















# Community Announcements

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## Chattahoochee Hills Attends Statewide Course on Balancing Nature and Commerce in Rural Communities and Landscapes

*Representatives develop action plan to improve small-town economic competitiveness by capitalizing on the state's natural and cultural assets*

A team from Chattahoochee Hills participated in a three-day course designed especially for Georgia's small communities seeking to differentiate their communities based upon their natural and cultural assets. Working with national and regional experts on sustainable tourism, economic development, natural and cultural resources, transportation and branding, the 8-person team crafted a new vision that focuses on the unique assets that make Chattahoochee Hills a more appealing place to live, work and recreate. This vision will be revealed to the City Council on Thursday, November 8th, 2018.

This first statewide course in Georgia was hosted by the City of Porterdale, Georgia at its historic Mill at Yellow River. The Conservation Fund designed and delivered the program, attracting teams from across Georgia. Nine communities were selected to participate in the program. Each formed a diverse team that included business and tourism representatives, elected officials, civic leaders, public land managers and engaged citizens, and crafted an action plan to implement within their community. Those representing Chattahoochee Hills were Parks Commission Chair Diana Wilson, Councilmembers Claire Williams and Alan Merrill, Planning Commission members Patrick Johnson and Jett Hattaway, Allison Duncan (Atlanta Regional Commission), City Planner Mike Morton, and City Manager Robbie Rokovitz.

The city of Porterdale provided the vision for holding the course, inspired by the city's participation in the 2017 national Balancing Nature and Commerce workshop. In partnership with The Conservation Fund, the program was funded through the generosity of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta with additional contributions from Carter and Sloope, Inc., and the support of state partners, including the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Department of Economic Development and Georgia Municipal Association.

"The partnership with Chattahoochee Hills was an ideal candidate for this program due to their strong ties throughout the community and their passion for protecting and enhancing the area's natural and cultural resources," said Katie Allen, Director of The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network. "It's our goal to help communities foster valuable partnerships, reinforce development plans that balance environmental and economic goals and provide technical assistance to enable places like Chattahoochee Hills to thrive."

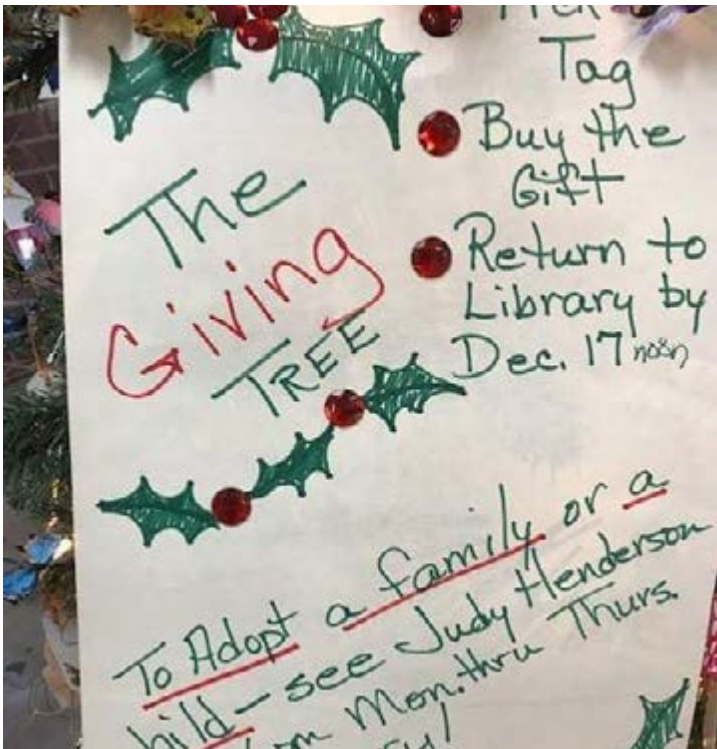


# Community Announcements



## Santa's Elves help Local Families By Community Brickworks

The Giving Tree was a wonderful success. Thanks to everyone who was involved we gave out 59 food boxes to families. 211 people were fed and 102 children were helped with Christmas. A huge number of people were involved in making this happen including: Serenbe Farms, Serenbe Interfaith, Modern Woodmen, New Hope United Methodist Church, Sardis Baptist Church, Antioch United Methodist Church, and Rico United Methodist Church all adopted families. There were too many individuals who adopted children for the season 2 name. Palmetto Daylight Lodge and Campbellton Lodge both were hugely involved as well. We receive many gifts for adults as well as children which went a long way to help make our elderly and shut-ins and single parents blessed. This was a miraculous Christmas.



## Bullywag Year End Donation

Are you planning to make a year-end donation to a charity as part of your tax preparation? If so, please consider Bullywag, Inc.

We are a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization so all donations are 100% tax deductible. We use donations to provide food, shelter, health and vet care to dogs in need; to provide local, low-cost spay and neuter to help reduce the number of unwanted dogs born each year; continue our mission of promoting responsible, humane dog ownership and to give as many dogs as we can another chance at life.

You can make a monetary donation via Facebook, on our website ([Bullywaginc.org](http://Bullywaginc.org)) via PayPal, mail a check to:

Bullywag, Inc.

P.O. Box 1436

Sharpsburg, Ga 30277

or donations of supplies can be

delivered to Petco In Peachtree City, Ga.



**BullyWag, Inc.**

It is through generous contributions from people like you that Bullywag, Inc. can continue to rescue, vet, and find loving homes for well-deserving dogs who may otherwise not get a second chance.



# Community Announcements

## News from the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School

*From Chester Asher, Executive Director/CEO*

### Charter Update

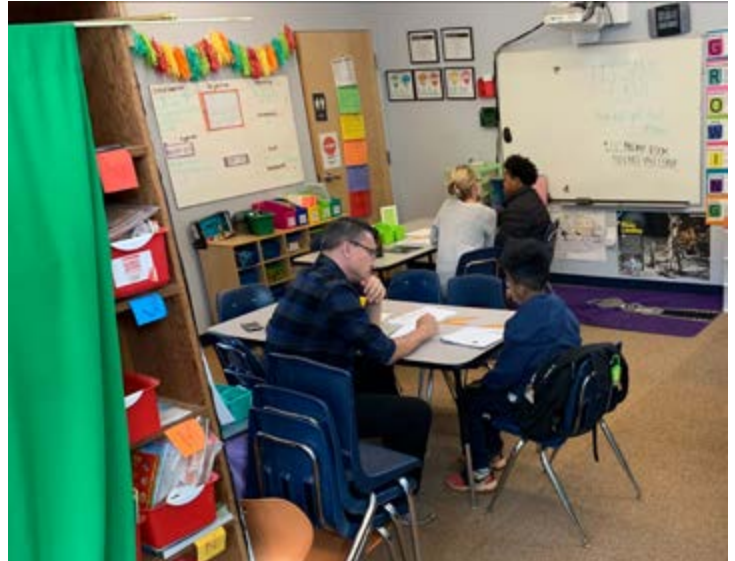
We just completed and submitted our renewal application for our charter to be extended another three to five years. This application builds on our first petition and provides a blueprint to better achieve the goals stated in our mission. The actual petition can be reviewed on our website at <https://chatthillscharter.org/our-charter/>. We should hear back from Fulton County by December and from the State by the end of February.

### Volunteer Opportunities (add attached photo)

We had our first reading volunteers at CHCS. Chris and Tammy, from Serenbe, started their weekly work with our scholars to help improve scholar reading ability and confidence. Volunteers work with two scholars, each for 30 minutes, twice a week. We really appreciate the financial donations our supporters provide, but even more touching is the time, effort and care they take to help our scholars be better and more successful human beings. If you would like to be a reading volunteer please reach out to our Director of Instruction for ELA Katy to schedule a time and a training at [Katy.ulrich@chattahoocheehills.org](mailto:Katy.ulrich@chattahoocheehills.org)

### EL Conference

CHCS teachers and school leaders joined Amana Academy, Hollis Innovation Academy, and thousands of other attendees in Philadelphia last month to celebrate and delve deeper into Expeditionary Learning. Expeditionary Learning (EL) is a school framework where scholars and teachers focus on and work to improve character, academic achievement, and high-quality work that matters to the world. CHCS was founded on the belief that the arts, agriculture, and the environment were of the utmost importance in living wholesome successful lives. EL helps teachers and scholars integrate those three cornerstones of CHCS with state standards in consistent, effective, and joyful ways.



### Magic Music School Bus

Starting this trimester, scholars will take some of the first steps for the Magic Music School Bus. They will begin designing some of the interior and exterior components of a successful music studio. They will learn about sound and how it works. You can't see sound, you can't taste it, you can't smell it, but you can hear and feel it. Why is that? Scholars will work to answer those questions and many more as they help to create the school's first music studio.

### Rainbow Projects

Our Expeditionary STEAM program at CHCS seeks to have scholars engaged in real work, that has real application, that matters to the world and teaches through the prism of the arts, agriculture, and the environment. Our Rainbow projects are the truest manifestation of this aim. The first trimester was dedicated to agriculture and kindergarten scholars answered the question, "What types of plants can the Kindergarten Crew plant that will help save the honey bees?"

# Community Events

## THE SNOW QUEEN

Date/Time: November 28 - January 6, 2019

Location: Natural Playground at Serenbe  
located in the Grange

Website: [www.serenbeplayhouse.com](http://www.serenbeplayhouse.com)

Tickets are on sale now. Ticket prices start at \$13 – children/senior/student, and group discounts are available. Rain Insurance is available for all tickets. All may be purchased online at [www.serenbeplayhouse.com](http://www.serenbeplayhouse.com), or by calling the box office (770-463-1110), Wednesday – Sunday, 12pm – 5pm.

We are running a holiday promotion for The Snow Queen which might be enticing to your readers, and I wanted to share with you in case you would like to promote on your channels. The show runs through January 6th, and the offer is valid for all performances.



Photo courtesy of BreeAnne Clowdus

We are offering 50% off tickets with code **spChatt**. Just visit our website [www.serenbeplayhouse.com](http://www.serenbeplayhouse.com) and then follow link and input code to redeem.

## Phill Madeira Trio

Date/Time: January 26, 2019, 8:00pm

Location: Private home/public concert  
9016 Selborne Lane

Tickets: [www.chatthillsmusic.com](http://www.chatthillsmusic.com)

Most people who know Phil Madeira know him as one of the most seasoned players in Nashville. Since his arrival in 1983, Madeira has seen success in a plethora of different ways. As an instrumentalist, playing electric guitar, lap steel, accordion, dobro, or a Hammond B-3 with icons like Emmylou Harris, Buddy Miller, Sixpence None the Richer, Mavis Staples and Garth Brooks – to name a few. If you can think of it, Phil Madeira has probably lived it, but that's what most people don't know about Phil Madeira – his own story – and he's finally ready to tell it.



CHATT HILLS GALLERY

AT SERENBE

### New Exhibit: 2019

Date/Time: Opening January 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: 9057 Selborne Lane, Serenbe

Tickets: FREE

Website: <https://www.chatthillsgalleryserenbe.com>



# Community Events

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## Community Brickworks and Friendship Baptist Church presents . . .

### Chatt Hills Community Luncheon

Date/Time: January 9 / Noon

Location: Chatt Hills City Hall Meeting Room, 6505 Rico Rd, Chatt Hills

Cost: Free

Come share a meal and get to know your neighbors. Community Brickworks will provide the main dish, Friendship Baptist Church will provide the sides, and you can add to the side or desert if you like. If you bring something special, bring a copy of the recipe to share.



## 2019 Cochran Mill Trail Race

Date/Time: March 2, 2019

Register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Palmetto/CochranMillTrailRace>



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## Church Bulletin

### Providence Baptist Church December Services & Events

#### Sunday morning schedule

8:45 a.m. Church Breakfast in F. Center - No charge

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes for all ages

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service in Sanctuary

### Interfaith Fellowship at Serenbe

Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Grange Hall

10640 Serenbe Lane, Chatt Hills

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/SerenbeInterfaith/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/SerenbeInterfaith/?ref=br_rs)

The fellowship is open to the public.

### Friendship Baptist Church

Friendship Baptist Church is currently looking for a new pastor. The Search Committee is accepting resumes for review and invite anyone with interest to submit a resume. Please send any resumes to the church at 6090 Cochran Mill Rd, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268.

# City Government

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## Mayor Tom Reed's End of Year Review



I've been asked to write a brief review of the City's year, and as sometimes happens around the holidays, find myself facing a deadline without a finished product. It's especially difficult because I traditionally draft a "State of the City" sometime in late January or early

February (which talks about the various major issues facing the City, our current status and our plans for dealing with them), so I don't want to duplicate that missive here. But there is a theme that keeps recurring to me as I look back on the past year that I do want to share – something I want to say to so many people. So that's what I'll write about.

Thank you.

That's my overwhelming thought as I contemplate the past year – the first year of my third term as mayor (can you believe that?!) Thank you. Thank you for your support of and confidence in me, and for your help. So, so often for your help. It's always amazing to me how far our little city has come, and how many people have taken on the mantle of helping in that process and in our progress. It's made such a huge difference.

While nothing is ever perfect, and we can always hope for more, we've accomplished so much. I realize that you can't ever say 'thank you' often enough, and that you can't say 'thank you' to some people without leaving other equally worthy folks un-thanked, so there's a danger in calling particular people out. But I'm going to do it anyway, because it is just the right thing to do.

I'll start with our City Council. I've talked previously about our city budget; the perilous condition the city was in when I initially took office, how much it's turned around. We still have battles to fight – too many road miles to say grace over, for example, but we have made such a turnaround. The

budgeting processes have been tough, but well-considered, and it could not have been done without the support of our fantastic City Council. This year in particular was special – we gave out contracts for more paving this year than the city has done in its entire existence; for Wilkerson Mill Road and big chunks of Atlanta-Newnan and Rivertown Roads. (As always, there's some good news/bad news there – much of the work was cut short by contractors' late starts and early cold temperatures, and so will have to be finished in spring, but still – it's happening!) We also put both our new Emergency Medical Transport vehicle and a new (to us) Fire Truck into service – huge additions to our ability to serve our community's safety needs.

Every Council person has made a big impact this year, but I want to particularly single out Claire Reeves Williams for her work on a tough zoning issue in old Campbellton. We were stuck (for months) on an application that just didn't feel right, until she dug into her 'past work life' toolkit and made a simple but beautiful drawing that let us all see what the right solution could look like.

Same with our commissions. Our Planning and Zoning and Parks Commissions are full of dedicated unpaid neighbors who give freely of their time to work on our mutual behalf – holding developers to our community vision and adding amenities for our citizens. Diana Wilson, Chair of the Parks Commission, has been particularly productive. In the past year, we dedicated the rebuilt Old Upper Wooten Road bridge in Cochran Mill Park – reconnecting the two sides for the first time in years while preserving a historic structure – a project paid for by an RTP grant that Diana spearheaded (and some hotel/motel funds - thanks to our local inn-keepers and their guests). When we didn't get the RTP grant we wanted to add a boat landing at Campbellton Park, I challenged Diana to find another way – and she did – DNR has now agreed to build a boat ramp at the park for us on their dime!

Sometimes less visible, but probably more important is our amazing staff. I promise that you've never met someone with more heart for his work than Public Works Director Darold Wendlandt. He's a hard-working perfectionist – difficult with his small budget, but the care and effort that he puts into it has made such a difference in parks and our roads, which continue to improve on a daily basis.

# City Government

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Finance Director and City Clerk Dana Wicher is the quiet strength in our tiny office – keeping everything organized and functioning perfectly. And City Planner Mike Morton is the backbone of our amazing zoning – keeping us on course even as he personally covers every detail of every application - I'm not sure he sleeps.

While we lost Stoney Mathis to the next step on his career path (huge thanks to him, too, for getting our ship re-righted after some tough times), I'm so excited to welcome Police Chief Jim Little (who Stoney graciously helped us find and hire), who so obviously is the right fit to build on our strong foundation – and the amazing PD crew that stepped in to bridge the gap. And Fire Chief Greg Brett – no one has more love for this town and its people or spends more time, thoughtfulness, or energy on keeping them safe. And the teams that work for all of these good people are amazing, one and all.

It takes leadership to build and, more importantly keep, a good team – and we are so lucky to have the leadership that City Manager Robbie Rockovitz provides this city. He is a true servant leader – he supports his staff and his elected officials in a constant and thoughtful way – making sure no one misses anything, and always looking for new ways to help his team learn more and improve their skills. He has their loyalty for a reason, and that's the same reason he has mine.

But the biggest thank you goes to the good citizens of the City of Chattahoochee Hills. You support your community and your City in so very many ways. You are patient, thoughtful, and kind – you take CARE of each other in ways great and small. We couldn't do what we do as a City without you. People like Judy Henderson, Pat and Kay Long,

Bess Heiberger, Kenny Smith, and so, so many more, who quietly go out of their way to help those in the community who are in need. Like Laurie Searle and Judy Walker and their crew, who make sure that you know what's going on. People like Ken Langley, who dig deep into every subject, and whether we always agree or not, set a standard for us that we work hard to live up to.

People who inspire our better angels, like Pastor Gene Tyre – who awes me with his wisdom, grace, and thoughtful kindness every time he speaks. People like Chuck Miller, Julie White, Nesha Bryant, Tanya Cole, Lynn Eden, Dave McMurray – who come to the meetings; who reach out and speak out – to be sure that we get it right - who step up to help make it so. The people who build out schools, run our local businesses, volunteer elsewhere in the community. And to all the people who I haven't individually named, who every single day help in so many ways – volunteering their sweat; their time, energy, treasure, and concern; know that you are appreciated, and thank you.

And most of all, to my wife and family, and the other long-suffering spouses and families of all of the other volunteers. Thank You.

Thank you all for your support in the past, and thanks in advance for your support in the future. Our best is yet to come.

**Mayor Tom Reed**

City of Chattahoochee Hills, GA, USA

# City Government

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## Chattahoochee Hills Gateway Sign

*By Robbie Rokovitz*

Late last year in 2017, the City was approached by the owner of a local sign company who frequents Cochran Mill Park. This gentleman reached out to a parks commission member who was friends with his wife and asked if he could spruce up our park sign that has been in place since the park was owned by the County. After providing a conceptual drawing of what he wanted to do at no charge to make improvements to our sign, we recognized that we already had some graphic standards in place. So we asked if we can apply our standards to these improvements he wanted to make even though he was being very benevolent in his donated time and work to improve the park sign. This conversation led to an open invitation to meet with with design team to come up with some variations on what not only that sign could look like but what we can also do for a gateway sign and some way finding signage.

After this three hour long design charrette, the team decided it would be even more beneficial to visit our City and take a tour with some city leaders to get a better idea of our deliberately rural feel and philosophy. They then went back to the drawing board, literally, and came up with a great and fitting image of what our gateway sign could look like. Essentially, the end result was an earth tone sign with a vintage stone chimney like border tied together with four board live stock fencing as we have in other areas of the City.

The culmination of all these efforts were solidified with Council work session discussions, project bidding and Council approval this year. So our first gateway sign, which we hope to have more at other entryways into the City, will be erected at the intersection of South Fulton Parkway at Rivertown Road. The company that is responsible for working with the City on the design is Denyse Signs located in Douglasville, Georgia. While the improvements to the sign at Cochran Mill Park will still be done pro bono by this company, the gateway sign will be funded 100% by Hotel Motel funds as this feature is considered a tourism development product for our City. The gateway sign is set to be installed by the mason within the first two weeks of 2019.



## Campbellton Park Master Plan

At the December 4, 2018 meeting, the Chattahoochee Hills City Council voted unanimously to approve the Campbellton Park Master Plan. Campbellton Park priorities include preserving the historic house, providing valuable access to the Chattahoochee River for paddling and fishing, building nature trails to be enjoyed by all ages, and offering facilities for picnicking.

You can download a copy of the master plan here: <http://www.chathillsga.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Campbellton-Park-Master-Plan.pdf>

Thanks to the work of many volunteers, the Chattahoochee River is healthier than it has been in decades. To learn more, watch this 5 minute video which features our river and local residents.

<https://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeriverkeeper/videos/1112788855562290/>





## Chattahoochee Hills Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

*Chattahoochee Hills, GA (December 4, 2018)* – The Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that the City of Chattahoochee Hills has received GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FY2019 Budget. This award represents a significant achievement by this municipality. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the city’s budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communication device.

Budget documents must be rated “proficient” in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. This has been presented to Robert T. Rokovitz.

“I have been fortunate to witness and experience first-hand how the governing body of Chattahoochee Hills

places substantial emphasis on being exceptional financial stewards; and developing a comprehensive budget document that could meet GFOA standards is an excellent way to share this level of success,” commented city manager Robert Rokovitz. “While one never knows if this award will be achieved, especially on the first submission by an entity, I made a commitment to the Mayor and Council last year that I would put the time and effort into it on their behalf,” continued Rokovitz.

There are over 1,600 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA’s website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

*Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association serving the needs of more than 19,000 appointed and elected local, state and provincial-level government officials and other financial practitioners. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington, D.C.*

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## Chattahoochee Hills Receives Reimbursement from FEMA from IRMA Damage

Chattahoochee Hills, GA – July 13th, 2018 – The City of Chattahoochee Hills recently received a check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a reimbursement for the cleanup efforts made by city staff and equipment as a result of Hurricane IRMA. The total amount received was \$14,237.17.

Prior to, during and after the storm incident fire, police, public works, and emergency management personnel were coordinated through a central Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the City Hall. Approximately 454 city employee man-hours were recorded during the 36-hour event window.

Operations included a 50-person shelter with medical, sleeping, showering and feeding resources, shelter operations were manned by Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers who worked a total of 72 hours, 14 vehicles and various pieces of equipment were utilized,

671,122 pounds of vegetative debris was removed from roadways, and 267,680 pounds of vegetative debris was chipped into useable mulch.

According to city Manager Robert T. Rokovitz, “if it were not for the countless hours of time and energy spent by Chief Brett with and without the assistance of FEMA representatives, the City would have received nothing to help offset the fiscal impact incurred as a result of Hurricane Irma.”

“The documentation actually started during Hurricane Irma within our Emergency Operations Center,” explained Brett. “The end result is not only the Federal reimbursement but the development of our own methodology for recording and submitting for reimbursements in the future as well as making our emergency response more effective.”

## Community Events & City Calendar

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

City of Chatt Hills: [www.chatthillsga.us](http://www.chatthillsga.us)

Chatt Hills Charter School: <http://www.chatthillscharter.org/calendar>

Community Brickworks: [www.communitybrickworks.org](http://www.communitybrickworks.org)

Serenbe Community: [www.serenbe.com](http://www.serenbe.com)

Acton Academy at Serenbe: <http://actonacademyatserenbe.com/#ourstory>

| Date                            | Event                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, January 7, 6:00 p.m.  | <b>Tree Board Meeting</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268          |
| Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.   | <b>Parks Commission Meeting</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268    |
| Thursday, January 10, 6:00 p.m. | <b>City Council Work Session</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268   |
| Tuesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.  | <b>City Council Meeting</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268        |
| Thursday, January 17, 6:30 p.m. | <b>Planning Commission Meeting</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268 |
| Thursday, January 31, 6:00 p.m. | <b>City Council Work Session</b><br>City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268   |

## Communication is Key

Not every neighbor in Chatt Hills has Internet Service.

Help keep your neighbors informed by  
printing & delivering this newsletter.

If you have a story or suggestions for  
future articles we'd like to hear from you.  
Email: [chatthillscommunity@gmail.com](mailto:chatthillscommunity@gmail.com)

**CHATT**  
...About