

CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS WEEKLY READER

January 22, 2010 Promoting active and informed citizenship in Chattahoochee Hills



Navigating the 911 Emergency Response System

By Tom Reed

A resident on Whiteside Road tried to remain calm but her heart continued to race. Minutes before, she had called 911 to report her medical emergency and she knew that an ambulance was on its way because she could hear its siren. But it sounded like it was on the other side of Whiteside Rd, separated by South Fulton Parkway.

Only a few weeks before, the residents mother, who lives next door, experienced a similar problem. After calling 911 for a medical emergency she could hear the ambulance driving around as if they couldn't figure out how to get her house.

While the Chattahoochee Hills emergency first responders had no problem finding their homes because they know the lay of the land, the ambulance drivers relied on their GPS units, which sent them to the wrong location, repeatedly.

Continued...



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
Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268

To receive electronic copies or to share news, please contact: info@chatthills.org or call 770.463.5169 or 770.463.0100.

The 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

Navigating the 911 Emergency Response System

Residents on Whiteside Road recently asked the Civic Association if they could work with the City to identify and correct the problem. We reported the problem to Chattahoochee Hills police chief Damon Jones and asked him to investigate both instances, and we spoke to a contact at the Fulton County 911 operating center.

Incident report

Chief Jones verified that the first 911 call was dispatched by Fulton County at 01:53 a.m., the ambulance arrived on the scene by 02:08 a.m., and the entire incident was cleared at 02:44 a.m. These numbers were provided by Fulton County. Chief Jones also spoke to everyone on duty that night. He learned that the weather was very bad that night, and that the ambulance drivers did have some difficulty finding the house. He then followed up with Fulton County 911 to see what could be done to improve matters. He also stated that our initial responders – Chatt Hills Fire/Rescue and Police – are aware of the errors in the online maps that GPS units use, and have made notes in their systems to provide correct access points.

A Fulton County contact confirmed that Fulton County 911 receives 911 requests for service and dispatches police and fire calls, but it does **not** dispatch any ambulances. Instead, they must call Rural/Metro Ambulance (RMA) by telephone and give them the ambulance calls verbally. RMA then dispatches one of their ambulances by radio. This arrangement is a result of the County's ending of the rural ambulance subsidy about a year ago. (The subsidy provided the incentive for RMA to keep extra units "posted" in various areas around Chattahoochee Hills, Palmetto and unincorporated South Fulton County – who, by the way, are now all in the same boat as Chattahoochee Hills).

The root of the problem

Based on what we learned, the root of the problem seems to be twofold:

- Online maps of Chattahoochee Hills are not up to date, so responders who use GPS units can get lost.
- Since Fulton County 911 does not dispatch ambulances, they are not afforded the opportunity to assist with directions and the map correction notes they've added to their system.

What is being done to correct the problem?

The Civic Association has contacted many of the companies who create online maps, but the process is slow and can often generate more errors. A more probable solution would be to introduce legislation requiring accountability for companies who produce online maps and for EMS companies who use them.

Three Emergency Communications employees have recently made multiple visits to the Whiteside Road area to assess the difficulties created by the dividing of the road. The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system already displays exactly-located "access points" for all addresses on Whiteside Road, but they have added explicit "directions" to the CAD records for addresses on both sections of Whiteside Road, in the event that either RMA, or the City's first responders, request assistance in locating addresses on this road.

Fulton 911 staff will soon be calling a meeting (to include Rural/Metro, Chattahoochee Hills Fire, Palmetto Fire and Fulton Fire) in hopes of establishing a "service level" agreement, which would allow the Fulton County 911 Center to dispatch Rural/Metro ambulances directly over the air (and offer assistance in giving directions).

The staffer concludes that, "I believe that our 911 Center is committed to providing the highest level of public safety service possible, but it would be a great improvement if we were allowed to dispatch all public safety responders simultaneously from one central location." We will continue to follow this issue, and be sure that any meetings are publicized.

CIVIC UPDATES

Chattahoochee Hills Schedules Planning Annual Planning Retreat

The Chattahoochee Hills city council will hold its annual planning retreat Thursday and Friday, February 11-12 at the Redtop State Park conference center in Cartersville. An agenda will be posted soon with starting times.

The Mayor, city council and department directors will spend the two days reviewing staff work plans, briefings on upcoming annual budget items, departmental updates, strategic goal setting, and intergovernmental coordination. Catherine Bennett from the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute will be facilitating the second day of the retreat. The cost of the retreat is budgeted at \$2,000.

The public is invited to attend. The results will be published and shared with the citizens at the following regularly scheduled council meeting. The conference center address is 50 Lodge Road, Cartersville, Georgia 30121.

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Advisory Message Issued by the Chattahoochee Hills Police

Sunday January 17, 2010 06:43 AM PST

Several street signs were destroyed last Saturday night by vandals - at the intersection of Hutcheson Ferry and Atl-Newnan Rd., and on Atlanta Newnan Road at the Serenbe entrance. If you saw or heard anything that night, please call the Chattahoochee Hills Police Department at 770-463-8881.

For full details, go to <http://local.nixle.com/alert/871598/>

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Haitian Earthquake Relief Fraud Alert

(More from Nixle)

The FBI reminds Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, including the following:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages.

- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.
- Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site.
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Anyone who has received an e-mail referencing the above information or anyone who may have been a victim of this or a similar incident should notify the IC3 via <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. For further information, please visit the FBI's Web site: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel10/earthquake011310.htm>.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

T-Ball is Coming!

From Lila Rhyne

Spring must be in the air! It is already time to register for the 2010 Chatt Hills Tee-Ball & Coach Pitch season! All children ages 3-12 years old are invited to participate. Registration deadline is Monday, February 22. Season begins Saturday, March 27 and ends Saturday, May 22. Sign-up forms are available at this link (page 10-12), or at the Library or by contacting Lila Rhyne at jlrhyne@bellsouth.net.

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Simple Ideas to Save Money on Heating Bills and Improve Cold-Weather Comfort

From Sara Hines

This is all pretty simple: the speed of cold air falling is what generates drafts. This year I went to Lowe's and bought a 1/16" thick sheet of Plexiglas intending to stick it on to the window frame on the inside with Velcro. I got lazy and just set it in the window, spanning from trim to trim and, as that was the size of the piece of plastic, up about mid-height, resting on the sill. Then I pulled my set of sheer curtains and my tightly fitting drape over it. The effect on comfort was immediate. A tightly fitting drape that isn't porous can stop drafts and provide immediate comfort. The measurable (and that's what the expert geeks do) effect of a drape on heat transfer depends on the installation, and is not actually that high (unless that drapery solution begins to function as a storm window). But, don't forget radiation--heat moves from a warm object (you) towards cold (the window). You feel that as chill. A curtain can block that effect, adding greatly to your comfort.

One of the tests of how to spend money on retrofit is return on investment. Upgrading a single glazed window (R1) to a double glazed one (R2) or even a super-high performance R3 is a negligible performance

improvement vs. the high cost of new windows. (The payback for the thermal improvement can be as much as 25 years when you study the reduction in heat loss through the new windows and what that actually means in your heating bill.) What usually gives the best bang for the buck is sealing the house, looking for what is called "thermal bypasses. A Thermal Bypass is a hole in the thermal barrier of the house. This could be an area where a porch roof frame meets the wall framing and there is no insulation, or duct leakage or un-insulated ducts that go up through unheated spaces. You need to establish what is within your heated envelope—inside its perimeter—and look for what goes through it and where it is weakest. Sometimes, just slightly hidden from view there are actual open holes to the outside. Find these holes, and fill them, either with expandable foam insulation, or with fiberglass batts. Insulate your ductwork if it is in unconditioned space.

Exterior shutters do just about nothing for heat conservation because cold air still gets in contact with the glass. In fact, any gap between your thermal barrier and insulation allows air movement and makes the insulating value almost useless. People often decide not to insulate the floor of their house, though the basement is not heated and/or the basement walls are not insulated, but a tremendous amount of heat is lost there.

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Creating a New Park – See How it's Done

Contributed by Laurie Searle

Something exciting is happening next door in Coweta County, with the creation of a new park called Chattahoochee Bend. Join the "Friends of the Bend" in their monthly work day to help with this effort and to gain some valuable experience that we may be able to apply to our own parks in Chattahoochee Hills. To participate, see their announcement below and check the status of the work day at www.bendfriend.org.

January 23, 2010 ~ 11:00 to 3:00/ "Prelude to the Trail"

The plan is for the riverside trail to be the first trail built at The Bend. It will be the longest trail at the park, extending from the bend all the way to the SW border of the park. To facilitate access and equipment hauling, we need to clear the road that we hiked back in October.

We will meet at the park kiosk and commute to the Clark Rd. entrance gate. Please do not park on Clark Rd. We will clear the access road from the gate south to Flat Rock/Payton Road and north to the river, as much as time and weather permit. Meet at the park kiosk (enter via Payton Road, north side). Volunteers please bring gloves, boots, hand saws, chain saws, leaf rakes, steel rakes, shovels, weed-eater, sling blades and safety glasses. For directions to the park see: <http://www.bendfriend.org/bendinfo.html>.

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Historical Society Meeting

Contributed by Sandra Huffmaster

The Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society will be holding a Planning Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library in the City Hall building.

Chattahoochee Hills Charter School Announces Community Meeting

From Monica Olsen

Please come to a community informational meeting on Thursday evening, January 28th at the Chattahoochee Hills City Hall to learn more about the proposed charter school, and to provide input to create the school you want for the children of Chattahoochee Hills.

The parents and community of Chattahoochee Hills seek to increase access to high-quality education for all students in our region, regardless of income. At present, we live in the largest area of Fulton County without a charter elementary school. Chattahoochee Hills Charter School is a proposed charter school that will take advantage of the incredible natural resources in our region. CHCS proposes an experiential, nature based learning model integrating the arts, agriculture, and environmental studies into standard curriculum. CHCS plans to ultimately serve students K-8, with an initial launch of grades K-3 that could open as soon as fall 2011.

Date: Thursday, January 28th, 6-7 p.m.

Location: Chattahoochee Hills City Hall, 6505 Rico Road, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268

Questions? Please contact russ.kiefer@chatthillscharter.org

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Hill Country Charter School Facilities Charrette

From Tucker Berta

You are invited to attend the Hill Country Charter School Facilities Charrette to discuss the school's vision, academic mission and begin to determine the building components such as classrooms, support learning areas, administrative space, amenities like the cafeteria and other spaces required to support the school's objectives. This charrette will be led by Steve Cover, Todd Bertsch and Jim Rice of Helmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK), and is being held on January 30, 9 am – 1 pm, in the Serenbe Institute Studio.

Please note that this meeting will not address issues beyond the built structure (i.e., location of school or curriculum programming).

Date and Location: January 30, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Serenbe Institute Studio (in Selborne Courtyard, behind Blue Eyed Daisy). No RSVP required.

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Gentle Reminder

From Maria Hanson

I would like to submit a request that people make a point of slowing down for tractors on the road, and not passing them at fast speeds - just paying them respect on our roads, and driving safely and considerately...

Thanks, Maria

Census Bureau to Begin Household Contacts in February

From Tom Reed

Just a reminder that the U.S. Census Bureau will begin delivering census questionnaires through the mail and by hand from February - August 2010. Field staff members will be working in neighborhoods to deliver paperwork, collect information, and verify addresses during this period.

According to the Census website (<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/whole.php>), they will only conduct face to face visits at households from which they do not receive a form in the mail, so please consider preparing and returning your Census forms as they are received if you do not wish to be visited.

Law Enforcement agencies across the U.S. are expecting to see an increase in calls on suspicious persons this year due to census workers being out in neighborhoods and we have received a guide from the Census Bureau on how to determine the validity of their IDs, so please be vigilant throughout this period and don't hesitate to call us if you witness suspicious persons in your area - don't assume they are from the Census Bureau as many would-be criminals may use this as a cover to commit crimes.

You can learn more about the Census and how they will be collecting data at www.census.gov.

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Cochran Mill Nature Center Profile in the News!

From Melissa Laughner

Just a quick note to let you know that Cochran Mill Nature Center has a shiny new profile on the Do Good™ Channel. Take a peek <http://dogood.ajc.com/nonprofits/cochran-mill-nature-center>. What's so great about our Do Good™ profile? Lots of things (!), like:

1. It's got the most up-to-date information about our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, in-kind donation needs, programs, and more
2. It's not only live at <http://DoGoodChannel.com>, but also on the Do Good™ Channels of numerous high-traffic websites, like www.Boston.com, www.AJC.com, and www.SFGate.com (that's 10+ million monthly unique visitors!).
3. It's got nifty social tools built into it, making it easy for you to share what you discover with friends, family & colleagues (i.e. email to a friends, post to Facebook or MySpace, bookmark on del.icio.us, Digg, etc.).
Hello, citizen marketers & fellow do-gooders!

Check it out, bookmark it, tell a friend! <http://dogood.ajc.com/nonprofits/cochran-mill-nature-center>. Here's to spreading the good!

Thanks! Melissa Laughner, Education Coordinator, Cochran Mill Nature Center

Race for Riley Coming

From Waynette Peek

Spring must be just around the corner, as one of the markers in our community has started preparations for this season's event. The first two 'Race for Riley Nights' – fundraisers for the event – have been scheduled:

- Tuesday, Feb. 2nd at the Blue-Eyed Daisy from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. for Taco Night
- Monday, Feb. 22nd at Oz Pizza in Fairburn from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Also, be on the lookout for some new activities that are on the way this year, including the exciting news of adding a bike ride to the event. We'll have more details here as events unfold, and, if you need any more info in the meantime, please visit the website at www.raceforriley.org to learn about this important local cause and charity.

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Friends of the Library Meeting

Notice from Tamara Toth

The first 2010 Friends on the Library meeting will be held Monday, January 25th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Below are the items that we will cover, and please bring any ideas and topics you would like to discuss also.

1. Review of what was accomplished in 2009
2. Fundraising update
3. Fundraising plan for 2010
4. Current classes offered
5. What else the community would like to see
 - a. Story time?
 - b. Community authors?
 - c. ...?

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

For more community events, check out these other Chattahoochee Hills Websites:

- Civic Association Calendar: <http://www.chatthills.org/Calendar.htm>
- CHC Community: <http://www.chccommunity.com/whatsnew.html>
- Serenbe Community: <http://www.serenbecommunity.com/calendar.html>
- Cochran Mill Nature Center: www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Jan. 25th 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Friends on the Library Meeting – In the library. Please attend as we discuss progress on the Library update program and future needs and plans.
Tuesday, Jan. 26th 6:30 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting: The Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society will be holding a Planning Meeting in the library at City Hall.
Thursday, Jan. 28th 10:30 am – 11:30 am	Cochran Mill Nature Center Home School Day: January's topic will be Reptiles. Students will have the opportunity to meet native and exotic reptiles up close.
Thursday, Jan. 28th 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Chattahoochee Hills Charter School Community Meeting: Please come learn more about the proposed charter school, and to provide input to create the K-8 school you want for the children of Chattahoochee Hills. Meeting is at City Hall.
Saturday, Jan 30th 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	WINTER LIGHT WORKSHOP at Newington Gallery: A one-day photographic workshop for beginners, designed to develop your ability to see, understand and apply the quality of light to any situation. Register at www.newingtonphotography.com
Jan. 30 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Hill Country Charter School Facilities Charrette to discuss the school's vision and academic mission and begin to determine the facilities required to support them. Serenbe Institute Studio (in the courtyard behind Blue Eyed Daisy). No RSVP required.
Saturdays, beginning Jan. 30 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Narrative Painting: Taught by Michael David, Tom Swanston, and Gail Foster. This class will explore narrative through the use of a variety of tools, both traditional and non-traditional. For more information call Tom Swanston: 770-463-9440
Tuesday, Feb. 2nd 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	'Race for Riley Nights' fundraiser at the Blue-Eyed Daisy – on Taqueria Night!
Thursday, Feb. 4 through Saturday, Feb. 7	Paint the Town Red: Valentines Shopping & Stroll Weekend at Serenbe: The shops, galleries and artisans at Serenbe will have perfect Valentines gifts and shopping specials all weekend. Visitors can also enjoy specials at the restaurants.
Monday, Feb. 22 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Cochran Mill Nature Center Home School Day: February's topic will be Bats. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the traits and habits of bats from around the world, including the 16 species found right here in Georgia.
Monday, Feb. 22nd 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.	'Race for Riley Nights' fundraiser at Oz Pizza in Fairburn
Saturday, Mar. 13th 10:30 a.m.	Cochran Mill Nature Center Saturday Spotlight – Rain Barrel Workshop. Pre-registration required! For information and registration, call 770-306-0914.

Do you have an event you want to add to our calendar? We're happy to list local events, articles and other submissions of general public interest to Chattahoochee Hills' residents. Please submit your information in advance so people have an opportunity to see it! We will post it as soon as possible after we receive your request. Please remember – any contributions to the Weekly Reader must be sent to info@chatthills.org NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY for inclusion in the current week's edition (although earlier is certainly OK!)

Chattahoochee Hills Spring 2010 Co-Ed Tee-Ball & Coach Pitch Ball

Ages 3-12 years old

Registration Form – Deadline February 22, 2010

Participant Name _____

Age ____ Birth date _____ Grade ____ Registering for Tee-ball ____ Coach Pitch ____

(Tee-ball ages 3-5 years old) (Coach Pitch ages 6-12 years old)

T-shirt size-Circle One: Youth: S M L Adult: S M L XL

Has your child played in a Tee-ball or Coach Pitch League before? Yes ____ No ____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00 (Checks Payable to Community Brickworks)

SEASON: SATURDAY, MARCH 27 - SATURDAY, MAY 22

- ALL GAMES PLAYED ON SATURDAYS AT RICO PARK BALL FIELD
- ONE 30 MINUTE PRACTICE WEEKLY ON SATURDAY BEFORE GAMES
- FIRST PRACTICE BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M. FIRST GAME BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.
- TEAM UNIFORM SHIRT & HAT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS
- INDIVIDUAL TROPHY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AT END OF SEASON

My signature constitutes agreement and authorizes treatment, in case of emergency.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please mail Registration Form, Waiver of Liability Form and Payment by Monday, February 22 to the address below or bring to the Library at Chattahoochee Hills City Hall. Community Brickworks, 6505 Rico Road, Suite B, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268.

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR CHILD
COMMUNITY BASEBALL PROGRAM
CITY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS**

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian of _____ (“my child”) hereby release the City of Chattahoochee Hills and its mayor and council, employees, staff, outside contractors, and volunteers from all liability for any injury or damage my child may suffer as a result of participating in a baseball program held at Rico Park or other park of Chattahoochee Hills. I fully understand that the City of Chattahoochee Hills is not involved in the operation of the baseball program and has simply permitted the program to use Rico Park and other parks. I further acknowledge that I have not paid any money to the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the use of Rico Park or other parks and further acknowledge that the park is provided by the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the recreational enjoyment of its citizens and others. Finally, I acknowledge that I have freely and voluntarily signed this Waiver.

Print Name of Child _____

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY
COMMUNITY BASEBALL PROGRAM
CITY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS**

I, _____, hereby release the City of Chattahoochee Hills and its mayor and council, employees, staff, outside contractors, and volunteers from all liability for any injury or damage I may suffer as a result of participating in a baseball program held at Rico Park or other park of Chattahoochee Hills. I fully understand that the City of Chattahoochee Hills is not involved in the operation of the baseball program and has simply permitted the program to use Rico Park and other parks. I further acknowledge that I have not paid any money to the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the use of Rico Park or other parks and further acknowledge that the park is provided by the City of Chattahoochee Hills for the recreational enjoyment of its citizens and others. Finally, I acknowledge that I have freely and voluntarily signed this Waiver.

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Date _____