



CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS WEEKLY READER

August 12, 2011 | Promoting Active & Informed Citizenship in Chattahoochee Hills

CIVIC UPDATES

Question from a Neighbor

Q: Do you have any idea of what the zoning hearing signs are about that seem to have been posted randomly on Cochran Mill and some of the other side streets?

A: Yes – Palmetto just completed the update of their comp plan, and the signs are notice of the adoption hearings for the corresponding zoning. The signs are all at the Palmetto city boundary points (which can be a little confusing in some areas, like Cochran Mill and Rico-Tatum Roads, parts of which are surprisingly in Palmetto!)

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Atlanta Transportation Certification Review by USDOT

From the Atlanta Regional Commission

The FHWA and FTA will jointly review the Atlanta Region's transportation planning process to see if it meets all federal requirements. FHWA and FTA are required by federal law to conduct a review (at least every 4 years) of metropolitan transportation planning processes. The Atlanta Region's transportation decision making is based on this process as well as what transportation projects are planned, selected and prioritized for implementation. <http://documents.atlantaregional.com/transportation/usdot/usdot.html>.

Please join us at the following public meeting to provide your comments to representatives from FHWA and FTA (This meeting will not address any specific plans or projects.):

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303 | (404-730-4001). (Free parking available behind the library and accessible from Courtland Street. If free spaces are taken, park in the United Way parking deck accessible from Auburn Avenue. Bring parking deck ticket to meeting to be stamped for free parking.)

Or, you can submit your comments to:

Mr. Carlos Gonzalez
Federal Highway Administration
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 17T100
Atlanta, GA 30303
Carlos.A.Gonzalez@dot.gov

For further information or for special accommodations, please contact Judith Dovers, Atlanta Regional Commission at 404-463-3272, TTY 404-463-3272, or jdovers@atlantaregional.com by August 12, 2011.

New Toll Lanes Coming To Georgia

From Charlie in the Peach Pundit: July 21, 2011 13:00 pm

A year ago, Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority looked like its days were numbered. Gubernatorial candidates pointed to the organization as an example of too many state agencies trying to do the same job. It was presumed that the only reason it existed was to maintain toll collections on Georgia 400 in Atlanta, and thus was superfluous in a state wielding a giant budget axe. Most of those proposals died quietly when it was learned that the Tollway Authority has the ability to sell bonds for future construction projects undertaken by the DOT, and had in fact already released about \$2 Billion in debt to jumpstart statewide transportation improvements.

Today, the Authority is on the forefront of some of the most dynamic changes in Georgia's transportation policy since the interstate highway system was built. They are preparing to open tolled express lanes along I-85 north of Atlanta sometime in September, and announced this week that they are preparing to accept bids to add two reversible toll lanes along **I-75** through Cobb County.

The **I-85** project will convert existing High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (which require 2 persons per vehicle to use) to lanes which require either a toll, or three people to use. The \$182 Million dollar project, funded with a \$110 Million grant from the federal government, is officially considered a "congestion reduction demonstration project." The goal of the project is to allow HOV vehicles or single drivers willing to pay a fee per mile to have at least one lane of traffic moving at an average speed of 45 MPH at all times. Tolls will vary based on the amount of congestion on the route.

As part of the federal grant, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority will initially receive 21 new Xpress bus coaches, with the possibility of receiving up to 82 depending on use and success of the program. The goals of the project and many of the sources of funding are transit oriented, and will double the capacity of Xpress bus service from Gwinnett to Atlanta.

Signs have already been installed along the 16 mile route, standardized to other similar toll projects being implemented throughout the nation. As this is a demonstration project, SRTA is required to have a baseline traffic study from one year prior to implementation, and one and five years after implementation. A similar project in Miami has achieved and exceeded many of its targets, and lessons learned are being incorporated into Georgia's plan.

The **I-75** project will be funded differently, and will have slightly different goals. The initiative will combine public and private sector funding, with the cost of the new lanes borne by a private company. As such, the **I-85** project will be managed with a goal of being somewhat revenue neutral, where the **I-75** project will have a goal of maximizing revenue to compensate the contractor for building additional lanes. The distinction in goals is able to be made as the **I-85** lanes are being converted from existing taxpayer funded lanes, while the **I-75** expansion will be new lanes to supplement the existing traffic grid.

Critics argue that the **I-85** lanes will slow the commute for those not willing to pay variable tolls at the expense of those who can pay to move at or near the speed limit. The state counters that the goal is to guarantee a predictable trip time, as well as encourage carpooling or transit along the route.

There are also concerns that most private toll road contracts limit the state's ability to improve nearby traffic corridors, as the contractor wants to ensure that they will receive the maximum amount of revenue to retire the debt they incur for construction as well as receive a return on their investment. GRTA officials note that no contract has been executed as the project has yet to be released for bid and that customary contractual language usually only prohibits the state from building a road that would directly compete with the toll road, but not prohibit improvements to other roads in the corridor.

While both of these projects are in the Northern Atlanta suburbs, the implications will be felt statewide. As transportation revenues remain scarce but cost remain ever increasing, toll roads are becoming a favorable option for new lanes and or routes. The success or failure of these two projects will likely impact the next generation of transportation infrastructure upgrades statewide.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Friendship Baptist Church's 134th Homecoming Celebration

From Brenda Gross

Please join us for the 134th Homecoming Celebration of Friendship Baptist Church, 6090 Cochran Mill Road, Palmetto, Georgia on Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m. Traditional dinner on the grounds following the service.

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Are Your Allergies Back? Take Action!

From RealAge Health Reports

You may feel frustrated whenever your allergy symptoms make a return appearance. But take heart. There could be a simple explanation, or an easy way to start feeling better quickly. Did you know that the pollen count has been exceptionally high this year, and that there are new self-care ways to make your sinuses feel better? It's true! So when your symptoms come back, get organized and take action!

What's Making You Flare?

The substances that trigger your allergy symptoms may not be entirely avoidable. But discovering the source of those substances is one of the first things you should do about your sniffing and sneezing. Consider these questions when trying to determine the source.

Do your symptoms come and go? If so, you likely have seasonal allergic rhinitis. Your allergen may be pollen or some other substance that is prevalent during a specific season or seasons. It's possible that you can reduce your exposure to your seasonal trigger with a little planning. [Here are more examples of common seasonal allergens.](#)

Do your symptoms plague you year-round? If so, you may have **perennial allergic rhinitis**. Your allergen trigger is likely to be a substance that is always around, like pet dander or dust. [Discover more differences between seasonal and perennial allergies.](#)

Reasons to Take Action:

Whether your allergies have flared up again, have gotten worse, or are making their debut appearance this year, there's no reason to gut it out. Getting your symptoms under control can lead to a host of positive benefits, like:

- Better sleep
- More energy for work and social activities
- Improved sense of well-being

[Find out more about the connection between allergies and sleep problems here.](#) So the next time you resign yourself to itchy eyes and a runny nose, remember that your allergist or doctor is there to guide you toward more comfortable days. It may be that you'd benefit from further allergy testing or some of the new treatment options that have recently become available. See your healthcare practitioner to get up to date on the medications that may help you breathe better.

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Reviews for Shipwrecked Hit the News!



Photo Credit: Loran Hygema

"The currently playing adventure Shipwrecked! shares the space with the weekly farmers market and cultivates the atmosphere of an open-air market in Victorian London. During Shipwrecked!'s running time, the stars come out overhead and tiki torches perfume the air, perfect for a show about a Robinson Crusoe-esque castaway. The company gives a hearty performance of the action... Will Shuler's wide-eyed performance as Louis' loyal dog nearly steals the show. Artistic Director Brian Clowdus turns a potential limitation into its greatest selling point. In its second season of summer shows, Serenbe Playhouse takes advantage of Mother Nature in ways other outdoor stage plays aspire to but seldom actually achieve." -Curt Holman for Creative Loafing

We are also proud to announce that Shipwrecked! has been Suzi Bass Recommended!

"Veteran actor Mark Kincaid, with considerable charisma and skill, he grabs our attention and holds it... Headlining the supporting cast is Minka Wiltz, who deftly portrays a variety of characters and even gets to display her operatic training in isolated musical interludes. Few theatrical sensations can compare to hearing her lilting voice echo through the woods." -Bert Osborne for The AJC

"Brian Clowdus and Production Designer Kimi Maeda have crafted an inviting, English marketplace to be the play's backdrop. Upon arrival, guests are greeted in the marketplace by the show's cast, who encourage them to participate in a sing-a-long of tunes appropriate to the time period. For a little over 90 minutes, Kincaid is front and center. He is acting at his finest as he relishes in de Rougemont's accounts of riding sea turtles, witnessing a man being attacked by a giant octopus, and finding love on an exotic island. Kincaid, with his gripping story-telling, successfully breaks the fourth wall and pulls the audience deeper into his story. Maeda's shadow projections on the stage's white-sheet-backdrop and Andrew Carson's impressive lighting design round out the production. With Clowdus' and Maeda's imaginative staging and expert performances by Kincaid and Wiltz, Shipwrecked! is well worth the trip to Serenbe." - Andrew Wesley for The Atlanta Theater Fans

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS TO SHIPWRECKED!](#) THURSDAY-SATURDAY AT 8:30 pm through then end of August

A Call to Volunteer at Chattahoochee Hills Eventing/Bouckaert Farm

By Leslie Threlkeld

The 2011 American Eventing Championships are rapidly approaching, and even if you aren't competing, you can still participate in the biggest celebration of eventing in the United States by becoming a volunteer!

Volunteers are the very backbone of the sport of eventing, and competitors know just how indebted they are to each and every person who takes the time to help at a show. Volunteering at the AEC is an opportunity to get close to top horses and riders, make lots of new friends, and enjoy a beautiful day at the stunning Chattahoochee Hills Farm.

You don't have to be an eventer, or even a rider, to be a volunteer - everyone is welcome! People of all ages and levels of equine knowledge are needed to make sure the show runs smoothly. The days can be long and the weather doesn't always cooperate, but many people enjoy the opportunities that volunteering provides and keep coming back for more!

Michelle Chapman and her mother, Betty, have been volunteering at Chattahoochee Hills for two years. They decorate and organize the awards table, and give out ribbons and prizes to the winners. Mary has a Thoroughbred off the track, and while she doesn't compete, she volunteers because she can participate in the show and get closer to the horses and riders as a volunteer than as a spectator.

At the AEC, volunteers will meet the best competitors at every level in the US, including Olympians and their world class horses. Volunteers that ride will walk away with a wealth of new knowledge, and those new to the sport might discover a passion for horses.

Volunteers don't go away empty handed: they earn Chattahoochee Hills logo-wear and coupons to school the cross-country or trail ride across the farm's stunning 8,000 acres. They will also be invited back for Volunteer Appreciation Day, which takes place September 17 this year. Volunteers at AEC will be well-taken care of and profusely thanked throughout the week for their time and efforts.

Join the fun and excitement of a championship event! Sign up to volunteer at the 2011 American Eventing Championships September 8-11 at www.chatthillseventing.com/volunteer.



Volunteers Michelle Chapman & her mother Betty at their awards table



Coweta County 4H Jump Judge Volunteers

Artists Notice – Pop-Up Gallery Opportunity!

From Maria Hanson

The Chatt Hills/Bouckaert Farm Pop-Up Gallery is seeking Chatt Hill area resident artists to display their traditional & non-traditional art forms during the (Equine) American Eventing Championship, this September 8th through 11th! Please send images of your work(s) to tom@studioswan.com including title, media, size, price & your bio. This is a great opportunity to showcase your talent to competitors and spectators from across the country!

LOCAL POSTS / BUSINESS NEWS



Homes: *Do you have a house or apartment to rent and would like to bring in some extra income? Got something you need to sell? A service to offer? Consider advertising your extra space, stuff, or service in the Community Bulletin! You may have neighbors who are interested in what you have to offer!*

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE – UPCOMING EVENTS	
<p>Through August 27th 8:30 pm weekend evenings, Thursdays through Saturday</p>	 <p>The Serenbe Playhouse 2011 Summer Series Continues with Shipwrecked: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself) by Pulitzer Prize Winner Donald Margulies. The adventurous Louis de Rougemont invites you to hear his amazing story of bravery, survival and celebrity that left nineteenth-century England spellbound. Dare to be whisked away in a story of the high seas, populated by exotic islanders, flying wombats, giant sea turtles and a monstrous man-eating octopus. SHIPWRECKED examines how far we're willing to blur the line between fact and fiction in order to leave our mark on the world. Tickets: \$20 / adults, \$15 / students. To buy tickets or to become a member, please visit tickets or call 770.463.1110.</p>
<p>Saturdays & Sundays through the end of August 2:00 pm</p>	 <p>THE UGLY DUCKLING – still playing in the pond at Serenbe! Not the typical Children's Theatre Experience, this show has a level of sophistication that will have parents on the edge of their seat, with half human/half animal bird dancers and a set built out into a lake in Serenbe. The show is a fusion of live music, fantastical costuming, witty writing, and modern choreography with performance on land and in water. Click Here for Tickets!</p>
<p>Saturday August 13th 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>South Fulton Citizens Can Take Advantage of Free Disposal of Bulk Waste Fulton County residents who would like to shred documents in a secure area or dispose of their bulky waste, can do so at one of the following Fulton County Solid</p>

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE – UPCOMING EVENTS

	<p>Waste Stations . Residents can dispose of bulk trash at no cost. Bulk Waste Amnesty Days are scheduled to encourage residents to remove large waste items that tarnish the beauty of South Fulton neighborhoods.</p> <p>Acceptable Bulky Trash Items: Appliances, Furniture, Electronics, Televisions, Computers, Keyboards, Monitors, Printers, Auto Tires (4 unmounted)</p> <p>Unacceptable Bulky Trash Items: Paints, Household Chemicals, Household Batteries, Construction Waste, Demolition Debris, Yard Waste. The Public Works Department has designated the following drop off locations for discarded items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Merk Road Transfer Station, 3225 Merk Road, College Park GA 30349, 404-629-1700 - Open until 4:30 p.m. – Creel Park, 2775 Creel Road, College Park, GA 30349, 770-996-4189 – South Fulton Service Center, 5600 Stonewall Tell Road, College Park, GA 30349, 770-774-7500 <p>Yard waste will be accepted at Merk Road only.</p> <p>Senior citizens or disabled residents requiring assistance or pick-up service can contact Shaista Begum at 404.612.1011. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department - Shaista Begum at 404-612-1011 or email her at shaista.begum@fultoncountyga.gov.</p>
<p>Saturday August 13th 11:00 am – 12:00</p>	<p>Rain Barrel Workshop @ Cochran Mill Nature Center. Members: \$40.00 / Non-members: \$45.00 (must pre-register at www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org)</p>
<p>Saturday August 13th 8:00 – 10:00 pm</p>	<p>Atlanta Singer/Songwriter Matt Kabus Returns to the Blue Eyed Daisy \$5 cover</p>
<p>Saturday Aug 20th 10:30 pm at The Hil</p>	<p>Late Night Cabaret Series – from Gershwin to Gaga: An eclectic mix of jazz and Broadway standards mashed up with rock and current pop hits with an impressive line-up of talent. Performances range from \$15-\$30 - www.serenbeplayhouse.com.</p>
<p>Sunday, August 21st 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>The 134th Homecoming Celebration of Friendship Baptist Church will take place at 6090 Cochran Mill Road, Palmetto, Georgia, with a traditional dinner on the grounds following the service.</p>
<p>Sunday, August 21st 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>New Hope United Methodist Church 2011 CHURCH HOMECOMING</p> <p>Our guest speaker will be the Reverend Doctor Hal Brady who this year retired from St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, Ga. He pastured New Hope from 1962-64. Some of you will remember him. Whether you remember him or not you will be blessed to hear him preach. Our church choir will be singing and perhaps one or two of them will be singing solos, and THE GILMORE’S, a southern gospel group from Eufaula, Ala., who have been singing since they were teenagers, will be here as well.</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 23rd 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM @ Park Tavern, 500 10th Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309</p>	<p>Indigo Girls, Shawn Mullins, Atlanta Braves, Culinary Fight Night All Support the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership! Iron Chef meets Chopped at Culinary Fight Night, where two teams of local chefs cook head to head inside a boxing ring, and vie for an array of prizes, the net proceeds of which will be donated to the winning team's charity of choice. The chefs, assisted by local culinary students, will be required to prepare a three-course meal for our panel of six celebrity judges, seated ringside, as well as our VIP guests. The event also includes "The Bartenders Bout," where local</p>

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE – UPCOMING EVENTS	
	<p>mixologists will create cocktails to pair and complement each chef's menu! Click here for ticketing and additional information</p>
<p>Friday & Saturday, August 26th & 27th 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Robert Ray Returns to The Southside Theatre in The Heart of Historic Fairburn His current show is called "Feeling Good" and will feature 3 fabulous female singers and 5 of Atlanta's top Jazz Musicians. The show will be performed in 2 Acts - with the 1st being a Sophisticated, New York Style set featuring some of the world's best-loved standards, while the 2nd act will open with a bass-thumping Disco Medley followed by some 70's goodies, and will continue with some great old Gospel favorites. "Feeling Good" will mark Ray's 3rd August to return to Fairburn. All his previous hometown shows have been complete sell-outs - so don't wait to get your tickets! General seats are \$22 and can be purchased by going to: www.stgplays.com. For more info call 404-284-0967.</p>
<p>Saturday August 27th 10:00 am – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Annual Snake Day Festival at Cochran Mill Nature Center: Cochran Mill Nature Center's annual Snake Day Festival educates the public on the wonders of reptiles and dispels the myths associated with these incredible creatures. Exciting reptile exhibits and educational talks help visitors get better acquainted with these often misunderstood animals. Come out to the center and meet our anaconda, venomous snakes of Georgia, a 12' albino python, giant mouse-eating bullfrog, boas, lizards, turtles, frogs, giant scorpions, an alligator and lots of other cool critters. Arts and crafts, games, and guided canoeing will be available all day as well. Come try our famous hotdogs and hamburgers grilled in our bathtub grill! 6300 Cochran Mill Nature Center, in Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268. Members: \$5.00 / Non-members: \$6.00 / CMNC annual membership: \$45.00</p>
<p>September 8-11</p>	<p>Save the Date for the 2011 USEA American Eventing Championships, taking place on Carl Bouckaert's farm (almost) in Chattahoochee Hills. Visit the AEC page on the USEA website or the Chattahoochee Hills website for more information.</p>

ONGOING EVENTS

Horseback Trail Riding: Experience the trails at Serenbe on horseback. Read more here: [Ride Serenbe](#).

Fitness Boot Camp at the Chatt Hills Fire Station. Mon, Wed, Fri at 9:00 a.m.; Tues and Thurs at 6:00 p.m.

The Busy Bee Round Dance Club & instruction, City Hall Thus. nights at 7:30. Call Jerry or Geneva at 770-463-0024

Cochran Mill Nature Center

- ongoing activities – for details, see: 770-306-0914 or visit [Cochran Mill](#)
- Saturday Spotlight – monthly: interesting learning adventures for young and old!

Serenbe Farmers' & Artists' Market – Saturdays 9:00 – noon. Shop for local organic produce, honey, jams & jellies, sweets, bread, and artists' work every Saturday on the Selborne green. Click here for all details: [farm info](#)

Volunteer Days at Serenbe Farms - Interested in working outside and getting your hands dirty? Join us for our monthly volunteer mornings starting June 8th and every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 am until noon. Many hands accomplish tons in a short amount of time on these fun and productive days. Email info@serenbefarms.com to let us know to expect you.

Serenbe Photography Center workshops & lectures: for coming events see: www.serenbephotographycenter.com.

- **August 13 – More from Michael West:** Make beautiful vintage hand coated pigmented Vandyke Brown prints of your digital images – Michael returns with more alternative processing
- **August 27 – How to Publish Your Photography Book** with Laurie Shock
- **Oct 25-29 – Altamaha River Tour** with Peter Essick and Kathryn Kolb: Spend 5 days & 4 nights kayaking, camping, and making photographs with renowned environmental photojournalist Peter Essick & nature photographer Kathryn Kolb.

Newington Photography – Workshops: 5:45 – 8:45 pm Mon, Wed and Thus throughout August, focused on the beautiful evening light known as the “Golden Hour”. To reserve or for details, please email greg.

Serenbe Southern Chefs Series with Frank Stitt: November 6 & 7. Spend time in the kitchen and at the dining table with the South's best chefs. Work side-by-side to create some of their favorite dishes and hear stories of their culinary history and passion for good, Southern food. Call 770.463.2610 to reserve.

For more community events, check out these other Chattahoochee Hills Websites: Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association: <http://www.chatthills.org.html> | Serenbe: <http://www.serenbecommunity.com/calendar.html> | Cochran Mill Nature Center: www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org

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. The Bulletin is a publication of the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association. To receive print copies of the Reader, please mail a book of stamps to: CHCA Bulletin, P.O. Box 204, Palmetto, GA 30268. To receive electronic copies or to share news, please contact: info@chatthills.org. Do you have an event or information you want to add? We are happy to list local events, articles and other submissions that we think are of general interest to Chattahoochee Hills' residents. We post as soon as practical after we receive your material. Contributions to the Community Reader must be received NO LATER THAN THE NEAREST WEDNESDAY prior to our publishing date for inclusion in the current edition. We usually publish the Bulletin on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, with additional editions or limited bulletin emails as appropriate/needed/possible. Submissions are subject to editing for form, content, and space.

Note: We do NOT fact-check outside submissions and take no responsibility for content therein. We make no representations or warranties regarding any item or activity advertised herein – user/purchaser assumes all risk. Anyone posting must comply with Federal and State regulations prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment. ©2011 – the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association. This issue was compiled by Tom Reed.

Schedule Reminder: the full Community Bulletin is produced at least twice-monthly (first and third week of the month), or more often as time allows. If you want to be sure your event is publicized, please do keep this schedule in mind!

Rain Barrel Workshop!

**Saturday
August 13, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Cochran Mill Nature Center

**6300 Cochran Mill Road
Palmetto, GA 30268**

**\$40 for members
\$45 for non-members**

Must PRE-PAY by August 5, 2011

Rain or Shine

Must pre-register by August 5, 2011

The fee includes all material needed to take home a complete rain barrel



Make Check out to:
Cochran Mill Nature Center



Information Contact:
Melissa Laughner
Environmental Education Coordinator
Cochran Mill Nature Center
770-306-0914
cmnc@bellsouth.net
www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org



Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday August 13, 2011
at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**\$40 Pre-Paid Fee for Members
\$45 Non-Members**

Make Check Out To:
Cochran Mill Nature Center
6300 Cochran Mill Road
Palmetto, GA 30268

Must Pre-Register by August 5, 2011



Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Time Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____