



Friends of Chatt Hills

Weekly Update

August 9, 2008

Friends of Chatt Hills Weekly Updates is a reprint from news sent weekly to the email list.
To be added to this list contact: info@chathills.org

CITY UPDATES

From the City's Web site

- **Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall**
Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- **City Council Special Called Meeting on the 2008 Budget Adjustment**
Tuesday, August 19 at 3 p.m.
Followed by a special called workshop on the 2009 budget at 3:30 p.m.
- **Zone Patrol**
Going on vacation? Out of town on business? Request a Zone Patrol and have Chatt Hills police patrol your area. http://www.chatthillsga.us/community/zone/Patrol_Request_R1.pdf
- **Online Ticket Payment**
You can now pay your tickets and citations using our secure, online system.
www.chatthillsga.us

From the City Council Meeting – reported by Laurie Searle

- The City plans to relocate its growing police department from the Fire Station on Rico Rd. to the City Hall building. This will help facilitate the process of receiving cash payments from the public.
- City Manager Bob Simpson recognized several officials and staff for their significant contributions: the mayor and several council members for forgoing their salaries; Chief Parrott for donating time and tools to make improvements to City Hall; Sherriff Byron Friedmon and Tony Black for their support; CH2M Hill for taking a significant reduction; and City Attorney Bill Riley for taking a deferral. These contributions saved the City an estimated \$650,000.
- Chief Larry Parrott reports:
 - Road signs will soon be posted for “No Thru Trucks” and “City Limits” to help reduce the damage to our roads.
 - The City is working on hiring public safety staff.
 - The police will be visiting residents soon to request pertinent information such as automobile make and model. This will aid them in patrolling the community.

Editorial – Laurie Searle

- **Channel 2 News visits Mayberry**
Submitted by Laurie Searle
On Monday, August 4, Channel 2 News reported live from City Hall here in Chattahoochee Hills. The visit was fueled by a report from Commissioner Bill Edwards that our City continues to get (free) support from the Fulton County Sherriff Dept., while other new cities were required to pay. Channel 2 insinuated that we don't have our act together and reported that we are like the fictional town of Mayberry.

I say, they got the “Mayberry” part right (and yes we are proud of our small town values); the City will most likely buy a sign once it settles on a name (and thank you City for being frugal); and the Fulton County Sherriff Dept. has been providing invaluable support during our City’s start up. Too bad Mr. Bill wasn’t as concerned about providing this level of support to us before we became a City.

FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

- **Project Learning Tree® Awards Grant to Hill Country Montessori School**

Submitted by Tucker Berta

Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation, announced on Aug. 6 that it awarded one of three GreenWorks! grants in Georgia to:

Hill Country Montessori School for its “Rain and Pollinator Garden”: To address a problem with water runoff on the school property, students will develop a garden, known as a rain garden, to re-use the water. Students in all grades will work research, design, planting and maintenance. It will be planted to attract wildlife, particularly bees and other pollinators.

- **Hill Country Montessori School**

Submitted by Leonard Presberg

- Sense of Place Workshop Series: Birds and Butterflies

Outing: Saturday, August 16, 12 PM

This month, we turn our attention to nearby wetlands and the life flying above them.

During our Saturday outing, we will visit a wetland adjacent to Dunaway Gardens, to observe local birds and insects.

For more information, contact clifford@hillcountrymontessori.org. A complete calendar of school and Institute events is available at: <http://hillcountrymontessori.org/parentscalendar.htm>

- **Building Plans**

This summer we had the opportunity to work with the master planner for Serenbe Phil Tabb and Serenbe resident and professional designer Steve Dray on our long-term building plans. We are very excited about these plans and are working on completing the first phases. In the coming months, you will learn more as we make progress and begin Hill Country Montessori's first capital building campaign. To see the plans visit: <http://hillcountrymontessori.org/aboutplans.htm>

- **Spaces Available**

We still have spaces available, especially in our half-day Primary (3 and 4 year olds) and in our Middle School (7th & 8th graders). For more information contact Leonard at leonard@hillcountrymontessori.org or call 770-463-2221.

FROM OUR FRIENDS

- **Chattahoochee Bend State Park (Friends of Park Group Forming)**

Submitted by Laurie Searle

The Coweta County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the statewide Friends of Parks organization hosted a meeting at the Panther Creek Community Center in Newnan this past week to begin the process of creating a new Friends of Park volunteer group for Chattahoochee Bend State Park. More than 60 enthusiastic residents attended the meeting to learn how they could support the planned 3,000 acre park in western Coweta County. After receiving the presentation, volunteers took the first step by setting their meeting dates at the third Thursday of each month at the Panther Creek Community Center. They will meet in September to begin the process of forming their chapter.

According to Newnan Times-Herald.com

A contract has been awarded to Ecos Environmental Design engineering and design firm, and plans are in place to take the first step toward the construction of the park in January. The process will begin with improvements to Flat Rock Road from Bud Davis Road to the park property, paving the way for the park entrance. This will allow access for further construction on the park grounds. Chattahoochee Bend State Park, set to open in 2010, will encompass more than seven miles of river frontage and almost 3,000 acres of land along Flat Rock Road. When finished, it will provide opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking and biking, and other outdoor activities.

- **Big Nerd Ranch – Seeking Community Opportunity**

Submitted by Aaron Hillegass

My name is Aaron Hillegass, and I own a company called "Big Nerd Ranch" that does retreats for computer programmers. We are planning to build a facility to teach our classes in at 9055 Terry Road. It is going to be essentially a large Bed and Breakfast with a classroom.

As part of the process to get our use permit from Fulton County, we need to give the community an opportunity to see and comment on our plan. So, if there a meeting in the neighborhood where people might be interested in hearing about our plans, would you please pass along my contact info?

Sincerely, Aaron Hillegass

Big Nerd Ranch, Inc.

aaron@bignerdranch.com

www.bignerdranch.com/contact.php

404-210-5663

- **Atlanta Regional Commission - 2008 Transportation Fact Book is released**

Contributed by Chuck Miller

The Fact Book presents a summary of the most current data for the transportation system in the Atlanta region. The Fact Book provides information about the existing regional transportation infrastructure and travel patterns as well as other transportation related issues. The purpose of the Fact Book is to provide the public with a quick and easy reference guide on the performance of the metro area's transportation system. The 2008 Transportation Fact Book is the 10th edition and is available in printed form, or you can download the report at:

http://www.atlantaregional.com/documents/tp_08FactBook_072208.pdf

- **Atlanta Regional Commission - "Framing the Future" region-wide Photography Contest**

The goal is to foster a visual exploration about what is valued about metro Atlanta now and what it could and should be in 50 years. This initiative is in conjunction with the Fifty Forward visioning effort currently underway by ARC. For more information: <http://www.atlantafiftyforward.com/framingthefuture.html>