



# BROOKNOTES

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Hills Community

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September 1993, Vol. VII, No. 9

## Here We Go Again

Once again, the neighborhood is being called upon to fight the granting of a liquor license for 1923 Peachtree Road. Formerly the location of *Zazu's* and more recently called *Cafe Reggio*, the operators of this property are now trying to open as *Metropolis*. Reggie Swails has withdrawn as a principle and is now a "consultant" to the operation. Despite assurances to us by the current owner, Courtney Dillard, that they were planning to open a restaurant serving a light healthy menu, a recent interview in the Atlanta Business Chronicle indicated that the format continues to be that of a late night club with live entertainment and cover charge, and that it may remain open until 5:00 a.m. The License Review board previously found that operating *Cafe Reggio's* at 1923 Peachtree Road would not promote public convenience and advantage as set forth in the Atlanta Code Section 14-2083(h). Your help is urgently needed to ensure a similar outcome this time. See the insert in this edition of Brooknotes for specific information you can take. Write letters. Attend the hearing. Let the city know how inappropriate it is for an establishment of this type to operate alongside a residential neighborhood!

On another front, a volunteer is needed to coordinate our continuing fight to enforce the parking regulations of the city code with respect to the property on the corner of Peachtree and Palisades. Restaurants require three times the number of parking spaces as commercial or retail space. When he opened two restaurants in the row from the *Clay Oven* to *Cafe Intermezzo*, the developer claimed that he allocated parking spaces at the former *Majic Market* for their use. Now that *Harry's in a Hurry* is occupying the former *Majic Market* property, these spaces are no longer available for restaurant parking. That means the former *Clay Oven* property must be used as retail space and cannot be operated as a restaurant. Unfortunately, the city has always failed to note such changes and enforce the zoning requirements. If we want to ensure compliance with the zoning regulations by the commercial establishments on our borders, the effort falls to the neighborhood. Specifically, we need someone to work with the city officials responsible for enforcing the zoning requirements, getting them to confirm that this space is no longer suitable for a restaurant. We already have a grid showing which businesses on Peachtree claim the use of which parking spaces. What is needed now is for someone to make the necessary calls and visits to city officials to get a definitive ruling that the space needs to be used as a retail establishment. If you are interested in helping with this problem, please call Pat Leake, 352-3121.

## Pizza in the Park

Plans for **Halloween in the Park**, a favorite neighborhood tradition, are already in the works. Goblins, get your costumes ready and plan to join us on Sunday, October 31 at 5:00! 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 \$1.00 per slice. In conjunction with the community safe kids program, Twigs will have Halloween flashlights (including batteries) available at the party for \$2.00 each. Questions or suggestions? Call Sarah Ellen Loye (874-4036) or Kathy Jones (351-0056).

## You're Welcome to Come

At the last meeting of the Brookwood Hills Community Club Board of Directors, there was a discussion about the need to make neighbors aware that Board meetings are open proceedings, with all Community Club members welcome to attend. Therefore, beginning with this issue of Brooknotes, each month the time and place of the next Board meeting will be printed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00, October 4, at the home of David Forquer and Barbara Croft, 35 Wakefield. In order for them to have an idea of how many people to expect, if you would like to attend please call the Croft-Forquers at 874-3254.

## Brookwood Boys Set

The first official Brookwood Boys event for the 1993-94 season will be a canoeing trip on September 26th from 2:00 to 4:00 at Stone Mountain Park. All who want to go, please call John Horton at 351-6257 or Dan Sullivan at 352-8856. We will gather in the neighborhood park at 1:45 and carpool to Stone Mountain. Yes, you can fish in the park, so bring your gear if you want to give it a try. The charge (only two people per canoe) is \$4.00 per hour.

We also had our annual planning meeting and put together our schedule for the year: October 23, a camp out at Lake Alatoona; November, a mountain hike; December, a trip to the Fernbank museum; January, an outing to a Knights hockey game; February, bowling; March, a visit to Delta Airlines; April 10, a Georgia Tech vs. Duke baseball game; May, a sporting event; and June, a camp-out. This year's officers are Frank Inman, President, and Fred Burke, Vice President.

The boys currently signed up to participate are: Howell Burke, Christopher Caughman, Patrick Forquer, Hale Gunning, Spencer Hagaman, Adam Horton, Allen Inman, Jefferson Jeter, Chase Jones, Timothy Lake, Erskine Love, Fisher Marietta, Blake O'Brien, Charles Slick, Danny Sullivan, Brad Taylor, Bo & Pearson Weems, Ben Whipple, Andrew Wilder, Carson Young, and Clayton Young. Brookwood Boys are 6 - 9 years old (Kindergarten through Third Grade). If your son's name should be on this list, please call Frank at 352-5072 and he will sign you both up for the year.

## Comings & Goings

Welcome to Robert, Janet, and 6 month old Nicole Frederick, our new neighbors at 128 Huntington. Rob is a member of the Department of Orthopaedics at Emory University, specializing in Sports Medicine.

Chet and Bonnie Burgess, together with son Chet IV, have moved four blocks from Ardmore to 4 Montclair. Chet is the Executive Producer for CNN's Environmental Unit. Bonnie is a Vice President and Corporate Product Manager for NationsBank. Chet IV is a Ninth Grader at Westminster.

Floyd, Katrina, Stephanie, and Amanda Newton have moved from 128 Huntington to 49 Brighton.

Mickey, Harvey, Adam, Aaron, and Ben Ross have moved from 42 Camden and are now living at 16 Woodcrest.

David, Lisa, Michael, and Emily Rowell have moved to North Carolina. Their temporary address is 411 T Parke Ridge Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. (919) 768-9367.

## Spruce Up the Park

Neighbors, please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 20 to come and help clean up the park. Lots of hands are needed! We'll pull weeds, clear trash, and have fun. Details will follow in next month's Brooknotes.

### Classifieds

For Lease: Fabulous apartment located off Peachtree Road in Brookwood Hills. Charming one bedroom converted from a 1910 servant's quarters. Recently updated to include central air, security system, lovely garden and deck with gas grill. Grounds professionally landscaped and maintained. Electric gate with wireless remote control. Available October 1. Lease period less than one year considered. Contact Beth Bean 9:00 - 5:00 at 332-6498.

Graduate students available as afternoon nannies. Recent Furman graduates. References available. Call Kristy Cobb at 434-0911.

## BWH TWIGS Meet

In order to accommodate everyone's schedule, there will be two business meetings for Brookwood Hills Twigs on Tuesday, October 12. The first will be at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Laranne Oser, 204 Camden (351-4825). At 7:00 p.m. there will be a second meeting at the home of Susan Northington, 36 Northwood (874-1139). New neighbors and prospective members are encouraged to attend. We have a great group of people and are looking forward to a successful and fun year supporting Egleston Children's Hospital at Emory University.

## Ansley Opens Its Doors

The Atlanta Preservation Center is sponsoring a Preservation/Rehab Fair during "Ansley Opens Its Doors," the 15th Ansley Park Tour of Homes, October 2 and 3. Specialists in preservation-related work and products will be there with information, displays and demonstrations from 1:00 to 5:00 during the Ansley tour. While the fair is free, tickets to tour eight Ansley Park homes plus historic Rhodes Hall, are \$12. For more information, call Carole Nixon at 885-9922.

## Buildings Worth Saving

Developers, bankers, architects, realtors and all others with an interest in the rehabilitation of historic properties are invited to attend a workshop on October 15, sponsored by the Atlanta Preservation Center. In order to encourage rehabilitation of vacant or underutilized historic structures, the APC has developed a Buildings Worth Saving program. It has identified many buildings and produced a database of information about them. In addition to making available this database, the APC offers technical assistance to buyers or lessees, both through the workshop, and on an ongoing basis. Services include condition assessment, design assistance, financial analysis, introduction to tax incentives and assistance in preparing National Register nomination forms.

The workshop will be held at King Plow Arts Center, 887 W. Marietta Street NW, from 8:30 to 12:45. The cost is \$20 per person. Workshop participants will learn about tax credits and other financial incentives; two case studies will be presented, one of a historic residence, the other of a historic commercial structure. Participants will have the opportunity to talk with knowledgeable persons who have expertise in this type venture. For more information call 876-2041.

## Enjoy Landscape Design

By Edith Henderson

In all neighborhoods, and especially in our Brookwood Hills neighborhood, there is an intangible thing called "atmosphere." With it, our front yards and gardens reflect the care -- or lack of it -- which owners have given. When one seems to sense an atmosphere of neglect, the first thing to do is to find the cause, and there is usually a very good one. Either there is too much to care for, or one has ceased to be interested.

The solution is obvious: simplify plans quickly, or all will be lost. An atmosphere of peace and tranquillity would be good for us all; it is far easier to arrive at than would be supposed, for this type needs very little detail. It calls for shade, for water if possible, and a few well placed groups of cool color: white, blue, lavender, pale pink. All around can be rich masses of hydrangeas which have the coolest tones imaginable. In contrast, there is the gay, lighthearted spot which is certainly the pool. Yet, at night with underwater lights, a feeling of peace and relaxation is found nowhere else in quite the same way. Color near a pool is naturally lighthearted, several sources being grandiflora roses, crotons, and petunias. Cluster rose types such as Spartan, Little Darling, Carosel, Garnet and Circus are tough and hearty, and will bloom well into early Fall.

It is easy to create an atmosphere of spaciousness and beauty by the use of a delightful, flowing design. Such an area can be placed near kitchen and parking on purpose, yet one may see neither, because of a carefully built brick wall standing behind it like a well placed folding screen. This is a complete spot off to itself within a large encompassing lawn, surrounded by trees. Planting is large for distant views and becomes small for close-up enjoyment.

The better the design, the less planting is needed. The finer the background, the more beautiful the smallest vine. Here we find each piece fitting easily into the next, with no jarring note in between. This composition produces delightful living.

*Editor's Note: Edith Henderson, who lives in Brookwood Hills, is a Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects. Although now retired from active practice, she is still writing; her newest book, Edith Henderson's Home Landscape Companion, will go on sale at local bookstores in October.*

## Please Water Your Trees

Please continue to water the young willow oaks at least 25 minutes every five days (in the absence of a soaking-type rain). The prolonged heat and drought, along with lack of watering, has caused at least ten of our newly planted street trees to die. These trees were purchased by the neighborhood association and garden club, and will be costly to replace. Thanks to Kathleen Roskopf and Jeffrey Walton, for spending an afternoon watering the young oaks by the pool. If you have any questions or problems with trees, contact JoAnn Hagaman at 876-2606. And if you'd like to know more about the history of our glorious old trees, read on.

## A Neighborhood Treasure

What's so special about our trees? As one neighbor puts it, "Without our trees, we're just a collection of old homes stuck awfully close together." Brookwood Hills' large street oaks are the most important feature of our neighborhood. The aged water oaks and fledgling willow-water oaks lining the tree-shaded streets form a protective umbrella over us, screening out noise and air pollution, providing homes to urban wildlife, and adding cooling shade in the long, hot days of summer.

The street trees date to 1922, when Brookwood Hills was carved from an early settler's farm. The developers planted water oaks 50 feet apart, underplanted with crepe myrtles. By 1977 the crepe myrtles were long gone and the water oaks were in trouble, facing a dropping water table, tree roots restricted by gas lines running below and impervious pavement above, street and highway pollution, and heavy pruning on the street side by Georgia Power. Several had to be removed; a few had fallen. The Community Club formed a committee to evaluate the condition of the remaining trees and to determine tree replacement sites. The survey showed a need for 50 trees. By 1980, when plans for a voluntary tree replacement program had been in the works for a couple of years, the fourth oak in 18 months came crashing down. It was the second tree to hit a house. Even though residents were justifiably concerned about the street trees falling, they also feared the city would adopt an overly aggressive attitude on any tree complaints. (Since the trees are planted on the strip of land between the sidewalk and street, they are technically City of Atlanta property.) The tree committee pushed ahead with tree replacement plans, selecting willow-water oaks for their rapid growth rate, adaptability, resistance to pollution and root rot, and high, arching canopy of leaves. In early 1981 the community club received a generous bequest from the family of a long-time, second-generation Brookwood Hills resident. A retired Second Grade teacher, Mrs. Linton Johnson, took the plight of the endangered street trees to heart when the water oak in front of her house had to be removed. Following her death, her family designated a substantial bequest to the "preservation and enhancement" of the neighborhood trees.

Early in 1982 \$1,000 in Garden Club seed money was given to the neighborhood civic association for tree replacement. This was added to the Johnson bequest, and another comprehensive survey of neighborhood trees was undertaken. By 1988 114 willow-water oaks had been planted. The tree replacement program lagged in the early 1990s, but 40 willow-water oaks were planted this Spring, the majority funded by the Brookwood Hills Garden Club.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Carla Fackler who contributed last month's articles about Liz Primm and the BWH residents who are volunteer leaders at the Woodruff Arts Center. Carla also submitted the above article, which is excerpted here from the Master Planter Award Nomination for "Miz" Primm.*

**NEXT BROOKNOTES DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8. DROP OFF COPY AT ALISON CAUGHMAN'S, 200 CAMDEN.**

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### BROOKNOTES

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Owner / Broker

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