

Official Publication  
of the City of  
Chattahoochee Hills, GA



Issue 4  
Volume 6  
[www.chathillsga.us](http://www.chathillsga.us)

# CHATT HILLS NEWS

APRIL 2025

## Features

Our Community  
Page 3

## Events

What's Happening Locally?  
Page 16

## Arts in Chatt Hills

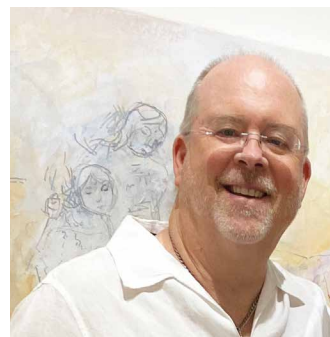
Local Artists  
Page 23

## City Government

Stay Informed  
Page 28



Photo by Chip Denton





## Hello, Chattahoochee Hills!

There's been ongoing conversation about the future of Chattahoochee Hills, and I wanted to share some background and data to help inform that discussion more broadly. These conversations go back to before the City even existed, and they've shaped

our Comprehensive Plan, its updates, and the zoning framework that emerged from our shared vision.

### Let's Clear the Air on Growth Projections

You may have heard a claim that Chattahoochee Hills is projected to grow from 3,500 residents to over 42,000 by 2030—just five years from now. That is simply not true—in fact, it's not even possible. Yes, growth is coming—but much more slowly, and in line with the vision this community established when the City was founded.

**Where did this number come from?** It came from a misreading of a working Development Outlook document that our Economic Development Director, Chris Montesinos, maintains. This internal tool compiles data points from many sources and is updated regularly as zoning conversations evolve, development applications are submitted, and approvals are granted. It also includes plans from neighboring areas that could impact Chattahoochee Hills, even though we don't control them.

Importantly, this document is not a projection of what will be built by 2030. Rather, it outlines the maximum number of residential units that could eventually be built over multiple decades if every currently proposed or approved project is completed to full capacity.

### In reality, here's what we know:

Let's focus on the actual numbers and timelines:

- **Infrastructure takes time.** The sewer systems required for future development won't be operational for 18–24 months or more. Fulton County is working on them, but they're not ready yet.
- **Roads, water, and other infrastructure must come first.** Even after sewer becomes available, no homes can be built until that internal infrastructure is complete.
- **The developers themselves project a 25–30+ year buildout.** That's roughly 500 homes per year once construction begins—not the 6,000+ that have been claimed.
- **A realistic scenario:** Even if we reach 500 homes

per year by 2030 (and that's a big “if”), growth will be steady—not sudden. That pace would also require a consistently strong economic and interest rate environment, which is rare over a 20+ year horizon.

### What about commercial development & visitor impact?

The Economic Development Outlook also includes developments in neighboring jurisdictions like Palmetto, South Fulton, and Douglas County—areas that we don't govern but that will inevitably have an impact on Chattahoochee Hills for decades.

Yes, local commercial development is planned, but just like housing, it will roll out gradually. The same infrastructure realities that slow residential growth apply here as well. It's also demand-driven, which means we need rooftops before retail.

Our zoning was specifically designed to preserve 70% of Chattahoochee Hills as rural and undeveloped, even as we allow thoughtfully designed growth in specific nodes. Those nodes are intended to concentrate density and capture as much commercial traffic internally as possible, reducing the pressure on our road network and minimizing the sprawl we see in other areas.

Serenbe is a great example of this model in action: its trip generation is about one-third that of typical neighborhoods, even with tourist visits—meaning far less impact on city roads.

### A note on (mis)information.

Chris Montesinos has confirmed that the “42,000 by 2030” figure is not a projection and is not accurate. If you have questions about city planning or growth, I encourage you to reach out to city staff or attend our public meetings—these discussions are open and ongoing.

Looking ahead, we know growth is coming—but not as a sudden, unmanageable wave. It's unfolding gradually—just as we expected when we put our planning and zoning framework in place together as a community.

### Your Chance to Shape the Future

The next update to our Comprehensive Plan is coming up next year. This plan is our roadmap for the future—and your ongoing input is vital.

If you care about the future of Chattahoochee Hills, I encourage you to take part. It's the best way to ensure we continue to grow in a way that preserves what makes our city so special.

Let's keep working together to make sure Chattahoochee Hills remains the special place we're all proud to call home.

**Be safe and be well, Mayor Tom Reed**





## Chattahoochee Hills Honored at the Capitol for Commitment to Sustainability

By Tom Hadfield



**Left front:** Parks Commissioner Chip Denton, Parks Commissioner Diana Wilson, State Senator Donzella James, City Manager Rob Rokovitz, State Senator Matt Brass.

**Second Row Left:** Council Member Ruby Foster, State Senator Rashaun Kemp, Council Member Camille Lowe, State Representative Robert Dawson, Mayor Tom Reed,

**Top:** Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones

The Georgia House of Representatives commended the City of Chattahoochee Hills on March 11th for its “stead-fast dedication to sustainability, environmental preservation, and community development.”

City leaders and students were in attendance at the State Capitol for the inaugural “Chattahoochee Hills Day at the Capitol,” invited by Representative Robert Dawson who serves District 65 in the State House of Representatives.

Representative Dawson welcomed the delegation from Chattahoochee Hills to witness the legislative process firsthand. City leaders including Mayor Tom Reed, Council Members Ruby Foster and Camille Lowe, and City Manager Robbie Rokovitz took part in a group photo on the House steps followed by meetings with several elected representatives.

Attendees also included middle school and high school students from the Terra School at Serenbe, who were invited to learn about the legislative process and the importance of civic engagement. From the public gallery, students watched as House Resolution 520, honoring



Middle school & high school students from the Terra School at Serenbe.  
Photo by Chip Denton

Chattahoochee Hills, was passed.

“It’s one thing to teach civic engagement in a class-room, but witnessing government in action is an invaluable experience,” said Lisanne Farach Hardin, Dean of Faculty at the Terra School. “Our students will carry this lesson in real-world democracy with them for years to come.”

Diana Wilson, Chair of the Parks Commission, and Chip Denton, Chair of the Bear Creek Nature Center, were also present to highlight the city’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

Throughout the day, participants learned about various facets of state government, from committee hearings to the protocol of bill presentations. “We are grateful to Representative Dawson for recognizing our community’s dedication to protecting the rural character of Chattahoochee Hills,” said Council Member Ruby Foster.



Parks Commissioner Chip Denton, Council Member Camille Lowe, Council Member Ruby Foster, State Representative Robert Dawson, Parks Commissioner Diana Wilson, and City Manager Rob Rokovitz.



Trending Topic

# OUR COMMUNITY



Photo by Peter Clemens



Photo by Chris Montesinos



Photo by Peter Clemens



Photo by Chris Montesinos



Photo by Peter Clemens



Photo by Peter Clemens





## Georgia Rivers Chattahoochee Camp and Paddle Trip April 25-27 Highlights New Riverlands Parks

On April 25-27, Georgia Rivers will host a two-day, two-night canoe/kayak camping adventure making use of two new “paddle-in” parks along the Chattahoochee River in the City of Chattahoochee Hills.

The parks, part of the larger Chattahoochee Riverlands project aimed at developing walking, biking and boating trails systems along the river from Peachtree Creek in Atlanta to Coweta County, feature group campsites, restrooms and showers, covered picnic areas with grills, fire pit areas, and incredible views of the Chattahoochee River.

The Georgia Rivers journey begins April 25 with a camp at historic Campbellton. The flotilla will then paddle 16 miles to the new Riverlands Park for a second camp, and then finish out the weekend with a 12-mile float to McIntosh Reserve in Carroll County. The event features catered meals and nightly education programs about the Chattahoochee.

Adult registration fees are \$340 with discounts for youth and families. The fee includes six catered meals, campsites with restrooms and showers, maps and guide services, shuttle services and educational programs. Additional information can be found at: <https://garivers.org/event/chattahoochee-river-camp-paddle>

The paddle-in campsites are unique in Georgia. No such public camp facilities exist on any other Georgia



rivers, and this will be among the first organized trips to make use of the new facilities.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Chattahoochee Riverlands Park hosted by the Trust for Public Land is set for Tuesday, April 1, at 11 a.m. at the park located at 8661 Campbellton-Redwine Road in Chattahoochee Hills.

“This is an exciting development for Georgia’s rivers,” said Rena Ann Peck, Georgia Rivers Executive Director, “As we continue to grow the state’s water trail system, these campsites can serve as a model for similar projects on other rivers. Amenities like this are common in other states where they generate tourism revenue for rural communities.”

Georgia Rivers, formerly Georgia River Network, is a 501c3 non-profit organization with the mission of connecting people with and protecting Georgia’s rivers. It serves as Georgia Department of Natural Resources non-profit partnering to coordinate the state’s water trail program.



Photo by Peter Clemens





## Chattahoochee Bend State Park

“Chattahoochee Bend State Park allows you to maneuver through the shoals of the riveting river, explore wooded trails teeming with unique plant and wildlife and embark on a natural journey that refreshes and revitalizes the spirit.”

Chattahoochee Bend State Park showcases a spectacular tract of wilderness in northwest Coweta County. Located in a graceful bend of the Chattahoochee River, the park is a haven for paddlers, campers and anglers. At 2,910 acres, Chattahoochee Bend is one of Georgia’s largest state parks, protecting five miles of river frontage. A boat ramp provides easy access to the water, while the Riverside Trail offers a 5.5-mile hike along the river, allowing for a total potential hiking distance of up to 11 miles. An observation platform provides nice views of the river and forest.

Although most of the park has been left in its natural state, campers have many options for staying overnight within park boundaries. RV owners will enjoy the camping area, which features sunny pull-through and back-in sites. Tent campers can choose from riverfront platform sites, walk-in sites and traditional developed campsites. The park even offers screened Adirondack-style shelters for families and groups who want a unique camping experience. Bathhouses with hot showers are a short walk from most campsites. Covered picnic shelters may be rented for birthday parties, reunions and other gatherings.

To reserve: <https://www.reserveamerica.com/explore/chattahoochee-bend-state-park/GA/530483/overview>

### Reservations, Accommodations & Facilities

2,910 Acres

6 Cottages

37 Tent, Trailer & RV Campsites

12 Tent Walk-In Campsites

8 Platform Campsites

8 Backcountry/Paddle-In Campsites — 5.5-mile hike or paddle to campground. Required check-in/start time is 1:00 pm to arrive at camp before dark.

1 Adirondack Group Campsite (Before making reservations, call park for capacity limits.)

2 Picnic Shelters (Before making reservations, call park for capacity limits.)

Boat Ramp • Gift Shop • Playground







## Chattahoochee River Keepers

By Roland Alston

I've been working with Christine Hassell on the camp/trail maps for the new parks. I've finished the Riverlands map, approved it, and she will incorporate it into the park signs that TPL is having made. I have finished the Campbellton Park map and will share it after Christine approves it. Just to share how the sausage is made: I spent several hours at each park measuring and using GAIA GPS to map the coordinates for the campsites and trails, overlay them onto Pond's layouts, then draw the maps.

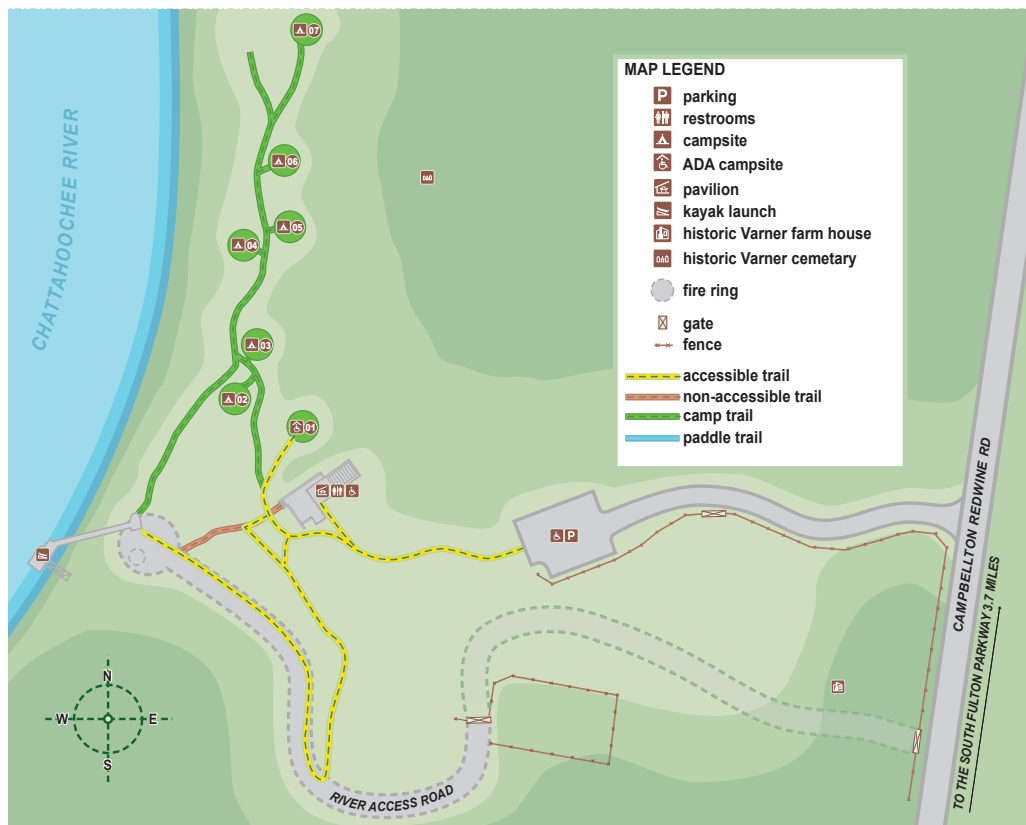
With the campsites numbered, I'm hoping that we can get the maps incorporated into an online reservation/pay system for the parks. Also the numbering system could help with emergency response.

In March, the Chattahoochee River Keepers (in partnership with TPL) had 15 volunteers for the first cleanup paddle from Riverlands Park to Moores Bridge Park. It was a beautiful day for a paddle and cleanup.

You can find out more about the CRK here: <https://chattahoochee.org>.



Photos by Roland Alston







## New History Exhibit up at City Hall . . . *War Was Here – Civil War and the Chattahoochee Hill Country.*

By Chris Montesinos

The year 1864 was pivotal in the Civil War, particularly in Georgia's Chattahoochee Hill Country, which played a crucial role in the Atlanta Campaign. The region's rugged terrain, dense forests, and the Chattahoochee River created natural defensive barriers that influenced military strategy. As Union forces under General William Tecumseh Sherman advanced toward Atlanta, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston sought to use these geographical advantages to slow them down.

### Strategic Importance and Military Movements

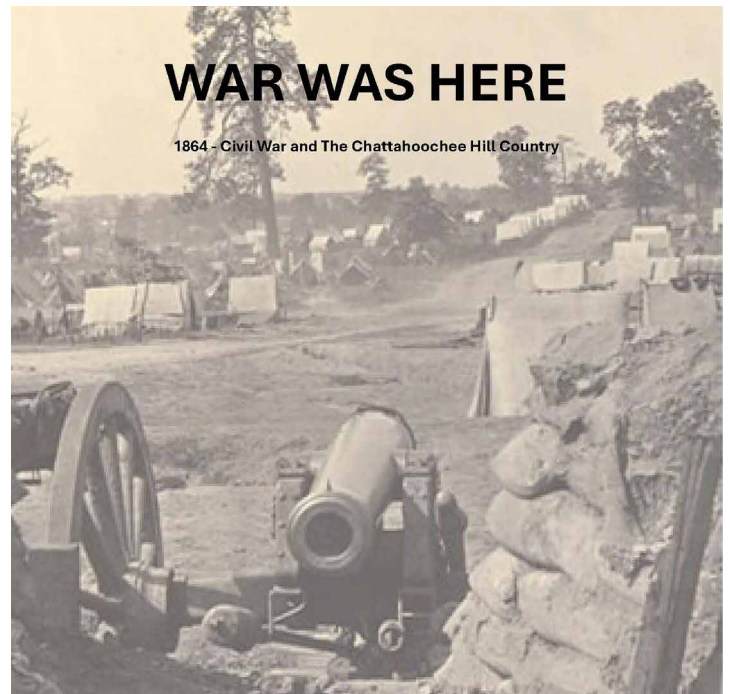
The Chattahoochee River was one of the last major natural obstacles before Atlanta, making it vital for both Union and Confederate forces. Johnston hoped to use it as a defensive line, but Sherman's strategy of flanking and maneuvering forced the Confederates to retreat further south. Skirmishes and fortifications along the riverbanks demonstrated the challenges of warfare in the hill country.

A critical turning point came with the Union cavalry raid on Moore's Bridge and the subsequent crossing at Smith's Ferry (Rivertown Road). These movements enabled Union forces to bypass Confederate defenses, leading to the invasion of Palmetto. This raid targeted vital Confederate supply lines south of Atlanta, severely disrupting the Southern war effort. With supply routes cut, Confederate forces struggled to sustain their defenses, setting the stage for Atlanta's eventual fall.

The summer of 1864 saw intense battles, including the costly Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in late June, which resulted in significant Union casualties but forced the Confederates to withdraw toward the Chattahoochee. By early July, Sherman's forces had reached the river, compelling Johnston to abandon his fortified positions. Rather than engaging in a direct assault, Sherman used deception and rapid troop movements to cross the river at multiple points, effectively outflanking the Confederates. This strategic victory, combined with the cavalry raid's success, accelerated the Union advance.

### Impact on Civilians

The war's toll extended beyond soldiers. Civilians in the Chattahoochee Hill Country faced displacement, food shortages, and destruction of property as armies moved



through the area. Union troops, following Sherman's strategy of total war, foraged extensively, while Confederate forces also requisitioned supplies from locals. Many residents fled, while others endured harsh conditions, with homes and churches repurposed as hospitals or supply depots.

Enslaved people in the region saw the Union advance as an opportunity for freedom. As Sherman's troops pushed forward, many enslaved individuals escaped plantations to join Union lines, marking a significant shift in the war's social impact. Personal accounts from the time illustrate the challenges and choices civilians faced amid the conflict.

### The Fall of Atlanta and Aftermath

With the Union's successful disruption of Confederate supply lines—including the destruction of railroads south of Atlanta—the city became increasingly difficult to defend. By September 1864, Confederate forces could no longer hold Atlanta, leading to its capture by Sherman's army. This loss was a severe blow to the Confederacy, crippling its transportation networks and morale.

Following Atlanta's fall, Sherman launched his *March to the Sea*, implementing a scorched-earth policy that devas-



## Trending Topic

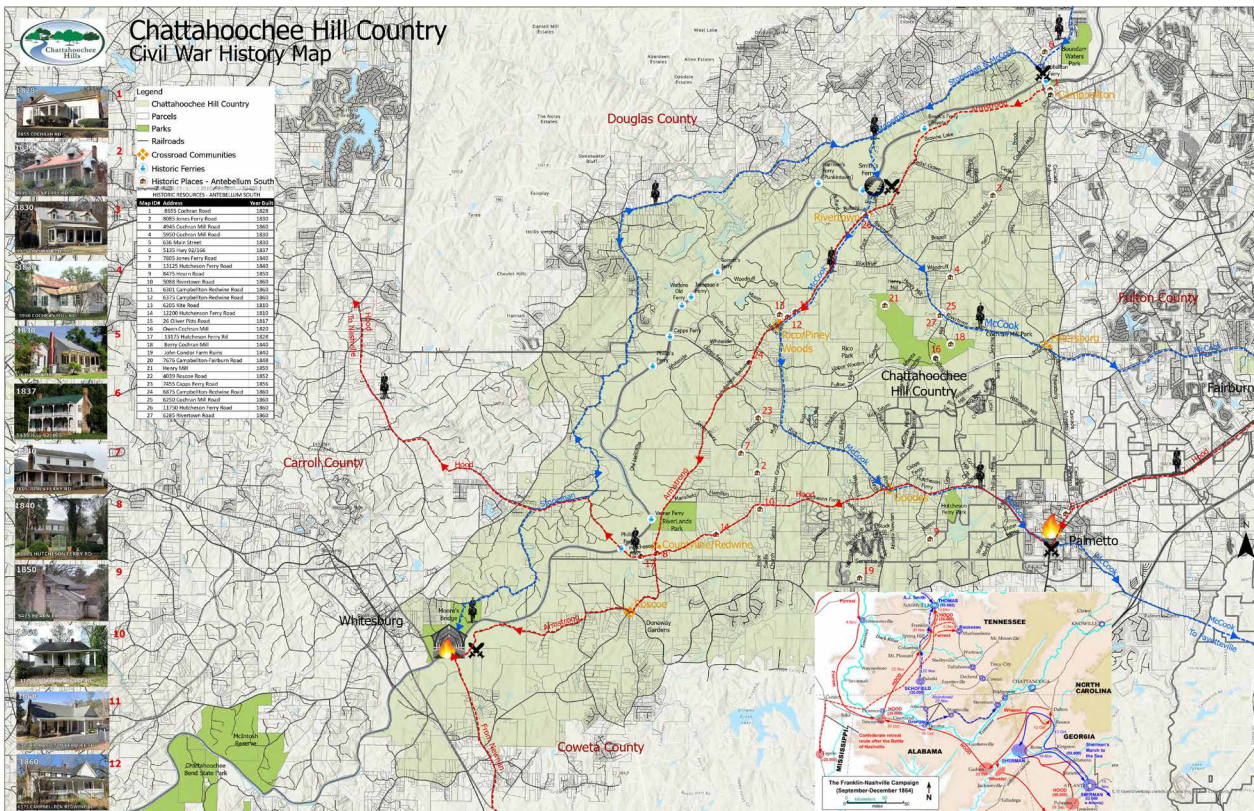
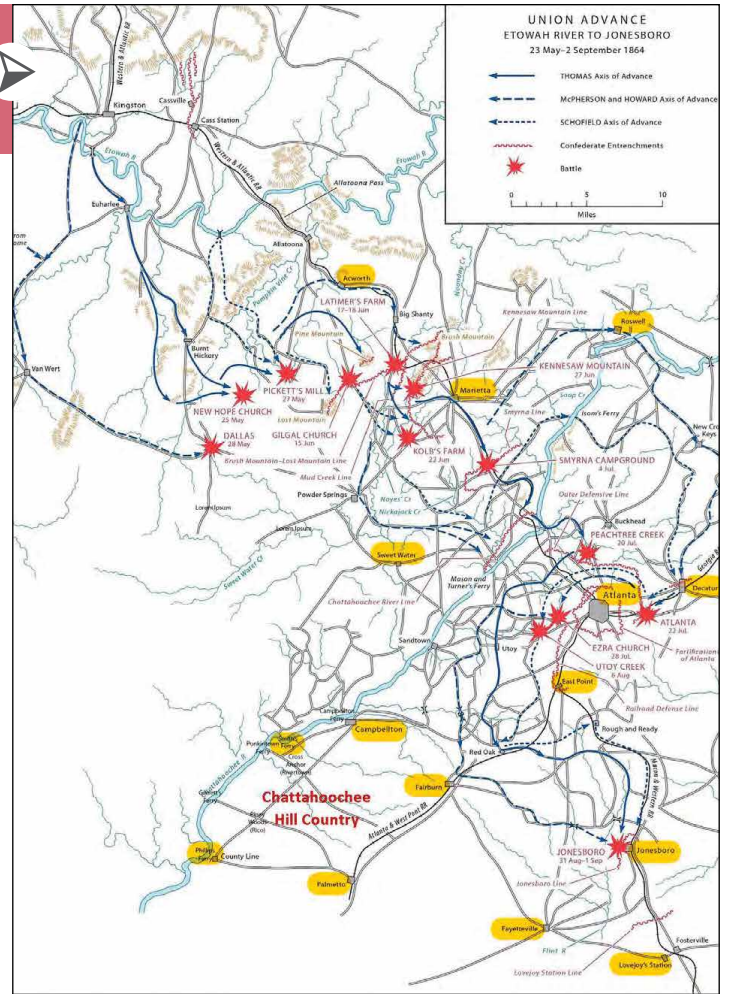
# OUR COMMUNITY

tated Georgia's infrastructure. The Chattahoochee region, already battered by months of warfare, suffered further as Union forces dismantled railways, burned buildings, and confiscated supplies.

### Conclusion and Legacy

The Civil War left a lasting impact on the Chattahoochee Hill Country. The Union cavalry raid at Moore's Bridge and subsequent crossings proved to be decisive in accelerating Atlanta's fall, demonstrating how mobility and disruption of supply lines played a crucial role in the war's outcome. In the post-war years, residents faced the difficult task of rebuilding homes and livelihoods. Historical markers and preserved battle sites today serve as reminders of the area's role in the war.

By examining military strategies, cavalry raids, civilian struggles, and long-term consequences, *1864 - Civil War and the Chattahoochee Hill Country* provides a comprehensive account of the region's significance during the Civil War. It underscores the importance of geography in military campaigns and the resilience of those who lived through one of America's most defining conflicts.



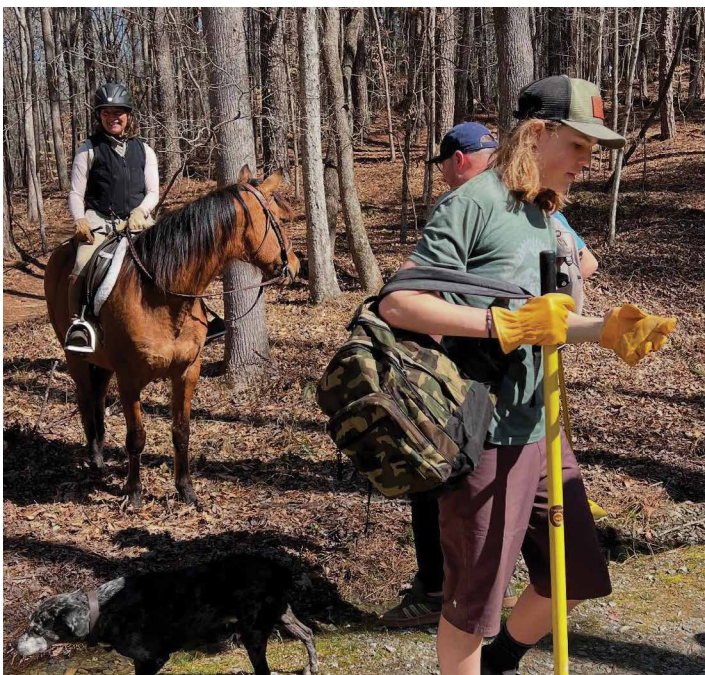




## SWAY MTB Club

SWAY is a youth mountain bike club for kids ages 6–12, serving students in grades 6 through 12. "Our mission is to get more kids on bikes in Georgia while building strong minds and bodies through the sport of mountain biking."

Mountain biking isn't just a sport—it's a community. You'll ride next to fellow student-athletes who are seeking their personal best. Share laughs, swap stories, and make memories that will last a lifetime as you bond over your shared love of mountain biking and the great outdoors. For youth riders who might not be aware of a sport in the area, the 2025 season starts with registration in April and practices in July. For more info visit <https://swaymtb.com>.



*MTB Atlanta was at Cochran Mill Park. Thanks to the 12 good folks that came out for the Cochran Mill Work Party. We had SWAY MTB Club kids and coaches in attendance giving back to the trails they ride for practice. The group completed substantial drainage work on the Yellow Trail and their hard work of 48 volunteer hours represents a \$1,608 labor contribution to the City of Chattahoochee Hills. Thanks for coming out out, y'all!*







## White Oak Pastures ~ Veto SB 144

*By Governor Brian Kemp*

Georgia Senate Bill 144 will give pesticide producers like Bayer and ChemChina liability immunity from lawsuits associated with any adverse health effects or harms to crops or property from their chemicals.

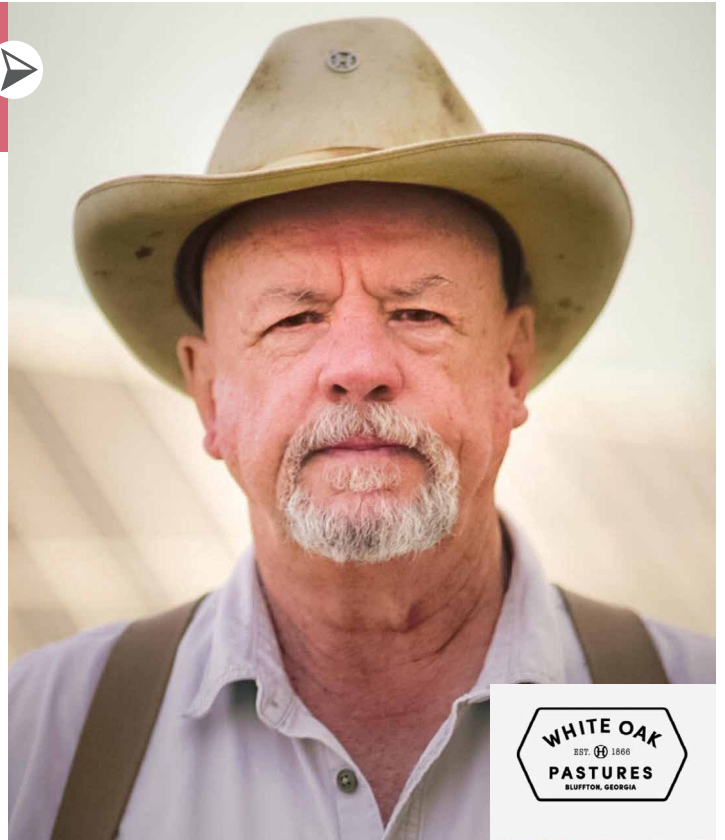
This bill will strip the rights of Georgians. The herbicide Paraquat, which has been linked to Parkinson's Disease, is produced by ChemChina for the United States, even though it is banned in China. Under this Bill, ChemChina can no longer be sued for knowing the risks of Paraquat exposure, yet will still sell to Americans with no warning label.

Another example is glyphosate which is produced by the German corporation Bayer. Research indicates that glyphosate exposure is connected to cancer, but because the EPA has been co-opted by the chemical industry, the label doesn't have an accurate risk warning. Under SB 144, cancer victims will have no path for recourse.

Chemical companies and legislators are claiming that this Bill is pro-farmer, because it protects farmer access to pesticides. This claim is false - farmers deserve to have the right to sue chemical manufacturers when their land, property, or family is injured by chemicals.

Pesticide companies have no incentive to be honest about the risks of their products.

Please veto SB 144, and preserve our rights for healthy farms and communities.



### White Oak Pastures

Raised and hand-butchered on our 158-year old-family farm: -Grassfed beef, lamb, and goat -Pasture-raised chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, rabbits, and hogs We are regenerative, zero-waste, and carbon negative.

[whiteoakpastures.com](http://whiteoakpastures.com)

**Will Harris**, White Oak Pastures, Bluffton, Georgia



### City Hall Line Dancing Class

*By Ruby Foster*

I want to extend a big thank you to everyone who joined us for a fun

morning line dance class. A special shoutout to **Ms. Connie Wright** from Palmetto, and a heartfelt thanks to **Ms. Cynithia Brown** for her assistance. We had a fantastic turnout!



## SAVE THE DATE - Bear Creek Nature Center - Environmental Education

Each year, we host three major festivals to connect with our community and raise funds for our mission of spreading a love of nature. At our events, we love to uplift local artists, community members, and other environmental organizations who are also passionate about wildlife and science education. If you've been around the block, you know what's up, but here's a bite-sized review for anyone new to the fun:

### FLOWERS & FEATHERS Festival (+ Native Plant Sale) APRIL 26

We are expanding our pollinator day to encompass a greater inclusion of our feathered friends including birds that fill all kinds of important ecological niches like our resident birds of prey who you can get a chance to meet up close and personal! Expect a native plant sale with our new partner@cottagedennatives and awesome community art opportunities. Stay tuned for more details to come.

### REPTILE RALLY on JUNE 28

Reptiles (and Amphibians) take center stage by the dozens and fill the cabin with all their awesomeness. We partner with local reptile rescues and scientists to bring visiting friends to the campus. You'll meet dozens of unique species—and the awesome humans who advocate for them. If you're hot, cool off with a ride in the canoe or a snooze on a rocking chair on our covered wrap-around porch.

### BAT FEST on SEPTEMBER 20

You would not believe how many of us wait ALL YEAR for this special day! Bat Fest has grown to be a beloved event that highlights one of our specialties--these strange and wonderful batty friends of ours as well as their pollinator-friendly habitats. Meet live bats and bat conservationists and get some hands-on experience through our demos that teach you all about how scientists study and protect our bats. Art, games, and community fun always make the evening fly by!



## Backyard Bash is Back! Save the Date!

Join us at the 4th annual Backyard Bash for family fun, delicious food, cold drinks, live music and lasting memories. A fundraiser in support of Community Brickworks.  
**Saturday, May 17, 4 - 7 pm**, at Four Sevens Farmette, Serenbe. Tickets on sale April 1.

### Boost the Bash, Be a Sponsor

We're aiming high with a target of raising \$70,000 at this year's Bash to fortify our programs and services. Why? Our 100% volunteer-operated organization will put every dollar of donations back into Community Brickworks programs and services.

Make your commitment today, and we'll toast to you at the Bash: <https://communitybrickworks.org/2025bash-sponsorship/>.





**Trending Topic**

## OUR COMMUNITY



### Bianca Cavandi Brotbacker Schedule

You can find our bread mobile every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., next to the General Store in front of Gainey Hall.

We'll be serving up fresh breads, seasonal treats, and a few surprises to make your weekends even better—and more delicious.

Be sure to pre-order your favorites to guarantee you get what you want—even if you arrive late. Order here:

<https://www.bianca-cavandi.com/shop>



### See You at The Daisy!

Is that sweet tooth acting up again? Our baker has been hard at work to help you take care of that problem! Stop in and help yourself to a piece of our delicious cake or cheesecake! Call us at 770.463.8379.



# COFFEE TASTING

**Birdhouse Coffee Room**

Whether you're a coffee connoisseur or just looking to try something new, this is the perfect chance to indulge your taste buds, share some stories, and enjoy good company.

Bring your curiosity and a favorite mug if you'd like!

THURSDAY  
12P  
\$12

**Thursday Tastings – \$12, 12:00 pm – 1:00pm**  
**Saturday Story Time (with Hills and Hamlets Bookshop) 9:30 - 10:30am**

**Birdhouse Coffee Room**  
470 756 5894,  
[source@birdhousemarket.info](mailto:source@birdhousemarket.info)  
10625 Serenbe LN 30268, [www.birdhousecoffee-room.com](http://www.birdhousecoffee-room.com)





## Mushroom & Asparagus Frittata

By Mary Collins-Shepard

Mushrooms and asparagus are a perfect match for an early spring meal. Morels are popping up and if you are lucky enough to have a hidden patch be sure to use some in this recipe. Otherwise, the wild mushroom mix from your favorite grocery or simply white button or baby bellas from your favorite grocery work just fine. This dish is delightful as a lunch or light dinner with a fresh green salad.



### Mushroom & Asparagus Frittata

Serves 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 8 ounces mixed mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch asparagus (about 10 spears), cut into 1 ½ -inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 6 large eggs
- ½ cup feta cheese, cubed
- Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Heat the olive oil in a 10-inch cast iron skillet over medium heat. Add the onions, and cook until fragrant and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and mushrooms, and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Toss in the asparagus and thyme leaves, cook for another 3 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

While the vegetables are cooking, whisk the eggs, then fold in the cubed feta. When the vegetables are ready, pour the egg-cheese mixture over top of the vegetables, making sure the eggs coat the vegetables and the cheese is evenly distributed. Once the edges firm up, transfer the skillet into the preheated oven and bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the center is no longer wobbly and the top is golden. Serve warm or room temperature.



 **Community  
Brickworks**

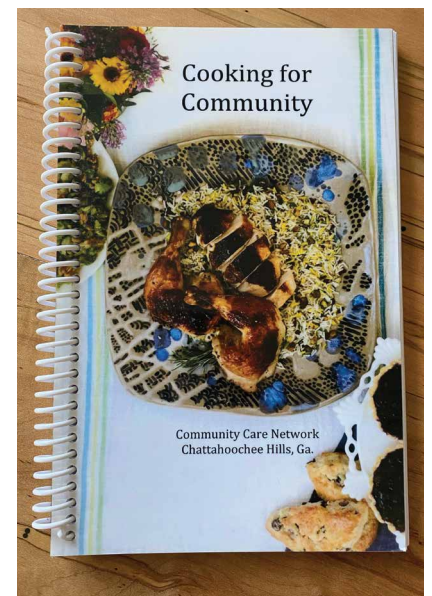


**venmo**

### Cooking for Community

There are still a limited number of copies of **Cooking for Community**, a collection of

120 recipes from amazing Chatt Hills home cooks. Copies are \$35 and all proceeds will be donated to Community Brickworks. **Pick up location is:** Hills and Hamlets Bookstore in Serenbe, 10625 Serenbe Lane, Retail Unit B, Chatt Hills, GA 30268, (470)488-0330, Tues. - Sun. 11am – 5pm. Venmo [@CommunityBrickworks](#)







## Feeling Out of the Loop in Chatt Hills & Serenbe?

Even in a place designed for connection, it can feel surprisingly hard to figure out... well, anything.

Where's the best local produce? What artists are showing work? And why does finding out what's happening this weekend feel like solving a mystery?

That's why I created **Life at Play** (<https://ginakawalek.substack.com>)—your no-fluff, all-fun insider guide to Chatt Hills & Serenbe.

I created **Life at Play** to make Chatt Hills life feel effortless—whether you live here, visit often, or simply dream about a slower, more intentional way of living. Because if there's one thing I've learned, it's this: navigating the area—finding events, discovering hidden gems, and truly experiencing what makes this place so special—takes a little insider knowledge.

### What Is Life at Play?

Think of it as your go-to source for everything local:

- **Get the scoop** – local events delivered straight to your inbox
- **Meet the Makers** – From farmers to chefs, artists to small businesses, get to know the locals behind the magic
- **Local Secrets** – Hidden gems, favorite spots, and tips you won't find on Google
- **The Life at Play Lifestyle** – Personal stories and reflections on slow living, playful days, and small-town charm

And yep, a full **directory, map, and calendar** are in the works. But until then, you can peek at the growing local guide I've started in this **Google Sheet** (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vG-xkxHzrWuSZxoEY-8mGLqAwaFpnoyHOYNjigE-ZtJw/edit?usp=sharing>).

### Why It Matters

I've lived here for 4+ years and spent a lot of that time piecing things together. Now, I'm making it easy—for you, for visitors, and for anyone who wants to experience the magic of this place without the guesswork.



*Gina Kawalek, creator of **Life at Play**—your insider guide to Chatt Hills & Serenbe*

### Want in?

Subscribe to **Life at Play** newsletter (<https://ginakawalek.substack.com/>) and get the local lowdown, straight to your inbox.

### Are You a Local Business or Creator?

I'd love to feature you! Email me at [ginakawalek@gmail.com](mailto:ginakawalek@gmail.com).







CENTER



## Pose and Compose

FIGURE DRAWING SESSIONS

JOIN US FOR A CREATIVE, RELAXED ATMOSPHERE TO IMPROVE YOUR FIGURE DRAWING SKILLS. WITH A LIVE NUDE MODEL, THIS SELF-LED CLASS ALLOWS YOU TO WORK AT YOUR OWN PACE AND STYLE.

### THURSDAY NIGHTS

6:00pm-8:00pm

3/13/ 4/3

3/20 4/10

2/27 4/17

\$120 for 6 classes

Please bring your own supplies!

6401 Campbellton Redwine Road  
Chattahoochee Hills, Ga, 30263

## SERENBE FARMERS MARKET

Call for Vendors!

Saturdays 9am-1pm Starting April 5

Calling all small farmers, produce and plant growers, artisans, craft makers, and healthy food vendors in the greater community!

We are expanding our Farmers Market and would love to promote your business.

Interested in joining us, please email [market@serenbefarms.com](mailto:market@serenbefarms.com).



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
MORE INFO!

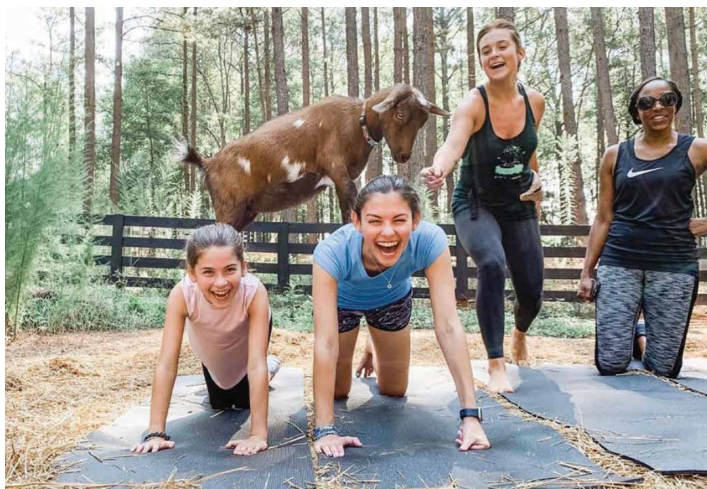
HILLS & HAMLETS BOOKSHOP  
& BIRDHOUSE COFFEE ROOM  
BRING YOU

## STORY TIME

Birdhouse Coffee Room  
10625 Serenbe Ln

SATURDAY  
9:30A -  
10:30A

Reading starts at 10A



### Weekly Sat. 10-11am Goat Yoga

The Inn 10950 Hutchesons Ferry Rd, Chatt Hills

Reservations required, \$45 per person, for more info and reservations visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/serenbe-yoga-bodyworks-17254316632>





**Weekly Tues. - Fri. 4-6pm**

### **The Hill Happy Hour**

**The Hill at Serenbe, 9110 Selborne Lane**

Featuring \$5 Eats, \$3 Beers, \$10 Cocktails, and Half off Select Glasses of Wine



**Weekly Sat. 4:00pm**

### **Wine Tastings at the General Store**

**10642 Serenbe Lane, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268**

Join Nadine to taste wines from around the globe every Saturday; \$35/person with tasting notes and small bites.

Email [nadine@generalstoreatserenbe.com](mailto:nadine@generalstoreatserenbe.com) with questions.



**Weekly Sat. & Sun. 1:30 & 3:30pm**

### **Wine Flights at the Wineshop**

**9135 Selborne Lane, Chattahoochee Hills, GA**

Each week new wines will be featured and paired with light snacks. \$40 per person, reserve a seat today for our 1:30pm or 3:30pm seating. <https://serenbewineshop.com>



**Weekly Sat. 9-11pm**

### **Austin's Jazz Nights**

**9110 Selborne Lane Suite 120, Chatt Hills, GA, 30268**

Contact for more information and reservations: <https://shorturl.at/JN2lx>



**Weekly Tues.-Thurs. 5-10pm &**

**Fri. & Sat. 5-11pm**

### **Austin's Cocktailery & Kitchen**

**9110 Selborne Lane, Chatt Hills, GA 30268**





## Weekly Farmhouse Fri. 5:30-8:30pm Music on the Porch

10950 Hutchesons Ferry Rd, Chatt Hills

Live on the Farmhouse porch from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Re-serve a table [HERE](#)



## Recharge Weekly at Creek Retreat!

**Thurs. 4:45 pm**  
**BioCharger Happy Hour**  
includes Kava Seltzer (15 min / \$22)



**Fri. 1:00 pm**  
**Elevated BioCharger Stacked Session**  
(25 min / \$20 per person) More information available at [CreekRetreat.com](http://CreekRetreat.com) | 404-907-1914

**Sat. 11:11am**  
**Community BioCharger Session** (Free)



## Weekly Blue Eyed Daisy Burger Night & Dinner Fri. & Sat. Night!

9065 Selborne Ln, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm, Monday Burger Night 5pm - 8pm, Friday & Saturday Dinner Service 5pm-8pm, Saturday & Sunday 8am - 3pm. Please call ahead for takeout: 770.463.8379



## Weekly Sat. 11am-3pm Open Model Home Tours Mado/Overlook



## Apr. 20, 11am-6pm Easter Dining

The Farmhouse - 10950 Hutchesons Ferry Rd, Chatt Hills, and The Hill at Serenbe, 9110 Selborne Lane



*Trending Topic*  
**EVENTS**



## Tuesday & Friday Serenbe Farm Stand

**Weekly Tues. 4-6pm on Farm**

10625 Serenbe Ln, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268

**Weekly Fri. 4-6pm in front of Gainey Hall**

10640 Serenbe Lane Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Wednesdays: Farm Volunteer Day**



**Sat. April 5, 4pm**

## Spring Awakening Wine Tasting at the General Store

10642 Serenbe Lane, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

Cost: \$40.00 per person, register here: <https://shorturl.at/twxCJ>

Join us for a fun filled tasting as we celebrate wines to awaken your senses. Indulge in a variety of wines that will surely tickle your taste buds and leave you wanting more. This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and discover new favorites. Don't miss out on this fantastic experience! Tasting Notes and Small Bites provided.



# Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, April 5th | 9am**  
**Fellowship Center**

**All men are invited for breakfast!**  
**RSVP: Al Powell 770-463-4714**

**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**      **WWW.PBCRICO.ORG**



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

# EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 19th**  
**2:00 pm**

THE BRETT'S PASTURE  
6301 CAMPBELLTON-REDWINE RD CHATT HILLS  
BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS, CHARIS AND BLANKET, AND KITES!  
EASTER EGG HUNT | MEET THE EASTER BUNNY | SNO-CONES  
WHILE WE LOVE ANIMALS, WE REQUEST YOU KEEP YOURS AT THEIR HOME





**APRIL 26, 2025**

# TOUGHEST MUDDER

## ATLANTA

📍 **Bouckaert Farms**  
10045 Cedar Grove Rd, Fairburn, GA 30213  
Travel Time from Atlanta: 35 minutes

Chatt Hills Community

## YARD SALE

**APRIL 12TH  
9AM - 1PM**

6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, Ga

**COOKOUT**

Get ready for an exciting Community Yard Sale on Saturday, **April 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM!** Clear out your closets, bring your items, and set up your table to sell! It's the perfect opportunity to find hidden treasures and connect with neighbors. Don't miss out on the fun—contact Kerri Carter for more info! [Kerrimcginnis96@gmail.com](mailto:Kerrimcginnis96@gmail.com)



**Sat. Apr. 26: 5:30pm**

### Terra School Fete

Lakeside Pavilion 10950

Hutcheson Ferry Road,

Serenbe, GA 30268

Join us for an exciting evening to celebrate with our community and raise critical funds to

support Terra at Serenbe. This festive event will include drinks, dinner, a live band and dancing, as well as a curated, silent and live auction. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Terra School at Serenbe's Annual Fund. For tickets: <https://www.terraatserenbe.org/fete>



# FLOWERS & Feathers

SPRING FESTIVAL

**26. April. 2025**  
11am - 4 pm



**Admission \$6  
FREE FOR MEMBERS**

770-306-0914 - [bearcreeknaturecenter.org](http://bearcreeknaturecenter.org)  
6300 Cochran Mill Road, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268





# Super South

April 15, 16 and 17 · 2025  
CNN Omni Hotel at  
Centennial Park  
Atlanta, GA

## Super South Summit for Climate Innovation and Impact

By Jon Hutson

The Climate X Conversations that Dorothy Peterson Vollmer, Florian Vollmer developed at Serenbe the last couple years has inspired an even bigger platform.

Join us **April 15–17, 2025 for Super South | Summit for Climate Innovation and Impact** at CNN Omni Hotel at Centennial Park in Atlanta for a transformative experience uniting visionaries, entrepreneurs and leaders. From thought-provoking keynotes and experiential workshops to an inspiring expo, discover ways to mitigate climate risk and advance a circular economy.

Along with many others presentations and the Innovation Expo, Serenbe's Steve Nygren and Dr. Tuwanda Green will be participating in a presentation related to Biophilic principles.

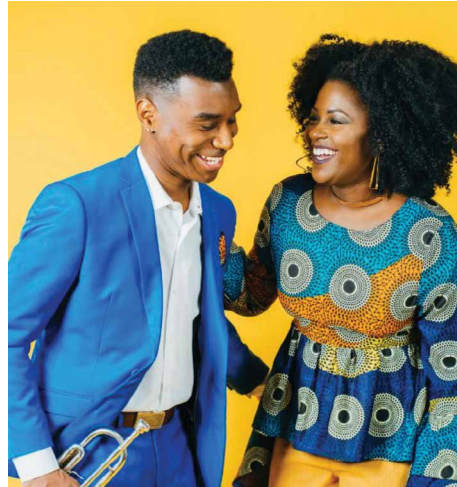
**Be the catalyst for transformative collaboration:**

**Ask to Speak:** <https://supersouth.org/speakers/>

**Showcase Your Innovations:** <https://supersouth.org/exhibitors/>

**Become a Sponsor:** <https://supersouth.org/sponsors/>

**Unlock human ingenuity, celebrate sustainable solutions and champion a circular economy. Let's shape the world's future together at Super South!**



**Fri. April 25,  
7:30pm**

## Jazz Night with Sounds of April & Randall

Gainey Hall,  
10640 Serenbe  
Ln, ChattHills,  
GA 30268

Cost: \$65, Get  
tickets: [https://](https://www.artfarmatserenbe.org/events/sounds-of-april-and-randall)

[www.artfarmatserenbe.org/events/sounds-of-april-and-randall](https://www.artfarmatserenbe.org/events/sounds-of-april-and-randall)

The award-winning, Billboard-charting jazz ensemble, led by powerhouse vocalist April May Webb and acclaimed trumpeter Randall Haywood, ignites the stage with soulful melodies in an unforgettable night at the Art Farms Jazz Series. Named “Best Jazz Group” at the New York City Reader’s Jazz Awards, the pair has crafted a sound that is both deeply personal and refreshingly innovative. Partners in both music and life, their artistry reflects a profound connection and a shared passion for storytelling.

**BEAR CREEK NATURE CENTER**

**2025 REPTILE RALLY**

**JUNE 28**

**11 AM - 4 PM**

This event is made possible through:  
**FULTON COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE**

**ADMISSION \$6**  
**FREE FOR MEMBERS**

770-306-0914  
bearcreeknaturecenter.org  
6300 Cochran Mill Road,  
Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268





## Serenbe Farms CSA Program

The 2025 Farm Share Season is 30 weeks (with breaks between seasons). Our Farm Shares include certified-organic produce grown using regenerative farming methods. Each week during the season, members will receive up to 7 items that can vary week-to-week. Produce is harvested within 24 hours of the weekly CSA pickup to ensure freshness and peak nutritional value. Pick-up is on Tuesdays from 4:30pm-7pm at the farm. <https://serenbefarms.com/available-shares>

## Serenbe Farms Plant Sale - Save the Date! Sat. Apr. 26, 9am - 1pm

Our farmers will be working to provide the community with a wide variety of plants to fill your garden this season. Buying plants from a local farm and growing your own garden is a meaningful way to support your family's health and strengthen the local food community. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Sat. Apr. 26, 10am - 12pm Read to the Rescues Event at Zorro's Crossing 8655 Sardis Road, Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Join us for **Read to the Rescues** at Zorro's Crossing. This heartwarming event invites families to enjoy a spring Easter-themed morning at the barn, where children can read to our rescued horses in a calming and enriching environment. No sign-up is required, and the event is **completely free**. The barn will be beautifully decorated for the season so it's the perfect opportunity to connect with our incredible rescue horses, celebrate the joy of reading, and experience the peaceful haven that Zorro's Crossing provides.

Zorro's Crossing is a sanctuary dedicated to giving horses a second chance at life. Many of our horses have survived difficult pasts from the racing industry, but at Zorro's Crossing they find healing, love, and purpose. Our mission is to rehabilitate, nurture, and provide a lifelong sanctuary for these deserving animals, while also creating meaningful experiences for the community.

**Serenbe Farms Presents:**  
*Kids*  
**GARDENING PROGRAM**

Students will be taught gardening skills including but not limited to garden planning and prep, seeding, transplanting, compost making, wildlife identification and observation.

**WHEN?**  
Offered in the Spring and Fall for kids 3-8 years old. Choose Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm or Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

**SPRING SESSION \$300**  
March 12/13th - May 21/22nd

**FALL SESSION \$300**  
August 27/28th - October 29/30th

**SPRING + FALL \$550**  
Receive a discount by signing up for both!



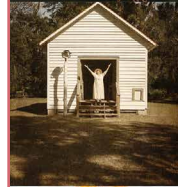
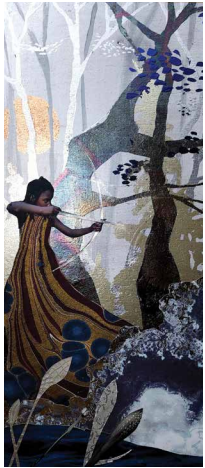
**ZORRO'S CROSSING**  
free event for families  
*Read to the Rescues*  
**APRIL 26TH, 10 AM - 12 PM**  
JOIN US FOR A SPRING FLING THEMED EVENT!  
READ TO THE HORSES AT THE SANCTUARY.  
COME DRESSED IN PASTEL COLORS,  
BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOOK, OR CHOOSE ONE OF OURS.

LOCATION: ZORRO'S CROSSING  
8655 SARDIS ROAD, CHAT HILLS, GA 30268  
[WWW.ZORROSCROSSING.ORG](http://WWW.ZORROSCROSSING.ORG)

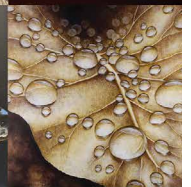
We're currently **seeking individual and business sponsorships** to support this event and help sustain the herd. If you or your business are interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you have any questions, please reach out to [Jessica@zorrocrossing.org](mailto:Jessica@zorrocrossing.org) and/or visit our website: [www.zorrocrossing.org](http://www.zorrocrossing.org). We can't wait to see you at the barn!



# Arts Section



## ART AT ENZO Illuminate



### Art at ENZO NEW Exhibit Illuminate

Anne Berry • Charlie DeRuiter • Logynn Ferrall •  
Laura Gfelner • Metty Hicks • Andre'e James •  
Mary H Johnson • Robert Lederman • Natalie McIntyre •  
Julie McKinney • Dale Niles • Matthew Peterson •  
Kimberly Ramey • Judy Walker

#### To purchase:

Greg Blair 770-774-3524, [gblairpaintings@yahoo.com](mailto:gblairpaintings@yahoo.com)  
300 Trilith Parkway, Suite 230, Fayetteville, GA 30214

### Artists Featured at Southern Crescent Gallery at Trilith Guesthouse

David Boyd Jr. • Kyle Brown • rEN Dillard •  
Logynn Ferrall • Mary H Johnson

350 Trilith Parkway, Fayetteville, GA 30214

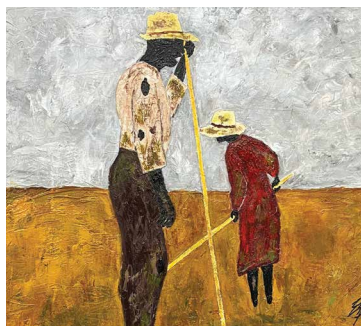
For inquiries and purchase, contact Logynn Ferrall at  
(281) 658-5036, or [logynnberrall@mac.com](mailto:logynnberrall@mac.com).



### Artists Featured at Dogwood Gallery

Malinda Lively-Arnold • Avi Deshmukh  
• Brenda Erickson • Corinne Galla •  
Vinayak Godbole • Jenni Horne •  
Julie McKinney • Michael Montgomery  
• Martin Pate • Malin Roghelia •  
Mary Collins-Shepard • Ezra Thompson  
• Judy Walker • Jane Whitehurst

105 St. Stephens Ct. Suite E Tyrone,  
<https://www.dogwoodgallery.net/>





# Arts Section



## Featured Artist ~ Tom Swanston

Migration, with its movement and resilience, inspires my art.

Drawing from the journeys of sandhill cranes, I depict their interplay with ever-changing landscapes. I aim to evoke awe,, inviting reflection on the beauty and significance of migratory journeys and the universal themes they embody.

Sandhill cranes symbolize the delicate bond between humanity and nature. As ambassadors of ecological balance, they urge us to protect and restore our ecosystems. Through my art, I capture their majestic grace, amplifying their call for collective action and environmental responsibility.

Ecological imperatives drive my creative exploration. Informed by scientific research and urgency, I translate complex environmental challenges into visual narratives. I depict the interdependencies and harmony of ecosystems, raising awareness for sustainable practices and a deeper connection with nature.

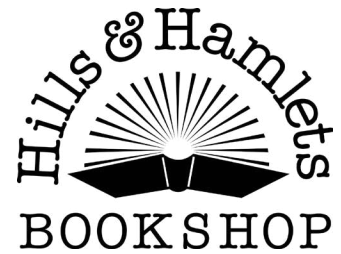
Transcending boundaries, I invite viewers into a dialogue on our responsibility to the planet. Employing diverse techniques, I create visually evocative artworks that encourage reflection, connection, and active participation in environmental sustainability.

In summary, my art centers around migration, sandhill cranes, and ecological imperatives. I capture movement, resilience, and the delicate interdependence between humanity and nature. Through my works, I strive to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and inspire action in the face of urgent ecological challenges." For information, <https://studioswan.com>.





## Arts Section



### April Selections from Hills & Hamlets Bookshop and Underground Books

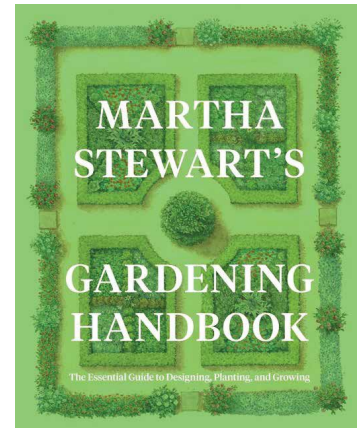
*Hills & Hamlets Bookshop is a beautiful, warm, and welcoming neighborhood bookstore in Serenbe's Grange Hamlet. All titles are lovingly curated with an emphasis on books about nature, wellness, and the arts. A great children's section adds fun along with fiction, food, history, science, architecture, travel, gift books, and more!*

Hills & Hamlets Bookshop is now open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm every week, and we're open 24/7 online at [www.bookshop.org/shop/undergroundbooks](http://www.bookshop.org/shop/undergroundbooks) and [www.bookshop.org/shop/undergroundbooks](http://www.bookshop.org/shop/undergroundbooks) and [info@hillsandhamlets.com](mailto:info@hillsandhamlets.com).

#### New in Nature: *Martha Stewart's Gardening Handbook*

The first fully comprehensive gardening guide from the legendary Martha Stewart in more than 30 years, with everything you need to know to curate a beautiful, thriving garden! Whether you're a green thumb or a gardening novice, this gorgeous book, filled with practical tips, stunning images (many from Martha's personal gardens), and detailed explanations, will arm you with the knowledge to help your garden thrive. As Martha likes to say, gardening is a never-ending opportunity for growth. **Out now!**

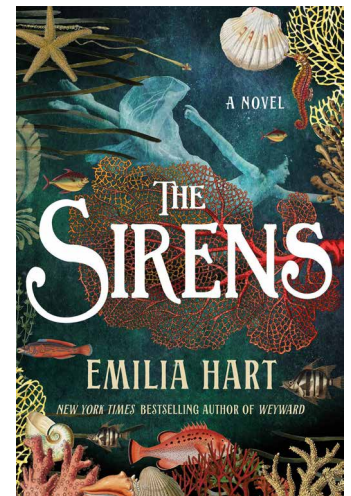
Buy online: <https://bookshop.org/a/45/9780063323285>



#### New in Fiction: *The Sirens* by Emilia Hart

H&H bookseller Patience recommends: "I was thrilled by this tale about the sea's mystical secrets! In the 1800s, a ship full of women sinks off the Australian coast drowning all aboard except sisters who have a mythological experience as the boat goes under. Years later, a woman has troubling dreams of the sea that lure her to a coastal town where some men have disappeared. She becomes obsessed with that mystery and the meaning of her dreams and finds she will need her own sister's help to solve them. You will love the unexpected, spellbinding ending." **Out now, signed copies available in-store only!**

Buy online: <https://bookshop.org/a/45/9781250280824>

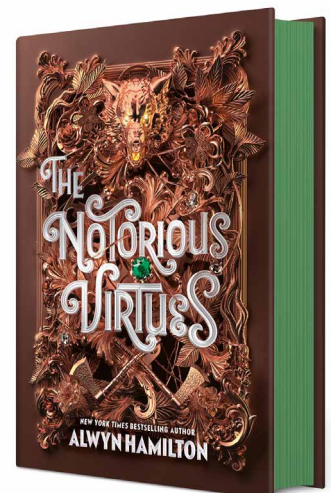


#### New in Young Adult: *The Notorious Virtues* by Alwyn Hamilton

H&H bookseller Sandra recommends: "Intricate, clever, and entertaining, this fantasy murder-mystery has magic, death games, light romance, unique world-building, and a vibrant, beautifully connected cast of characters I loved! Nora's future, which she's trained for since birth, is thrown into chaos when her mother is found dead, and according to the rules, the Veritaz Trials will decide the heiress. The competition should be a cakewalk for Nora, but her cousin Lotte, abandoned to a convent 16 years ago, shows up with nothing to lose and everything to gain, making the story so exciting!"

**For ages 12+, out now!**

Buy online: <https://bookshop.org/a/45/9780451479662>



Hills & Hamlets Bookshop 10625 Serenbe Lane, Retail Unit B, (470)488-0330

<https://www.hillsandhamletsbookshop.com/>



Community  
**OUR CHURCHES**



**Campbellton Baptist Church**, 8660 Church Street, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Friendship Baptist Church**, 6090 Cochran Mill Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268 [www.friendshipbaptistchathills.com](http://www.friendshipbaptistchathills.com)

**New Hope United Methodist Church**, 7875 Atlanta Newnan Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Providence Baptist Church**, 6402 Campbellton Redwine Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268 [www.pbcrico.org](http://www.pbcrico.org)

**Rico United Methodist Church**, 6475 Rico Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Rivertown United Methodist Church**, 9325 Rivertown Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Sardis Baptist Church**, 8400 Sardis Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268 [www.sardisbaptistch.com](http://www.sardisbaptistch.com)

**Southern Crescent Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** [www.facebook.com/Southern-CrescentUUFellowship/](https://www.facebook.com/Southern-CrescentUUFellowship/)

**Southside at Serenbe**, 9:15 & 11:00am, 10640 Serenbe Ln., [southside.org](http://southside.org).

**Vernon Grove Baptist Church**, 8440 Vernon Grove Rd., Chatt Hills, GA 30268

WORSHIP WITH US  
*Easter. April 20*  
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH



<b>SUNRISE</b> 7 AM	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 10 AM	<b>WORSHIP</b> 11 AM
------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------

*He is not here*

FOR HE IS RISEN



SUNRISE SERVICE APRIL 20, 7 AM  
BREAKFAST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH  
PBCRICO.ORG

JOIN US FOR A...

## Mother/Daughter Tea

26 APRIL

**When:** 12:30pm - 2:00pm  
**Wear:** Your favorite hat!  
**Bring:** Your favorite teacup  
**Where:** Providence Baptist Church  
 6402 Campbellton-Redwine Rd  
 Chatt Hills  
[pbcrico.org](http://pbcrico.org)



# Memorials



## Obituary for Lamonte "Monty" Harris

Lamonte "Monty" Harris, a beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2025, at the age of 82. Born on September 12, 1942, Monty

led a life marked by dedication to his family, faith, and community.

A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, Monty served his country with honor and distinction. Following his military service, he embarked on a successful career as a banker at Trust Company Bank, where he was known for his integrity and commitment to his clients. In addition to his banking career, Monty worked part-time at Parrott Funeral Home, offering comfort and support to families during visitations.

Monty was a devoted member of Sardis Baptist Church, where he served faithfully as a deacon and treasurer. His unwavering commitment to his faith was evident in his remarkable record of not missing Sunday School for over 40 years. A graduate of Newnan High School, Monty was respected and admired by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Lynda Peek Harris; his son, Troy Harris, and daughter-in-law, Sherrie; his daughter, Tammy Stevenson, and son-in-law, Joel; his sister, Joyce McDowell; and his cherished granddaughter, Rose Harris. He is also survived by his sisters-in-



law, Hilda Cochran, Alice Barge, Mary Ann Peek, Tootsie Peek, and Barbara Peek; his brother-in-law, Ned Peek, and his wife, Janice; and many nieces and nephews who will fondly remember him.

Lamonte "Monty" Harris will be remembered for his steadfast faith, his service to others, and the love he shared with his family and friends. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him.



## Obituary for Sheryl "Sherry" Casey Blanchard

Sheryl "Sherry" Blanchard, born on August 5, 1959, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025, in Newnan, GA, at the age of 65. She

was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who touched the lives of many with her selfless spirit and unwavering dedication to her family and friends. Sheryl had a special place in her heart for all sports, especially the Georgia Bulldogs

Preceded in death by her parents, George Randall and Johnnie Casey, Sr., and her brothers, George Randall Casey, Jr., and Terrell Eugene Casey, Sherry's legacy of love and compassion continues through those she leaves behind.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Randall "Randy" Blanchard; her cherished children, Alaina Blanchard (Heather), Andrew Blanchard, Casey Blanchard, and Robert Blanchard (Kaylee); and her treasured grandson, Jaxon Randall Blanchard. Sherry also leaves behind many extended family members and numerous friends who will miss her dearly.



## Community BRICKWORKS UPDATE



### Shout Out to Our Volunteers!

Since its inception, Community Brickworks has been, and continues to be, operated wholly by volunteers. They stack and shlep, read and dust, answer phones and respond to a myriad of needs in our community. They do it all! In 2024, our Pantry and Library volunteers were amazing, contributing 3,697 hours of their time! (Plus all the hours that no one tracked!)

We are currently looking for an additional volunteer to help with storytime. Do you enjoy working with toddlers and watching them grow from year to year? An hour of your time each week could brighten a child's day! If you are interested, please contact the library at 770-463-6600 and leave your name and contact information.



### Food Pantry

In January, we were closed for New Year's Day, and we experienced our first ever weather closure. Despite only being open for only three weeks, we served 60 families (115 adults and 66 children), and distributed a number of warm blankets and coats.

In February, we served 47 families (101 adults and 51 children) and welcomed five new families. As always, your donations make this work possible and we are grateful for your generosity.

### Library Update

Thank you to all who used the library in 2024! Whether you checked out books, or participated in a class, craft or social event, this is YOUR library, and we encourage you to use it. In 2024 - 106 people attended classes, 8 took part in the Read Between the Lines Book Club, 8 (plus adults) attended Toddler Tuesdays, 559 books were donated, hundreds more were checked out. We are looking forward to a great 2025; let's keep reading!

**Toddler Tuesday** continues to be a joy for all involved. The children are honing their attention and recall skills during story time. Crafting time provides an opportunity to share and be creative. They also love to play with the blocks and socialize. We invite you to join us every Tuesday of the month at 10:00.

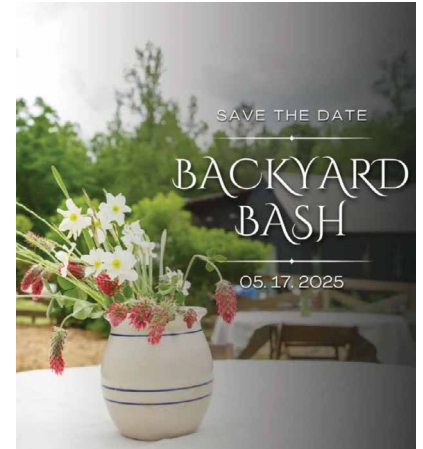
**Read Between the Lines Book Club** geared up in February and we're excited to read our members' picks for 2025. We meet at the library on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm. Come join us for some good reading and lively discussion.

In addition to our regularly scheduled activities, our Library renovation continues! The painting is just about done and we are gearing up to welcome back readers! We are looking forward to having the most current titles and the most comfortable place to enjoy them. When the time comes, the community will be invited to an Open House to see and experience it all!

Although your book donations are always appreciated, we ask for you to hold on to them until after the work is complete. In the meantime, we always welcome your input and look forward to your visits.

*Follow us on Facebook and Instagram*

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors!** [CommunityBrickworks.org](https://CommunityBrickworks.org)



### Save the Date

The Brickworks Backyard Bash is back! Join us for the 4th annual Backyard Bash for family fun, delicious food, cold drinks, live music and lasting memories. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 17th at 4 pm at the Four Sevens Farmette in Serenbe.** Can't wait to see you there!







**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Mayor Reed. A quorum was established and all were present.

**Review and Approval of Agenda:** It was moved by Councilmember Schmidt and seconded by Councilmember Foster to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed unanimously. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

**Approval of Minutes:** Council Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025. It was moved by Councilmember Peek and seconded by Councilmember Foster to approve February 4, 2025 Regular meeting minutes. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

### Staff Reports

Financial Update: Robbie Rokovitz, City Manager

Fire Department Report: Greg Brett, Fire Chief

Police Department Report: Kevin Digou, Police Chief

Public Works/Parks Report: Darold Wendlandt, Director

Community Development Report: Mike Morton, Director

Economic Development Report: Chris Montesinos, Director

**Public Comments:** There were six (6) public comment speakers

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Item 25-010** – Council Consideration to Amend the September 7, 2023 Position Control (City Manager)

It was moved by Councilmember Peek and seconded by Councilmember Lowe to approve Item 25-010. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

2. **Item 25-011** – Council Consideration of Approving a Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Sale of Surplus Property (Fire)

It was moved by Councilmember Lightsey and seconded by Councilmember Peek and Schmidt to approve Item 25-011. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

3. **Item 25-012** – Council Consideration to Approve Waiving the Late Fee and Extending the Date of Business License Renewals (City Clerk & Finance)

It was moved by Councilmember Schmidt and seconded by Councilmember Lightsey to approve Item 25-012. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

4. **Item 25-013** – Council Consideration to Approve a Resolution to Donate \$15k from the Hotel/Motel Taxes to Bear Creek Nature Center, Inc. (CM Foster)

It was moved by Councilmember Foster and seconded by Councilmember Lowe to approve Item 25-013. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

5. **Item 25-014** – Council Consideration to Allow Ninety-Day (90) Moratorium to Expire (Legal/Staff)

It was moved by Councilmember Lowe and seconded by Councilmember Peek and Schmidt to extend the 90-day Moratorium for an extra 30-days. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

It was moved by Councilmember Schmidt and seconded by Councilmember Foster to recess into Executive Session at 7:47pm for Legal and Personnel Matters. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

It was moved by Councilmember Peek and seconded by Councilmember Lowe to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 8:41pm. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was moved by Councilmember Lowe and seconded by Councilmember Schmidt to adjourn the Regular meeting of March 4, 2025 at 8:42pm. ***Motion passed unanimously.***





## Why Is It Important To Have A Cohesive Governing Body?

Each year, I attend two Georgia City/County Managers Association (GCCMA) conferences where I have been a member of for over 23 years and serve on the board as a district director. These conferences offer many professional development opportunities which help me retain my credentialed city manager designation through the International City and County Managers Association (ICMA). In addition to enhancing my professional development, I also get an opportunity to network with my colleagues around the State. We share best practices, ideas, projects, and often discuss Council-Manager relations.

This past year was unlike any other as I learned four of my colleagues whom I have known since I started this profession over twenty-five years ago resigned from their longstanding positions due to work-related health conditions. One was with his organization for over twenty years. One was in his position for over eleven years. One was in his position for over twenty years. One was only in his recent position for a short period of time and resigned after first taking a leave of absence. In every single situation, each of these seasoned managers resigned due to stress-related illnesses and one heart attack that they attributed to a **lack of cohesion** from their respective boards. Not only did these managers and their families experience unnecessary strife and turmoil, but the communities they served, also stable, trustworthy, and dedicated professionals.

A cohesive city council is essential for effective governance because it helps ensure that the local government works efficiently, responds to community needs,

and upholds public trust. Does this mean every decision should result in a unanimous vote? Of course, the answer is a resounding “no”. It simply means that if decisions are made based on facts, research, and expert opinions rather than on impulse or incomplete knowledge, the result is more likely to be closer to a consensus among the majority.

Here's why it's important for a city council to be cohesive, not divisive, and to support the city manager:

### 1. Clear and Consistent Decision-Making

- A united city council can make decisions more effectively and swiftly. When council members work together, they can create a clear vision and implement policies that reflect that shared goal. Divisiveness can lead to confusion, delays, and inconsistency, which undermines public confidence in the city's leadership.

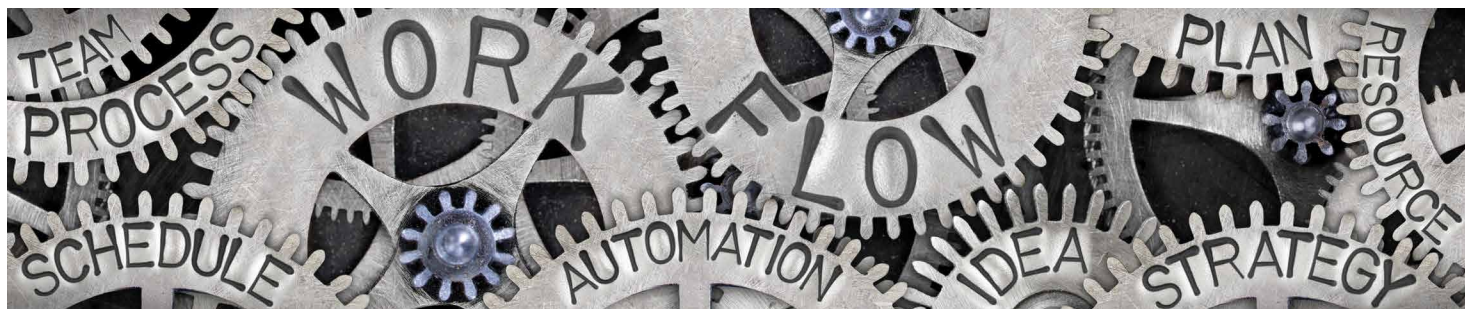
### 2. Effective Policy Implementation

- The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city, ensuring that the policies passed by the council are implemented. If the council is cohesive and supportive of the city manager, it can provide the necessary direction and resources for the manager to do their job effectively. When there is tension or conflict between the council and the city manager, it can result in poor communication, inefficiency, and frustration among city staff.

### 3. Stability and Trust

- A cohesive council promotes stability within the city government. Stability is important for maintaining long-term goals and fostering a sense of continuity in leadership. In contrast, a divisive council can lead to frequent changes in direction, making it harder for the city to maintain momentum on important projects.
- A supportive, cohesive council also builds trust with the public. Residents are more likely to have confidence in their local government when they see their elected officials working together for the community's benefit, rather than fighting among themselves.





#### 4. Resource Allocation and Prioritization

- A unified city council is better able to allocate resources effectively and prioritize projects. Disagreement among council members can lead to fragmented or ineffective use of taxpayer funds, whereas a cohesive council can make strategic decisions to address the most pressing community needs.

#### 5. Collaboration with City Manager and Staff

- The city manager is a professional appointed to carry out the policies set by the council. If the council is supportive of the manager, there is greater opportunity for collaboration and trust between elected officials and city staff. This leads to better decision-making and more efficient operations.

#### 6. Community Confidence and Engagement

- When the city council is united, it signals to the community that their leaders are focused on serving the public interest, rather than personal or political agendas. This can foster greater civic engagement and participation, as residents are more likely to trust and get involved with a local government that seems unified and purpose-driven.

#### 7. Avoiding Gridlock

- If a city council is divided, it can result in legislative gridlock, where important decisions are delayed or never made. This can negatively impact the city's development, infrastructure, and ability to respond to challenges. A cohesive council can overcome ideological differences and find common ground to keep the city moving forward.

#### 8. Long-Term Planning and Vision

- A cohesive council is more likely to develop and stick to long-term strategies and visions for the city's growth and development. Divisiveness often leads to short-term, reactionary decision-making that can be detrimental in the long run.

#### 9. Enhanced Public Services

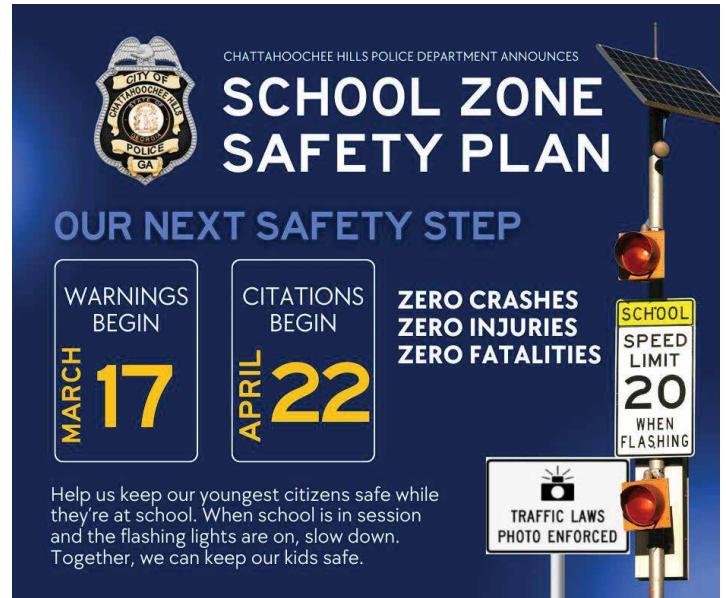
- When the council is aligned, it can more effectively oversee and improve public services like law enforcement, public health, education, and transportation. The city manager and their team can execute council-approved policies with a clear sense of purpose, ensuring that services meet the needs of the community.

In summary, a cohesive city council that supports its city manager and professional staff creates a positive working environment where collaboration, clear communication, and strategic planning can thrive. This helps the city meet its goals, deliver essential services, and maintain a high level of public trust and satisfaction.



*The Georgia House of Representatives commended the City of Chattahoochee Hills on March 11th for its "steadfast dedication to sustainability, environmental preservation, and community development."*





## Chattahoochee Hills Police Department Announces the School Zone Safety Plan

After an extended delay due to shipping and supply issues, we are pleased to announce that the flashing lights have been installed at Chattahoochee Hills Charter School. Enforcement of the school zone speed limit began on Monday, March 17.

### The Need for Enforcement

A recent study of traffic through the school zone revealed alarming speeding patterns. Each week, 6,332 vehicles pass through the zone, with 4,083 of them—65% of all traffic—exceeding the speed limit by at least 11 MPH. Of these:

2,950 drivers (72% of speeders) were traveling 11-20 MPH over the posted limit during student drop-off and pick-up times.

1,133 drivers (28% of speeders) exceeded the speed limit by 21+ MPH—posing a severe risk to students and pedestrians.

Speeding in a school zone is not just a violation; it is a serious safety hazard. National statistics show that a child struck by a vehicle traveling 40 MPH has only a 1 in 10 chance of survival. However, at 20 MPH, the survival rate improves dramatically to 9 in 10. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 64% of child pedestrian fatalities occur on weekdays between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

### Program Implementation

To address this issue and enhance safety, the school zone will be clearly marked with posted speed limit signs, flashing beacons, and radar-activated speed warning signs. Photo speed enforcement cameras will be activated when:

- School is in session
- Children are present
- The school zone beacons are flashing

Motorists exceeding the posted school zone speed limit by 10+ MPH will be subject to enforcement.

### Warning Period: March 17 – April 21

A 30-day warning period will begin on Monday, March 17. During this time, violators will receive a mailed warning notice (marked in red) advising them of the violation, including the date and time of occurrence. These warnings serve as an opportunity for drivers to adjust their behavior before enforcement begins.

### Live Enforcement Begins: Tuesday, April 22

Following the warning period, photo speed enforcement will go live on Tuesday, April 22. Motorists traveling 10+ MPH over the posted speed limit will receive a civil citation in the mail. These citations carry a \$75 fine but will not result in points on a driver's license or impact insurance rates.

### Our Commitment to Safety

The Chattahoochee Hills Police Department is committed to reducing speeding, changing driver behavior, and most importantly, protecting our children. We urge all motorists to drive cautiously in school zones and throughout our community.

By working together, we can achieve our goal of ZERO—Zero Crashes. Zero Injuries. Zero Endangered Lives. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safety.



# City Government



## Fostering Understanding & Collaboration: A Message from the Chief of Police at the End of Week Two of the Citizens Police Academy.

*Kevin Digou, Chattahoochee Hills Chief of Police*

At the heart of any great community is a deep bond of trust and collaboration between its citizens and the people sworn to protect them. Here in Chattahoochee Hills, the Citizens Police Academy stands as a testament to this bond—a shared journey of learning, mutual respect, and open dialogue. As Chief of Police, it has been a privilege to witness the remarkable progress of our first cohort as they gain firsthand insight into the inner workings of the Chattahoochee Hills Police Department (CHPD). Now, at the close of our second week, I'd like to offer a personal reflection on the lessons learned, the growth observed, and the bright road ahead.

### Laying the Foundation: Reflections on Week One Introductions and Department Overview

From the moment our academy participants arrived for the first session, the atmosphere was charged with curiosity and eagerness. It was my pleasure to introduce them to the beginning of this journey and with their dedicated instructor, Detective Cody Carter. Throughout the Academy, they will meet the men and women of the CHPD, whose commitment to excellence underpins everything we do. The core of this department rests on our Mission and Vision statements, which emphasize integrity, respect, and a steadfast dedication to community service. During these initial discussions, I stressed that law enforcement is about so much more than enforcing statutes or



responding to calls; it's about understanding the nuanced needs of a diverse community. Each officer, whether newly recruited or seasoned, embodies a pledge to treat every resident with fairness and compassion. By sharing these foundational beliefs, I aimed to show how closely they guide our daily decisions and interactions with the public.

### Legal Framework and POST Requirements

Another important segment in Week One was our deep dive into legal guidelines and the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements that each officer must meet to serve in Georgia. Many participants expressed surprise at the breadth and depth of these standards, realizing that officers are required to continuously update their training in areas ranging from conflict de-escalation to new technological tools.

Det. Carter made sure this was a particularly meaningful topic to share. Explaining the legal and ethical pillars of policing can help dispel misconceptions and highlight the rigorous preparation required. This knowledge also encourages informed conversations and fosters a climate of understanding—both cornerstones of our community-based approach.

### Diving into Practical Scenarios: Insights from Week Two Traffic Stops: Balancing Caution and Courtesy

This past week, the academy students took a deeper look into one of the most common—and yet most complex—police interactions: traffic stops. While these may appear routine to an outside observer, traffic stops can be unpredictable and sometimes tense situations. Officers must maintain a balance between officer safety and respectful engagement with the driver. Participants were not only briefed on the theoretical protocols but also had the opportunity to practice simulated traffic stops. Corporal's Scott Wood and David Mitchell along with Officer AK assisted Detective Carter with this week's lesson.

I was personally proud to learn academy members thoughtfully consider an officer's point of view in these



# City Government



scenarios. Many expressed surprise at how many variables—even mundane ones—must be evaluated in a matter of seconds. For instance, they saw how an officer must observe a driver's demeanor, look for signs of impairment or distress, and remain vigilant about oncoming traffic. By taking part in these realistic exercises, participants quickly realized that each routine traffic stop can become a pivotal moment for community relations.

## Mock DUI Arrests: A Sobering Experience

One of the most memorable components of Week Two was the mock DUI arrests. Officer AK guided participants through the process of detecting impaired drivers: assessing clues such as slurred speech, the scent of alcohol, and delayed reaction times. They learned how to administer field sobriety tests, gained insight into the correct procedures for making an arrest, and recognized the documentation needed for potential courtroom proceedings. The fun of the night was watching participants use “Drunk Goggles” which simulate different levels of intoxication, try and perform the field sobriety tests.

The sense of responsibility was palpable knowing that a DUI stop could prevent accidents and even save lives. Moments like this reinforce the gravity of our mission. They also highlight the need for empathy, tact, and thorough training when dealing with sensitive situations that can have life-altering consequences for all involved.

## Bridging the Gap: Mutual Understanding and Respect

For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of the Citizens Police Academy is how it bridges the gap between law enforcement and everyday citizens. During class discussions, participants have felt comfortable posing tough questions about policing practices, and our officers have welcomed these candid inquiries. This open forum is invaluable because it nurtures transparency—an ingredient vital to any healthy relationship between a police department and its community.

Additionally, these interactions help us in the CHPD refine our approach. Hearing perspectives from a broad cross-section of our city offers unique insights into how our policies and procedures resonate with the public. By collaborating with engaged residents, we can identify gaps, address concerns proactively, and share updates on evolving challenges like cybercrime, mental health crises,



and community outreach initiatives.

In just two weeks, we've cultivated an environment of learning and mutual support. Participants have been vocal in their appreciation for the department's willingness to pull back the curtain on our daily operations. Conversely, our officers have expressed renewed motivation, excited by the potential of these newly forged connections. It's a powerful reminder that at the end of the day, officers and residents share a collective goal: ensuring that Chattahoochee Hills remains a safe, welcoming place for everyone.

## Looking Ahead: The Journey Continues

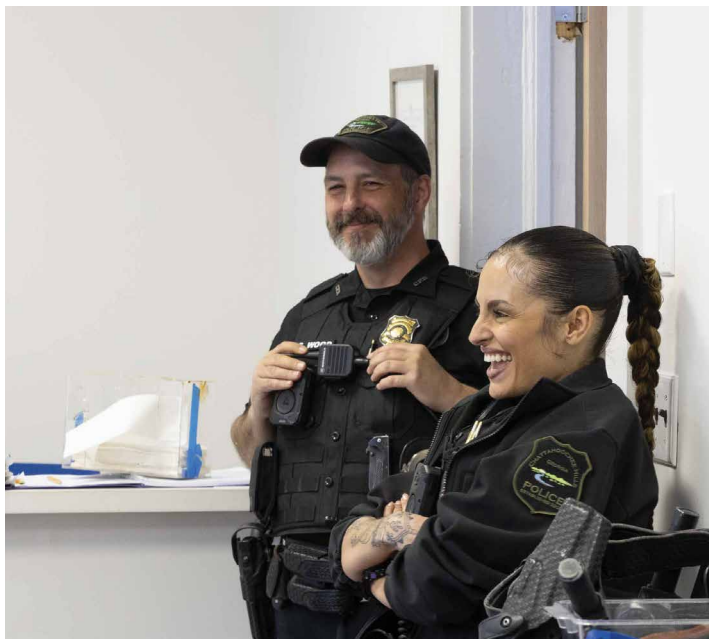
The Citizens Police Academy is an ongoing conversation—one that will continue to deepen as the weeks go by. Over the upcoming sessions, participants will explore more facets of our work, including patrol strategies, investigative procedures, and community-building projects. Each topic is designed to illuminate a new aspect of the policing profession, while reinforcing the need for empathy, diligence, and strong ethics.

My hope is that by graduation day, every participant will not only feel more knowledgeable about policing but also understand the vital role they can play in civic engagement and public safety. Whether it's by serving as ambassadors in their neighborhoods, volunteering for community initiatives, or simply voicing constructive feedback, these graduates will become crucial links in the chain of trust that safeguards Chattahoochee Hills.

## A Personal Note of Gratitude

I would like to personally thank every individual who took that first step to join the Citizens Police Academy. Your willingness to learn, ask questions, and actively partici-





pate in hands-on exercises enriches this community and strengthens the partnership we strive for. Each one of you reflects the spirit of service and openness that drives the Chattahoochee Hills Police Department forward. As Chief of Police, I remain committed to fostering an environment where community members and officers stand side by side, working together toward a shared vision of safety and harmony. We still have much to discover and accomplish in the weeks ahead, and I am eager to continue this journey with all of you. Together, we will ensure that Chattahoochee Hills not only thrives but remains a beacon of trust, collaboration, and unity for years to come.



## Congratulations EMT Advanced Sterling Hill

Our very own Sterling Hill has now earned certification as an Advanced EMT (Emergency Medical Technician).

Becoming an EMT Advanced Firefighter means you need to be a certified firefighter with Advanced EMT training, combining skills in both firefighting and emergency medical services. You'll need to complete both firefighter and EMT certifications, gain field experience, and maintain your certifications through continued education.





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)

Terra School at Serenbe: <https://www.terraatserenbe.org>



These will be virtual and open to the public. Meetings will be streamed live. Check details on the City's website.

**City Council Work Session - Tues. Apr. 1, 4:30-6 pm**

City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**City Council Meeting - Tues. Apr. 1, 6:00 pm**

City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Historic Commission - Mon. Apr. 14, 6:30 pm**

City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Parks Commission - Tues. April 8, 6:00 pm**

City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Planning Commission Meeting - Thurs. April 17, 6:30 pm**

City Hall - 6505 Rico Road, Chatt Hills, GA 30268

**Chatt Hills News Article / Event Submissions:**

If you have a story, event, or suggestion for future articles, we'd like to hear from you. Please submit your information by the 15th of every month for publication on the 1st of the month to: [chatthillsnews@chatthillsga.us](mailto:chatthillsnews@chatthillsga.us)

**About Chatt Hills News:** The official newsletter of the City of Chattahoochee Hills, *Chatt Hills News*, is published monthly. This publication is compiled from submissions from the community and is available in public locations around the City, at City Hall, or via email subscriptions.

**Email Subscriptions:** To subscribe via email visit: [www.chatthillsga.us](http://www.chatthillsga.us), Or subscribe directly at this link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/w9cGwxA>

**About Chatt Hills News Print Copies:**

Residents of Chatt Hills who do not have internet may request mailed copies by calling City Hall: (770) 463-8881.



Photo by Robert Lederman

*Fulton County sewer systems pumping facility will be operational as soon as the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is approved by the County Commission and City Council which is anticipated no later than June.*



Photo by  
Maribeth Wansley

**2025 PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE**

The parking passes for Cochran Mill Park are now available. Visit City Hall for your application. The fees are as follows: Residents – free; Annual car/truck - \$25; Annual 3+ axels - \$35