CHATT ... About



A monthly publication of the Chatt Hills Community, a citizen-run news service that connects, informs, and engages friends & neighbors of Chattahoochee Hills, GA.

Back to School, Back to Nature in Chatt Hills

By: Laurie Searle, Citizen Reporter

What do you hear in the forest? It's a common question teachers ask, followed by typical answers of twigs snapping, birds chirping, and bees buzzing. But ask that question at the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School (CHCS) and the answers may include students exploring, students learning, and students thriving.

That's how things roll at CHCS where kids spend a third of their classroom time outdoors and learning is integrated with nature, the arts and agriculture.

Kids love it and apparently thrive, judging by the high marks they receive on Georgia's milestone tests.



Photo courtesy of CHCS Facebook posted by Alexa Haldeman

Parents love it too, judging by the 600 kids currently on the waiting list to enroll, and the active Parent Teacher Organization that's "all in" when it comes to supporting the school.

In this month's issue, we look at the school's secret to success – its mission, instructional approach, and team of commitment supporters. We also look at the school's history, how residents planted the seed to provide an education alternative that reflected community values and nurtured the idea over eight long years. And we look at what's new for 2016-2017, the school's third school year.

We also join the school in honoring three members of its governing board who recently received the Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama in recognition for their years of service: Rebecca Williams - Vice Chair, Leroya Chester-Jennings – Secretary, and Tom Reed – Ex-Officio. Anyone who has ever volunteered for the charter school, served on its governing board or Parent Teacher Organization, or held a staff position knows the level of commitment these three superstars have contributed. But for those who haven't had the pleasure of working with them, we asked Rebecca Williams to share her story about how – and why – she became involved.

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Chatt Hills Charter School

Secrets to Success - The Power of Three

The power of three – a solid mission, the right team, and a detailed plan – is the hallmark of every successful business and the key to the success of the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School (CHCS).

What's in a mission statement?

In the 1960s TV series Mission Impossible, each episode began with a recorded mission that magically appeared in some secret hidey-hole and then self-destructed moments after it was delivered. In the business world, mission statements are seldom as dramatic or impactful. Since employees typically have no part in developing the mission and feel no ownership, it is soon forgotten.

This isn't the case with the CHCS mission statement. When residents began discussing the idea for a community school more than eight years ago, they thought long and hard about what they hoped to accomplish, what they hoped to change with the current system, and

Chatt Hills Charter School Mission

Our mission is to inspire all of our children to the highest levels of academic achievement through a rigorous curriculum that integrates the wonders of the natural world.

Our goal is for our students to cultivate the capacity to achieve a meaningful, healthy, flourishing life that embodies responsibility, stewardship and experimental engagement with the arts, agriculture and environment in informed, imaginative and rigorous ways.

how they could create an educational opportunity for all children that would reflect the community's values. The resulting CHCS mission captures the community's core value of its love for nature, and sets a higher educational goal to help cultivate the capacity of students to achieve meaningful, healthy, and flourishing lives.

The Team - aka "Possible Mission Force"

Where Mission Impossible had a team of secret agents known as the "Impossible Mission Force," the Chatt Hills Charter School has a team led by Principal Walter Buttler who sees his staff as the "Possible Mission Force."

"What we're doing here is backed by research," Principal Buttler reminds his staff, "and if we are true to our mission and trust the process, we will achieve our goals." It looks like the principal is spot on in his predictions. In the ITBS test scores recently reported, CHCS showed more academic growth per subject tested than any other school in Fulton County.

The plan - "I spy" an instructional approach that's fun

The process Principal Buttler refers to sets aside "teaching to the test," a method of education whose curriculum is heavily focused on preparing students for a standardized test. Instead, CHCS uses an experiential instructional approach that makes learning fun and even messy! According to the CHCS website. . .

66 A student can explore the school's bird sanctuary to gather data and be inspired to show that data as a piece of art. While caring for farm animals, a child can be guided to a connection that might help him or her better understand a concept in math. An observation made in a notebook on the first day of school may inspire meaningful writings a student can develop throughout the year. CHCS students have voice in the direction lessons may go, as their curiosity also inspires the teachers. This type of curricular culture develops a sense of community and fellowship that is the bedrock of meaningful learning.

CHCS History

The idea for the school began more than eight years ago with residents in the community wanting improvements in education for <u>all</u> children. Inspired by the 2005 best-selling book by Richard Louv, "Last Child in the Woods," which argued exposure to nature was essential to childhood development, residents formed a project team to explore alternatives to traditional education.

They found research that showed students who engage in environmental-based investigations in their own community, often experience better performance on standardized tests, reduced discipline and classroom management problems, and increased enthusiasm for learning.



Photo courtesy of CHCS Facebook

Phase 1 - Application (2010-2012)

During this time the project team, committees, and many volunteers worked out the required details to submit a charter school application. The application included details of the school's targeted enrollment area in Fulton County, curriculum, policies, and operational areas such as governance, facilities, and funding.

The application was submitted to the Fulton County school board on February 24, 2010, but it was denied. The project team revised the application, increasing the attendance zone from one county to five, and submitted it to the Georgia State Charter Commission. It was approved on December 2010, but nullified on May 16, 2011, when the Georgia State Supreme Court ruled the Georgia State Charter School Commission unconstitutional. The project team revised its initial application for a Fulton County charter school and resubmitted it. On June 12, 2012, the Fulton County school board approved the application of the new Chattahoochee Hills Charter School, scheduled to open in 2013 with a projected enrollment of 270 students in grades K-5, and plans to expand at a rate of one grade per year through grade 8.

Phase 2 - Pre- Start-Up (2012-2014)

"This phase was all about survival," Principal Buttler said. "It's a bold venture to start a charter school and build a brand new facility at the same time."

During this period, all preparations for the school's start-up were finalized and implemented. This included raising capital, acquiring land, building the facility, hiring staff, developing lesson plans, promoting the school, and enrolling students. By mid 2014, CHCS was well on track for its August 26 opening with 286 students enrolled. But as the start date crept closer, construction of the new facility fell behind schedule, forcing the school to open in a temporary facility leased through Fulton County. Two months later the school's new facilities were completed and CHCS moved to its permanent campus on Rivertown Road.

Phase 3 - The first two school years (2014-2015)

"This phase was about wrapping our minds around being a nature school," Principal Buttler said. "Some students came to the school with a preconceived notion about what nature was, and a few were even a little fearful of being in the woods." He said that students weren't used to the physical activity of being outdoors, walking in the woods, using all of

their senses for learning, and getting a little dirty in the process. Neither were their parents. Some were surprised to see their kids dirty and dusty at the end of the day, and a few even decided this program wasn't for them. But over time, and it didn't take very long at all, the students began to flourish in their new environment.

During this time there was also a lot of professional development. Teachers learned from Wild Intelligence, a nature connection school based in Athens, Georgia, that offers programs for youth, teens, and adults. Community partnerships were also formed with Cochran Mill Nature Center, Community Brickworks, Many Fold Farm, and the Serenbe Institute to enhance the students' learning experience. And parents had opportunities to learn and become involved as well, with offers to go on hikes and observe indoor and outdoor classroom activities.

What's in store for 2016-2017

"If the past two years were about suriving, this upcoming year will be about thriving," Principle Buttler said. "We've got a great teaching team in place who absoutely *owns* the vision. We'll be increasing our focus on ARTS with a new music teacher and potential partnership with a local museum. We'll be adding to our enrollment with grade 7 and building out to accommodate our middle school. And we'll continue to strengthen our governance with a strong board and PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)."

Hightlights for the upcoming school year include:

- Public Open House on July 29, with more scheduled throughout the year.
- Curriculum night for parents to meet with their children's curriculum team.
- Signature After-School Program will be open to children in Chattahoochee Hills.
 Sample programs may include: Acting, Piano lessons, swimming classes, ropes course, cheering.
- Capital campain for funding the new multipurpose building, which will eventually house the school caffeteria, music room, and classroom for the younger children.

In closing we asked Principal Buttler to share his goals and dreams, which we added to a CHCS goals/dreams form.



Principal Walter Buttler



Chatt Hills Charter School

CHCS Volunteers receive President's Volunteer Service Award

Three members of the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School Governing Board recently received the Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama in recognition for their years of service. Please join the President in honoring Rebecca Williams – Vice Chair, Leroya Chester-Jennings – Secretary, and Tom Reed – Ex-Officio.

In his letter to the recipients, President Obama said,

In my Inaugural Address, I stated that we need a new era of responsibility — a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our Nation, and the world. These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the sprit than giving our all to a difficult task. Your volunteer service demonstrates the kind of commitment to your community that moves America a step close to its great promise.



Our Nation faces the most challenging economic crisis in a lifetime. We will only renew America if we all work together. Individuals, the private sector, and government must combine efforts to make real and lasting change so that each person has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential.

While government can open more opportunities for us to serve our communities, it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities. Thank you for your devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great nation.

Rebecca Williams' Story



Rebecca was young in life but old in spirit when she moved to Serenbe in 2008.

A newlywed of two years, the twenty-four year old and her husband Ross were already long-time soul mates, sweethearts since high school with a passion for learning.

After high school, they headed to New York, where Rebecca majored in English at Sarah Lawrence College and Ross studied city planning at New York University. But soon their paths diverged. After three semesters, Ross left New York in pursuit of a different academic experience. He enrolled at Warren Wilson College and developed a passion for farming while working on the college's 275-acre farm. Rebecca stayed in New York and completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees, then considered her next steps.

"I was on track to get a PhD in English," Rebecca says. "These poets I was reading were all encouraging me to get out in the world and live an engaged life. I decided that I could either do what they're doing or do what they were *telling* me to do."

Ross and Rebecca took internships together at Hickory Nut Gap Farm in Fairview, N.C., and from that experience decided to strike out on their own. They soon moved to Serenbe and began looking for acreage in Chatt Hills to start a farm.

Once settled in their new home, the young couple quickly became engaged in their community. In 2009, they attended a discussion group about starting a school and learned that others shared their passion for education and their values about stewardship of the land. An early version of the school's mission statement soon emerged, prefaced by a poetic description of community and its obligation to sustain its values.

A community is more than an arrangement of residential and commercial buildings; it is a community because of an implicit ethical agreement that stands as a reason for people to come into the community and as a binding force that makes living in it worthwhile. A community's school, especially an intentional community's school, is about supporting and sustaining the community through transmission of the values that underpin the existence of the community itself.

The idea of founding a school resonated in Rebecca's soul. Having been the beneficiary of a really awesome education, she had experienced first-hand how a great K-12 education can improve one's life and open doors. And having earned a Master of Arts in Teaching, where she focused on the value of the student-teacher relationship and teacher-generated curriculum, she was inspired to join the project team and help develop the curriculum for the new school.

Rebecca's volunteer work

The project team formally coalesced in 2010 with representatives from each committee working towards completing the application for a charter school, due on February 24. During this time, Rebecca and the curriculum committee visited other schools, researched nature-based instructional models, and developed a detailed curriculum plan that illustrated how their unconventional instructional approach would exceed the state's educational standards. This committee did the lion's share of work, which did not end once the application was submitted, for as it turned out, it took two more years – and three applications – before the charter school was finally approved. Yet once the application had been approved, it seemed as if the project team's work had only just begun.

Rebecca continued to serve on the advisory board, and later on the governing board, throughout the school's start-up phase and its first two years of operating. During this time, she helped refine the curriculum, develop school policies, and set criteria for the hiring the school's instructional team and staff. As a member of the governing board she also supported all aspects of the school's start-up including fundraising, building the facility, hiring the staff, enrolling students – everything necessary both before and after the school opened its doors.

With CHCS going into its third year and Rebecca's term on the governing board coming to an end, she must surely feel a sense of accomplishment. When asked how she felt about receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, Rebecca said:

Thank you Chattahoochee Hills Charter School for allowing me to serve. It has been the most extraordinary ride and a true pleasure. I believe that a community's ability to educate its children is the most powerful tool we have to ensure the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I will continue to help create a great education for the kids who come here for as long as I am able.

City Government

Congratulations to Officer Donnie Keeter

At the July 12 city council meeting, Police Officer Donnie Keeter was formally recognized for his eight years of exemplary service in a proclamation read by Mayor Reed on behalf of the City.

Officer Keeter joined the Chatt Hills Police Department on October 10, 2008, after having worked in the private sector and for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for approximately two years.

Throughout his career with Chatt Hills, Officer Keeter has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism as well as a passion for community policing, becoming one of the most well-respected public safety officers among city staff and residents.



Mayor Reed congratulates Officer Donnie Keeter

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, City Employees are recognized as an invaluable resource to the City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia; dedicating themselves to the continuous improvement of the quality of life for the City residents as they perform their duties as public servants; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Chattahoochee Hills are served by loyal employees in many essential areas but especially Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, City Employees provide important services to our Citizens with professionalism, skill, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, as Employees of a New City, our early staff have had to develop and perfect all of our City's policies, procedures, and practices; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Keeter has been an integral part of that process, and has exemplified those qualities as he has selflessly served over the last 8 years to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of Chattahoochee Hills; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Keeter stepped into the role of Acting Police Chief in a difficult time, and did the hard work needed to keep the department running and keep our citizens safe during that time,

THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Chattahoochee Hills, do hereby proclaim our gratitude and urge all of the citizens of our City to join us in sharing our appreciation to Donne Keeter for his service, dedication and sacrifice to our City.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia on this 12th day of July, 2016.

Mayor Tom Reed

Meet Darold Wendlandt, Public Works & Parks Manager



Darold Wendlandt joined the city staff of Chattahoochee Hills on June 13 as its Public Works & Park Manager, bringing with him a unique combination of experience to fulfill these two important roles.

Darold already had years of experience in road maintenance when his job was downsized during the 2008 recession. He accepted an entry-level position with Carroll County, hoping to wade out the recession storm, but instead found he had a passion for this work.

"I started at the bottom and worked my way up from a dump truck operator, to equipment operator, and eventually to grader foreman," he said. Along the way, Darold learned the full set of skills necessary to maintain both rural and urban roads.

Around 2009-2010, Carroll County started work on enhancing its parks and needed someone to work park maintenance. Darold stepped up to the plate and eventually became park manager over four of the county's parks: John Tanner Park, Moore's Bridge, and two parks in development. During his tenure as parks manager Darold built and maintained trails and also worked often with the Recreation Department and Friends of Parks group.

After being at his new job in Chatt Hills for just over a month now, we asked Darold for his assessment of our roads & parks, as well has his short and long-term goals.

"I have three goals for our roads," Darold said, "that they work, look good, and are safe." Instead of taking a Band-Aid approach and doing just a little maintenance on each and every road, Darold said he wants to take the extra effort to bring each road up to an acceptable quality standard. He also believes he can save the city money if they purchase the necessary road maintenance equipment and utilize his skills, instead of contracting the work out. He is in the process of preparing a detailed report with equipment recommendations for the city council's consideration.

As for the parks, Darold says they have been well built but not yet finely tuned. For example, widening the entrance to Cochran Mill Park's parking lot and aligning the parking spaces will add both form and function, while making a positive first impression. And keeping Hutcheson Ferry Park's back 40 bush hogged offers more of the park for people to enjoy. He said his goal is to add this extra layer of effort equally to all of the parks and also work with the Parks Commission and Volunteers to ensure the parks' long-term sustainability.

Darold says he's really looking forward to working in Chatt Hills and there's no other place he'd rather be.

"I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve Chattahoochee Hills," he said. "I know it's been a while since our roads and parks have been adequately serviced, but if folks will be a bit more patient, I promise to give 150% effort."

Parks Concept Plans

By Laurie Searle

The parks commission presented some visual concepts of Cochran Mill Park and Hutcheson Ferry Park at the council meeting on July 12. The Concepts were developed by students from the University of Georgia Landscape Architecture School, who donated two semesters and longer to work on this project.

Park Commissioners John Graham and Roland Alston were on hand to answer questions. They said students were given some guidelines such as, go light on the land, use guidelines in the Our Town Report (a project developed by community volunteers in Chatt Hills), keep the focus in CM Park on sport activities (hiking, biking, horse riding), and the focus in HF Park on social activities (concerts, picnics), and develop user friendly designs.



The Concept for Cochran Mill Park focused on the parking area and featured a slight widening of the road to ease traffic into the parking area, and some concept designs for a ranger's residence/visitor center – something the community had asked for years ago in an earlier parks charrette. Also included were design concepts for a new park sign, pavilion, enlarged play area, and connecting paths.



The Concept for Hutcheson Ferry Park featured two permanent stages — one at the mid-way point of the park where concerts have been previously hosted, and one at the far end of the park. Capitalizing on the park's topography and the gentle rise at the half-way point, there was also a concept for a potential overlook. Also included are necessities such as a split driveway at the entrance of the park for better traffic control, plenty of trails, picnic areas, and restrooms.

John Graham said the Concepts are only visual ideas of how the parks "might" be enhanced. He made clear there are no implementation plans or funding for improvements at this time. However, when it comes to the point that the city is ready to consider enhancing the parks, the public will be invited to give their input and suggestions.

The parks commission meets each month at city hall and is open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th at 6pm.

Who Uses and Loves Our Parks? According to the Parks Commission:

- 310 free Resident decals have been requested and issued
- 332 Non-Resident passes have purchased and issued

City Council Planning Retreat

By: Laurie Searle

The Chatt Hills City Council Planning Retreat was held on July 15 at the Georgia Municipal Association in downtown Atlanta. The meeting was facilitated by Gordon Maner, Senior Public Service Association at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

The planning retreat gives the mayor, city council, and city manager an opportunity to strengthen their team by discussing issues and concerns as well as suggestions for working better together. High on the short list of wants and needs was to have more open communications, transparency, and respect for each other, with "No Surprises."

The following is a list of Issues & Action items from the Planning Retreat Report:

Have a Communications Plan to Infom All Citizens

Face to face and small groups allow open communications best

ACTION:

- 1. Hold regular town-hall meetings in districts where all attend along with CM and department heads (First one will be District 4 early Fall)
- 2. One time mailout getting home and/or cell phone numbers for all citizens the best way to contact (Robbie lead and send out early fall)

Consider:

- Utilize police officers to get the word out
- Identify areas of citizens' interest
- 3. Send regular weekly or monthly or as needed robo/voice mails to all citizens (by the end of the year)

Website Upgrades to Inform Citizens

ACTION:

Update the website to be more informative to include monthly note from the city manager and mayor /
coucil members on the website informing citizens of city activities
(Robbie manage - ongoing)

Council-Mayor Communication

ACTION:

 Schedule monthly time for council members to meet one-on-one (or less than quorum) with the mayor and city manager each month. (August)

Staff Morale, Recognition and Development

ACTION:

1. Continue to promote, recognize, develop employees and build the team and teamwork (On-going)

Concerns of the "Village" Development

ACTION:

1. City attorney meet with council to discuss council concerns of conservation in the existing platted "Village"

Code Enforcement – are we set up to enforce and manage?

- Level of enforcement with thoughtfulness
- Council Top 10 code enforcement issues
- In-house code enforcement person

ACTION:

1. Research the feasibility of an in-house code enforcement/inspections person including pros and cons and propose to Council (Robbie January 2017)

Municipal Court Judge Appointment

ACTION:

1. Generate a list of guestions for interviews and interview and make recommendations to the council. (Councilmembers interview if interested) (Robbie and Mayor)

Economic Development

Discussion: Hotel-Motel tax use towards tourism related to economic development – consider grant writer. In-house economic development needs to be strategic

ACTION:

1. Identify funding and move towards identifying and contracting with a firm to do economic development for

(Robbie and Mayor and recommend to Council)

Wayfinding Plan Implementation and Related Ordinance

ACTION:

1. Revive and implement (Robbie)

Parkway Commercial

Connect South Fulton, ARC Comp planning zoning along Parkway, Protecting ROW along Parkway (Discussion)

River Park Accessibility

ACTION:

1. Do bush-hogging to clean it up

Beaver House Park

ACTION:

1. Encourage the Parks Commission to stabilize and improve the Beaver House

Hutchinson Ferry Park (Discussion – no action)

City Manager's Spending Authority

1. Rewrite managers spending authority to \$15,000 and related policies (Robbie)

Fulton County & Cities Sign TSPLOST Agreement

By: Jessica A. Corbitt-Dominguez, Fulton County Dept. of Community Affairs

Fulton County Chairman John H. Eaves and the mayors of 13 cities have signed an Intergovernmental Agreement that clears a hurdle for a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Transportation purposes to go before voters.

On August 8, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners will meet to formally call for the item to be placed on the November 8 ballot.

The TSPLOST of 0.75¢ in Fulton County outside Atlanta would raise approximately \$569 million over 5 years. Each city has identified an approved project list, including extensive collaboration with neighboring cities. Funds will be divided among

What does TSPLOST mean for Chatt Hills?

Mayor Reed said, "Chatt Hills would receive around \$2.5–\$3 million over the five years, or \$500,000–\$600,000 per year (which is far more than we've ever been able to spend, and more than double what we've got budgeted for the coming year).

The Chatt Hills TSPLOST money would go toward the operations & safety, and maintenance & safety categories. Almost all of that will be going toward repaving, but we also have some restriping in the plan.

It's a really big deal, and incredibly important for the city."

Fulton County cities outside Atlanta based on population. Fulton County will provide oversight of projects in unincorporated Fulton County. (City of Atlanta voters will consider separate referenda for both MARTA and TSPLOST funding on November 8.)

Funds will be invested in transportation infrastructure that will provide locally controlled solutions to regional transportation issues affecting thousands of residents and visitors traveling to and through Fulton County. TSPLOST projects are categorized as follows:

- 36.2% (\$236.1M) Congestion Relief / Roadway Projects
- 23% (\$150.7M) Operations & Safety
- 18.9% (\$123.8M) Maintenance & Safety Enhancements
- 14.7% (\$96.3M) Pedestrian /Bike-Landscape / Streetscape Projects
- 3.1% (\$20.1M) Bridges
- 2.4% (\$15.9M) Quick Response projects
- 1.4% Program / Project Management
- 0.2% Fulton County Airport
- 0.2% Debt Retirement

Today's signing ceremony comes after more than a year of meetings with the County Board of Commissioners and the mayors of Fulton County cities. TSPLOST 2016 would be the first infrastructure SPLOST in Fulton County. The proposed referendum was made possible by SB 369, adopted by the Georgia General Assembly earlier this year.

"This is the first time that all the Mayors and the Commissioners have come together as a united front to advance something very significant that will shape the future of our infrastructure," said Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves. "We're a very diverse county and sometimes we have some differences, but we were able to coalesce, find a common ground and forge ahead. This is a very significant day."

Voters can learn more about projects and the TSPLOST process at www.fultoncountyga.gov/tsplost

Comprehensive Plan Update

By: Laurie Searle

The last two public meetings for the City's Comprehensive Plan Update were held in July, offering residents an opportunity to provide input on the suggestions compiled over the past six months. Facilitator Allison Duncan, from the Atlanta Regional Commission, and City Planner Mike Morton were on hand to answer questions and explain the next steps. Allison and Mike are in the process of finalizing the report, which will be submitted to the City Council for review on August 2. A final meeting with the Steering Committee is scheduled on August 9, after which the Comprehensive Plan Update will go to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.

The City has posted all meeting materials, presentations, and community input on its website at http://www.chatthillsga.us/departments/community-development/comp-plan/.

Inside the Beavers House

By: Laurie Searle

The City of Chatt Hills opened the doors to the historic Beavers house on July 14, 2016, for a brief tour by the mayor and city council reps, city staff, parks commission, and invited guests from the Beavers family and historical and local history clubs. The transfer of the deed from Fulton County is still in progress, but is expected to be completed soon.



Chatt Hills Fire & Rescue Department - Updates

Gregory C. Brett, Chief of Fire Chattahoochee Hills Fire Rescue Department 770-463-1592 office, 770-367-4802 mobile

Helicopter Fly-Over Notice

THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW ... A vintage Huey UH-1 helicopter will star nightly in the Serenbe Playhouse production of "Miss Saigon," a Broadway musical romance, presented from July 19 – August 14 at Serenbe's Wildflower Meadow. Weather permitting, the green Army helicopter symbolizing the iconic medical helicopters that played a vital role during the Vietnam War will land each evening at approximately 6 PM and then perform a fly-over as it departs. Except for a brief (somewhat noisy) fly-over, no major impact on citizens is expected. All aircraft operations have been carefully coordinated to meet precise safety criteria defined by the Chattahoochee Hill's Fire Department.

CodeRED Community Warning System – Keeping Citizens Informed

CodeRED is a new emergency notification service by which Chattahoochee Hills officials can notify residents and businesses by telephone, cellular phone, text message, or electronic mail about emergency situations or critical community alerts. The system is capable of sending messages/calls to a specific geographical area in our city or to the entire database affiliated to the city.

Chattahoochee Hills will use the CodeRED system to notify citizens about emergencies such as:

- Severe Weather
- Drinking water contamination
- Utility outage
- Evacuation notice and route
- Missing person
- Fires or floods
- Bomb threat
- Hostage situation
- Chemical spill or gas leak
- Other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential

To register for CodeRED, go to Chatt Hills City Hall and complete a sign-up form.

"mEi" (my EMERGENCY information)

The my Emergency information form (on the following page) is your personal medical help-mate if Fire/EMS should ever visit your home. Simply complete the form, place inside a one-gallon Ziploc bag and affix to your refrigerator door. When Fire/EMS enters, they will find your information already defined and then can use the Ziploc bag to send medications and personal information along with you in the event of medical transport.

MEDICAL HISTORY



FIRST Name LAST Name

Date of Birth _____ Gender: Male Female Phone _____

MEDICATIONS

CURRENT AILMENT/CONDITIONS		PRESCRIPTION
Heart		1
Breathing	·	2.
Allergies	1.	3. 4.
	2.	5.
	3.	6.
Other	A	
	В.	OVER-THE-COUNTER
		1.
	C	2. 3.
PAST AILMENT/CONDITIONS		3. 4.
Heart		5.
Stroke		6.
Other	A	DRUG ALLERGIES
	В	1
	C	2.
		3
	EMERGENCY CO	ONTACT PERSONS
PRIMARY		
	FIRST/LAST Name	Relationship Phone
SECONDARY		
	FIRST/LAST Name	Relationship Phone

Issues of Concern

Concerns about the Social Justice Concert - Many Rivers to Cross

By: Laurie Searle

There has been some concern over the following article posted on the website billboard.com, announcing a large scale music festival scheduled in October on Carol Bouckaert's 8,000-acre-property – the same that was used for the ill-fated 2015 TomorrowWorld Festival.

Harry Belafonte's Sankofa.org announces the launch of its human rights-focused music and arts festival, set for Oct. 1-2.

John Legend, Common, actor/activist Jesse Williams, comedian Chris Rock, Carlos Santana and Dave Matthews are among the headliners participating in the two-day event Many Rivers to Cross. Described as "the largest music and arts festival dedicated to racial and social justice," the Oct. 1-2 fest is being presented by the Harry Belafonte-founded organization Sankofa.org. It will take place outside of Atlanta in Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia. Tickets for *Many Rivers to Cross* will go on sale July 29. See <u>Sankofa.org</u>.

Some residents are concerned that the City hasn't fully addressed the logical issues that plagued the 2015 TomorrowWorld festival. The event organizers didn't have an adequate contingency plan for inclement weather, and when storms came through the area, they closed the roads, canceled shuttles back to area hotels, and left attendees scrambling for shelter — many resorting to sleeping in the mud and even atop police cars.

I attended a city council work session earlier this year and learned that the City <u>is</u> addressing these issues. Staff reported on a detailed plan with recommendations that would ensure all future events are managed with public safety in mind, and with minimum impact to our community.

With regards to the *Many Rivers to Cross* concert, City Manager Robbie Rokovitz said, "I learned about the possibility of this event a few weeks ago and shared this with the City Council. More information has been released regarding this event to include ticket sales date and event dates. There has been some discussion between the event promoters and the city planner here at city hall. But we have no permit on file yet. So I reached out to the public relations contacts for this event and expressed my concern over the magnitude of it and what impacts it can and will have on our residents, limited staff and infrastructure."

As a result of Robbie's proactive efforts, he is now in communications with the event planning consultant, and has invited him to meet with the City Council and present what plans they have in place for traffic, security, crowd control, and so forth.

I also contacted my city council representative Claire Williams to offer support disseminating information. She responded promptly with thanks and with assurances. She said, "I feel confident that our staff, now with cooperation from the citizenry, will think of every possible way to make it go smoothly."

I feel confident as well. For the first time (in a long time) we have a fully staffed city team, a team that is highly professional, experienced, and quite capable. We have a city council that is proactively taking measures to work together and improve communications. And we have a citizenry that is more engaged.

Community Bulletin Board

Chattahoochee Hills Businesses Association Meeting

Date – September 15, 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Carter & Laura Williamson

Cherry Hollow Farm 12525 Jones Ferry Road



Local businesses are invited to attend the next networking meeting of the Chatt Hills Business Association. We are an information group that:

- Is Inclusive to ALL business owners within Chatt Hills
- Provides social and networking opportunities
- Has positive community impact

For more information contact Christopher Marks, chirstopher.a.marks@mwarep.org or (770) 710-3452. Visit the new Facebook: Chattahoochee Hills Business Networking Association

Community Care Network

By: Lynn Merrill

Community Care Network will not be meeting in August. Our next program will be September 22 at 7 pm in the Community Center at Serenbe. We are planning an amazing follow up to the Being Mortal documentary. Ron Savarese and his colleague Beth Bosworth will guide participants through a process that will assist them in uncovering their most deeply held goals and dreams.



Planning Meeting for potential Fall History Event at the Beavers House

Date: Wednesday, August 10

Time: 6:30pm

Location: City Hall Community Room

Several local history buffs wondered if there might be interest in hosting a history event at the Beavers House this fall. If you have an interest in history and would like to participate, please plan on attending this meeting. Or, if you're unable to attend but would like to participate, please contact Joe Heiberger (heiberj@comcast.net) or 614-563-9061.

Church Homecoming Schedule in Chatt Hills



Sardis Baptist Church

8400 Sardis Rd

August 7, 11 a.m.

Followed by dinner on the grounds

Providence Baptist Church

6402 Campbellton-Redwine Rd

Sunday, August 14, 11 a.m.

Followed by luncheon in the fellowship building

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

6090 Cochran Mill Rd

Sunday, August 21, 10:30 a.m.

Followed by dinner in the M.D. Collins Fellowship Hall

New Hope United Methodist Church

7875 Atlanta Newnan Rd Sunday, August 21, 11 a.m.

Serenbe August Schedule (http://serenbe.com/events#comm-directory)

Farmers Markets

8/6: Live Music with The Threadbare Skivvies

8/13: Cooking Demo with Chef Thaddeus at 11:30am, Live Music by Max & Maggie

8/20: Bee Keeper Linda Demo, Live Music by Michael Chesin

8/27: Live Music by The Threadbare Skivvies

Art Hour: Arts at Serenbe (featuring the Serenbe Institute) on 8/6

Cooking Classes http://serenbeculinary.com

Plant-Powered Cooking Class with Chef Matt Adolfi on 8/7 at 2pm

In The Kitchen: Ford Fry Executive Chefs featuring Pastry Chef Chrysta Poulos 8/14 at 2pm

The Essentials of Cooking Summer Pasta with Chef Jonathan Kallini of Bacchanalia 8/21 at 2pm

Right Off The Farm Seasonal Cooking with Chef Matt Adolfi 8/28 at 2pm

Art Hour: Uncork Your Creativity on 8/13 at 5pm

Serenbe Foods Pop-Up Dinner: The Tomato Feast on 8/14 at 6:30pm

Atlanta Ballet's Wabi Sabi on 8/21 at 5pm

Art Over Dinner with ArtsATL on 8/21 at 6pm

SXSW Eco Lightening Talks & Drinks 8/25 at 4pm

SXSW Eco Dinner 8/25 6:30pm

Get to Know the Community Brickworks Food Pantry

By: Community Brickworks

The Food Pantry, located in City Hall at 6505 Rico Road is one of the services offered by the non-profit, Community Brickworks.

The original food pantry was the brain child of the old Chattahoochee Hills Interfaith Council and put into action by Judy Henderson. The plan was to centralize the food pantry so that each organization did not have to create a food pantry. So donations for the pantry came from local churches, businesses, and members of the community. Starting off small, it slowly grew as the need increased. Often Judy called churches to help meet needs if the food pantry was unable.

Eventually the few became many and now churches, the Inter-faith Community at Serenbe, many of the local schools, the Post Office, Community Business Groups, the Masonic Lodge and a host of individuals contribute.

A board for Community Brickworks was formed to give Brickworks the ability to apply for grants. Two grants were applied for and awarded. The main grant was a generous one that is to be used to support every aspect of Community Brickworks outreach including the Food Pantry. \$600 a month from this grant is used to supplement purchasing food to fill the gap where donations are not enough. This is a limited grant and we hope to be able to apply for others when this expires.

The pantry is also supplemented by Midwest Food Bank located in Peachtree City. Midwest is a faith based organization whose mission is to alleviate hunger and poverty by gathering and distributing food donations to not-for-profits and disaster sites without cost to recipients. We have a group of volunteers who go to their warehouse once a month to pick up a substantial amount of food and some personal care items.

The Food Pantry is open on Wednesday from noon to six. If someone has a need other than Wednesday, Judy Henderson, Director of Brickworks, can be reached at 687-836-3472. Visits are limited to once a month and two grocery bags are filled with items chosen from a list of what is available. We serve 35 to 45 families a month, over 100 individuals from Chatt Hills, Fairburn and Palmetto. We take note of large families and the number of children so that bags are adequately filled and a bit extra added. For a number of elderly and disabled, food boxes are delivered.

You can help - we will gladly accept any items that have not expired and, especially, appreciate protein items like tuna, pea-nut butter and canned chicken. On Wednesday afternoon someone is usually at the pantry or you can leave your donation with Dana, City Clerk, in the office in the lobby any time the building is open. Please leave a note with your name and/or organization and how we can contact you, so we can say thank you. Also, if you know someone that could use some help from the food pantry, let them know about this service. We can also help senior citizens apply for Meals on Wheels to be delivered to their home.

Please consider coming by on Wednesdays to see who we are and what we are doing and share the pride in what Community Brickworks Food Pantry does for its "community family".

Community Care Network will not be meeting in August. Our next program will be September 22 at 7 pm in the Community Center at Serenbe. We are planning an amazing follow up to the Being Mortal documentary. Ron Savarese and his colleague Beth Bosworth will guide participants through a process that will assist them in uncovering their most deeply held goals and dreams.

Chatt Hills Music is now a part of The Serenbe Institute!

Ron Simblist did not realize that Chatt Hills Music would grow to almost 18 events annually when he volunteered to help bring music to the Serenbe community on a regular basis in 2012. He thought that it would be just random concerts such as The Brubeck Brothers in Hutcheson Ferry Park and Colonel Bruce Hampton for May Day when Selborne Lane was closed and the Colonel and his band performed on a stage across from the Daisy.

Well, the music has multiplied and with the hostess with the mostest, Sandy Simblist, and the assistance of our board of directors and the support of the community, the beat goes on. CHM hopes to have a permanent home in the future, but in the interim, the generosity of Dianne Harnell Cohen and Richard Cohen, Rita and Ashton Ritchie, Karen and John Reid, Maria Rey and Lee Marston, Bosch, and Serenbe Development to allow us the use of their homes and facilities keeps us going. We have a concert at Cherry Hollow Farm in August and we are continuing to look for venues that can hold 60 or more music fans.

Ron, Sandy and the board decided that the time was right to join the Serenbe Institute so that the music could live on in perpetuity.

We can use some help from the folks in Serenbe and Chattahoochee Hills with the following:

- Housing and hospitality for musicians (we house and feed the folks who come and play for us)
- Yenues (we need more venues to ease the burden on the good people who are already helping)
- * Donations (any contributions are now tax deductible)
- * Let us know if we are missing a category of music that you would like to see in the community.

There are some exciting collaborations that we hope to announce shortly. We are deep in discussions with several organizations in the metro Atlanta area that will broaden the scope and reputation of Chatt Hills Music.

We look forward to a bright and exciting future! Thank you for your continued support!



AUGUST 13 - GRAYSON CAPPS & CORKY HUGHES AT CHERRY HOLLOW FARM 8:00 PM 12525 Jones Ferry Road, Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Cherry Hollow Farm is a labor of love put together with repurposed materials in a magnificent setting on a dirt road in Chatt Hills. It's a perfect place to come and listen to the gravely blues of Grayson Capps and Corky Hughes.

Hailing from South Alabama and spending over a decade in New Orleans, revered singer-songwriter Grayson Capps has found listeners the world over enthralled by his stinging tales of the Southern Gothic. In his own words, he explains: "I write songs which have the voice of dead prophets masquerading as town drunks screaming 'look at us we're pretty, too!"

Over the course of four critically acclaimed studio albums and cameo appearance in the Golden Globe Award-nominated film A Love Song For Bobby Long, one will find a stunning depth to his discography, authenticating Grayson Capps as a rare American gem, equal parts country singer, bluesman, rock star, philosopher and poet. As Jambase recently declared, "New Orleans' marvel Grayson Capps is alive and well and slowly building one of the most phenomenal songbooks in America today. If ever there were a cat primed to pick up where Lowell George and John Prine have left off, it's Capps."

See: www.chatthillsmusic.com





Serenbe Playhouse Presents - www.serenbeplayhouse.com



On Serenbe's vibrant farm, bustling with life, growth and enduring love, what more natural tale to tell than that of Charlotte's Web adapted from E.B. White's classic children's book. Wilbur, a charismatic young pig wants desperately to avoid the fate of bacon and ham, and his friend Charlotte, the literate spider, has a plan. Endearing characters tell truths of life, death and harsh realities, as the unlikely duo ultimately proves that love conquers all when you surrender to your fate and bolster the courage to find your place in the world. This well-known tale will come to life like you've never seen before, surrounded by live animals and vibrant farmland in one of Serenbe's most charming features — the animal village. Your heart will be warmed as you watch Charlotte's Web alongside piglets, ducks, cows, horses, and surely a friendly spider or two.



For the first time ever presented by a professional Atlanta theatre company, Serenbe Playhouse brings us romance, adventure and tragedy with this compelling rendition of Miss Saigon. In the classic musical by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, based on Giacomo Puccini's tragic opera, Madame Butterfly, an American GI falls desperately in love with a Vietnamese barmaid during our nation's most contentious war. Find yourself transported to the densely green, exceedingly mysterious wilderness of Vietnam by this enthralling presentation, complete with an actual huey helicopter that was flown in the Vietnam War, set to land in Serenbe's own mystifying forest. You'll be immersed in this harrowing tale of heartbreak and heroism as it's never been done before.

Contains themes which may be more appropriate for ages 15+.



OURNEYMAN FARMER
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program is a comprehensive training program for beginning and small farmers provided by UGA Cooperative Extension. The program is comprised of three training areas that will prepare you to improve your farming operation:

- Part 1- AGAware Small Farm Business Training
- Part 2- Small Ruminants Production Course
- Part 3- Hands-on Production

This program is for those interested in starting a farm business or those who have recently begun farming and want to improve their operation. Parts one through three must be completed in order and all parts of the program must be completed to obtain certification.

Registration for the AGAware

Small Farm Business Training is NOW OPEN.

Please register before August 12, 2016 by calling the Carroll County Extension Office at (770) 836-8546 or emailing uge2045@uga.edu.

For more information visit www.SustainAgGA.org

Certificate Course Schedule:

August 19, 2016 (9:00 AM-4:00 PM)

AGAware Small Farm Business Training

January 10 - February 28, 2017 (Tuesday Evenings) Small Ruminants Production Course

Spring 2017 - Hands-on Production

Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program Registration Fee:

\$100













The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

In Memory of John Page Wilson II, M.D. "Jack"



John Page Wilson II, M.D. "Jack" passed away July 3, 2016 at his home in Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia at the age of 93. He is survived by his beloved wife and companion of 36 years, Diana Schoofs Wilson, his five cherished children by a previous marriage, John Page Wilson III, Esq. (Linda), Bryant Whitley Wilson, M.D. (Andi Schwartz), Ruth Whitley Wilson, James Parish Wilson, M.D. (Cynthia Murphy, M.D.), Stephen Prentiss Wilson (AnLe Banh), and his grandchildren, Claibourne Henry Darden III, Prentiss Whitley Darden, John Page Wilson IV, Liles Alice Wilson, Samuel Stone Wilson, Whitley Harper Wilson, and Ruth Whitley Banh Wilson, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was previously married to the late Ruth Whitley Parish.

Born May 21, 1923, in Cooleemee, North Carolina, to the Rev. Joseph Durant Cooper Wilson and Sara Emily Prentiss Wilson, Jack was the youngest of five children. He grew up in LaGrange, Georgia during the Great Depression. With pride, he remembered attending services performed by his father, an Episcopal priest, at the Warm Springs Chapel, for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Jack, like his parents and siblings, was enthusiastic in his academic and social pursuits. He lettered in football in High School, and was a Boy Scout, earning the highest rank attainable in scouting: Eagle Scout with bronze, silver and gold palms. He attended Emory University on a partial scholarship supplemented by various jobs including running a laundry business with his brother, Joe.

Upon graduation, Jack attended the Medical College of Georgia. Again, demonstrating his industrious nature, he held down several jobs including working nights at the Lenwood Insane Asylum, an experience which he would recall in vivid detail for years. Jack graduated from MCG in 1947 after being inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honorary society. Upon completion of his Board Exams in 1954, Dr. Wilson was awarded his certification as a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery.

A veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, Dr. Wilson served as Captain in the Army Medical and Surgical Corps. After leaving the Army, he entered private practice in general surgery, with an emphasis in surgical oncology, at Georgia Baptist Hospital (now WellStar Atlanta Medical Center), and also served on the staffs of several other hospitals including Grady Memorial Hospital, Crawford Long Hospital, Piedmont Hospital, and Northside Hospital. At Georgia Baptist, he founded the Surgical Residency Training Program and served as its Director from 1958 to 1974. He taught hundreds of residents in surgery over his 46-year tenure, including two of his four sons. Retiring from clinical practice in 1997, he continued to teach residents until 2008.

Dr. Wilson was a leader in many medical organizations including the Georgia Surgical Society, the American College of Surgeons, the Southern Society of Clinical Surgeons, and the Southern Surgical Association, to name a few. In addition, he served in several leadership roles at the American Cancer Society, was Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Georgia Baptist Hospital, and Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Cancer for the State of Georgia. Dr. Wilson held many academic and teaching appointments during his career, including Clinical Professor of Surgery, Medical College of Georgia, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine, and Director of the Sheffield Clinic. A well-published author and contributor of case reports in numerous surgical journals, he was a self-taught medical illustrator, who included his own illustrations with his journal articles.

Dr. Wilson received many honors and awards over his lifetime, but two stand out as epitomizing his contributions to patient care and his training of future surgeons. In 1990, the John Page Wilson Attending Surgeon of the Year Award was established at Georgia Baptist Medical Center to recognize those attending surgeons on staff who made the greatest contribution to resident surgeons' training as voted by those residents. The second was the dedication in 1996 of the John Page Wilson Surgical Wing at Georgia Baptist Medical Center.

Despite his many hours at work, he found time for special hobbies including master gardening and beekeeping. He was a skilled tennis player who enjoyed playing with friends at the Cherokee Town Club, of which he was a founding member. In addition, he began sport sky diving, and earned his Jump Masters certification after completing over two hundred jumps. In later years, he swam laps daily, and at age 90, could still swim the length of an Olympic-size pool underwater with a single breath. His love of literature was also a life-long pursuit; he spontaneously recited poems with enthusiasm and wrote poetry of his own. He was also an accomplished amateur photographer.

After retirement, Jack and Diana settled on a small horse farm just south of Atlanta in rural Chattahoochee Hills. He became very engaged in the community where he enjoyed the support of many friends. In every way imaginable, Dr. John Page Wilson II was a Renaissance man and humanitarian. He will be greatly missed by all the many people whose lives he touched.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Fairburn, 23 Malone St. SE Fairburn, GA 30213, with Rev. Dr. Roy Godwin officiating. A reception will follow at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Chattahoochee Hills Parks. Made check payable to Chattahoochee Hills Parks with "In memory of Jack Wilson" in the memo line and mail to 6505 Rico Rd., Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268. Parrott Funeral Home and Crematory, 770-964-4800.

Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on July 7, 2016



Community Events

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

City of Chatt Hills: www.chatthillsga.us Serenbe Community: www.serenbe.com

Cochran Mill Nature Center: www.cochranmillnaturecenter.org Community Brickworks: www.communitybrickworks.org

Date	Event
Monday, Aug 1	Tree Board
6:00 p.m.	City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268
Tuesday, Aug 2	City Council Meeting
6:30 pm	City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268
Tuesday, Aug 9	Parks Commission Meeting
6:00 pm	City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 302688
Thursday, Aug 11	Planning Commission Meeting
6:00 pm	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 Or Call Laurie Searle: 770-463-5169



