

Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association Weekly Update – September 13, 2008

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Buy Our Parks Now! Update – 3 Days to Goal Date \$118,960 Raised to Date

Thanks to your donations, pledges, and commitments to “send something soon” it looks like we will be very close to reaching our goal of raising \$200,000 by Sept. 15 to help our City Buy Our Parks Now!

If you are among the 130 residents who have already donated – thank you for your generous support. We will be mailing your official thank you letters and receipts at the end of Sept. so you’ll have what you need to claim your donation as a tax deductible charitable gift.

If you are among the handful of folks who have made pledges, thank you for your generous support. Please send us your donations by the end of the month, or if you have made financial arrangements that may take a while longer, please email us an estimated date of payment.

If you are among the many more friends and neighbors who have said you needed time to think about it, please – make your donation today. We still need a couple of large gifts, but more than that we need participation. All gifts are greatly appreciated.

And finally, if said you really wanted to participate but just couldn’t because of financial reasons, please contact me (Laurie Searle). A neighbor has offered to make a \$1 donation for anyone who wanted to but couldn’t – so we can demonstrate wide support and improve our chances of getting future grants for our parks.

Next Steps

While our campaign comes to a close on Sept. 15, we have built in a two-week buffer to allow those “checks in the mail” to reach us, so you actually have until Sept. 30 to get your donations to us. At that point we will prepare our official campaign report and create the “Big Check” to present to the City Council at its Oct. 7 meeting. Any donations we receive after Sept. 30 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

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

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

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Chattahoochee Hills Historical Association – Next meeting is Oct. 2

The Historical Association is working on some exciting exhibits. Stay tuned for a profile on “Scoot” Rainey, who was a local Blues musician in the Rico Community in the late 1920s. Also in store is an extensive hand-written journal by Jane Watkins Powers Hinds, who was born in the Gallatte home in 1895.

Communications Committee Needs Your Help

The communications committee is looking for a few volunteers who like working on assigned tasks more than attending meetings. If you are interested in any of these jobs, please contact Laurie at lsearle@bellsouth.net.

Wanted: Someone to build membership database. We need someone with intermediate to advanced skills to create a membership directory for us in Microsoft Access, from our contact list created in Microsoft Excel. We'd like options for reporting and address labels. This is a project-based job that may take about a week.

Adopt-a-Mile – How to report litter or dumps

The Adopt-a-Mile committee assists the City in cleaning up road litter and dumps. If you spot bags full of trash or dumps, please call the City's non-emergency number 770-463-6306 (which rings to the Fire Station.) They will check the trash for possible clues and work with the Committee to clean it up.

CITY UPDATES

From the City's Web site: www.chatthillsga.us

Public Hearing for FY09 Budget – Sept. 23, 6pm

Special Called Public Hearing #2 and Council Meeting: 2009 Budget (6:00 p.m.)

The City held the first of its public meetings Sept. 2 on the FY09 Budget. There are some important changes in the budget and residents are urged to attend the next meeting on Sept. 23 at 6pm. The City is proposing a significant property tax increase, and it is best if you hear the presentation first hand and ask questions so you fully understand the economic factors that are driving this increase for our city, and for many other cities in Georgia.

Fulton County announces payment plan for back taxes

Chatt Hills received a letter from the Fulton County Tax Commissioner indicating that, in order to help with the payment of the back taxes, a payment plan for up to one year can be provided to citizens. See: http://www.chatthillsga.us/forms/pdf/Tax_Commissioner_08-29-08_R1.pdf

Planning Commission Meeting – Oct. 14

The work session scheduled for Sept. 9 has been cancelled. The next meeting, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14, will be a work session instead of a regular meeting.

FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

C.E.R.T. Training – Sept. 12, 8:45am

The Citizens Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training continues today.

Sept 13 and 20 – Providence Baptist Church Fellowship Building (8:45am – 2pm)

Pre-registration is required. Bring a sack lunch.

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American Red Cross Blood Drive – Sept. 15, 3-8pm

Contributed by Annie Robinson

BE A HERO! Give Blood! 1 pint of your blood can save 3 lives! Our last Blood Drive was our best! Let's beat that total this time! For those of you think you can't give blood due to a medication, unless you are on blood thinners or antibiotics there is a chance you can give. The American Red Cross has a list of medications that you can't donate if you are on them, but the list is not that long. Those of you who have

donated in the past but didn't like the staff, we had a wonderful Red Cross staff last time and have requested them again this time, please try to donate again.
If anyone has a couple of hours free and could help sign in donors for the blood drive or help with the snack table, we could really use your help. Please call Annie at 770-463-3289 if you can help.

In Farmer Days: Agricultural history of the Chattahoochee Hill Country - Sept. 18

Thursday Sep 18, Sat Sep 20 (PLU Th 10/2)

During the month of September, we will explore the agricultural history of the Chattahoochee Hill Country, as intimated by scatterings of rusting farm equipment and inscribed on the landscape by terrace patterns. Our evening talk and Saturday outing, both led by Dr. Joe Anderson of the University of West Georgia, will explore the traces of that history in the Hill Country region. We will conclude our Saturday outing with a look at modern-day agriculture, by visiting a local organic CSA, Serenbe Farms.

Sense of Place - <http://www.hillcountrymontessori.org/institutesop.htm>

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Hill Country Montessori's Cedar Creek Clean-Up – Sept. 19

Email Clifford Blizard if you'd like to help: senseofplace@gmail.com

We will shuttle down to the Cedar Creek bridge on Atlanta Newnan Rd. around 9am. and focus on the stream area on both sides of Atlanta Newnan Road, plus a short distance along the roadside (particularly on the Fulton County side of the creek).

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Medicinal & Edible Herb Walk w/ Certified Nutritionist – Sept. 20

Join Getting Around for A Herb Walk at Serenbe

9:00 AM. Cost: \$25 Per Person. (incl. beverage and all-natural insect repellent)

Join us on for an enlightening walk through the Serenbe trails to learn about the interesting vegetation in this Eco-friendly community. Walk will be lead by certified herbalist/teacher Holli Richey. Bring a pencil for note taking and lots of curiosity to this 2-hour event that will be chuck full of fascinating facts and figures about the plant life that surrounds the 1,000 acre Serenbe neighborhood.

Important Walk Facts:

Arrive at 8:30 for a pre-walk briefing

Wear comfortable walking shoes

9110 Selborne Lane, Suite 120

Palmetto, GA 30268

(770) 463-0007

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Group Guided Bike Tour to Cochran Mill Nature Park – Sept. 27

Join Getting Around for A Group Guided Bike Tour from Serenbe to Scenic Cochran Mill Nature Park.

Saturday September 27th at 8:00 AM

Enjoy the beautiful Chattahoochee Hill Country from an eco-friendly bike. Ride cost is \$20 and includes your bike, helmet, tour leader and complimentary beverage. (\$15 if you bring your own bike).

RSVP: By Thursday September, 25th and bring a friend. The more the merrier.

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[Local endorsement from Laurie Searle – if you haven't been to this new Adventure / Bicycle Shop at Serenbe, it's worth a visit. (It's around the corner from the Hil Restaurant.) The owner, Jennifer Williams is delightful and enthusiastic about serving the community. Even if you've lived here all of your lives, there is nothing quite like riding a bicycle at a leisurely pace down our country roads. This trip sounds like a perfect opportunity for home folk to share their personal knowledge with others about Cochran Mill and to get to know some of our newer neighbors. Why not sign up today?)

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
- **Sunday, Oct. 19: Brubeck Brothers Quartet at Hutcheson Ferry Park.**
2-5pm. \$15 per vehicle
To become a sponsor, contact Steven Kopelman at 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.

FROM OUR FRIENDS

From the Atlanta Regional Commission

- **ARC Photo Contest**
What makes metro Atlanta the region it is today? What do you find unique or worth preserving? What kind of place will metro Atlanta be in the future? These are just some of the questions being asked during the visual component of Fifty Forward called "Framing the Future", a region-wide photography contest open to all metro region residents. The goal of "Framing the Future" is to foster a visual exploration of what is valued about metro Atlanta now and what it could and should be in 50 years. The deadline for submissions is midnight, Sept. 30.
[Contest rules and submission.](#)

Laurie Searle, Communications Chair and
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770-463-5169 * lsearle@bellsouth.net
www.chatthills.org