

Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association Weekly Update – August 29, 2008

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- **Friends of Chatt Hills Forms Civic Association**

From volunteers, to friends, to civic association -- it was a natural progression. What began in March as an effort initiated by Mayor Don Hayes to help volunteers align their work with the City, transitioned into the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association on August 28 when volunteers elected officers and ratified bylaws in preparation for filing for nonprofit status with the State.

The new officers elected are:

- President, Tom Reed
- Vice President, Laurie Searle
- Treasurer, Ruby Foster
- Secretary, Adria Whitford

Over the next few months, the Association will elect its board of directors, which will include one representative from each of its five standing committees, two youth representatives, who will serve as non-voting advisory members; and one city council representative, who will serve as a non-voting advisory member. To read more about the mission and purpose of the Civic Association, see the [bylaws](#). Or to join the Association contact info@chatthills.org

- **Buy Our Parks Now! – We're more than half way to our goal!**

Have you heard the good news? Residents in Chattahoochee Hills have donated \$104,120 to date to help Buy Our Parks Now!

The fundraising thermometer passed the half-way mark toward the \$200,000 goal at the community meeting last Tuesday when neighbors had the opportunity to learn more about the campaign, sign up to contact residents, and make a donation toward the cause.

"This is not a charity campaign," councilmember Carl Hattaway said as he addressed residents at the meeting. "It's an investment in our community."

Councilmember David Hanson agreed. He said the parks play such a vital role in our community today – and our City's vision for the future – that he and his wife Maria felt compelled to make a donation sufficient enough to purchase Hutcheson Ferry Park. "We feel fortunate to be in a position to make this contribution," Hanson said, "but we realize these are tough times and not everyone will be able to make a large donation. What's more important is that everyone has the opportunity to participate."

To learn more about this opportunity, see 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

Editorial – Do we have the resources to support our parks?

Laurie Searle

An article in Wednesday's AJC announcing potential State budget cuts that could close up to 13 state parks and historic sites made me think. What would our community be like if Cochran Mill Park was one day closed due to lack of resources? It could happen, you know. Fulton County is not obligated to service our parks if it doesn't have the resources, and as we all know, its resources seem to dwindle daily.

But what about Chattahoochee Hills? We have seemingly fewer resources with no prospects in the immediate future for additional funds. So does it seem feasible that we should attempt to buy our parks? The answer to that question has to do with the way we define the word "resources."

In Chattahoochee Hills, we have a rich history of residents "doing whatever it takes" to survive and prosper. Like the worker ant who can carry 20 times its body weight, it's not our size that makes us strong – it's our determination.

Think back to last year when the idea of being annexed into Atlanta motivated country folk to become a city. Think back to last spring when heavy storms ripped through our City: resident worked round the clock to clear trees; churches opened their doors and their hearts to feed the hungry; we pulled together to fill the needs of our community. Think back a few weeks ago when we announced a campaign to raise \$200,000 for the City to buy our parklands. Residents have contributed \$104,120 in two weeks. Who'd a thought?

Our City may be short of funds at this time, but it will never, ever, be short of resources.

CITY UPDATES

- **City Council Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 2**
Work session at 3:00 p.m., followed by a Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 9**
This will be a work session instead of a regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- **Naming the City**
From Mayor Don Hayes
I would like to get as much input as possible from citizens before we formally change the name of our City. A survey was conducted recently by the City Volunteer Communications Committee with the overwhelming choice being "Chattahoochee Hills." The Council and I agree with this choice. Preparations are being made to have the first reading on the name change at the September Council Meeting. If you have input regarding the name change please send it to my City email address – Don.Hayes@chatthillsga.us.

FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

- **Spend Labor Day Weekend at Serenbe**
An invitation from Serenbe
This weekend, Serenbe will be buzzing with activity for Labor Day Weekend. In addition to three art gallery exhibition openings and a cooking contest at our farmers' market, all three restaurants are looking forward to a fun weekend—Chef Nick Melvin is celebrating his first weekend in the kitchen at The Farmhouse (click [here for reservations](#)); Chef Hilary White of The Hil is making

some delicious pork dishes with a pig just delivered from SweetGrass Dairy (call 770.463.6040 for brunch or dinner reservations), and the Blue Eyed Daisy Bakeshop just debuted a fantastic new menu this week (and, of course, the pastry case is stocked with goodies). Between gallery and restaurant hopping, be sure to stop in Harris & Clark gourmet grocery (ask owners James and Anissa Harris to sample their scrumptious local honey or olive oil), visit EcoMeme for the latest in environmentally-friendly fashion and accessories, and see the brand new shipment of adorable apparel at The Bilt-house. If you want to take a tour of Serenbe via bicycle or golf car, visit Getting Around (where you'll also find an assortment of games, picnic blankets, and more).

- **C.E.R.T. Training – Sept. 6, 8:45am**
Rico Fire Department
Learn the skills to join the Citizens Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) at the upcoming training.
Sept. 6 – Rico Fire Dept (8:45am – 2pm)
Sept 13 and 20 – Providence Baptist Church Fellowship Building (8:45am – 2pm)
Pre-registration is required. Bring a sack lunch.
To learn more contact Elaine Bryant at 770-463-4991 or kenelainebryant@aol.com
If you have already signed up but need to cancel, please let Elaine know.

- **SAVE THE DATES**
 - **Saturday October 11, 2008**
3rd Annual Michael Dempsey Memorial Barbecue
Providence Baptist Church in Rico
Also - The Providence Great Pumpkin Sale from 10am – 3pm

 - **Saturday & Sunday October 25-26**
Rico Fall Festival

FROM OUR FRIENDS

Would you like a handy list of Web sites in our Community? Here's some we know about – if you know of more, please let me know.

City Web sites:

- City of Chattahoochee Hill Country official government Web site
www.chatthillsga.us

- Mayor Don Hayes' Web site
<http://donhayes.net>

Civic Association Web sites:

- Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association
www.chatthills.org

- Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society
<http://www.chattahoocheehillshistoricalsociety.org>

- Buy Our Parks Now! campaign hosted by CH Civic Association and CHC Conservancy
www.buyourparksnow.com

Community Web sites:

- CHC Community (Judy Henderson's site for library, recreation, and community announcements)
<http://www.chccommunity.com>
- Hill Country Montessori School
www.hillcountrymontessori.org
- Chattahoochee Chorography: Exploring sense of place in Chattahoochee Hill Country
<http://chattahoocheechorography.blogspot.com>
- Cochran Mill Nature Center
<http://www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org>
- Serenbe Community
www.serenbe.com
- Chattahoochee Hill Country Alliance
www.chatthillcountry.org

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