

# CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS WEEKLY READER

April 10, 2009

Promoting active and informed citizenship in Chattahoochee Hills



## **T-Ball and Coach-Pitch is a Big Hit**

*Community transforms Rico Park into a Field of Dreams*

By Lila Rhyne with Laurie Searle

A child's first baseball game is a rite of passage and true to the nature of Chattahoochee Hills, the community pitched in to make the T-Ball and Coach-Pitch opening games last Saturday a memorable event.

After a week of rain that ended our year-long drought, volunteers worked around the clock to transform the Rico Ball Park into a field of dreams. They spruced up the field, built spectator benches, and donated time and funds for music, popcorn & lemonade, and other baseball essentials.

When the T-ball and Coach-Pitch teams arrived in their brightly colored team t-shirts, they were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of family, friends, and neighbors who together with the dedicated coaches and team mothers did their part to make this a perfect day.

*Continued next page...*



The Weekly Reader is a publication of the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association.

To receive print copies, mail a book of stamps to:

Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association  
Attn: Weekly Reader  
P.O. Box 204  
Palmetto, GA 30268

To receive electronic copies or to share news, contact:

[info@chatthills.org](mailto:info@chatthills.org) or 770.463.5169.

### **Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association**

works in partnership with citizens, businesses, organizations, and government to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and land of Chattahoochee Hills, GA.

#### **Officers:**

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

**T-Ball and Coach-Pitch is a Big Hit**

*T-ball begins at 9:30 a.m. and Coach-Pitch begins at 11 a.m. at Rico Park on Saturdays through May 30*

Photos contributed by Lila Rhyne



Future baseball champs receive hands-on coaching throughout the games



Infielders, outfielders, and in-between fielders give it their all



Above: Coach -Pitch gave adults a chance to get in the game. Left: Families, friends, and neighbors cheer-on all of the teams.

## CIVIC UPDATES

### **Census Workers to Verify Addresses in the U.S.**

#### ***First Major 2010 Census Operation to Employ 140,000***

The Census Bureau will launch a massive operation on March 30 to verify and update more than 145 million addresses as it prepares to conduct the 2010 Census.

Nationwide, more than 140,000 census workers will participate in the address canvassing operation, a critically important first step in assuring that every housing unit receives a census questionnaire in March 2010. All information is kept confidential. The countdown to the 2010 Census is officially one year out on April 1.

“A complete and accurate address list is the cornerstone of a successful census,” said Tom Mesenbourg, acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau. “Building on the achievements of the 2000 Census, we have been testing and preparing for the 2010 count all decade, and we’re ready to fulfill our constitutional mandate to count everyone living in the United States.”

The first publicly visible activity of the 2010 Census is ahead of schedule. Address canvassing kicks off a week earlier than originally planned and should conclude by mid-July. The operation will use new hand-held computers equipped with GPS to increase geographic accuracy. The ability to capture GPS coordinates for most of the nation’s housing units will greatly reduce the number of geographic coding errors caused by using paper maps in previous counts.

“The primary goal of the census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place,” Mesenbourg said. “Because the census is used for reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the distribution of more than \$300 billion in federal dollars every year to state and local governments, it’s essential to get this first step right.”

Over the last several years, the Census Bureau has been actively working on updating its geographic databases and master address files. From implementing the Local Update of Census Address program where more than 11,500 tribal, state and local governments participated in a review of the Census Bureau’s address list for their area, to increasing the precision of the GPS mapping, many advances have been made to compile the most comprehensive listing of addresses in the nation.

The address canvassing operation will be conducted out of 151 local census offices across the U.S, with most offices beginning on April 6. In most cases, census workers will knock on doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on the premises. This is the first census to include group quarters (such as dormitories, group homes, prisons and homeless shelters) in the address canvassing operation, which should improve both the accuracy and coverage of the final count.

There will be one final opportunity to add new home construction in early 2010 prior to the mailing of the census questionnaires.

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*Census Workers have started canvassing in Chattahoochee Hills. To understand more about the census and what to expect from canvassers, read this press release by the U.S. Census or visit their Website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)*

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Census workers can be identified by the official Census Bureau badge they carry. During the address canvassing operation, census workers may ask to verify a housing structure's address and whether there are additional living quarters on the property.

2010 Census workers will never ask for bank or social security information. All census information collected, including addresses, are confidential and protected by law. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with the FBI, the IRS, CIA, Welfare, Immigration, or any other government agency. No court of law or law enforcement agency can find out respondents' answers. All Census Bureau employees — including temporary employees — take an oath for life to keep census information confidential. Any violation of that oath is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison.

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#### **April 11 – Dump Clean-Up Day**

The good news is that the city is making progress catching and citing people who dump on our roads! The bad news is that there are several dumps that have formed over the years.

The Adopt-a-Mile Committee needs some volunteers to help clean up a few dumps around the city and take the bulk trash to the Merk Road Transfer Station on April 11, one of the amnesty days. Volunteers are already hard at work consolidating garbage at these illegal dumps. If you can volunteer a few hours to help, please call Molcie Trimble at 770-463-4462.



#### **April 11 – Bulk Trash Amnesty Day**

Don't forget that Fulton County residents may bring their bulk trash to the Merk Road Transfer Station free of charge. The Merk Rd Transfer Station is located at 3225 Merk Road College Park, GA 30049.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We have also confirmed with Commissioner Edwards' office that you may take trash to the South Fulton Annex location on April 11 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- **Items accepted** include: tables, sofas, chairs, refrigerators, washers/dryers, computers, televisions, deactivated cell phones, other appliances, toys and tires (limit of four per vehicle, automotive tires only, must be off the rims.)
- **Items not accepted** include: any and all liquids including paint, constructions and demolition materials, household batteries, yard waste, motor oil, anti-freeze and any hazardous waste.

#### **April 18, 8 a.m. – Spring Clean-Up Day – Meet at City Hall**

Join the Adopt-a-Mile Committee for its Spring Clean-Up day on April 18 at City Hall. Rain date will be May 2. We will clean up Campbellton Redwine/Cedar Grove, Rivertown, Cochran Mill, Hutcheson Ferry and Wilkerson Mill, and then we'll meet back at City Hall for a hot-dog lunch. Cardinal Sanitation will provide trash bags, the committee will provide picker-upers and safety vests, and volunteers should bring gloves and wear long pants.

## Historical Chatt

### From the Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society

[www.chattahoocheehillshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chattahoocheehillshistoricalsociety.org)

- In the mid 1940's high school students attended Campbell High School in Fairburn. One resident remembers going on a field trip to visit Washington D.C. The cost of the trip was \$89, the same price as a bale of cotton.
- There are no natural lakes or ponds in Chattahoochee Hills. It is believed the first person to build a pond was Mr. Burnett Smith, father of Mr. John Smith (Smith's Store). It was about an acre and was located about 100 yards behind Providence Baptist Church. He built the pond in the early 1920's in his spare time with a mule and a pan.

Please send additional information, stories, family histories, or recipes from past residents to: Sandra Huffmaster, 7485 Old Phillips Rd., Palmetto, GA 30268 or [sghuffmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:sghuffmaster@yahoo.com)

(Even though we would like to honor our past and present residents with their stories, anyone wishing to keep specific names out of a story if it is reprinted in the Weekly Reader please indicate "No Names If Printed.")

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### St Paul AME Church Cemetery

#### *Clean-Up Crew finds 162 potential grave sites*

Volunteers from the Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society and Palmetto Churches spent last Saturday morning cleaning up the St Paul AME Church Cemetery on Cochran Mill Rd.

During the first visit to the cemetery in early March, the volunteers identified about 20 grave sites, many of which had been damaged by fallen trees or years of neglect.

During the clean-up on Saturday, volunteers removed several large fallen trees and limbs, and raked away thick layers of mulch, revealing 162 fieldstones, tombstones, and sunken sites that could be potential gravesites in this historic cemetery.

The volunteers hope to survey this cemetery and raise funds or support to maintain this cemetery and preserve its heritage.



Volunteers reposition the top of a box tomb that had become dislodged due to a fallen tree

## NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR

### **Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy Announces Landscaping Plan for City Hall**

Wednesday, April 22 is EARTHDAY, and the Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy is celebrating by announcing a plan to renovate the landscaping at City Hall. Alan Merrill, Chair of the Conservancy, outlined the plan and said, "Chattahoochee Hills has a vision than embraces nature, and our City Hall should reflect that image to residents and visitors alike." The landscaping installed when the building was the Rico School or Community Center is now overgrown and in need of renewal. Elizabeth Dean of Wilkerson Mill Gardens added, "Most of the old shrubs are beyond saving and need to be replaced."

The Conservancy will lead a season-long plan to install new landscaping in front of City Hall. In the spirit of Chattahoochee Hills, everyone is invited to participate in the process. Said Melea Brett, "We will be resourceful and call on volunteers as neighbors helping neighbors." The Conservancy has pledged \$2,500 to start the renovation program.

Many overgrown existing shrubs have already been cut down by Public Works and all of the remaining shrubs will need to be removed. Unfortunately, the magnolia tree that had been planted next to the building had to be removed. Merrill said, "The Conservancy is opposed to cutting down trees, but some circumstances dictate removal of trees that endanger people, buildings, other trees and utilities. That magnolia tree was causing damage the building and had to be cut down."

Esther Stokes, a well-respected landscape designer in the Atlanta area has generously agreed to develop a new landscape plan as a donation. "Esther and Elizabeth spent three hours on Wednesday surveying the building and the landscape and developing a preliminary plan. You can see colored flags indicating where they envision various shrubs and trees. It was fun to watch these two pros discuss various plants and how they might compliment the architecture of the building. It's exciting think of how fresh and well-designed City Hall will look for years to come," said Merrill.

In addition to Esther Stokes and Elizabeth Dean, Melea Brett, Bob Simpson and Alan Merrill comprise the Steering Committee. The landscape plan will incorporate a new sign for City Hall funded by the Christmas Home Tour and Quilt Raffle.

Elizabeth Dean will solicit donations and discounts from various growers with whom she does business. All citizens of Chattahoochee Hills have the opportunity to make tax-deductible donations to help beautify City Hall. For many local residents, this is a way to honor the education and memories from their years as students at Rico School. And residents can make donations to purchase specific plants on the plan to honor people and special occasions.

The Steering Committee would like two other residents of Chattahoochee Hills to join them. A love of landscaping and gardening and the willingness to recruit other volunteers and solicit gifts-in-kind will be a plus. Volunteers are invited to call Melea.

During the summer, volunteers with backhoes and tractors will be needed to carefully dig up the old root systems, being especially carefully not to damage the foundation of the building, which was very much an issue with the old magnolia tree.

The Program will seek donations from the community to enhance the soil. Manure - chicken droppings and horse manure are excellent - and other organic materials may also be used. Then volunteers with tillers will be needed to work these enhancers into the soil and to prep the soil for planting. Mulch will also be needed.

Hopefully, the budget will enable the installation of drip irrigation to nurture the new plantings. Drip irrigation is a model of sound water management practices.

In the fall, volunteers will plant the new shrubs and trees. Fall is the best time of year for such planting - it gives the plants time to establish their root systems during the winter.

On Earth Day in 2010, everyone can celebrate the "leafing out" of the new landscaping and look forward to a City Hall that is looks like it belongs with the natural beauty of our city and our dedication to a sustainable community.

Alan Merrill, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy  
770-463-0809  
Alan.conservancy@gmail.com

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## **CITY UPDATES**

For more information see the City's Website at: [www.chatthillsga.us](http://www.chatthillsga.us)

### **Public Meetings**

Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 14

City Hall

Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

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### **Sign Up for the City's E-news Alerts!**

Chattahoochee Hills will launch the city's first official electronic newsletter later this spring. We'll provide residents with regular updates on the latest city-related news and information, including details about upcoming events and important announcements. Subscribers will also receive important "instant alerts" and other emergency information issued by the city. To subscribe, go to [www.chatthillsga.us](http://www.chatthillsga.us).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tee-Ball Season: April – May 30 (9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)**  
Grab a lawn chair and head on down to the Rico Softball Field (at the corner of Rico Rd and Upper Wooten) for the T-Ball and Coach-Pitch league. T-Ball games begin at 9:30 a.m. and feature 27 players on two teams – the Owls and the Robins. Coach-pitch games begin at 11 a.m. and feature 32 players on the two teams – the Cardinals and the Blue Jays.
- **Easter Egg Hunt – April 10, 2:00 p.m.**  
Sponsored by Providence Baptist Church. Everyone is Welcome.  
Piney Woods Farm. 6301 Campbellton Redwine Rd (two houses north of Smith's Store)
- **Group Bike Tour to Dunaway Gardens – April 11, 9 a.m.**  
Join Getting Around (the bicycle shop at Serenbe) for their Monthly "2nd Saturday" Group Ride. This time we are leave from Serenbe and headed to Dunaway Gardens, 8 scenic miles from Serenbe. Ride Level: Moderate to Challenging (Terrain is hilly for first 5 miles). RSVP: By Friday, April 10th and bring a friend. The more the merrier. Ride cost is \$25 and includes your bike, helmet, tour leader and complimentary beverage. (\$15 if you bring your own bike). (770) 463-0007 or [info@gettingaround.com](mailto:info@gettingaround.com)
- **Ecology of Box Turtles – April 18, 12-2 pm. Cochran Mill Nature Center**  
Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina*) are a familiar, fascinating, and generally well-liked reptile species. Herpetologists agree that they are also in decline across their range. Come learn about the basic biology and habits of these interesting and long-lived animals, and what you can do to help ensure that they continue to inhabit our forests and backyards.  
\$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. Complimentary, light refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. For more information and registration, call 770.306.0914.  
[www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org](http://www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org)
- **Lunch at Antioch UMC. April 19, 12:15 p.m. Antioch Methodist Church**  
Antioch UMC will sponsor lunch after church on April 19th. We will serve loaded baked potatoes, salad, dessert, tea and lemonade. Please make plans to attend and let your neighbors and friends know. We plan to start serving by 12:15 if you want to come after church or even better come and attend our 11 a.m. service. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 8 years old. The church is located at 7650 Rivertown Rd. in Fairburn.
- **Dave Ramsey's Town Hall of Hope – April 23, 8 p.m. New Hope United Methodist Church**  
If you have been listening to Dave on radio or TV you probably heard him mention his "Town Hall for Hope" event. The event is about what we should do during these troubling economic times. It will be on April 23rd at 8PM. New Hope has been selected as a host site! We are very excited to offer this event to you but space is limited....first come first serve. Doors will open at 7:45PM. The church is located at 7875 Atlanta Newnan Rd. Contact: Becky Martin at 770.347.7209

- **Race for Riley—April 25. Georgia Baptist Children’s Home**

See: [www.raceforriley.org](http://www.raceforriley.org).

## SAVE THE DATES

- **May Day Festival. May 3, 1:00 – 5 p.m. Serenbe**

Join us for one of the most fun annual events at Serenbe—May Day. Spend a beautiful spring day in the country with food and drink, activities for families and kids, artists, eco-education opportunities, farmers, animals, live music, and more. For a list of participants, foods, and programs see:

<http://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/popup.php?PHPSESSID=7cdf108521182257ff6327a2102a9bf7&op=view&id=21539345&crd=serenbecalendar>

- **Cochran Mill Nature Center Summer Camp Programs**

- **Junior Naturalist Day Camp at Cochran Mill Nature Center. June 1 – July 31st**

Ages: Rising 1st-5th grade

Dates: Weekly June 1st-July 31<sup>st</sup>

Each child will experience a combination of environmental education and outdoor recreation, while exploring topics and activities related to nature and the outdoors. Themes and activities differ each week.

- **Camp Cricket Kindergarten Day Camp**

Ages: Students entering kindergarten in the fall and will be 5 yrs old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

Dates: June 15-19, June 29th-July 3rd, July 13th-17<sup>th</sup>

Join us for Camp Cricket and learn about reptiles, birds, insects, native wildlife of Georgia, gardening and more! We’ll hike, fish, canoe and have loads of fun!

- **Adventure Day Camp**

Ages: Students entering 6th-9th grades

Dates: June 22-26, July 6-10, August 3-7

Campers will travel away from Cochran Mill Nature Center to nearby parks and wilderness areas for outings including hiking, orienteering, stream sampling and wildlife searches.

Campers will learn about native Georgia wildlife and forests through personal exploration. On Thursday night, there will be a camp-out in the nature center field, including a campfire, cookout and owl prow!

Please call for more information: 770-306-0914 or check out our website at [www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org](http://www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org)