

## Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association Weekly Reader – September 25, 2008

For print copies see: [www.chatthills.org](http://www.chatthills.org)

For the Civic Event Calendar see: <http://www.chatthills.org/Calendar.htm>

### ASSOCIATION UPDATES

#### **Buy Our Parks Now! Update – Still Time to Participate**

#### ***\$142,171 Raised to Date – including nearly \$5,000 donated in memory of Zack Wansley!***

Thanks to your continued support, we are moving closer to our goal of raising \$200,000 for the City to Buy Our Parks Now! If you have already participated, please encourage your neighbors to give, even if they can only give a little. Remember, that the number of people who participate will help us win grants in the future to sustain our parks.

If you haven't made a donation yet, it's not too late. All donations received before Oct. 7 will be recorded on the Big Check we present at the city council meeting that night. All donations received after that date will definitely go to support the parks – but will be reported to the Council in a supplementary report.

To learn more about Buy Our Parks Now! see [www.buyourparksnow.com](http://www.buyourparksnow.com)

To make a tax deductible donation, make your check payable to:

CHC Conservancy and write Buy Our Parks Now! in the memo portion

Mail to: Buy Our Parks Now!

P.O. Box 204 Palmetto, GA 30268

To request a \$1 donation be made in your name, contact Laurie Searle at 770-463-5169 /

[lsearle@bellsouth.net](mailto:lsearle@bellsouth.net)

For a list of folks who have donated so far see: <http://www.buyourparksnow.com/donor.htm>

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#### **Welcome New Civic Board Members**

The five volunteer committees recently elected representatives to serve on the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association Board. Please welcome our new board members:

- Citizen Services – Melea Brett
- Cultural Activities – Sandra Huffmaster
- Environment – Molcie Trimble
- Public Safety – David Goode
- Sustainable Economic Development – Nancey Green Leigh

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#### **Congratulations to our new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

Twelve residents completed the three-day CERT training last Saturday: Laurie Searle, Sara Ann Alford, Paul Alford, Molcie Trimble, Lynn Tierney, Max Arnold, Nan McGuffy, Rachel Hill, Annette Cummings, Erica Powell, James Gullatt, and Fuller Anderson. They join the ranks with another CERT team that completed training in our community last year. Visit the class photo album at:

<http://www.chatthills.org/foch/CERT-2008.htm>

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#### **Chattahoochee Hills Historical Association Meeting – Oct. 2**

The Historical Association is working on some exciting exhibits.

Sara Ann and Laurie will present their report on the Rev. Tom and Mrs. Gullatt oral history project.

**Civic Association Board of Dir. Meeting – Oct 9**

7 p.m. Cochran Mill Nature Center

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**City Clean-Up Day – Save the Date Nov. 1***Submitted by Committee Chair Molcie Trimble*

The Adopt-a-Mile committee is planning another clean-up day to pick up trash on our city roads. Save the date for Nov.1 and join the fun.

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**Development Update - Foxhall Village Design Review**

The Atlanta Regional Commission has posted the development plans for Foxhall Village on its Web site:

<http://www.atlantaregional.com/html/182.aspx?fulltext.search.query=foxhall>

This was one of the three planned villages in Chattahoochee Hills before the land was annexed into Palmetto last year. The proposed development is located at the intersection of Cochran Mill Road and Rico Tatum Road with access onto Atlanta Newnan Road, Wilkerson Mill Road, and Phillips Road.

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## CITY UPDATES

**Using Chattahoochee Hills in Your Mailing Address**

Mayor Don Hayes announced at the Sept. 23 Council meeting that the name of the city has been officially changed to Chattahoochee Hills. Several residents have asked when they can start using the city name in their mailing address. We asked that question earlier this year and were told we'd have to continue using our current mailing addresses, at least for now (e.g. Palmetto, GA and Fairburn, GA). Today we contacted the City Manager for an update. Bob said they were waiting for the name change to be final and they have now asked the City Attorney to follow up on the issue of using our new name in our mailing address. We will keep you posted.

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**City Logo Updated**

When the winning logo was selected for the city a few months ago it came with a second version, in anticipation that the city name might change. That new logo is now displayed on the City's Web site.

See: <http://www.chatthillsga.us>.

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**2009 Budget Presentation Now Available**

The 2009 Budget Presentation that was shown at the Sept. 23 council meeting is now online.

See: [http://www.chatthillsga.us/cityclerk/budget/2009/FY09\\_Budget\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.chatthillsga.us/cityclerk/budget/2009/FY09_Budget_Presentation.pdf) and

[http://www.chatthillsga.us/cityclerk/budget/2009/FY09\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.chatthillsga.us/cityclerk/budget/2009/FY09_Letter.pdf)

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**Top 10 Questions Asked About the FY 2009 Budget**

These questions were asked and answered at the Sept. 23 council meeting:

1. Define the word "senior" for the purposes of property tax exemptions?  
There are two different (homestead?) exemptions for seniors: one for seniors 65 years old on Jan 1; another for seniors 70 years old on Jan 1.
2. Will the city hire a chief of police?  
The city has not yet assigned a rank to this position. It may be a lesser rank that "chief."

3. What is the salary designated for the chief of police?  
The budgeted salary (plus benefits) is \$50,000
4. How come Fulton County taxes are not going down? They are providing fewer services now that the four new cities are providing their own services.  
That is a question for the Fulton County commissioners. For their contact information see:  
<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/index.php/commissioners/government/>
5. What can we do about our property assessments?  
Contact the Fulton County Board of Assessors. See:  
<http://www.fultonassessor.org/Main/home.aspx>
6. Why does the City need nine police officers?  
City manager Bob Simpson said that nine is the minimum number of police officers needed to provide two officers on an 7x24 shift.
7. Now that our city taxes are going up, will we have any defense over paying higher county taxes?  
It stands to reason that since Fulton County is providing fewer services (given that four new cities are bringing up their services) the taxes should go down. (Laurie: That might be something worth asking when the county has its public meetings to discuss its FY09 budget.)
8. Are there any hospitality taxes (and revenue to the City)?  
Yes, Serenbe Inn pays a hospitality tax; establishments in the city that serve liquor by the drink pay a tax. However, a percentage of that tax we collect goes to the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.
9. Will there be an opportunity to get money from the proposed reservoir?  
The proposed reservoir is still in the planning stage and may be a long way off from being built.
10. Are franchise fees going up the first of the year?  
Franchise fees are set by contract, and none are schedule to increase next year.

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### **AJC Article about Chief Parrott's Antique Fire Truck**

*Contributed by Paul Alford*

Larry Parrott has one of the neatest old fire trucks you'll ever see — a beautiful 1924 American LaFrance Type 75 triple combination, with hose, ladder and a chemical (soda acid) extinguisher — and along with it he has obtained a handwritten history of his truck. (Read More:

<http://www.ajc.com/cars/content/printedition/2008/09/20/carfiretruck.html> )

## **FULTON COUNTY UPDATES**

### **Bulk Trash Amnesty Day - Saturday, Sept. 27 (Dumpster available at Chatt Hills City Hall)**

*Sponsored by Fulton County*

8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (with the exception of the Merk Road Transfer Station, which will open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.).

Keeping our neighborhoods safe and free of environmental and safety hazards remains a priority and Bulk Waste Amnesty Days allow convenient drop-off sites for the use of citizens who want to keep their communities beautiful. Three drop-off sites for large items will be available at the following locations:

Merk Road Transfer Station. 3225 Merk Rd. College Park (404) 629-1700

Creel Park. 2775 Creel Rd. College Park (770) 996-4189

Public Works Dept. 5601 Stonewall Tell Rd. College Park (770) 306-5341

**South Fulton Community Festival – Saturday, Sept. 27**

10am – 2pm at the South Fulton Government Service Center. 5600 Stonewall Tell Rd. College Park. Residents can view a multitude of County services. Department displays will be on view in the large parking lot next to the building, and staff will conduct tours of offices inside. Residents can also: register to vote, sign up for art activities, get a library card, and enroll in emergency preparedness courses to protect their homes and neighborhoods. The County's Mobile Health Van will offer health screenings, and visitors can inspect the Police Mobile Command Unit, fire truck, HazMat vehicle, CERT truck and Library Bookmobile.

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**Fulton County Public Meeting on FY 09 Taxes – Oct 16**

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners will hold a series of public hearings at the following locations and times to receive taxpayers' input regarding the 2009 General Fund and South Fulton Tax District Fund budgets.

Thursday, October 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
South Fulton Service Center, 5600 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA

Monday, October 20, 2008, 6:00 p.m.  
Harriett G. Darnell Senior Center, 677 Fairburn Road, NW, Atlanta, GA

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**VOTER INFORMATION**

**Voter Registration**

Last day to register to vote in the November Election is October 6, 2008

**Early Voting:** Voters may cast an absentee ballot in person on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., beginning Monday, September 22, 2008 through Friday, October 24, 2008 at the following locations ONLY:

South Fulton Service Center  
5600 Stonewall Tell Rd., Room 105  
College Park, GA

Government Center  
141 Pryor St. Suite 4064  
Atlanta, GA

North Service Center  
7741 Roswell Rd. Room 290  
Atlanta, GA

**Advanced Voting:**

Advanced Voting begins Monday, October 27 through Friday, October 31, 2008. Voters may cast their ballot during this week from 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the three locations above. (For other locations see [www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/election](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/election).)

**The absentee application** may be downloaded from the Fulton County website at [www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/election](http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/county/election).

**AJC Voter Guide**

This little online tool is pretty nifty.  
<http://www.thevoterguide.org/a-ajc08/index.do>

**Library Bond Referendum**

Learn about the \$275 million bond referendum for capital improvements to the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, including our new Palmetto/Chattahoochee Hills Library.

[http://www.afplweb.com/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=23](http://www.afplweb.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=23)

See the fact sheet:

<http://www.afplweb.com/cms/images/stories/files/Facility%20Master%20Plan/Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

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**FROM OUR NEIGHBORS****Hill Country Montessori Harvest Carnival – Oct 25**

10 a.m to 2 p.m.

*Submitted by Christina Pardue 770-629-4446*

An eco-friendly carnival all about improving life in our community. Lots of fun, food, and great prizes!

Held in conjunction with the Serenbe Farmers Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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**Grady/Midtown Electronics and Cardboard Recycling – Every Third Saturday**

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Submitted by Sandy Simblist*

On the third Saturday of every month, you can recycle your e-waste in the neighborhood, in the parking lot at Grady High School on 8th Street. Bring your compact fluorescent lightbulbs, alkaline batteries and your old electronic equipment to be recycled between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. the third Saturday of each month. Look for the big Georgia E Waste recycle truck.

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**SAVE THE DATES**

- **Thursday Oct 9, Sat Oct 18 (PLU Th 10/23)**

**Canoeing down the Chattahoochee (Sense of Place learning series)**

As the air begins to cool and leaves change colors, we will embark on an odyssey down the Chattahoochee River by canoe. At our evening meeting, participants will learn about the river's water quality, as presented by Steve Lawrence of the US Geological Survey, along with Chris Tabit, aquatic ecologist at the University of West Georgia. The highlight of the month will be our Saturday canoe trip, accompanied by both scientists. We will take in the scenery while we learn about the environmental challenges currently facing the middle Chattahoochee River. And, we will pause partway on our journey to enjoy a riverside BBQ lunch. See:

<http://www.hillcountrymontessori.org/institutesop.htm>

- **Saturday Oct. 11**

3rd Annual Michael Dempsey Memorial Barbecue

Providence Baptist Church in Rico

Also - The Providence Great Pumpkin Sale from 10am – 3pm

- **Saturday Oct. 18**

Annual Barbecue at New Hope Methodist Church

7875 Atlanta Newnan Rd, Palmetto, GA 30268. (770) 463-4076

- **Sunday, Oct. 19: Brubeck Brothers Quartet at Hutcheson Ferry Park.**

2-5pm. \$15 per vehicle. For the event flyer see: <http://www.chatthills.org/foch/brubeckposteremail.pdf>

To become a sponsor, contact Steven Kopelman at [stevenchca@gmail.com](mailto:stevenchca@gmail.com).

- **Saturday & Sunday Oct. 25-26**  
Rico Fall Festival
- **Saturday, Oct. 25**  
Cochran Mill Nature Center Halloween Hayride and Family Festival - 5:00-9:00 pm  
Enjoy a hayride, arts and crafts, activities, games, a costume contest (at 7:30pm), night canoeing, a campfire and live animal education. Visit our Haunted Habitat, if you dare!  
Admission: \$5 member/\$6 non-member, Children under two years old are free. Dinner will be available for \$4.

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## FROM OUR FRIENDS

### **GreyStone Power Corporation Annual Meeting of Members – Saturday, Oct. 11**

If you receive electricity from GreyStone Power, you're a member and invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

4040 Bankhead Highway, Douglasville, GA

8-10 am – Free Breakfast

8am – 1pm – Health fair, carnival rides, tethered hot air balloon rides, games for children, music, and more.

10 – 10:45 am – Inspirations in Concert

11 am – Business meeting of members followed by door prize

For more information: <http://www.greystonepower.com/index.html>

For their annual report: <http://www.greystonepower.com/UploadedFiles/pdf/1039373.5784143519.pdf>

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### **ARC Regional Snapshot - Transportation Costs and Commute Options**

*Contributed by Chuck Miller*

This month's Regional Snapshot examines a variety of transportation-related data to gain a better understanding of how higher fuel costs affect travel behavior. In exploring national travel patterns and local data from ARC's RideSmart program, a service for those interested in alternative transportation, the research reveals that as gas prices rise, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) falls and those looking for alternative commutes increase. It also shows how transportation costs vary throughout the region, depending on where one lives.

See: [http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/RS\\_transcost.pdf](http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/RS_transcost.pdf)

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