

Ashley Forest Homeowners' Association

Fall/Winter 2007

Volume 3/4, Issue 1

The Forest News



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The Horizon:

Our Web Site
We're coming to the
web! Stay tuned...

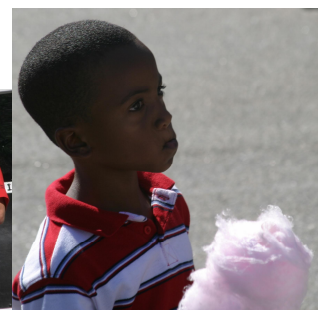
www.ashleyforest.us
(Under construction)

1st Annual Block Party



Ed "Chef" Fortaw Feeds An Army

Friends, Food, Fun, Prizes & Live Entertainment



See more fun photos inside.



19th Hole Quotes:

*If you think it's hard to meet
new people, try picking up the
wrong golf ball.*

~ Jack Lemmon

*It took me 17 years to get
3,000 hits, but I did it in one
afternoon on the golf course.*

~ Hank Aaron

President's Corner

- Marty Sas

How time flies! Here we are rapidly rushing into the holiday season. Here, too, is the next edition of The Ashley Forest Newsletter, your source of community information and a forum for your active participation.

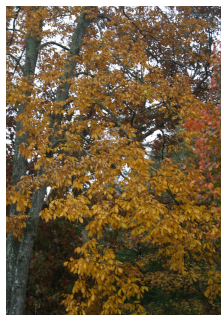
It has been one year since I became President of the Ashley Forest Homeowner's Association. I want to cover a lot of different topics in this edition of the "Corner" so let me begin with how well the Board did in meeting the goals we targeted this year.

Ashley Forest Homeowners' Association

Celebrating the Seasons



Fall Colors



**Trick or Treat
In Ashley Forest**



- Happy Thanksgiving -

President's Corner

- Continue

Although we did not fully accomplish them all, as seen in the following table, I think we did reasonably well!

Goal	Status
Continue and Improve the Newsletter	Accomplished
Establish Ashley Forest Web Page	A bit behind – will add to our 2008 List
Establish a group email notification	In-progress – about 50% (need your input)
Ensure that all Homeowners have a set of By-laws	An on-going task – we believe all homeowners have a copy

As a result of the effort to gather email information it became apparent that there was a strong desire among a number of the Homeowners to have a Block Party. Through the support of a lot of individuals, but especially the herculean efforts spearheaded by Ed Fortaw and Helen Gianella, Clovis Jackson, Lysa Jones, Cathy Main, and Tony Bennett, the First Annual Ashley Forest Home Owners Block Party was held this year on Saturday, September 29, 2007. It was a tremendous success with 35 households represented by 52 adults and 25 children.

The event included plenty of food & treats, a number of prizes (e.g. gift certificates for iTunes, Chili's Restaurant, Target, a power drill and many others), and live enter-

tainment by the musical duo of Mar's Duo (Mariano Pacetti & Rodger Danes – Thank You).

Also a special thanks to Helen Gianella for her help and her many donated gift cards to Chili's, Maggiannos, and other restaurants. To all the volunteers and attendees, **thank you!**

As we look with anticipation toward our 2nd Annual Block Party we ask **YOU** to become involved to make it another resounding success. Stand by for an opportunity to volunteer your talents! Enjoy the many happy faces in the following photographs from **OUR** 1st Annual Block Party.

Our Block Party: Pictures are worth 1k words ...

On a beautiful, autumn day (September 29th, 2007), the Ashley Forest Committee celebrated its inaugural:

*Neighborhood Block Party
&
Great American Barbeque*



Where Were You?



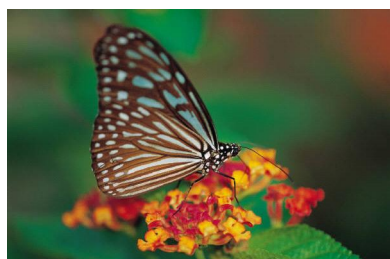
**Fun For
All Ages**



**A Presidential Proclamation:
Wishing All a Good Time!**



**Residents interested in serving on next Year's
Block Party Committee should contact Board
Members Clovis Jackson or Cathy Main.**



E-Updates

What is the best way to stay informed of Ashley Forest news, events, and happenings? Sign up for the e-mail tree! Send a message to **Cathy Main** at cathy-main@bellsouth.net with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.

Hope for the Garden During a Drought

- Cathy Main

If you are like me, one of the contributing factors in choosing Ashley Forest as the place we call home is the beautiful and plentiful trees, shrubbery and plant life. Unlike many subdivisions where nature's integrity has been compromised, we all enjoy the full breadth of mature nature right outside our windows. It is truly the lure of the Georgia greenery that has attracted many an outsider to this area. After telling my husband that I would absolutely not move, here we are, and to tell the truth, the trees had me at hello. I even read recently that workers are more productive if they have a view of trees.

So what can we do to maintain the beauty of our landscape? The best hope for surviving a drought-stressed garden or landscape according to Gary Wade of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is to become educated. In some cases, he says knowing what not to do is just as important as knowing what to do. The following are some of his suggestions:

- Limit fertilizing
- Limit pruning
- Limit annuals & perennials
- Use mulch

ing as most are fertilizers are chemically salts and can dehydrate plants' roots.

Routine pruning stimulates growth, something you don't want when the main goal is survival. Prune selectively when a plant wilts or shows leaf scorch and branches start dying.

Cutting back the plant's top will reduce the water demand the foliage places on the roots.

Annuals and perennial plants demand more water than woody plants. In a time of complete water restriction cut back annual and perennial flowers that wilt.

The best thing to do to help plants survive drought is to put mulch

over their roots. Three to five inches of organic mulch such as pine straw or pine bark mini nuggets, will help hold water in the soil. Two to three sheets of wet newspaper under the mulch will help conserve moisture even better.

Unmulched gardens let the sun beat down on the soil, which evaporates the water faster. Wind also blows away water vapor near the soil surface, mulching almost completely eliminates this.

Another benefit of mulching is the reduced need to water. A three to four inch layer of organic mulch can cut water needs to half. Mulch also smothers weeds.

Paul Thomas offers the following mulch recipe:

UGA Horticulturist Paul Thomas' Mulch Recipe

Layer in order:

- 4 inches of composted pine bark
- (this layer is great for capturing rainfall and reducing sun and wind evaporations)
- 2 inches of pine straw on top of the bark
- (this layer intercepts and reflects heat and reduces air flow over the bark)
- Adding organic matter also improves moisture-holding abilities especially in clay or sandy soils. Humus gives the soil something to cling to.

Fertilizing isn't wise during long periods of no water-



President's Corner - Continued

At the home closing, every homeowner agrees to live within the articles set forth in the Covenants. We have all agreed to do this, because we know that setting standards for the neighborhood is the best way to maintain and improve the value of the neighborhood and our properties.

We have also agreed to pay our annual assessments, or dues. As stated within the Covenants for Ashley Forest, these dues shall be used exclusively for promoting the beautification. As we continue to grow within the Association a number of 'new' volunteers have stepped forward to offer their time and talents to the Board and to the Association. I want to thank Sarah Blum for volunteering the use of her home for Board Meetings and for the Annual Meeting. In addition to her hospitality she has also agreed to assume the duties of Secretary. Sarah has been a board member for three years.

I would like to welcome Norman DeGrange as a new Board member and to thank him for volunteering to perform the duties of Treasurer for the Association. Both Norman and Sarah have been working with Max and Debra the past month or two to ensure a smooth transition.

Cathy Main has graciously volunteered to take on the daunting task of Editor for the Newsletter. This is her first edition – thank you Cathy!

At the recent Annual Meeting, "he who shall not be named" volunteered to be the Associations Caretaker and Attendant to help with general maintenance and upkeeping tasks. He didn't want a special title, but Caretaker fits Jim Spears' personality and desire to keep Ashley Forest the beautiful place that it is. Thanks Jim.

And finally, I want to provide you with a very short summary of the action items the Board is working on for the coming year. These action items were raised and voted on for further study by the Board by those attending the Annual Meeting.

- Garage Sales-Do we want them? If so-- Annual vs anytime – covenant change required
- Black top repair at front entrance
- Web Page Layout
- Newsletter- publication schedule
- Street light – repair existing one & install new one on Ashley Forest Drive
- Close Out HOA Member Dues for 2007 with 100% paid – some homeowners have not paid for this year yet
- Stop signs/speed bumps/table --- develop cost options – follow petition required for County approval

It is our intention to provide a status on these actions in the Spring 2008 edition of the newsletter. Most of the actions indicated will require further support from all of you.

Our primary goal for 2008 is to eliminate late fee assessments by having everyone's Homeowners Association dues paid up on time, by March 31, 2008. Please help us to support.

Thank you!

Marty Sas



In the Name of Love...



Neighbors Who Care



Financial Update

- Max Bruni/Norman DeGrange

A quick note as to where we stand as of December 1, 2007:

Small Business Checking account - \$ 7,423.14
Savings Account - \$15,984.30.

The Association Board and I want to thank all those residents that realize the importance and have committed to paying

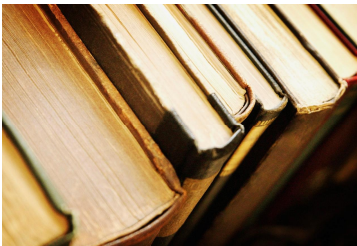
their annual dues in a timely manner. For those that were delinquent, we've been able to collect annual dues & late fees from the majority of home owners.

Unfortunately there are 5 home owners materially delinquent in their obligation, which has required the HOA to pursue property liens.

If you have any questions or if you want to see if you are documented as being current, please contact:

Norman DeGrange
New Treasure

(770) 461-0635
degrange62@msn.com



Neighborhood Recipe Exchange

- Cathy Main

Baked Brie

1 large or 1 small round of brie
1 c. brown sugar
1/4 c. cognac
chopped walnuts (optional)

Mix brown sugar and cognac together: add nuts. Place in refrigerator overnight or at least for 2 hours.

Before serving, put mixture on top of brie. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. Use your favorite crackers or bread for dipping

If you would like to share a favorite recipe please contact Cathy Main.



Calling All Bunco Fans:

Are any of you Ashley Forest ladies out there interested in a monthly night out?

We are seeking to form a group of neighbors to meet one evening a month to have an enjoyable night of Bunco.

If interested, please call
Cathy Main
(770) 716-7352.



Residents, of course, may at any time contact a Board member by phone. The address for the post office box is:

Ashley Forest
Home Owners Association
PO Box 262
Tyrone GA 30290-0262

Calling All Writers

Do you have an interest in contributing? Do you want to learn more about a particular topic? We're looking for your comments, articles, or ideas for future newsletters. Please contact Cathy Main at cathymain@bellsouth.net

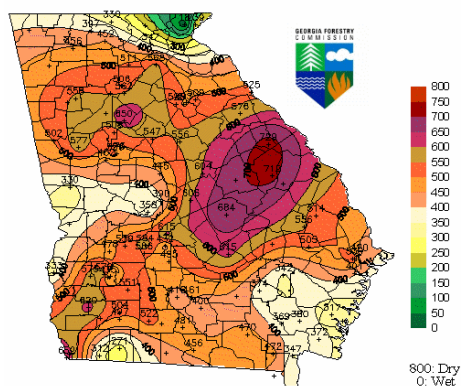
More Fun Photos: Our Block Party



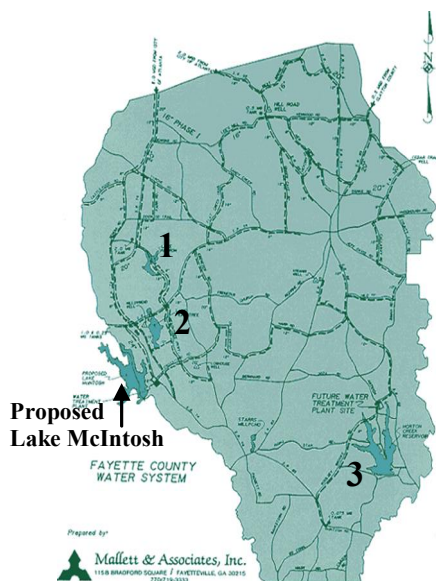


State Drought Severity Map

Map of KBDI
at December 1, 2007 1300 EST



Fayette County Water System Map



What is a Level 4 Drought ?

- Cathy Main

On September 28, 2007, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) declared a level four drought response across the northern third of Georgia, including Fayette County. Level four prohibits most types of outdoor residential water use.

The level 4 area includes all of north Georgia from Muscogee County on the Alabama line northwest to Spalding County, and eastward to Lincoln County on the South Carolina side. In these counties, no outdoor water use is allowed. Outdoor water use includes irrigating landscapes, washing vehicles, hard surfaces, fountains, ponds and others. Maintaining aquatic life in an already established pond is exempt. This is a change

from our last newsletter in which limited outdoor watering was allowed.

Before 'accidentally' knocking the man washing your neighbor's window off his ladder, take note as to whether he is in the business to perform the work. There are a few exceptions to the no water rule and they include professional car washes, professional window washers and pressure washers, irrigation of food gardens, landscapes put in by a licensed professional (for thirty days), use of reclaimed water, use of gray water (in compliance with local codes), constructions sites, golf course greens, or if it used for daily business.

Watering lawns after over-seeding is allowed for a 30 day period, only if the

over-seeding was done by a licensed landscape professional. Charitable organizations raising funds via a car wash is prohibited.

Water from a well is not subject to the water use rules, but in the spirit of community they are also encouraged to follow the water rules. The outlook according to EPD is that a La Niña climate pattern has developed, which increases the probability of a dry, warm winter and spring across most of the state.

To get updated weather & drought information go to:

www.georgiaweather.net
www.georgiadrought.org

And to learn more about water conservation & answers to frequently asked questions go to:

www.conservewatergeorgia.net

Fayette County Supply & Production Facts

The Fayette County Water System ("the System") currently has a total production capacity of 20.375 million gallons per day (MGD). With the completion of the South Fayette Water Plant in the summer of 2001, the System now has an additional 6 MGD capacity.

The City of Atlanta has also allocated 4 MGD to Fayette County. The System currently has three raw water storage reser-

voirs, two of which impound Flat Creek, and the proposed Lake McIntosh:

1 Lake Kedron, in northern Peachtree City, is a 235-acre reservoir which stores approximately 1 billion gallons of water & yields 3.5 MGD during drought conditions.

2 Lake Peachtree, in the southern part of Peachtree City, is a 250-acre reservoir which will yield 0.5 MGD during drought conditions.

3 Lake Horton, in south Fayette County, stores 3.5 billion gallons of water and will yield 16-18 million gallons per day during drought conditions

Proposed Lake McIntosh, on July 13, 2007, the Fayette County Commission announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued its approval for the long-awaited construction of the proposed Lake McIntosh Drinking Water Reservoir Project.

Board Members

President
Marty Sas

Vice President
Rob Fleming

Treasurer
Max Bruni
(Out Going)
Norm DeGrange
(In Coming)

Secretary
Sarah Blum
(New)

Member-At-Large
Jim Bridgeman
Doug Main
Clovis Jackson

Special Thanks

Debra Rector
Out Going Secretary –
She will be missed; her
dedication was tireless.
We wish you & yours all
the best.

Maxi Bruni
Out Going Treasurer –
Thanks for all your hard
work, tenacity & contin-
ued support.

Block Party Committee
& Volunteers
Ed Fortaw
Clovis Jackson
Helen Gianella
Lysa Jones
Cathy Main
Tony Bennett
& The Many Volunteers

Happy Holidays

Neighborhood Buzz

In the future we would like your help to spotlight our residents and their educational, professional & personal achievements with a featured section we call "Neighborhood Buzz" that gives us the opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

We would like to know more about you, your spouse, your children, your pet(s), why you chose Ashley Forest, your hobbies, achievements & interests.

We welcome your participation and look forward to

hearing from you. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Forest News.

We welcome comments and suggestions for future editions. Have a safe & happy holiday season.

~ Seasons Greetings

