

# AVOCET

JULY - AUGUST  
2007

Bobby McVey, Editor

## Prints



### In this issue...

*Annual Meeting  
and election process  
for New Board*

*Pages 2&3*

### Welcome to our NEWSletter

Welcome to the newest and hopefully improved edition of an Avocet newsletter. We will publish every other month, and hope to include news, events, coverage and information of things that are important to residents of our wonderful neighborhood.

In order to make it as interesting a publication as possible, we will need help from the entire neighborhood. We're completely open to suggestions for what you would like to see included in these pages.

One feature that we're looking forward to is our *Brag Corner*, where we hope to learn more about the accomplishments of our neighbors, and especially their children.

All submissions for the newsletters should be sent via e-mail to [news@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:news@avocet-hoa.org). Make your articles as print-ready as possible, and keep them as constructive and positive for all to read. We look forward to learning more about our neighbors, our neighborhood and the surrounding community.

## Many, Many Thanks

...to all who took so much time and energy to do not only the playground installation, but also the new landscaping around the pool. What an incredible day!! Jim Seigler summed it up well. "It was hard work, we were tired at the end, but it was fun! We had a pleasant surprise first thing when we saw that the person who was going to supervise our installation brought along 3 friends, all who are experienced in this type of installation. Because of this extra help, we were able to divert some of our helpers to the landscape project."

We wish to thank the following:

#### Truck Unloading:

Lisa Wells and children + friend  
Rachel Frintner  
Andrew Hebert and children  
Jack Theall  
Beth Ostapiuk  
Joel Barrett  
David Todd

#### Teardown of old equipment:

Mike Frintner  
Rob Hiller  
Jack Theall  
Neil Gonsalves  
Jeff Kloss  
Jim Seigler  
Manoj Madhavan

#### Playground Assembly:

Jack Theall  
Jim Seigler  
Eugene Yu  
Keith Andrews  
Sean Bennett  
Glenn Hofmann  
Neal Gonsalves  
Manoj Madhavan

Joel Barrett  
Mike Kramer  
Andrew Hebert, children + friend  
Lien Mock  
Dean Bennett  
David Todd  
Our 4 man installation crew

#### Landscape Installation:

Mike Frintner - Crew chief!  
Ashu Madhavan and children  
Ash Barrett  
Jennifer Osterholt  
Karen Hebert  
Bernadette Seigler and son

#### Final Cleanup:

Jack Theall  
Andrew Hebert

#### Special Thanks:

Peter Ostapiuk for hauling concrete and watching kids  
Mike Frintner & Jack Theall for repairing broken irrigation line  
Tim & Wendy Shaw for donating that great JR's BBQ for lunch

And last, but not least, a standing ovation for our Kids Club members; Beth Ostapiuk, Tina Giberson and Carolina Mock who worked very hard to get bids and put together the best, most cost effective solution for our equipment replacement.

Beth Ostapiuk organized much of the actual work for the assembly and the tear down of the old equipment. She was there to unload the truck and spent all day Saturday making sure everything went smoothly, helping out with landscaping, organization and cleanup. Beth, a very special thanks to you!! This would not have been so successful without you.

# Annual Meeting just around the corner

## *Board Member election on the agenda*

It is almost time for our annual meeting, held on September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the clubhouse. At that meeting you will have the opportunity to elect members of Avocet to the Board of Directors. Serving on the Board is not the easiest job in the world, but it can be very rewarding. It's a great opportunity to have a positive impact on our community.

While being an Avocet Board member is not always the easiest job, it primarily involves: enforcing our covenants, properly maintaining common property, and ensuring that our community is fiscally sound. To help with these tasks, the Board is assisted by our committees: Finance, Recreation, Information, Security, Architectural Control, Landscape, Social/Clubhouse, Kids Club and Nominating. The Board also receives management and administration support from Heritage Property Management Company. Robin Steinkritz is our Property Manager and Kevon Oliver is his assistant. Also, last year the Board was officially expanded from 3 to 5 members to help ease the workload on individual members.

Our community has come a long way. We have implemented a Special

Assessment and have been using the funds to make improvements. However, the job is not yet done. We still have infrastructure improvements to make over time. Our processes and procedures are always under review. We hope to begin documentation of information that can be lost in the transition between one board and the next.

Not all of our current Board members will be able to stay on next year to continue the work. They will be missed, and we need your help!

If you are interested in running for the board, you can fill out the Candidate Profile provided on Page 3. You can place the completed form in the ACC mailbox at the corner of the drive to the amenities area and e-mail us to let us know to pick it up. If you would prefer to use a Word/RTF document, e-mail [nominating@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:nominating@avocet-hoa.org). We can e-mail the document to you and you can then e-mail it back to us. Please do not feel constrained to limit your information to the area defined on the form. There is no set length for your responses. If you are form phobic, we can arrange to transcribe your responses!

Any forms returned by August 20 will be included in the mail-out to the community with the annual meeting notice and posted to our website. Forms received after that time will be posted to the Avocet website only. Completed forms can also be distributed by the candidates.

There will be an "official" logo attached to the forms to ensure the community that the candidates are running under the auspices of the Nominating Committee. To view Nominating Committee process and procedures, you can view their web page at [www.avocet-hoa.org](http://www.avocet-hoa.org)

Candidates should plan to attend the August 14 and September 11 Board meetings to get firsthand knowledge of current issues facing our community. There will also be two "meet and greets" for board candidates sponsored by the Nominating Committee in mid- to late September. One will be held on a weekday evening, the other on a Saturday. We will update the community when the dates are set.

Candidates may choose to run without the support of the Nominating Committee. There will be spaces on the ballot equal to the number of positions available on the board for write in candidates who have either chosen to run without the support of the committee or for those candidates nominated at the Annual Meeting.

If you want to make a difference in your community, please consider running for the Board this year. Complete the Candidate Profile on the next page and return it to one of our current Board members. If you feel you cannot make the commitment for a position on the Board, please consider serving on one of our committees.



## Avocet Board of Directors Candidate Profile

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Background \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Employment Background \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe why you want to run for a position on the board \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please state how your experience and background has prepared you to lead our community \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you feel is the greatest challenge facing our community today and what do you think should be done to successfully resolve it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the value of living in a community with a POA and Covenants. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please add any additional information you want to share with our communitiy. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Outside the fence

### Tour of Homes

United Peachtree Corners Community Association (UPCCA) is sponsoring the first Peachtree Corners Tour of Homes on Sunday, October 14 from 12 to 5 p.m. The tour is a fundraiser for Peachtree Parkway beautification.

### Foster Children's Foundation

The Foster Children's Foundation, Inc. is located at 2300 Pleasant Hill Road, Suite A1, in Duluth.

#### Resource Center Volunteer Help Needed:

#### Saturday, August 4, 2007—

10am-2pm—*Back 2 School Open House.* Volunteers needed to help organize school supplies, help families find needed items, check families in and out.

#### Saturday, August 25, 2007—

10am-2pm—*End of Summer Open House.* Volunteers needed to help families find needed items, check families in and out, watch younger children while parents shop and help as needed.

#### Interested in helping at the Resource Center during the weekdays?

Volunteers help at the Resource Center on Mondays and Thursdays in the morning through early afternoon.

Want to help on Mondays?—contact Micki to find out volunteer times and Mondays when you can help at the Resource Center.

MVANDYKE@comcast.net

Want to help on Thursdays?—contact Holly to find out volunteer times and Thursdays when you can help at the Resource Center. [phmeyer@charter.net](mailto:phmeyer@charter.net)

If you would like to see the current needs of the Resource Center, please visit their website at [www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org](http://www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org).

## Coyotes in the area

Coyotes have been spotted at Simpsonwood Center, even attacking dogs in some cases. Please be alert when walking your dogs, as the coyotes are becoming more aggressive as they become more comfortable being around people. Don't intentionally or unintentionally feed them, leaving food outdoors overnight or not tightly closing your garbage cans. Keep your pets indoors as much as possible.

## Avocet ACC Process and Guidelines

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has revised the current standards to include the documentation required for the request and links to Gwinnett County web pages related to the request type. You can review the current guidelines by clicking the links on the ACC web page. You can find the ACC Request form there as well.

Just to recap, ACC approval is required for the following exterior changes to your home and yard (front & back):

- Adding a fence
- Painting the exterior of your home
- Replacing your current mailbox post with a brick or wrought iron post
- Adding a screened-in porch, deck, outdoor hot tub, room addition, concrete pad, shed or storage building
- Adding hardscape such as a retaining wall or dry creekbed
- Installing playground equipment, including swingsets and basketball goals
- Replacement doors, windows & awning additions

#### General Information

- The ACC will use it's processes and guidelines when considering a homeowner's change request. Following all of the guidelines does not guarantee approval; likewise, a change may be approved that does not meet all of the guidelines.
- ACC approval does not represent permission by any government body to implement a change. Approval also does not necessarily guarantee compliance with any federal or local

ordinances, laws or regulations. Homeowners are responsible for seeking approval, from the HOA or ACC, where applicable, from an appropriate government body.

- Gwinnett County Ordinances are a minimum requirement for Avocet residents. The Gwinnett County homepage is located on the internet at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

Please review the ACC's processes and guidelines. If you have any questions, you can and should contact the ACC.

- The best time to contact the Architectural Control Committee, about a project for your home, is before or during the planning phase. Our goal is to make the process as user-friendly as possible. By involving the Committee early on, we can assist you in ensuring that your project meets the guidelines specified and that the approval is processed in a timely fashion.

- You can contact the committee with questions about your project before you complete the ACC request. You can download the request at the Avocet website ([www.avocet-hoa.org](http://www.avocet-hoa.org)). You may also contact Robin Steinkritz at Heritage Property Management at 770-200-8256 to have one sent via mail (post office). Please submit your completed request with the attached documentation in the ACC mailbox at the corner of Avocet Drive and the road to the amenities area and notify us to let us know we need to check that mail drop.

Check the website for more info on the ACC's processes and guidelines.





# Notes from the board



## Memorial Day party a volunteer success

Thank you to everyone who worked and planned the Memorial Day Party! We appreciate your efforts.

Julie Dominguez did all of the organization & shopping. We also need to thank Jeff Hazen for flipping burgers with assistance from Michael Giberson. Plus Andrew Hebert, Guillermo Final and Lien Mock did a lot to gather up the trash.

But the big thank you goes to everyone who joined us to make our cookout such a success. And a special thanks for those who shared some really great sides and deserts!

We had over 40 families RSVP, representing about 150 adults and children. There were quite a few folks who did not RSVP join us as well. We had about 200 people there over a two-hour period. What a great day!!

## Mike Frinter named to vacant board post

We regret to announce that Dave Spanjers has stepped down from the BOD, and has moved from Avocet. We hope you will all join us in saying thanks for the service and the time he has donated to our community. Dave, you will be missed! We wish you well in your new community.

Per Article IV Section 3 of our By-Laws, "In the event of death, resignation or removal of a director, his successor shall be selected by the remaining members of the Board and shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor."

The good news is that Mike Frintner has agreed to serve for the remainder of Dave's term of office. Mike's wife, Rachel, served on the 2004-2005 board. Rachel is also currently a member of our Architectural Control Committee. Both have volunteered on projects over time, the most recent with the installation of the new playground and landscaping around the pool.

## Changes to the Amenities Area

In order to improve security and safety in the amenities area, we are taking additional steps to improve the situation there.

- Georgia Power has installed an additional street light by the lower tennis courts. At night, after the tennis lights were shut off, the area was pitch dark. By adding light, we are discouraging any activates there that could cause concern to those living along that area.
- The fence around the pool has been repaired. There were two areas where vandals damaged the fence to gain access to the pool and clubhouse area. Both have been repaired and reinforced. There are still some kids jumping the fence. This practice should be discouraged as it can only result in injury and is costly to repair.
- We had the kiddie pool sanded in June to eliminate the rough surface.
- We have purchased 20 new lounge chairs and four table umbrellas for the pool area.
- The locks on the gates to the tennis courts have been repaired and the gates set to close properly. This will help to ensure that only Avocet residents can access the courts.
- We also changed the lock on the door to the bathrooms to match the pool gate lock. This will discourage intrusions at night by people who are looking for a "private" spot, like the clubhouse hallways. This is an "always locked" lock. Once closed, it will require a key to open.

- We are planning on installing timers on the tennis court lights as well, and improving signage in the area. It does take some time to get this all taken care of, but both projects are in process.
- In addition to all of these improvements, we have also had to spend money from your neighborhood dues to repair the damage caused by vandalism.

We need your help as well to ensure safety and security in this area. If you are the last person to leave the area, please check to make certain the pool and tennis court gates are closed. Also, close the door to the bathroom area of the clubhouse. If we all work together, we can make our community safe for all of us.

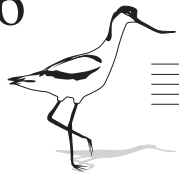
If you need a key to the pool and courts, just e-mail [keys@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:keys@avocet-hoa.org). You will be contacted about arranging to pick up a key. There is a nominal fee of \$7 to cover our cost. Also, when you sell your home, you should turn this key over to the owner at closing along with all of your other house keys.

**Get the latest news on Avocet happenings...**subscribe to the Avocet Forum at [http://avocet-hoa.org/forms/request\\_avocetclub.htm](http://avocet-hoa.org/forms/request_avocetclub.htm)

## BRAG CORNER

To get to know our neighbors better, we'd like to include a BRAG CORNER in each issue. Just send an e-mail to [news@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:news@avocet-hoa.org) with your info. As an example (and to brag on my own kids)...

- Peyton McVey spent a week in Nashville, TN in June painting houses in a poor section of that city.
- Shelby McVey and her father spent a week in July on a Navajo Indian Reservation in Tuba City, AZ building and repairing homes. They also got to swim in the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.



## All about the pool

It has come to our attention that we have had children under 13 left alone at the pool without parental supervision on more than one occasion. Also, children are still jumping the fence as they were left at the pool without keys. If a child falls on these spikes or slips and falls to the pool surface, they can be seriously injured.

While a "guardian over 18 years of age" is permitted, having one teen watching over more than 2 or 3 children under 13 would not be considered acceptable. Leaving small children alone while leaving the pool area either to use the bathrooms or stepping outside the pool area can create a dangerous situation for those children. Please stay with your children while they are at the pool. If you need to step away, either take your child with you or ask another adult in the area to watch your child until you return. If children are left alone, it is possible that county authorities could be called to investigate the situation.

Parents who either leave their small children unattended or allow their children to jump the fence after being warned will be requested to leave the pool area and may have their pool privileges revoked. The safety of our children has to take precedence over convenience.

Please leave the pool area clean and neat. Take all of your belongings and put the furniture back neatly to keep our pool area looking nice.

*As a reminder, the pool rules are listed here. Please take the time to review. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.*

### POOL RULES

- Use of pool is for Avocet residents and their guests only.
- Anyone observed breaking these rules will be asked to leave the pool area and risk losing pool privileges.
- All members should use their assigned pool key to enter pool. If you need a key, please e-mail keys@avocet-hoa.org

### SAFETY RULES

1. Swim at your own risk.
2. No running, pushing, horseplay, roller blading or bike riding in or around pool area.
3. No diving will be permitted at any time.
4. No glass will be permitted in the pool area.
5. Beverages in containers other than glass are allowed on the pool deck.
6. Large equipment, such as rafts, air mattresses, etc. cannot be used if they crowd swimmers.
7. Children under 13 years of age will be permitted in pool area only when accompanied by a parent or guardian over 18 years of age.
8. Pool gate is NOT to be propped open and should be kept locked at all times.
9. Jumping the fence to gain entrance to the pool area is not permitted.

### RULES OF CONDUCT

1. No gambling, profane or abusive language will be tolerated.
2. Pop-top rings, cigarettes, all food and drink debris and other trash must be cleaned up and placed in trash containers provided.
3. No gum in the pool area.
4. Pool furniture should be treated with care and placed back in its original position.
5. Last one to leave should turn off lights, fans and close gates, doors and umbrellas.
6. Bathers must wear generally accepted swimming attire. Cutoffs and underwear are not permitted.
7. Anyone exhibiting unruly behavior will be asked to leave pool area.

### HEALTH RULES

1. Parents are cautioned to have children go to the bathroom before using the pool.
2. Parents will be expected to dispose of dirty diapers in the receptacles provided.
3. Babies must wear swim diapers and swim attire while in pool area.
4. No pets will be allowed within enclosed pool area.
5. Persons having open blisters, cuts or skin abrasions are hereby warned that these might become infected and are advised NOT to use the pool until healed.

### BASIC POOL ETIQUETTE

1. If someone has placed their belongings on a table or chair, please respect their space, if possible, by finding another spot for your belongings.
2. If someone is swimming laps, please give them space to do so.
3. It is a good idea to don footwear to go into the restrooms, especially the men's room.
4. Before you jump into the pool, make sure that you are clear of swimmers who don't want to be splashed.

### Renting the Clubhouse

Having rented the clubhouse twice this summer, here are my thoughts and some tips for you on this process...

- Rental cost is \$50 with a \$100 refundable deposit...both checks are due with your application which is downloadable from the website.

- You rent the clubhouse by the day, since it would be difficult to have multiple events there on a single day and be able to check off each renters checklist for cleanup / damage potential.

- The committee will get you the key in advance of your rental date, as long as there are no other events scheduled in advance of your use.

- You must reserve the clubhouse 10 days prior to your event.

- If you wish to use the large-screen television, you might want to bring your own DVD or VHS player...there is no cable currently, and I couldn't figure out how to operate the players that were there.—Bobby McVey