



BrookNotes

September 2010

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

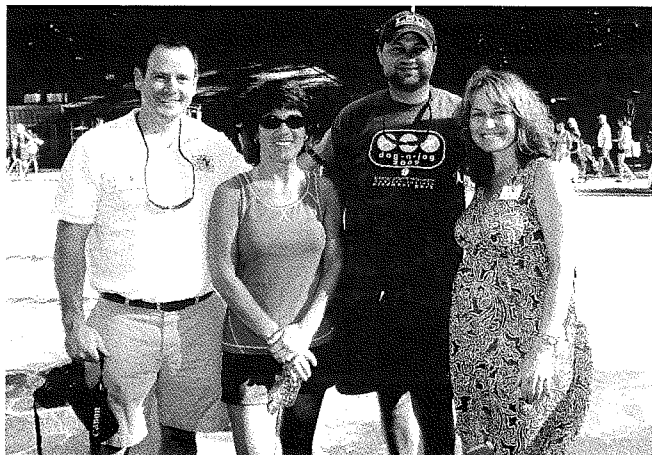
Volume XXIII, No. 9

BWH's 25th Annual Dog Swim

By Nathalie Fuson

Brookwood Hills' first annual dog swim occurred twenty-five years ago, with just six dogs in attendance. Now the event draws nearly every canine member of Brookwood Hills Community Club. Dogs, owners and non-dog owners alike turned out for Brookwood Hills' twenty-fifth annual dog swim on September 12th, the last day of the swimming-pool season. The dogs created a spectacle as some soared off the diving board after tennis balls (invariably, the labs and goldens were the first ones in the water and the last ones out) while others needed a little coaxing and reassuring from their owners before plunging into the water. Still others preferred not to swim at all, and played along the side.

This year's event was graciously sponsored by Dr. Duffy Jones of Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital. Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic offering personalized preventative care as well as state-of-the-art diagnostic capabilities for illnesses and emergencies. In addition to Dr. Duffy Jones, veterinarians include Doctors Keri Weyl and Edith Rogers, all of whom were in attendance at the dog swim. Dr. Jones, a native Atlantan, founded Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital in 2005, and many Brookwood Hills pets are regular patients of the veterinary clinic.



Dr. Duffy Jones, technicians Susan Brooks and Josh Ferenczy, and Dr. Keri Weyl of Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital

Peachtree Hills Animal Hospital is located at 2909 Peachtree Road, Atlanta 30305, phone # (404) 812-9880.

Preceding the dog swim there was the usual ice-cream social, which included an inflatable moon-walk and slide, and the train ride which the neighborhood children enjoy every year. A big thank-you goes out to the volunteers who helped serve ice-cream and clean up! Without their help this unique event that makes Brookwood Hills such a special place to live would not have been possible.

(For more pictures from the annual dog swim, please see page 7.)



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 Residential Brokerage and Sarah Hagood of Specialty Homes, Inc.

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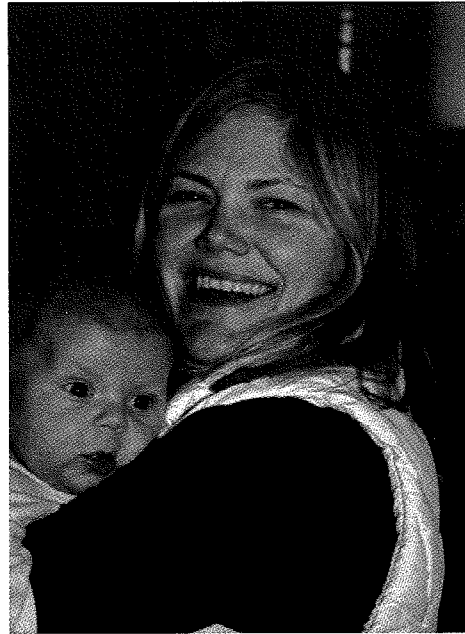
Trees

Boyd Gentry 404-394-6596

Security Alert Signs

When you see the **Security Alert signs** posted at the entrances to our neighborhood, please call the **Brookwood Hills Security Information Line at 404-325-5114** for details concerning a recent security incident. These signs are a signal that an incident has occurred in the neighborhood and the information has been recorded on the hotline. The cell phone number for the neighborhood security patrol is **404-242-3321**.

New Board Member Merrell Thompson



The Brookwood Hills Board is delighted to welcome Merrell Thompson as a new member of the board. Merrell will be replacing Deborah Gebhardt who is stepping down as Pool Co-Chair.

Merrell, who is originally from Winter Park, Florida, graduated from Vanderbilt University where she studied Economics. Merrell worked at NBC as an advertising executive before moving to Atlanta ten years ago. Subsequently Merrell worked in advertising at Fox5 in Atlanta before starting a family. She is married to Matt Thompson and the couple have three children: A daughter, Ryan, and two boys, Mack and Fin.

BrookNotes welcomes articles, art work, photographs and story ideas. The deadline for the next issue of *BrookNotes* is Wednesday, October 6, 2010. Submissions may be e-mailed to brooknotes@brookwoodhills.com or dropped off at 200 Camden Road.

2010 Property Tax Bills Update

Submitted by Lee Morris

The information below regarding 2010 property tax news was obtained from an email from Lynne Riley of the Fulton County Commission.

The Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors has completed the preparation of the 2010 property tax digest, and it has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue for approval. Because there are a large number of property value appeals still to be settled, a temporary collection order was granted by Superior Court Chief Judge Cynthia Wright. The temporary collection order allows Fulton County to bill and collect on the 2010 tax digest values at the millage rates established by the respective governing bodies (county, school board and city) except as follows:

- 1) Any real or personal property appealed for 2010 or a prior year will be temporarily billed at 85% of the 2010 assessed value.
- 2) Any real or personal property that is identified by the Tax Commissioner as having a problem would be temporarily billed at 85% of the 2010 assessed value.

When the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue approves the 2010 digest, or the appeal/issue is resolved, the County may re-bill property owners for the remaining amounts due based on the 2010 digest and in accordance with law.

Fulton County will reissue property tax bills to approximately four thousand residents after an inconsistency was discovered in the address database maintained by the Board of Assessors. The property tax bills were returned to Fulton County by the U.S. Postal Service due to an incorrect ZIP code. The ZIP code in the Board of Assessors database did not reflect ZIP Code changes made by the U. S. Postal Service. All of the affected addresses are in North Fulton County and include portions of ZIP codes 30004, 30022, 30076 and 30201 which are now all a part of ZIP code 30009.

Fulton County Taxes are due on October 31, 2010. Please contact the office of the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, Dr.Arthur Ferdinand, at 404-730-6100 or visit www.fultoncountytaxes.org for additional information.

Cuts in MARTA Service

Beginning at the end of September, MARTA will be implementing major service reductions and fare increases as a result of budget constraints. 42 of the 138 bus routes are being discontinued, the popular Braves Shuttle and the Lakewood Shuttle are being cut after this season, bathrooms are being closed, fares are going up, and the old tokens are becoming worthless. Until September 30, tokens can be exchanged for the Breeze tickets required for travel. For more detailed information on fare increases, changes to loading fares to Breeze cards, bus route and rail service changes and customer service reductions, please visit the MARTA website at www.itsmarta.com.

Brookwood Hills Neighborhood Tree Planting

Help Restore our Neighborhood Legacy

By Boyd Gentry

It seems like every time I walk or drive through the neighborhood these days I notice another of our majestic trees that is slated for removal. Brookwood Hills has lost over twenty-five street trees during the last year to old age, compromised root structure, and drought. The lingering signs of this loss are heightened by the growing number of huge stumps throughout the neighborhood. Yes, if you have not heard the news, Atlanta's financial troubles have resulted in an elimination of all stump grinding crews. Liability concerns dictate that the City still cut down hazardous trees – but we should not expect the residual stumps to be removed at City expense anytime soon! Note, the BWHCC Board is evaluating some alternatives for neighbors in need of stump removal as well as curb and sidewalk replacements – stay tuned for additional information in this regard during the coming months.

Back to tree planting! To restore our diminishing trademark canopy we need to continue our annual neighborhood plantings. Last year we planted a record fifty trees in the neighborhood. It would be great if we could beat that number this Fall!

To regenerate the Brookwood Hills “urban forest”, we must plant and nurture more large canopy trees, such as oaks and maples. For people living on the power line side of the street, such trees need to be planted in our front yards (not directly under the power lines); those living on the non-power line side of the street may choose to plant these larger trees either in your front yards or at street level.

Here is what you can do to assist:

1. Join your friends and neighbors and participate in the upcoming November 6th neighborhood tree planting – see details below.
2. Purchase and plant an oak or maple tree in your front or back yard (see details on how to purchase these below).

WHEN: Saturday, November 6th – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (but please come and work for any amount of time to which you can commit).

WHERE: We'll meet in the Pavilion at the Brookwood Hills Park for an al fresco breakfast.

WHO: Anyone can help. The work is not overly strenuous and there will be experienced Trees Atlanta staff and volunteers to assist us. What better way to emphasize the importance of our trees than by volunteering to plant them? This is appropriate for the entire family. The more volunteers that we have, the more quickly we finish. In addition, you may not be aware that many volunteers from outside our neighborhood come and plant trees in Brookwood Hills. Finally, this is a great way for our teenagers and scouts to get service hours! Let's show our gratitude by turning out in force and demonstrating our commitment to our neighborhood replanting program. Please send Boyd Gentry (contact info below) an email if you plan to volunteer so we can get a good count for breakfast and tree planting purposes.

(Continued)

If you would like plant a tree in your front yard or at the street, you may choose a tree from a list of "site appropriate" trees that are better adapted to urban conditions and will cause fewer problems than the water oaks that were planted many years ago. Trees Atlanta will provide fifteen-gallon (or smaller) trees for \$25; larger trees (e.g., 25 gallon) will be available at a cost of \$50 per tree. These costs include planting by volunteers and are significantly below the price you could expect to pay at a commercial nursery. Trees Atlanta is also offering you the opportunity to purchase trees for your backyard, but the cost for such trees will be slightly higher (approximately \$75 on average), and you will be responsible for planting such trees yourself.

DONATIONS: All donations are welcomed, especially if you cannot actively participate in the planting. Donations made in memory or honor of individuals will be published in BrookNotes.

If you want to purchase a tree and/or volunteer, please contact Katrina Newton (kfnewton@bellsouth.net) if you live on Brighton, Camden, Montclair or Wakefield. If you live on Huntington, Palisades, Northwood, Woodcrest, or Parkdale, please contact Eve Goldstein (eve.goldstein@att.net). Or, if you have any questions regarding trees in the neighborhood, please feel free to contact Boyd Gentry, your Tree Representative on the BWHCC Board (404.394.6596, bpgentry@comcast.net).

11th Annual Trees Atlanta Tree Sale

On the 9th of October Trees Atlanta are holding their 11th Annual Tree Sale from 8 AM to 2 PM. The sale, located at Trees Atlanta's headquarters (225 Chester Avenue, 30316, in Reynoldstown), will feature more than 1,000 native and unusual trees and plants. In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Trees Atlanta, they are offering 25 species and varieties of trees, shrubs, and forest-safe vines. Trees Atlanta donors of \$500 or more are invited to attend a preview shopping Friday night the evening before the Tree Sale (4pm to 6pm). For more information please contact Greg Levine at (404) 681-4903.

It's Pumpkin Time Again!

**Sarah Hagood and Specialty Homes, Inc.
Are Pleased to Sponsor the Brookwood Hills
27th Annual Great Pumpkin Give-Away**



In celebration of the fall season and Halloween, Sarah shall give each Brookwood Hills home a large pumpkin. For best selection, pick up your pumpkin at 205 Huntington Road October 15th through October 17th. If you are unable to come on these days, your pumpkin will be awaiting you through the END of October.

Look for orange flyers to arrive with details.

One pumpkin per Brookwood Hills residence, please.



**Friday, October 15th - Sunday, October 17th 2010
Sponsored by your Neighbor and Realtor
Sarah Hagood & Specialty Homes, Inc.**

Environmental Sustainability News

Submitted by Elizabeth Wickland

Free large City of Atlanta 95 gallon recycling bin: As of last month, single family home residents in the City of Atlanta can request a free 95 gallon recycling bin from the Department of Public Works. DPW will even deliver it to you! To request a larger recycling bin, please call the Department of Public Works Customer Service Center at (404) 330-6333, or submit an email request to: publicworks@atlantaga.gov.

\$\$ for energy efficiency upgrades to your house: The Mayor's Office Division of Sustainability is in the pilot phase of launching an energy efficiency rebate program for single family homes. It is called the SHINE program, which stands for the Sustainable Home Initiative in the New Economy. In short, the funding supports weatherizing your house. It can be paired with federal and utility rebates as well. The Division of Sustainability is eager to talk to families about becoming part of the pilot. More information can be obtained from the office of Mandy Mahoney, Director of Sustainability, at (404) 954-8488. If you know of friends who would like to participate or of a contractor who would like to become a registered contractor with the program, please feel free to pass on this information.

What to do if You Think Your Water Bill is Inaccurate

The Department of Watershed Management has become aware that inaccurate media accounts regarding how to deal with high bills could be causing problems for its customers. To clarify, customers receiving bills they believe to be too high or otherwise inaccurate should:

- Call 404-658-6500 and request that the account be formally disputed; and
- Pay the usual amount based on past bills.

Customers who make their average payment without formally disputing the bill can face late fees and/or service termination. When an account is disputed, the Department will investigate possible meter problems or leaks. If it determined that the meter is damaged, the reading was inaccurate or there is a leak on the property, the customer's bill can be adjusted to reflect normal usage.

Multi-Family Garage Sale

If you are interested in participating in a multi-family garage sale on Saturday, November 13th, please contact Elizabeth Wickland at Elizabeth_Wickland@yahoo.com.

C L A S S I F I E D S

Two beautiful male Gordon Setter puppies (black and tan, Scottish setters) available.

Gordons are affectionate family pets and wonderful walking buddies. We would particularly love to have one of Emma's puppies in Brookwood Hills. Shots and worming are current, and both parents are OFA certified and have normal CERF eye exams. For information, please contact Jan and Mac Irvin, 404/351-2136.



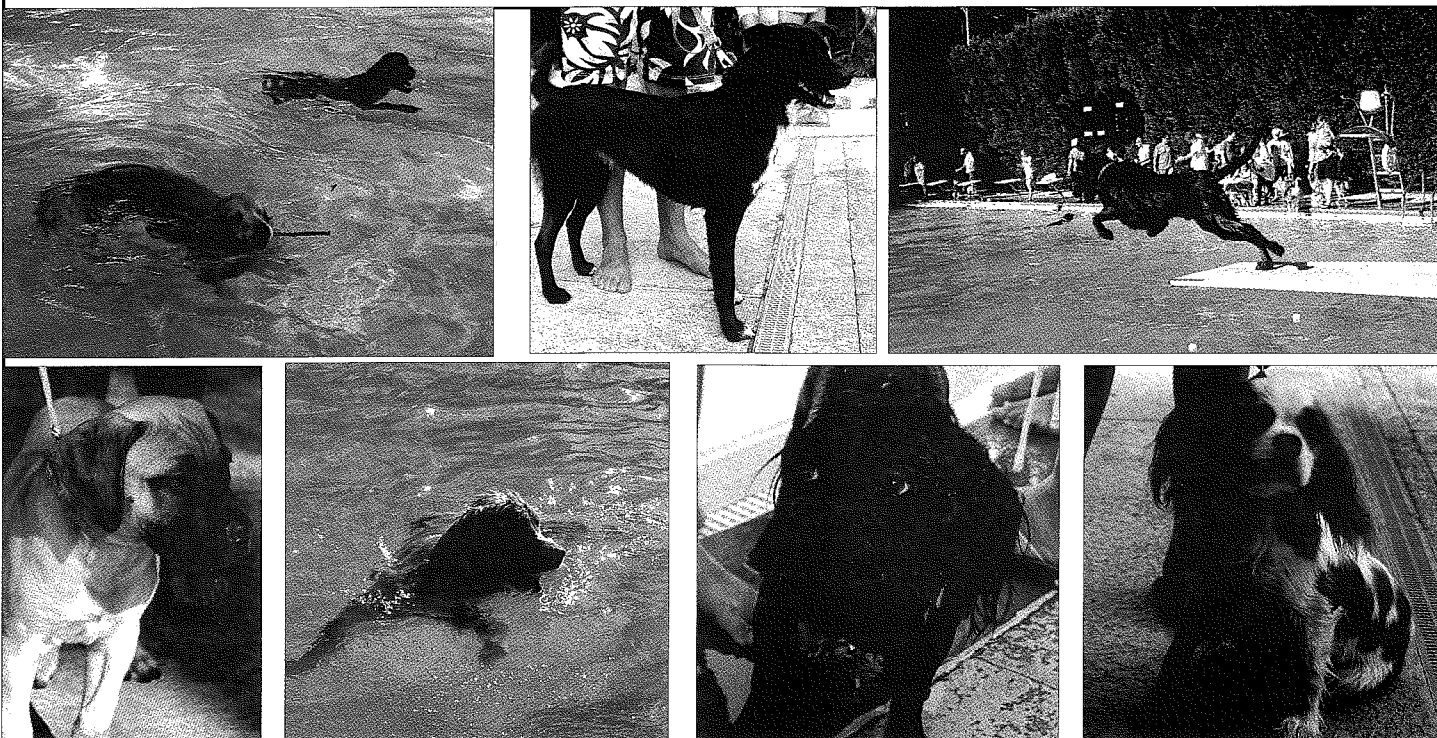
Babysitter/Nanny Larissa Santos is strongly

recommended by Nathalie Fuson and has worked for about eight additional families in Brookwood Hills who can provide references. Larissa has over 6 years of sitting experience. Larissa has been working as a nanny for Isabelle (5 years old) for 4 years, and now that Isabelle is attending school every day, Larissa is available to divide her baby sitting time with an additional family. The days Larissa would be available for helping are Monday afternoons, Tuesdays and Thursdays all day. Flexible on Fridays if needed.

Phone number: 404-447-2382.

Hattie Williams, Housekeeper is enthusiastically recommended by Kelly Jenkins.

Hattie is very dependable, honest, and a diligent and hard worker. She will do whatever needs to be done in the home, including caring for children, pets, doing housework, laundry and groceries, and will care for the elderly as well. She is looking for one more day per week on either Tuesday or Thursday. She is also available to babysit after 5 PM or any time on Sundays. Hattie can be reached at (404) 822-1228.



Neighborhood Author's Memoir, *Lighting the Way*

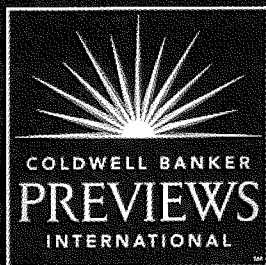
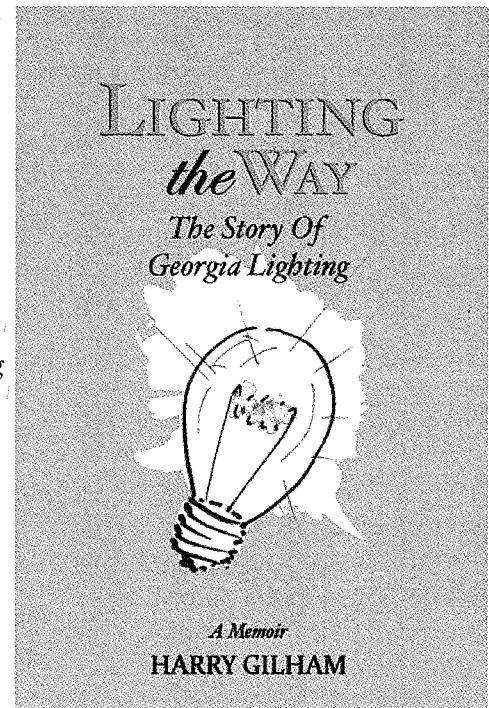
Many of Brookwood Hills' residents enjoy the beautiful lighting of their homes due to Georgia Lighting Company, which was founded by Brookwood Hills neighbor Harry Gilham. Now Mr. Gilham's book, *Lighting the Way*, is available.

This book is a must read for every person in the showroom lighting industry and interior design fields, and especially for entrepreneurs and aspiring leaders seeking a model for success in business.

Lighting the Way is the fascinating story of how Harry L. Gilham, Jr. started Georgia Lighting Company with little capital but tremendous vision and determination. He ultimately built the business into one of the largest and most innovative in its industry, searching out the work of artisans in Italy, Spain and other European countries. He led in establishing the Showroom Division of the American Lighting Association, served as its president and charter member of the Lighting Hall of Fame. He is a recipient of the *Lighting Person of the Year Award*.

In this highly readable memoir, Gilham recounts his adventures as an officer aboard the *USS Balduck* during its tour in Haiphong Harbor and his friendship there with Dr. Tom Dooley; his early years in the lighting business; and how he grew Georgia Lighting from scratch to such a successful enterprise that it attracted the attention of home improvement giant Home Depot.

Gilham tells the inside story of what happened after Home Depot acquired Georgia Lighting and how the outcome could have been different.



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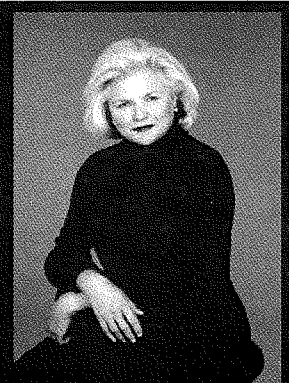
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