

## Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association Weekly Reader – October 31, 2008

To print and share copies of the weekly reader see: [www.chatthills.org](http://www.chatthills.org)  
For the Civic Event Calendar see: <http://www.chatthills.org/Calendar.htm>

### GENERAL ELECTION

**Friday, October 31, is the last day to vote in advance of the Nov. 4 election.**  
Voters may cast their ballot from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the following three locations:

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

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**Tuesday, Nov. 4 is the General Election.**  
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Check your Fulton County precinct card for poll location.  
(My card says the polling place is the Rico Road Fire Station).

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#### Chatt Hills Voter Guide

The Chatt Hills Voter Guide is available online at: <http://www.chatthills.org/voterguide.htm>  
It has a spread sheet of candidates, survey responses, and information about the other items that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot. Many thanks to volunteers Margaret Clime, Patricia Kerlin, and others who spent many hours coordinating this effort.

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### ASSOCIATION UPDATES

#### City Clean-Up Day – Saturday 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. Come out and join the fun and help keep our city beautiful! See flyer: <http://www.chatthills.org/foch/Ch-CleanupDay-110108.pdf>

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#### Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Committee

If you are interested in sustainable development and land preservation, check out the minutes from the SED committee at <http://www.chatthills.org/foch/SEDC-102508.pdf>.  
I was curious to learn about “Carbon Footprints, so I read their suggested article: [http://www.chatthills.org/foch/abridged\\_PostCarbonCitiesGuidebook.pdf](http://www.chatthills.org/foch/abridged_PostCarbonCitiesGuidebook.pdf). There is also a “user friendly” Web site at: <http://w.plant-a-tree-today.org/newcarbonfree.asp>.

**Buy Our Parks Now! Update**

Donations Received to Date: \$247,665

We thank the many residents and friends of Chattahoochee Hills who have participated. Since gifts and pledges are still coming in, we will continue to keep the campaign open.

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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**CITY UPDATES****Non-emergency Number – 770-463-6306**

Many of you have asked for the City's non-emergency phone number. It is (770) 463-6306

Remember, if you have normal business to conduct with the city, go to city hall or call their business number 770.463.5550.

For emergency service, call 911.

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**The city's Web site is really shaping up. Check out the stories below and visit the site to see the new changes at [www.chatthillsga.us](http://www.chatthillsga.us).**

**Oct 27 Letter from Mayor Hayes**

If you have visited City Hall in the past few days you have probably noticed a lot of work going on. Our staff is renovating rooms that will be used by our Police Department and the Finance Staff. Some improvements have been made in the Council Chambers as well. It will also be necessary for us to do some electrical improvements in these areas. While this work is going on we will not be able to host meetings and activities at City Hall. The work will probably last another 4-6 weeks. During this time we will be working on procedures to facilitate use of meeting space at City Hall for civic-related functions and activities.

I would like to thank Carol Wolfe, City Finance Director, her mother, Linda Hendrix, and her sister, Mary Ann Jones, for spending a long weekend making the drapes that are in the Council Chambers. They did a great job and we appreciate it.

We have added two Public Works Technicians to our small staff. Mitch Lemacks and David Payne started work the week of October 11 and have been very busy. We will be able to pay more attention to Right-of-Way maintenance and our dirt roads now that we have some help.

**Veterans Ceremony at City Hall – Nov. 9**

There will be a ceremony at City Hall on November 9 at 3:00 pm to honor our Veterans. Please attend if you can. As the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays draw near we should all think of our armed forces members who will not be with their families this year.

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**City Council Meeting:**

Tuesday, Nov. 4; workshop at 3:00 p.m., followed by a Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**

Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:00 p.m. (Date changed due to Veterans Day)

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**Burn Ban Update**

The Burn Ban has been lifted. A site inspection by the Fire Marshal is required before a burn permit will be issued. A site inspection can be arranged within 24 hours by calling the Fire Marshal at 404.242.0120.

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**Enter the Tour of Homes Raffle and Help Remodel City Hall**

As part of the upcoming Tour of Homes on Dec. 7, a raffle drawing will be held for a beautiful Christmas quilt that has been donated by Judy Hayes, wife of Mayor Don Hayes. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each from Judy Henderson in the library. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to support remodeling efforts at City Hall.

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## FULTON COUNTY UPDATES

**County Budget Hearing**

From the Johns Creek Community Association

In case you missed the public Fulton County 2008 budget hearings, there's still time to voice your opinion on how the Board of Commissioners should allocate the General Fund Budget. County-wide, the General Fund is divided among the following services: public health, human services, libraries, sheriff, justice system, tax assessment, tax collection and 911.

According to the mid-year budget report, over \$46 million of the opening fund balance was used in 2008 to pay for current year services. That means 2009 will begin with a minimum fund balance, and scant reserve funds. FYI, the 2007 General Fund totaled \$600,480,832 while the General Fund expenditures for 2007 totaled \$641,603,721, accounting for the \$40+ million short fall. It's a pattern that cannot continue and requires, at the very least, reductions in non-mandated services, according to our District 3 Commissioner Lynne Riley. Other challenges testing the 2009 Fulton County budget proposal include the referendum question on the ballot regarding increased homestead exemptions, the decline in real estate values and the decline in sales tax revenues. For now, the General Fund millage rate is set and equal to the 2007 rate of 10.281 mills. How long that will last is the next obvious question.

(Revised for Chatt Hills) Contact Commissioner Bill Edwards (404-612-3079) and the at-large commissioners - Commission Chairman John Eaves and District 2 Commissioner Robb Pitts - to express your views. For a complete list of County Commission board meeting dates (the next one is Nov. 19 when the proposed budget will be presented) and all commissioners' contact information, visit the county web site: [www.myfultoncountyga.us](http://www.myfultoncountyga.us). Last chance to comment on the budget after Nov. 19th is early January when the final budget is adopted.

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**Fulton ordered to refund retroactive taxes**

By D.L. BENNETT

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Thousands of Fulton County taxpayers are due refunds now that a judge has overturned the county's efforts to bill taxpayers to correct a series of errors the county made during the past three years. Whether they get the refunds depends on whether Fulton County accepts Friday's ruling by Superior Court Judge Jerry Baxter or files an appeal. County attorney Larry Ramsey said Monday that hasn't been determined. See the article at:

[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/10/28/tax\\_refunds\\_ordered.html?cxntlid=homepage\\_tab\\_newstab](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/10/28/tax_refunds_ordered.html?cxntlid=homepage_tab_newstab)

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## FROM OUR FRIENDS

### **From the Atlanta Regional Commission – What's Right with the Region!**

(Forwarded by Tom Reed)

Dear members and friends of The Civic League for Regional Atlanta:

We are pleased to announce The Civic League's Third Annual Event, "What's Right with the Region!" will be held on February 26, 2009. Mark your calendar now and be on the look-out for more details of this reception and program, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. at TWELVE at Atlantic Station, featuring Milton H. Jones, Jr., President of Bank of America, Georgia, as our keynote speaker.

As you may recall from last year's Annual Event, we wish to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions toward improving the Atlanta region. Tom Weyandt, Director of Comprehensive Planning for the Atlanta Regional Commission, received the 2008 Founders' Award. Recipients of the four Regional Excellence Awards were: After-School All-Stars, Cobb Parks Coalition, The Center for Community Preservation and Planning for Newton County, and Tad Leithead, of the Cumberland Community Improvement District.

Please use the attached form to provide us with your nominations for the 2009 Founders' Award and Regional Excellence Awards. You must fill out a separate form for each of your nominees and submit them to The Civic League office, by November 21, 2008. You may either fax them to (404) 413-0330, or email to: [rcltjp@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:rcltjp@langate.gsu.edu). We value your input! <http://www.chatthills.org/foch/CivicLeaguenomination%20form.pdf>

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### **Nominate Your Local Government for a CREATE Community Award**

From the Atlanta Regional Commission

The CREATE Community Local Government Innovations Awards honor local governments for their creative efforts to improve efficiency and services to citizens of the metro area in five categories: community-building and involvement, regional prosperity, educational excellence, air quality and transportation and environmental sustainability. The application deadline is Nov. 14.

[http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/CREATE\\_application2008\\_CREATE\\_application.pdf](http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/CREATE_application2008_CREATE_application.pdf)

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## NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR

### **Update on Zack Wansley**

[Editor's note: Zack is the young man who passed away while on a training run in Cochran Mill Park. We thank the many residents and friends of Chattahoochee Hills who have contributed in his name to the Buy Our Parks campaign.]

From Zack's mother, Maribeth Wansley:

E-mail is both a blessing and a curse. You can get information out to the masses, but it is impersonal. In this case it is a blessing because we want to let you know the findings of the Medical Examiner's office.

The conclusion is that Zack dehydrated which caused low electrolyte levels which caused an irregular heartbeat. This very, very quickly caused unconsciousness. He passed away shortly after. The comfort (eventually) is that the M.E. is convinced his unconsciousness was very quick once the irregular heartbeat began. There are details beyond this, but this is the relevant finding.

Ted, Nicholas, Karena and I continue to appreciate your cards and good thoughts. We are progressing by holding tightly to each other. We will come out on the other side with the continued support we are receiving.

Thank you,

Maribeth

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### **Congratulations to Andy Hannah**

Andy Hannah from the Rico Community was recently ordained and will be ministering at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Palmetto, located in the Georgia Baptist Children's Home campus. Congratulations Andy.

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### **A noteworthy Blog to fill your senses**

There is a wonderful program in our community called the Sense of Place, which hosts educational classes and field trips to explore Chattahoochee Hills. Dr. Clifford Blizzard has been keeping a blog of these field trips that gives a wonderful sense of what participants experienced in during the field trip. Dr. Blizzard has some wonderful photos of recent trips and his blog is certainly worth a visit. See: <http://chattahoocheechorography.blogspot.com>

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### **Local residents support Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief**

There are many residents in Chattahoochee Hills who are active in the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief program. These dedicated individuals go on a moment's notice to help clean up, cook meals, provide communications, and minister after disasters. Bonnie Goode forwarded a link to a video that shows some of the work they did in Texas. If you watch closely, you'll see residents David Goode, Barbara Petty, Bonnie Goode in some of the photos. See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR3d48W6Oik>

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### **Nine-year-old Dajaneek Henderson of Chattahoochee Hills Saves Brother from Fire**

By Amy Riley  
The Times-Herald

Nine-year-old Dajaneek Henderson of Chattahoochee Hills is a little girl with a big story. Dajaneek awoke to a house fire on the night of Oct. 1 and is credited with saving the lives of her three older brothers, as well as her own, with her quick thinking and confident response to a terrifying situation.

(To read the story see: <http://www.times-herald.com/Local/Girl-9-saves-brothers-from-fire-566784> )

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Fall Festivals this Weekend**

#### **Rico Fall Festival – Oct 31 & Nov. 1 (6-10 pm)**

Rico Fall Festival at the Rico Scout Hut (at the corner of Rico Rd and Upper Wooten Rd).

Games, Food highlighting homemade Mexican yummys, Sweet Shop, Costume contest, Silent Auction, Teen Coffee Shop, and a Haunted House. 6 - 10pm both nights

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**Serenbe Pumpkin Glow (costume party with DJ Yvonne Monet) – Oct. 31 (5:30 – 7 p.m. trick or treat. 10 p.m. pumpkin glow)**

You are invited to Serenbe's annual Pumpkin Glow, an outdoor party with lots of dancing to DJ Yvonne Monet's tunes, food, festive drinks and more. Costumes are strongly encouraged. Trick-or-treating in the community will take place 5:30 - 7 p.m.; please drive through with caution. The Farmhouse, the Daisy and The Hil will also be open for dinner. Pumpkin Glow: 10 p.m.

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**Saturday, Nov. 1: Art Walk at Serenbe**

Spend the day mingling with artists (some internationally known, some locally loved) in our galleries and shops. Stop by Newington Gallery to meet Australian photographer Greg Newington, and see Tim Mosby's latest work at The Bilt-house. From 5 - 8 p.m., visit StudioSwan for the opening reception of "New Works," featuring Gail Foster and Thomas Swanston.

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**Providence Baptist Church Annual Fall Festival – Nov. 1 (5-8 p.m.)**

Join us for food, fun and fellowship. Carnival Games, Chili Cook-off, Hayride, Cake Walk and bonfire, just to mention a few.

Providence Baptist Church is on Campbellton Redwine Rd at Rico Rd (next to Smith's Store)

See: <http://www.chatthills.org/foch/PBC-FallFestival2008.pdf>

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**Getting Around Serenbe 15K Trail Run – Nov. 15**

Presented by Getting Around, a bike rental store at Serenbe, this scenic 15k (9.3 mile) trail run will take you running through the woods, past a water fall, along farm animal fence lines, over open pastures, and onto the town center streets of Serenbe! It's a great race for both beginning and experienced trail runners! For more information and to register see:

[http://www.active.com/page/Event\\_Details.htm?event\\_id=1609078&assetId=939CDE32-2EC4-455A-905A-DDB196511993#](http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1609078&assetId=939CDE32-2EC4-455A-905A-DDB196511993#)

**Thanksgiving at Serenbe:**

Make reservations at The Farmhouse for Thanksgiving, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. The prix fixe (\$39) menu includes: Molasses Roasted Turkey Breast, Green Bean Casserole, Cornbread stuffing, Cranberry and Orange Relish, Sweet Potato Puree with House Granola, and Pumpkin Tarts. Call for reservations: 770.463.2622.

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