's, recently was withdrawn by the neighborhood.

Neighborhood representatives are seeking to meet with city officials to work toward resolving the continued controversy over enforcement of existing regulations.

Great Job Available

After two years of serving as Brooknotes editor, Alison Caughman is stepping aside to let some lucky person in on the fun. The great advantage of this job is that the editor gets to find out about everything that goes on in the neighborhood. Talk about the potential for lining one's pockets with blackmail

Seriously, the search is on for someone to take over the job in February. Needed skills include being able to type, enjoying editing, and knowing how to use a word processing program on a computer. Brooknotes is currently produced on a Macintosh computer using Microsoft Word software and a Personal LaserWriter printer. (If someone out there has the skills but lacks the equipment, he or she could use the Caughman's computer and/or printer.) It takes about eight hours a month to produce an issue. On the assumption that no one out there is going to volunteer themselves, if you know someone with the ability and interest, please give Alison a call at 355-7662. **Strict confidentiality will be maintained as to where any names come from, so don't be shy about nominating your best friend!**

Big Olympic Bucks?

By now just about everyone has heard about the big money supposedly to be made by renting our houses out during the Olympics. The August 18th edition of The Atlanta Journal had an article filled with information and phone numbers for interested home owners. ACOG's official home rental operation is called Private Housing 1996 Inc. and can be reached at 455-0081. Other organizations which are listing homes and apartments are: FJB Corporation, 881-1244; Home Suite Home Brokers, 393-8383; Event Realty, 640-5596; and Gold Medal Realty, 955-1511. According to the paper, most realty companies in the area are also compiling listings. For those interested in renting on their own, without the use of a broker, there are several Olympic rental advertising companies, including: Home Connections, 447-0264; and 1996 Home Rental Catalog, 371-1103.

The Community Club Board of Directors has been asked to look into the Olympic rental situation and to explore whether it would be advantageous for Brookwood Hills neighbors to market their homes in some organized fashion. Mary Lynn Eckl (351-9876) and Elaine Moynihan (351-5479) will be working on this if there is sufficient interest. If you think it would be advantageous to have a meeting to discuss ideas, call Mary Lynn or Elaine so that they can gauge the level of interest within the neighborhood.

The Boys Get Organized

Brookwood Boys, the ad hoc neighborhood bonding organization for Brookwood Hills boys in Kindergarten through Third Grade, will be holding its first event -- a canoe trip on the Lower Chestatee River -- on Sunday, September 18th. The second adventure will be an overnight camping trip to Lake Alatoona on Saturday, October 22nd.

The current "Boys" roster includes Robert Bramlett, Howell Burke, Christopher Caughman, Sam Crosby, Timmy Daniel, Patrick Forquer, Michael Fox, Rafael Duralde, Hale Gunning, Spencer Hagaman, Adam Horton, Allen Inman, Jefferson Jeter, Erskine Love, Fisher Marietta, Charles Slick, Danny Sullivan, Brad Taylor, Bo and Pearson Weems, Ben Whipple, Andrew Wilder, and Clayton Niles.

If your son is not yet on the roster, please call John Horton at 351-6257 to be included in future events.

Welcome New Neighbors

Welcome to Dana and Mark Foley, who have moved in to 57 Camden Road and are expecting their first child in February. Mark works for Devices on Vascular Intervention (DVA).

Andrea and Terry Honroth have moved to 45 Brighton Road with their six year old son Drew, who attends Wesleyan Day School.

Neil Berman and son Taylor (age 9) have moved to 48 Northwood Avenue.

Mary Isabelle Stewart Potts was born July 19th. Mother Kelli, father Mark, and sister Lydia, who reside at 220 Brighton Road, are all delighted with their new addition to the family.

Bob Grunewald and Susan Young, together with son Christopher, all of 17 Camden Road, are celebrating the arrival of their second son, Nicholas, on July 26th. The Grunewalds, whose home sustained substantial damage from a fallen street tree just prior to Nicholas' birth, hope to be able to move back in soon.

Grace Marie McCollam was born to Kim and Steve McCollam, 138 Brighton Road, on August 22nd.

NAHS Grand Opening

Finally, after many months of delays and postponements, the totally renovated North Atlanta High School on Northside Drive is open. NAHS offers an excellent College Preparatory Program along with its two magnets, Performing Arts and International Studies. There will be an Open House on Sunday, September 18th, from 3:00 to 5:00, so that the community can see the facility's ten science labs, two language computer labs, a planetarium, two theaters, a dance studio, an ROTC complex, and numerous sports facilities.

A final Grand Opening event will be a Gala on Saturday, November 12th. This will be the first of what is hoped will become an annual fund raising occasion, with the objective of garnering alumni and other community support. Tentative plans include guided tours for guests by costumed International Studies students, followed by a catered dinner and entertainment. The proceeds from the Gala will be applied to the overall PTA fund raising effort, referred to as the Campaign for Educational Excellence. The goal for this new school year is \$160,000.

The State of the Neighborhood

by David Forquer, Community Club President

For several years I have heard outgoing Brookwood Hills Community Club Presidents comment on how easy their job has been, and that the presidency was really a convenient parking spot for those who might otherwise get in the way of progress. I have smiled many times this year thinking about those comments, as I have watched Board members and others do many, many wonderful things for our neighborhood.

As the summer comes to a close, we have much to be grateful for. Our swim season was free of serious injury and our staff, led by Board members Nancy Bramlett and Jim Porter, and Pool Manager Kathleen Roskopf, maintained the fun yet safe culture that makes our pool unique. There are no serious physical plant issues that we are aware of, although we continue to budget reserves for the major repairs that are sure to be needed in the future. Our tennis courts will soon have a net/curtain between the courts that will make it possible for balls to stay on the court from which they are hit.

We have earned a number of hard-fought zoning victories, the most recent being an arbitration verdict that may make it possible to prevent the 1923 Peachtree location from becoming a nightclub establishment again. These zoning battles have been led by Mac Irvin and the Family Leake, for whom there simply cannot be enough praise. We are commissioning a small area study by Street Smarts, an Urban Planning firm. The Board plans to use this study as a reference document in our negotiations with the city, as the inevitable requests for zoning variances on Peachtree Road come in. The city has indicated a willingness to work with us in this regard, and I am hopeful that this may mark the beginning of a more cooperative relationship with the Planning Bureau, the Bureau of Buildings, and Zoning Enforcement.

In a related zoning matter, Nancy Swann has spearheaded our application to become, once again, a conservation district. This will be an important piece of protection against zoning incursions in the future, without imposing significant restrictions on the neighborhood.

We also had a relatively crime-free summer. There have been several incidents of property crime, and while we would like to have had none, relative to other areas of the city we are very fortunate. Community Club sponsored security work by Barry Miller and his fellow officers help substantially in this regard.

At the beginning of the year, Community Club Treasurer Pelham Wilder and I sketched out a budget that contained a major assumption about our membership levels: that they would level off after five years of decline. I am pleased to report that not only have membership levels stopped their decline, but registered a slight increase compared with 1993. Please do not hesitate to hug Membership Chair Kathy Bernhardt for her tireless efforts to make this happen.

A, C, and D memberships are the critical source of revenue for the Community Club. (A members are BWH residents who use the pool and tennis facilities; C members live outside the neighborhood and use the pool and tennis courts; D members also live outside the neighborhood and use the pool.) How much money does it take to run your Community Club? This year, well over \$300,000! Roughly 60% (on a fully amortized basis) of this goes to the pool/tennis facility. The remaining \$140,000 goes to neighborhood services like security, property taxes, trees, maintenance on common property, communications and so on. This year we have enough money to fund these activities, but all is not well with membership. Pelham and I assumed that the A, C, and D memberships would remain at 1993 levels. What happened instead was that the C and D memberships increased by 23, and A membership declined by 17. B membership remained roughly at 1993 levels. Turnover within the A category was in keeping with the real estate activity within the neighborhood, with 46 members failing to renew and 29 joining. For the first time that I am aware of, less than 50% of the homes in the neighborhood are now A members of the Community Club. This, it seems to me, represents a significant change in the values we have traditionally shared as neighbors. The work of the Community Club supports our quality of life and our per square foot home values. If you are an A member, I encourage you to remain one. If you are a B member, think about becoming an A member in 1995 and fully support the work of your neighborhood. If you are not a member, please reconsider. We can stop the spiral of declining membership and increasing dues now, if everyone participates.

September Cultivations

by Daphne Coley
for the Brookwood Hills Garden Club

The month that I graduated from college started a particularly peculiar period of time. Dubbed "the summer of the wedding" by many of the unringed non-participants, it was a flurry of etiquette and hormones.

A dear friend of mine walked down the aisle in the splendid purity of white, attended by a sea of young women in muted grass green dresses. She married my childhood playmate, so this was a double nuptial for me. When she was settled, she invited me for dinner. Absolutely in awe of this married woman of four months, I asked her what the secret was. She said that she thought that candlelight dinners were important. Of course, she tried to wear her long hostess skirt (remember those?) but sometimes grocery shopping didn't give her enough time to iron it. Her husband, long-suffering man that he was, seemed to understand this minor shortcoming. The one missing item in an otherwise perfect existence was a rose garden. This would complete her picture of domestic bliss. Never one to let a little dirt stop her, she set about procuring this last necessary step.

Bright and early Monday morning she found a man with a tiller and a truck. By Thursday she had taken out any ordinary dirt and replaced it with what can only be called black gold. The holes had been dug. The roses were in place. She had chosen hybrid teas because that is what her mother had. Of course her mother had a full time gardener to go along with them, but this was the new generation. Were there any gardeners at Woodstock?

At first the roses were a source of great pride and joy. She would always ask if you had seen the new flowers if you entered through her back door. When the black spot began, she sprayed and hoped. Her friends knew that the front door was their only option now. It was just too humiliating to her if we passed by the stunted, gnarled vestige of her once impressive garden. After the spider mites, aphids, and thrips, the powdery mildew set in. A long, diligent battle was finally over. The roses were dug up by the same man with the truck and the tiller. He had the slightest glimmer of a cryptic smile as he carted off the last hybrid. It was all downhill from there. She was divorced within six months. She gave the long skirts to her younger sister, with the admonition that dried flowers were just fine. She put on a bathing suit and moved to the shore where she remains to this day without a rose in sight.

This year a horticultural friend asked if I wanted to order some antique, southern roses. She explained the wonderful inheritance our ancestors had left us in these heirloom roses. Part of her quest was to perpetuate this heritage. Even though everyone in my family wore Yankee blue in the Recent Unpleasantness, I was perfectly willing to do my share to make up for that indiscretion. She knew quite a bit about roses and carefully cataloged the different varieties for me. This one was good for cut flowers. That one could tolerate small bits of shade. This one was a particular favorite because it had been at her grandmother's house when she was a child. They all looked good to me. The color gradations were astounding. I chose the white Lady Banks' Rose (*Rosa banksia* "Alba Plena") for the front wall of the house. I couldn't decide whether to pot a "Marie Pavie" for the back steps or play it safe with Mermaid (*Hybrid Bracteata*) for a dramatic yellow effect on the wall.

Suddenly the specter of those twisted, barren stems shot through my mind's eye. That summer in all its youthful promise filled me. It was like rediscovering an old forgotten scrapbook mixed in with the discarded ashtrays and beer mugs from your first apartment. Seeing my friend's white dress innocence and naive sense of world order through adult eyes brought a certain jaded nostalgia. Her hybrid teas had been beautiful, but the strength of these old roses comforted me. They don't demand perfect soil and a meticulous caretaker. Besides their charm and beauty, they are tough. Their softly muted colors aren't as showy as their modern counterparts, which makes them more tolerable for the long haul. They have a wonderfully rich fragrance which slowly envelopes you as you walk through the garden. Insects are no match for lots of these hardy specimens. What better companion in our southern gardens than these antique roses? They have nobly flourished for a great many years, and will probably be here long after Brookwood Hills is annexed by Piedmont Hospital. Try to find a sunny spot in your yard for one of these roses. It's like making room for an old friend.

Spruce Up the Park

Saturday, November 9

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Neighbors, please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 9th to help clean up our park. Last year's Fall clean-up was a huge success. Over twenty-five people turned out to help. They enjoyed a beautiful day, great camaraderie, and accomplished many needed tasks.

Our plans for this year include spreading pine bark in the playground area, clearing the leaves in the pool area, pruning along the banks, clearing out the storage shed, and other much needed chores. We can provide a job for any level of interest, energy, or expertise. We can use both skilled and unskilled help. (The level of carpentry and technical expertise provided by some neighbors last year was a welcome surprise.) If you're not up to heavy yard work but want to help, we can use you -- supervising, providing refreshments, or even playing with children while parents are working.

If you have questions, suggestions, or are willing to be in charge of a group of workers assigned to a specific work station, please call Sarah Ellen Love (874-4036). This event offers you a great opportunity to visit with neighbors while doing something truly beneficial for our neighborhood. We look forward to seeing you there!

Halloween Pizza in the Park

Attention all Brookwood Hills goblins and parents! The annual neighborhood gathering will be Monday, October 31st, at 5:00 p.m. in the park. Laranne Oser and Chuck Wood of Dorsey-Alston Realtors have graciously agreed to sponsor this year's festivities which will include a parade, balloons, favors, drinks and some surprises. Pizza will be available for \$1 per slice.

Questions or suggestions? Call Sarah Ellen Love (874-4036.)

You're Welcome to Come

The next meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, October 3rd, at 7:00, at the home of Laura and Frank Inman, 318 Camden Road. In order for them to have an idea of how many people to expect, if you would like to attend, please call Laura or Frank at 352-5072. All members of the Community Club are welcome.

Tennis Update

by Bibbie Withers

We have exciting news for all Brookwood Hills tennis players. This week a new net to divide the courts will be installed. This will help during lessons and when beginners are on one court and more advanced players are on the other, as balls from the first court will be prevented from rolling on to the second.

There are two Boys ALTA teams now playing at Brookwood Hills. Their matches are every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 - 6:00 during September and October. Only one team practices at Brookwood Hills, on Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30.

A few reminders to all Brookwood tennis players:

- Please use the sign-up board and observe sign-up times.
- No rollerblading, skateboarding, roller-skating, or dogs are allowed on the tennis courts.
- There are new trash holders on each court. Please use them!
- Please remember to be courteous to players of all ages and abilities.

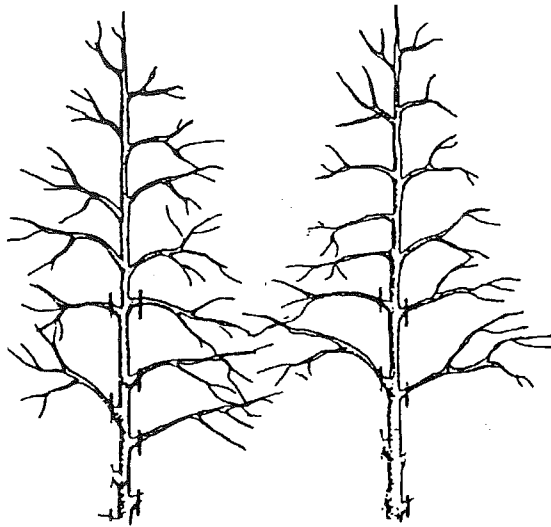
If we work together, we can all enjoy this wonderful asset to our neighborhood.

Great Pumpkin Give-Away

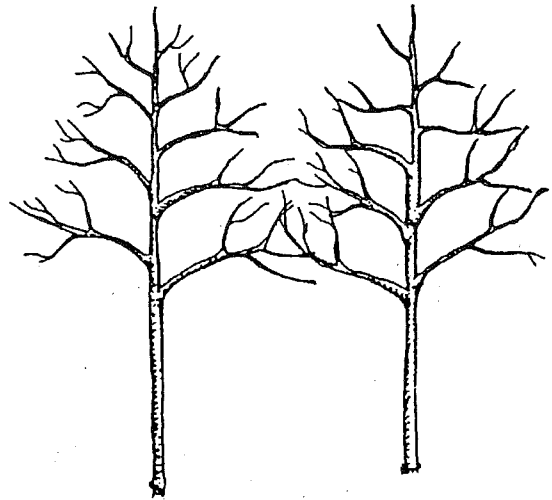
Sarah Hagood, your neighbor and owner/broker of Specialty Homes, Inc., wants you to join her in celebrating Fall and the upcoming Old Hallows Eve by picking a plump pumpkin from the GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH at Sarah's home -- 201 Huntington Road. This is the tenth year Sarah has made these pumpkins available for Brookwood Hills residents, and their cheery orange faces provide our streets with a festive Fall look.

Pumpkins can be picked up on Friday, October 14th, 3:00 - 6:00, Saturday, October 15th, 9:00 - 6:00, or Sunday, October 16th, 10:00 - 6:00. If you are out of town on this weekend, please come by as soon after your return as possible to claim your pumpkin. If you would like to have your pumpkin delivered to your home, please call 231-5678 and let Sarah know. Please, one pumpkin per family.

Pruning Young Trees



BEFORE



AFTER

Pruning is considered by many experts to be the most important phase of tree care. Some pruning is advisable, if only to remove dead or diseased branches. Most of our young willow oaks also need the lower branches pruned to encourage "canopy" type growth. Pruning of the type pictured in the above diagram encourages the tree to grow taller while remaining healthy, by pruning away the lower side branches to leave slender, straight trunks and overhead leaf canopy. It also helps to clear the sidewalk paths for pedestrian traffic. If you have pruning questions, please call JoAnn Hagaman at 876-2606.

Want to Get in Brooknotes ?

The deadline for the next issue of Brooknotes will be Friday, October 7th. 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.

Classifieds

Found: Before Labor Day, a man's watch near the tennis courts. Metal band. Call 874-3254.

Housekeeper/child care needed. 2 or 3 days a week for fun 5 month old girl. Call Laranne Oser, 351-4825.

Housekeeper available. Call Irene at 297-6686.

Responsible 15 year old available for babysitting on non-school nights/week-ends. Call Shirah Caughman, 355-7662.

*Specialty
Homes
Inc.*

BROOKNOTES

Sponsored by your neighbor

Sarah Hagood

Owner / Broker

231-5678