

CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS WEEKLY READER

January 29, 2010 Promoting active and informed citizenship in Chattahoochee Hills



Formalizing Our Neighborhood Watch Program

By Laurie Searle

In the three-mile loop I call my neighborhood, there are 15 homes set off the beaten path of two gravel roads that cut through several hundred acres. Across the Parkway, I call folks along my 4.5 mile jogging loop my neighbors too.

Over the years, we've looked out for each other. We've returned our wandering pets, shared vegetables from our gardens, cleaned up garbage strewed by inconsiderate passersby, and called each other when we spotted anything suspicious.

While we already had an informal neighborhood watch program, we were missing two important elements that had the potential to make us much safer – information and the support of a local public safety team.

We filled those gaps last week by asking Chattahoochee Hills Police Chief Damon Jones to help us create a formal Neighborhood Watch Program.

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

Formalizing Our Neighborhood Watch Program

At our neighborhood watch meeting on January 21, Chief Jones introduced seven members from his cadre of public safety professionals and thanked them for attending the meeting on their time off. Our neighbors were very appreciative of Damon Jones, David Colley, Matt Rook, Jamie Melton, Ronnie Lyle, Hugh Beale, Craig Wall, and Thanh Nguyen for the time they spent educating us.

Chief Jones said our Neighborhood Watch Program would be the first formal Neighborhood Watch Program in the city. But unlike traditional programs that use block captains to coordinate activities in a city block, our program would require a different strategy to cover neighbors spread out over country miles. While he researches different national programs to see which model would work best in Chatt Hills, he suggested we continue with our plan to coordinate with neighbors in our two country loops.

What is the Neighborhood Watch Program?

The Neighborhood Watch Program teaches you the steps that you can take to help protect your home. It also organizes a neighborhood group which can make crime prevention part of every person's daily routine, just by watching out for each other. Our job as citizens is to report suspicious activity to police. It is their job to handle the crooks!

By formalizing our Neighborhood Watch Program, our neighbors made a commitment to meet with our public safety team twice a year for additional training. We may also receive Neighborhood Watch road signs to alert passersby that we are serious about protecting our neighborhood and won't think twice about reporting suspicious activities to police.

What we learned

Sgt. David Colley, who is responsible for community programs in Chatt Hills, is the point of contact for our Neighborhood Watch Program. He gave us several informational handouts and stressed the following points:

1. Get to know your neighbors. Know their names and be able to identify them and their vehicles by site.
2. Maintain a map of your immediate neighborhood with names and addresses.
3. Make sure your address is marked clearly on BOTH sides of your mail box.
4. Make the homes as unattractive to burglars as possible. Keep bushes trimmed, use deadbolt locks, turn on alarm systems when you leave, lock doors whenever you leave, even to work in the yard.
5. Mark all property for identification. Use your drivers' license number or last four of your social security number. Do NOT use your full social security number.
6. Be observant, and watch over your neighbors' homes.
7. Use Chattahoochee Hills Zone Patrol when going on vacation to have police check on your home.
8. Write down license numbers and descriptions of suspicious-looking vehicles and persons and report them to police immediately.
9. When you see a problem, call 911.

The last point was probably the most important. Sgt. Colley said that citizens only think of calling 911 for dire emergencies, but that 911 now does priority dispatch. So if you report a suspicious car in your neighborhood at the same time your neighbor calls for a medical emergency, 911 will dispatch the medical emergency first.

Question and answer session

The best part of our Neighborhood Watch Meeting was having the opportunity to ask questions throughout the meeting and talk to the public safety team afterwards. A few of our Q&A follow:

1. What is the best self-defense weapon a citizen can use?

Pepper spray is an effective self-defense weapon. It comes in a variety of sizes and strengths, is easy to use and has a broad aim, and can incapacitate the attacker for 30 or 40 minutes, giving you time to quickly flee. A handgun is only effective if you know how to use it, have time to aim, and actually hit the attacker. If an attacker takes the gun away from you, you could be fatally injured.

2. What are the most common fire hazards around the house?

Extension cords placed under area rugs are big fire hazards. Residents also need to be especially careful when disposing of ashes from their fireplaces. Ashes can remain hot for up to a week or more, so don't dump them in the woods or with your other garbage.

3. What other hazards should we be aware of in our homes?

High levels of carbon dioxide accumulation inside the home can cause health problems such as nausea, dizziness, or vomiting. To prevent a buildup of carbon dioxide use a balanced, mechanical ventilation system, make sure gas burning appliances are properly ventilated, and regularly check on all fuel-burning appliances.

4. Do we need a permit to burn leaves?

Yes, a permit is required, but it doesn't cost anything. The purpose of the permit is to notify public safety in the event a burn gets out of control, or if a neighbor reports that they see smoke in the neighborhood.

5. How can our Chatt Hills public safety team help us?

The Fire Department offers free blood pressure tests. It will also give you advice on where to place smoke detectors and inspect your home for fire hazards, upon request. The Police Department will drive by your home when you're on vacation.

6. Is there anything else we can do to increase our safety? Chattahoochee Hills will be offering a Citizens' Police Academy in the near future to help interested residents become more informed about public safety.

For more information about forming a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area, contact Chief Damon Jones at 770-463-8881.



Chief of Police Damon Jones and members from his public safety team meet with residents from Capps Ferry, Jones Ferry, Garretts Ferry, Whiteside, and Campbellton Redwine Roads to form the city's first Neighborhood Watch Program.

CIVIC UPDATES

Charter School Charrette, Saturday January 30, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Serenbe Institute Studio

From Monica Olsen

You are invited to attend the Hill Country Charter School Facilities Charrette to discuss the school's vision, academic mission, and to begin to determine the building components (such as classrooms, support learning areas, administrative space), and 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, form the Atlanta offices of renowned civil engineering firm Helmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK).

Please note that this meeting will not address issues beyond the built structure (i.e., location of school or curriculum programming). No RSVP required.

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Learn about Chattahoochee Hills Charter School – Thursday, February 4th

From Monica Olsen

There will be a Community Input Meeting from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Palmetto Community Center (located at 595 Main St. in Palmetto).

The proposed Chattahoochee Hills Charter School will be a **tuition-free**, public elementary charter school for children K-3, expanding to K-8 over 5 years. The school could open as soon as fall of 2011. The public is invited to this community meeting to listen, learn, ask questions and provide input to help build the school you want for the children of Chattahoochee Hills and the rest of South Fulton County. A short presentation will be followed by Q&A and community input on the proposed charter school.

Children are welcome (although no child care will be provided.) Sign up for updates and future events at www.chatthillscharter.org.

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South Fulton's First Annual Educational Summit – Saturday, February 6th, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon

From Bruce Moody

Educational and community Leaders will gather to discuss various educational information and concerns affecting our community here in South Fulton County. We are asking that you disseminate this information to your communities, PTSA, LSAC and educational staff. We look forward to your participation as we embark upon our first step towards meeting the needs of all of our students. Guest panelists will include:

- **Bill Edwards:** Fulton County Commissioner
- **Linda Bryan:** President, Fulton County School Board
- **Roger Bruce:** Georgia State Representative
- And several other Education experts and leaders, and clocal education activists

Location: Clifftondale Elementary School, 3340 West Stubbs Road, College Park, Ga. 30349 (770) 774-4060
For further information, please contact: Mr. Bruce Moody (770) 306-0080, or brucemoody4620@comcast.net.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Chattahoochee Hills Eventing

From Melissa Syfert

This is the year we will put Chattahoochee Hills on the map as the premier venue for eventing – an equestrian event which comprises dressage, cross-country and show jumping. It has been a season of building here at Bouckaert farm, and we are enthusiastic about the upcoming event season. We have made great progress in completing our competition venue, which will make Chattahoochee Hills not only a sight to be seen, but a real destination. We have planted around 170 trees, which have been incorporated into our stable areas and riding arenas to complement the natural beauty of the river and surrounding forest. Our wonderful building crew is cranking out cross country jumps and judges huts on a weekly basis as well, in preparation of our first event in April. As we hold several events throughout the year, we encourage everyone to come out and participate and enjoy the countryside. Please visit the website at www.chatthillseventing.com and keep an eye on our calendar---there is always something going on to be a part of!

For more information, please contact Melissa Syfert of Chattahoochee Hills Eventing at chatthills@aol.com or (404) 433-3057.

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Store Changes

From Tucker Berta

We are sorry to announce that Pam Hollis has decided to close the EcoMeme store in Serenbe. She is having a liquidation sale starting today that will end Sunday evening, and everything must go to make space for a new venture!

We are pleased to announce that Keith Robinson, owner of Gloriosa, is opening a store in that same space at the beginning of February. **Repurpose** will be a consignment boutique of sorts, selling found objects that have been restyled or “repurposed” for a new life. Imagine a store where each object is unique in some way — its age, patina, quirkiness, usefulness, beauty — from rare and fine décor to objet d’art to simple gifts that inspire a smile.

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“Hearts for Haiti” at Paisley Salon, Inn & Farmhouse in Serenbe,

From Tucker Berta

Sunday, February 7 is “Hearts for Haiti” day at Serenbe. The heartbreaking images from Haiti have inspired acts of giving all around the world. Several businesses in Serenbe have set aside this day for a special benefit to support CARE’s Haitian relief efforts:

- Paisley Salon will be doing as many \$40 haircuts as time allows, and donating 100% of proceeds to Haitian relief efforts (via CARE). Call 678.545.0674 for an appointment.
- The Farmhouse Restaurant is offering “Buy One, Get One Free” Fried Chicken entrees during their service today to anyone who writes a \$15+ check to CARE today.
- A special rate of \$109 is available at the Farmhouse Inn tonight for anyone who writes a \$50+ check to CARE today.

Enjoy a wonderful day while supporting a worthy cause.

Fine Arts Workshops

By Tom Swanston

Fine Arts Workshops (FAWS) at Serenbe provide exceptional educational workshops in the visual arts and writing for emerging and established artists and lifelong learning students. Upcoming Programs include:

Narrative Painting: Saturdays 1:00 - 3:30 pm - 8 week session beginning January 30

This class explores narrative in painting, while learning principles including line, tone, mass, light, composition, positive/negative space, scale, subject matter, and analytical and emotional observation.

Social Media for Artists: February 5-7

This workshop, led by James Harris, will bridge the intersection of social media and the new world of art marketing.

Friendship Chorale: Sundays 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - 8 weeks beginning February 21

Award winning vocalist and songwriter Marilyn Carino will offer a unique workshop on singing for self expression and musical enrichment, offered to all levels of singers.

For more information on any of these workshops, email or call Tom Swanston at tom@fineartsworkshop.com, or 770-463-9440, or visit www.fineartsworkshop.com.

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Serenbe Community Sidewalk Sale: Friday, March 19 - Sunday, March 21

By Tom Reed

Many Serenbe residents and businesses will participate in Serenbe's version of a yard sale (just without the yards!) during this weekend.

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"Teachers, The Musical"

Lilli Seymour Richards

The Southside Theatre Guild in downtown Fairburn will present the locally-written comedy "Teachers, The Musical" for three weekends, February 18 - March 6. Performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday begin at 8:00 pm and our Sunday matinee on March 28 will begin at 2:00 pm. Lots of singing, dancing and surprises are found in this presentation (recommended for mature audiences, because "what happens in the teacher's lounge stays in the teacher's lounge").

Tickets are \$12.00 - \$15.00. For more info or to make your reservations, visit www.STGplays.com, or call 770-969-0956.

Story: "A retiree wannabe discovers her new teaching partner has only taught cats and her new student, Sammy, (aka Satan) has her own ideas about education. This musical comedy is about "tested" teachers who discover what they have might not be what they want. These tales from the teacher's lounge are for everyone who has ever had the "Monday Morning Blues" and for all teachers desperate to set the world on fire . . . before their students do it for them."

**Now Open: Serenbe Photography Center
February and March Workshops****Capture, Tweak, & Print Workshop with Canon Explorer of Light, Harris Fogel**

Saturday, February 6, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Canon Explorer of Light and internationally acclaimed digital photography mastermind Harris Fogel will discuss image capture, color management and profiling from capture through development and printing, and how to best optimize work for export and printing. Using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 for digital workflow, he'll explain and illustrate image formats and how they impact your work, and explore the use of software and hardware to help achieve the best image quality. Just bring your camera.

Basic Orientation for Traditional & Digital Darkroom Printing

February 27 & March 21: Learn how to make color or B&W prints from negatives in the traditional photography darkroom, and great prints from digital images using our digital lab & color profiling software.

Photoshop: From Capture to Print with David Goldsmith

March 7: Explore and utilize some of the powerful tools afforded by Photoshop. Great for fast-track beginners to advanced amateur photographers.

The Art of Portraits on Location with JD Scott

March 20: Accomplished editorial assignment photographer teaches finding "the shot" and how to build a memorable image with lighting and other professional techniques in real world location settings. For aspiring assignment photographers and those wishing to make meaningful location portraits.

Visit www.serenbephotographycenter.com for full details and pricing of all classes. To register for any of these programs, or be placed on the Photography Center's email list, please call our office at (404) 463-9098 (Jenna Duffy, Asst. Director), or erenbephotographycenter@gmail.com, or contact Kathryn Kolb, Director, (404) 862-0118. Act now, as many classes have early registration discounts.

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Hil Restaurant Wins Accolade

AJC Staff

The Hil — chef Hilary White's cozy restaurant in Serenbe — has been named a Top 10 new romantic getaway by the editors of Bon Appétit. Bon Appétit Restaurant editor (and Atlanta native) Andrew Knowlton looked for places "that have stellar food, a warm welcome, and a certain off-the-beaten-path appeal." That certainly describes the Hil, which features refined versions of such Southern classics as chicken pot pie and tomato sandwiches, and uses produce from the Serenbe garden.

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Farm Fresh Eggs

Carla Carrabino

I have farm fresh green eggs and brown eggs for sell. I supply Harris and Clarke with eggs when they are open, and now you may get them directly for \$5.00 a dozen. If you leave me a message on the email with your phone number I will call you back to give directions or meet you. gramsfarm@bellsouth.net.

Spring is Coming!

by Janie Malloy in Vegetable Gardener

After New Year's revelry is over and winter's moodiness sets in, spirits sometimes sag, but when those seed catalogs start pouring in, you know spring is on the way. When I receive catalogs in January, I spend hours reading about new and old varieties, taking notes, and making cuts like a judge in a beauty pageant. And beyond the vast selections from catalogs there are seeds shared by friends, relatives, and seed-saving organizations.

What's the best reason for starting your own seeds? Selection! For example, a seed catalog specializing in tomatoes presents a particular challenge for the tomato lover by offering more than 200 varieties. This easily makes tomato seedling selections from any nursery seem like a limited menu indeed.

When to start your seedlings: Resist that urge to start everything in January just so you can see something young and green. If you start seed too soon, the plant may languish inside, waiting for settled weather. Check your last date of frost and group your seeds according to starting date. Label your varieties and their starting dates. And remember that some seeds take longer to germinate than others. Here's a rough estimate of the lead time for popular seeds:

- Onions: 8 to 12 weeks before the set out date of 4 to 6 weeks before last -frost.
- Lettuce: 5 to 6 weeks before the safe planting-out date, which is 4 to 5 weeks before the last frost.
- Cabbage, broccoli, collards: 5 to 6 weeks before planting out.
- Peppers: 8 to 12 weeks before the last frost.
- Eggplant and Tomatoes: 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost.
- Cucumbers and melons: 2 to 4 weeks before the last frost.

Wait until the weather is warm and settled to plant out your peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers, and melons. For (much, much) more, please visit <http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/2459/seed-starting-strategies>.

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE (Next Page)

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

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!)

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE – UPCOMING EVENTS	
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 will 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.
8 Saturdays, from 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.
Thursday, Feb. 4 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Learn about Chattahoochee Hills Charter School at a Community Input Meeting in the Palmetto Community Center to discuss the proposed Chattahoochee Hills Charter School – a tuition-free , public elementary school for children K-3, expanding to K-8 over 5 years which could open as soon as fall of 2011.
Saturday, Feb. 6 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon	South Fulton's Educational Summit: Education Leaders discuss educational concerns of South Fulton County, with a guest panel including Bill Edwards, Fulton Co. Commissioner; Linda Bryan, President, Fulton Co. School Board; Roger Bruce, Georgia State Rep, and several other Education experts, leaders, and local activists. At Clifftondale Elementary School, 3340 West Stubbs Road, College Park, GA.
Saturday, Feb. 6 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Capture, Tweak, & Print Workshop with Canon Explorer of Light with Harris Fogel, in the newly opened Serenbe Photography Center
Sunday, Feb. 7	"Hearts for Haiti" at Paisley Salon, Inn & Farmhouse in Serenbe – in a special benefit to support CARE's Haitian relief efforts, Paisley Salon will be donating 100% of their proceeds via CARE (call 678.545.0674 for an appointment); The Farmhouse Restaurant is offering "Buy One, Get One Free" Fried Chicken entrees to anyone who writes a \$15+ check to CARE, and a special rate of \$109 is available at the Farmhouse Inn for anyone who writes a \$50+ check to CARE today.
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 habitats 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.
Friday, Mar. 19 - Sunday, Mar. 21	Visit the Serenbe Community Sidewalk Sale , as Serenbe residents and businesses participate in Serenbe's version of a yard sale (without the yards!)

2010, FEB 7TH

PAISLEY SALON UPDATE

\$40 HAIRCUTS

HEARTS FOR HAITI



Sunday February 7th, 2010 CUT-A-THON

Paisley Salon in Serenbe will be doing as many \$40 haircuts as possible and donating 100% of the proceeds to Haitian relief funds. Please tell your friends and bring everyone you know to the Serenbe salon next door to the Blue Eyed Daisy. Every little bit helps and this is a great way to get an awesome cut for an important cause. Call 678-545-0674 for a reservation, or stop by and add your name to the list.

We plan to raise \$1000 on this day and we need your HELP!

PAISLEY SALON (In Serenbe) 9059 Selborne Lane, Palmetto GA 30268 678-545-0675 amber@paisleysalon.com