

Brook Hills News

2008/2009
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DIRECTORS

Summer 2009

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RMR
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MANAGING AGENT
CAROLYNN DICK

A Letter from the President

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, the off-spring of Nancy Steed and Marge Barham, designed to assist in keeping us informed, entertained and "on the same page." This has been, I believe, a very positive year for Brook Hills. We are very pleased with our choice for Management of the complex. Carolynn Dick, the agent for RMR, has shown herself to be a hard worker and has made the learning curve far less steep than we would have thought.

We are seeing the rewards of keeping up our property with our beautiful new wall below the barn and the addition of a perennial garden now at its base. The landscape changes are maturing nicely with the new "island" plantings on Moss and Ingleside and our yearly bulb plantings throughout the community with day-lilies and shade garden plants adding splashes of color.

As a result, Brook Hills received an award from The City of White Plains Beautification Association for outstanding condominium.



The re-sealing of the driveways, patching of the curbs and cycle painting surely add to the value of our homes. We have had the area wired by Verizon in order to allow owners more choice in media. We enjoyed each other's company at the picnic graciously hosted by Maria and Gabe Arango. We have continued to improve the masonry, pool scenery and kept our costs within budget.

Yes, all-in-all a very positive year.

We will soon be sharing more information about the community at our annual meeting on

Wednesday, September 23rd at the Ridgeway School. At that time, new elections for the Board will also be held. I would encourage all

those who wish to become more fully engaged consider contributing your time and energy and run for a Board position; and again, monthly meetings are held generally on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 in the Clubhouse for all

who wish to attend.

Thanks to all my fellow Board members for their selfless work!

Dr. Michael M. Silver,
Brook Hills President

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest Brook Hills Residents. Ilene & Robert Bates at 21 Brook Hills Circle, Neda Tzviatkava & Michael Schwanenfeld at 27 Brook Hills Circle, Louise & William Schreiber at 28 Brook Hills Circle and Tara Pallini & Steve Delisi at 34 Brook Hills Circle.

"It was wonderful to meet so many residents during the Annual Party at the Mansion. I look forward to working with all of you to keep Brook Hills a great place to live."

**Carolynn Dick,
Managing Agent
for Brook Hills**

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It is wonderful to see so many residents along with their guests enjoying the pool and tennis courts now that the weather has finally warmed up a bit. The pool hours are from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, and open 7 days a week but a lifeguard is on duty only on weekends and holidays.

Just a few reminders to please help keep the pool area clean . . .

Please close the umbrellas before you leave each day. The wind can easily blow them into the water when left open.

Outside the pool area are a few tables and chairs set up as a dining area. There is no eating in the pool area.

Please use the trash cans for trash to clean up after eating.

Please keep the side door to the clubhouse closed to keep the bunnies and chipmunks outside in the fresh air.

And, if you are the last one leaving the pool area please take the time to lock the lock.

Thank you and have a happy and safe summer!

**Cathy Calarco,
Pool & Tennis Chair**

Landscaping

Well, it's nice to see that summer is finally beginning to show up around here. This spring was surely a wet one but it brought us the beautiful green all around us and of course the wonderful flowers throughout all of Brook Hills.

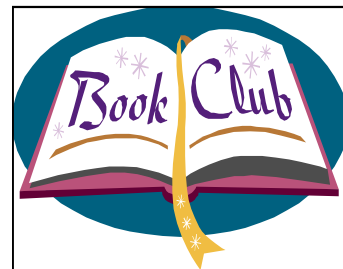
Many of you were at the party last month to hear that Luis Agumendo, our landscaper, was recognized for his 22 years of outstanding service, dedication and exceptional quality of work. Luis and his crew always seem to go beyond what is needed and their extra effort shows up all around. We presented Luis, Nora, Luis Jr. and Frankie with a plaque with grateful appreciation on behalf of the Brook Hills Community. The grounds continually show their hard work.

Landscaping is not the only work that Luis does well. Luis and his crew of masons built the new wall down in front of the barn and in fact, they built a few other walls that were falling throughout Brook Hills. His work is outstanding and what a beautiful additional to our entrance. Nora did her magic by adding just the right plants in a sequentially planted perennial garden. Jim Zafiros said, *"Unlike the Great Wall of China, which was built to keep the invaders out, the Wall at Brook Hills, by the entrance, was rebuilt and landscaped as a welcoming symbol of beauty by a proud community who simply want to showcase their*

community to all visitors. The Wall also serves as a majestic setting for the Stars and Stripes whose colors are displayed above the wall."

The Care of Trees continues the monthly "plant health care program" designed to promote health and protect our plant material from insects and/or diseases. They also just completed much of the tree work concentrating on overgrowth around the street lights, stop signs and around the gutters. Also the looked for trees hanging over driveways and walkways and trimmed them to the proper height. If we missed anything or you have any concerns please contact Carolynn Dick, our managing agent. She will get it done.

**Marge Barham and
Michael Silver
Landscaping Co-chairs**



We would love to welcome new members into our **Brook Hills Book Club**. We are reading "The Man in the White Shark Skin Suit" by Lucette Lagnado. Our next meeting is on September 3rd at 3:30 pm. If you want more information or are interested in joining, please call Ann Fernandez at **328-3552**.

Morty Korchin Remembered



He was Mortimer Korchin only on his birth certificate. The world knew him as Morty, a kind and generous guy who doted on family and friends.

Morty and his wife, Lee, arrived in Brook Hills from Larchmont early in 2003. Morty was delighted with the beautiful well-kept greenery of Brook Hills and especially by that around their condo. He immediately began growing boxes of flowers on the deck of 6 Brook Hills

Circle – a pastime he enjoyed.

Until it was sold in 1998, Morty was the long-time owner and President of the Marshall Smoked Fish Co., Inc. in Brooklyn. He traveled extensively in the United States and abroad to find the best quality products for the American market. For example, to San Francisco for Salmon and even as far as Iran for Sturgeon. He and Lee enjoyed the traveling.

For special occasions, friends and families were treated to tremendous

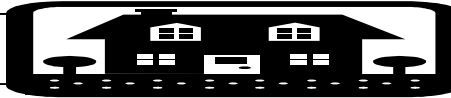
platters of smoked fish which Morty personally prepared for them

Unfortunately, late in 2008, Morty became ill and after a two month stay in the hospital, he died last April.

Morty had 47 years of marriage with Lee, raised a son and daughter and found joy in three young grandchildren, the youngest of whom assures everyone that “Grandpa went to heaven where you can have everything you want”.

Written by Sonia Korchin, Morty’s daughter-in-law

Community Life



What a glorious time we had at this year’s Annual Brook Hills Picnic! Fortunately the rains held off for our Luau around the beautiful pool at Gabe and Maria Arango’s lovely home, *The Mansion*. For those of you who may have missed the gathering, we had wonderful food catered by Post Road Market, a live band (supplied by the Arangos), Bob Sandler was the emcee of our “Get to know your Neighbors” component which highlighted some residents for their accomplishments (e.g. longest married and best costume) and also joined Murray Shapiro in song. A plaque was presented to LNL Landscaping for 22 years of extraordinary service and many of the LNL family members were present. We also welcomed and celebratedCarolynn Dick as our new manager from RMR. In addition, a beautiful photograph of *The Mansion*, taken by Marge Barham, was presented in an engraved silver frame to Gabe and Maria Arango with our thanks for

their gracious hospitality.

The favor at the party was a lovely black and red tote bag (with the words *Brook Hills – A great place to live* printed on it). We have a few left-over so, on a first come first served basis and one per household, those who would like one can email me at steadheart@aol.com with your name and address, putting “Tote Bag” in the subject line and I will deliver one to your door as long as they last. Phone messages will not work as well because we will be in and out of town. If you don’t do email, perhaps you could ask someone else to email me on your behalf.

On a personal note, my husband Bob and I are planning to put our condo on the market this fall and when it is sold ultimately move to a lovely retirement community in Cary, North Carolina where one of our sons and his family live. We have loved our Brook Hills condo and think

it is especially nice, but the time has come for us to make this move, bittersweet as that decision has been. Without knowing the plans of other Board members as to their desire to run again, there definitely will be a Board opening in Phase III since I will not be running again at the September 23rd Annual Meeting. (Also, people interested in being on the board should run whether or not incumbents are running again!) I would encourage folks to seriously consider running for a position on the Board. While it involves some time and energy, it is a meaningful and wonderful experience and a way to serve the community in an important way. I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the Brook Hills Board and have greatly admired the time and talent Board members have given to making Brook Hills the very special and lovely community that it is.

**Nancy Steed
Community Life Chair**

Life
may
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Brook Hills Community Association

c/o RMR Residential Realty, LLC
76 Lexington Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Brook Hills, a great place to live!

Maintenance

In between all the rain this spring and many, many delays we finally were able to finish the driveway sealing project. Bruce and I were not completely satisfied with the vendor and will begin to interview new companies in the fall for all future work on the driveways.

The list of mason repairs from the homeowners has been completed, or so we thought. We just received a few additional minor repairs that will be taken care of as soon as possible.

Many of the curbs have already been repaired and right now the color seems to be a little lighter but we were told that it will darken and blend in better very soon. Once we are satisfied with the finished work we will look at the budget to schedule the rest of the curbs on Moss Run, Ingleside Lane and Brook Hills Drive.

With all the rain in the beginning of the summer we asked our exterminator, Dr. Death, to once again place the "mosquito dunks" into the sewers and catch ponds to help control the mosquito's around the community.

The retaining wall behind the tennis courts has been approved by the Board for replacement and we will soon hire an engineer to supervise this project and get started.

We continue to walk the property watching for repairs that are needed to keep our community safe and beautiful.

Stan Circle and Bruce Selby, Maintenance Co-Chairs

Painting & Carpentry

The rains came in June just about the same time our painters were starting the annual painting maintenance. The rains continued and they quickly fell behind schedule. Now with the weather finally clear the painting and carpentry teams are putting in extra hours to catch up.

Three more buildings in Phase III were completely painted. The rest of Phase III was power washed and then inspected for wood damage and repaired and touch up painting was done to complete all of Phase III.

They have moved into Phase I and Phase II and now it looks like they will be back on schedule.

Thank you all for your cooperation while this work is being done.

**Jim Zafrios and Peter Eigo
Painting & Carpentry Co-Chairs**