



Outside the fence

Driving Magic

Driving Magic is a program that teaches mentally challenged individuals how to drive a horse and buggy. They are looking for volunteers to help at their Duluth location.

Driving Magic is looking for weekday volunteers. They have had a great team for their weekday program, one which has recently been hit with job changes, illness, moves, etc. It has really impacted the Magic Workshop program which need 12 volunteers each Wednesday. This is also the program with the longest waitlist. We cannot add lesson days until there are more volunteers.

Horse experience is nice but not a must, volunteers will be trained. Not

only do they need "horsey" volunteers,

they need wheelchair assistants, student assistants to escort and help with helmets, arts & crafts helpers, carriage grooms to sit in the carriage behind the student and assist them with their reins or reinforce the commands, etc. The biggest need is on Wednesday, but they also need support on Monday and will add Fridays as soon as there are enough volunteers.

If you are interested, please contact:

Jennifer J. Lindskoog
Founder & Executive Director
Driving Magic, Inc.
 404.358.4129
drivingmagicinc@aol.com

Foster Children's Foundation

There are thousands of children in foster care in Georgia that come from backgrounds of abandonment, neglect, abuse, or much worse. These children need the tools, resources, guidance,

consistency, and love that they deserve.

The Foster Children's Foundation is a support organization for youth in foster care. There are so many ways that you can help to provide for the material and emotional needs of these less fortunate youth and improve their quality of life. Through programs and projects designed to raise their self esteem, we can help these youth reach their potential! Get involved today!

Resource Center: Located at 6733 Jones

Mill Court, Suite E, Norcross GA 30092
 • Thursday, March 6th 5:00pm-7:30pm
 Volunteers needed to help sort and organize Easter donations
 • Saturday, March 29th 9:00am-2:00pm
 Open House- Volunteers needed to assist foster families in finding needed clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, watching younger children while parents shop, and checking families in and out.
 To find out how you or your company can become a resource for these children, please visit www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org.

Corners to Crossing 10K

8 AM Saturday, April 19, 2008

Peachtree 10K qualifier, moisture wicking (technical) shirts for 10K
Benefits Fowler YMCA, Norcross Cooperative Ministries, Georgia Chapter of the Autism Society, and Summerour Middle School Foundation

REGISTRATION

Early entries (\$20) must be received by April 11th via walk-in registration at the Robert D. Fowler YMCA (5600 West Jones Bridge Rd, Norcross) or by mail. On-line registration at www.active.com is available through April 17th. Late walk-in registration is available at the Fowler YMCA until noon Friday April 18th.

PACKET PICK-UP

Runners are encouraged to pick up their race numbers Friday, April 18th at the pre-race pasta dinner from 6-8 PM at Norcross Community & Cultural Arts Center, 10 Britt Road, Norcross. Race day Packet Pick-up will be at the Fowler YMCA starting at 6:30 AM.

RACE INFORMATION

Race Director: Gary Jenkins, 678-795-0115,
paceset1@bellsouth.net Registration: Shelby Katz
 Website: <http://www.cornertocrossing10k.org>



PRE-RACE PASTA DINNER, Friday, April 18th

Open to the community, \$5 per person,
6-8 PM, Norcross Community and Cultural Arts Center,
 10 Britt Road, Historic Norcross
 Walk-in late registration available until 8 PM.

RACE DAY STARTING TIMES, Saturday April 19th

Saturday:
 10K — **8 AM, Peachtree Corners Baptist Church,**
 4480 Peachtree Corners Circle, Norcross
 FINISH — Thrasher Park, Norcross
 SHUTTLES — free buses back to start from **9 – 11 AM**
 Tot Trot — **9:15 AM, Thrasher Park,** awards to all finishers
 Music Fest Middle School bands: **10 AM – 1 PM, Thrasher Park**
 Music Fest High School bands: **1:30 – 4:30 PM, Thrasher Park**
 Street Dance (Banks & Shane): **7-10 PM, Historic Norcross**

10K AWARDS after Tot Trot

Overall awards for 1st M/F open and masters. Awards to top 3 M/F finishers in each age group: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 & over.

JAN.-FEB.
 2008
 Bobby McVey, Editor



Avocet Security/COPS Committee

—by *Barry Sharp*

The Annual Avocet COPS Meeting was held February 19 at the clubhouse. Corporal Charles Wilkerson of the Gwinnett County Police Department answered questions and provided comments about crime in our neighborhood and what we can do to fight it. Corporal Wilkerson is our Police Liaison Officer. One half of the Avocet block captains attended the meeting. Everyone in our neighborhood was welcome, and several people who are not block captains attended.

Crime increased in Avocet in 2007. In February, there was an attempted burglary on Avocet Drive. A mountain bike was stolen from a garage in November. Personal items were stolen from three unlocked cars in November and December, and Corporal Wilkerson said that in these cases approximately 65 percent of the cars are unlocked. Although crime has increased in our neighborhood, this part of Gwinnett still has a lower crime rate than many other parts of Gwinnett and North Atlanta.

Corporal Wilkerson drove through Avocet several times before the meeting, and he had some suggestions about landscaping to prevent crime. He recommends that shrubbery be no higher than 3 feet in the front of the houses to prevent concealing someone hiding in the shrubbery. Tree limbs should be trimmed so that the lowest limb is 7 feet above the ground. It is important to have lighting in the back of the house. He likes motion sensor controlled lighting. He recommends hostile shrubbery (shrubbery that has thorns) around windows in the back of the house. All locks for doors should be double cylinder dead bolts (key cylinder on the inside). Robert Hiller, a fireman, recommends that if double cylinder dead bolts are used a key should be on a hook at waist height near the door. When there is a fire, people escaping need to stay low to be able to breath with all of the smoke and must be able to get to a key to open the door. Corporal Wilkerson warns that as more retail businesses open on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard near our neighborhood, foot traffic around Avocet will increase and crime may increase.

The Avocet COPS Program needs two block captains. One is needed for 4730 through 4785 Avocet Drive, and the other

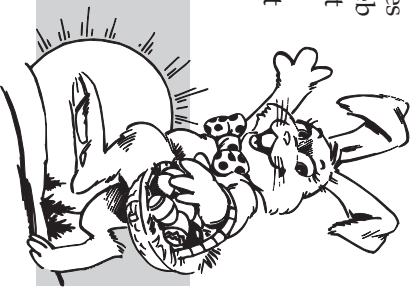
is needed for 3417 through 3477 Dunlin Shore Court. If anyone wants information about being a block captain or about the COPS Program, please contact Barry Sharp at barry.sharp@gttri.gatech.edu or call at 404 407-6573.

Making exterior changes?

Just a reminder that ACC approval is required for all exterior changes to your home. We strongly recommend that you contact the ACC prior to finalizing your plans. While the ACC makes every attempt to accommodate homeowners requests, there are some changes that may not be approved. In those cases, you will be required to make a change in your plans. Changes requiring approval include, but are not limited to:

- 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, room addition, concrete pad, shed or storage building
- Adding landscape such as a retaining wall or dry creekbed
- Installing playground equipment, including swingsets, treehouses and basketball goals
- Replacement doors, windows (mullions are required), siding, replacement & awnings
- Any landscaping involving a change of the grade of land or runoff onto other's property, use of substantial mechanical assistance, or any other major restructuring of existing landscape
- Pool and hot tub installations
- Any flags other than the American, official Georgia state or seasonal decorative flags

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. If you have any questions, you can reach the ACC at architecture@avocet-hoa.org.



Avocet Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 22, 4:30 p.m. • Avocet Clubhouse



Avocet Finances

We know that members of our community have an interest in how their fees are spent. The Avocet Board of Directors has put together a recap of 2007 spending along with a summary of our 2008 budget.

Our main source of revenue is our homeowner's fees. This came to a total of \$127,988. The Special Assessment raised \$70,065. Our other income comes from tennis fees, late fees and clubhouse rentals.

We have six major areas of operating expenses, General & Administrative, Landscaping, Recreation Area, Utilities, Taxes & Insurance, and Maintenance & Services.

General & Administrative: The majority of this expense is \$16,624 annually for the management services provided by Heritage Property Management. It also includes \$2,728 in legal fees, including the annual retainer and the cost to collect delinquent accounts. We also had \$1,623 in expenses for social activities, including the Memorial day cookout, Holiday party and several events for our children. The remainder was for our web site and newsletter.

Landscaping: This is the amount we pay to maintain Avocet's landscaping in our common areas. Our basic lawn care came to \$14,745. Seasonal planting came to \$3,032. The remainder was for trenching the beds last year, pine straw, tree trimming in the amenities area, and clearing out the detention pond.

Recreation Area: The largest amount in this category is routine pool maintenance, \$6,424. We also spent \$2,219 to repair the pool pumps. We replaced a net, 2 net posts, repaired a short in the wiring on the upper court, replaced the timers, and had the cracks repaired on all 4 courts for a total of \$2,987. The remainder was for new thermostats in the clubhouse, a new

DVD/CD player, repairing the irrigation system in the amenities area and repairing a water line leak.

Utilities: This is primarily electricity to light the clubhouse, pool area, tennis courts and parking lot as well as to run the pool pumps.

Taxes & Insurance: This is almost entirely for insurance to cover the common areas as well as insurance to covers members of our community who serve on the board and committees when they are acting on their official capacities.

Maintenance & Services: Cleaning the bathrooms came to \$2,555. The remainder went to lock repair and replacement, repairing the pool fence after vandals had damaged it, installing security lighting at the clubhouse and other general maintenance items.

Capital Reserve Expenditures: We came in under budget on almost all of our projects. Cleaning up the wall at the entry was budgeted at \$3,090 but we looked at the wall and were able to clean it up sufficiently by pressure washing it for \$480. The playground went over budget because we installed playground grade mulch around the new equipment. We were unable to complete the tennis courts in 2007. We did spend \$800 on an engineering study of the lower courts.

Other 2007 projects were:

Project	Budget	Actual
New Playground Equipment	\$12,360	\$14,588
Installing Beauty Strip in the Pool	5,530	4,754
New Pool Furniture	3,000	3,520
Landscaping at the Entry	15,000	5,849
Irrigation & Lighting at the Entry	5,625	5,310

2008 Budget: There is \$16,444 budgeted to paint the gazebos, clubhouse exterior, interior halls and baths and both the fence around the pool and along the driveway. We have received some quotes since the budget was firming up and we should spend significantly less than that.

We also budgeted \$8,000 to repair the deck surface around the pool and \$4,500 to replaster the kiddie pool,

based on the CRA estimates.

In the CRA, there was \$74,160

budgeted to repair and/or replace our tennis courts. The results of the engineering study showed that we have to replace the lower courts with a special technique referred to as a slip sheet surface. This effectively installs

a new court on top of the existing court. This is required for two reasons. First, the corner of the court by the gate is built on unstable fill. It would cost more to tear out the court and fill and compact that area. The second reason is that when the court was initially installed, the surface was not level. A second surface was installed on top of the first to level it out. The two surfaces never bonded. The cracking we observe is a result of the slippage between the two surfaces. Because the surface is

unstable, an overlay would be unsuccessful. The cost of this technique will be around \$50,000. We have to replace the fence when this done, unlike an overlay. The estimate of useful life after this done is around 20-25 years.

The upper courts are in good shape overall. They need to be resurfaced. They also need the net post supports replaced. The radial cracking on these courts is caused by the fact that the post supports are no longer stable

enough to hold the nets and need to be replaced.

You can view the financials at our web site: <http://www.avocet-hoa.org/bod/financial.htm>. You can see the original Capital Reserve Analysis (CRA) here: <http://www.avocet-hoa.org/Documents/200612SAInfo.pdf>. If you have any questions, you can e-mail the Board at board@avocet-hoa.org or the Finance Committee at finance@avocet-hoa.org.

Bits and pieces

Thanks to Tom

A special thanks goes out to Tom O'Rourke. Tom was gracious enough to re-stripe our parking spaces in the Pool and Tennis Court Parking Lots. Thanks, Tom, the striping looks terrific!

Clubhouse Rental

The Clubhouse is available to rent for our homeowners. There is a refundable deposit of \$100 plus a \$50 fee for rental. There is a full kitchen, big screen TV and brand new DVD player with surround sound that you can even hook your iPod up to. You can check out the details at <http://www.avocet-hoa.org/resources/clubhouse/rental.html>.

Spring Weed Season

Contact for Leisure Lawn for a 10% discount for new service for Avocet homeowners. Just call 770-441-7699 and mention the Avocet discount for new service.

Rob

Hiller

Landscaping

5 years experience

Avocet Resident

References available

robhillerlandscaping
@yahoo.com

404-312-2284



Swimming Pools to Stay Open!

In February, the swimming pool bill, Senate Bill 368, was considered in Committee. Many people spoke on behalf of the social and economic impact of closing pools as well as health concerns that could arise. Ultimately, the Bill was tabled pending Gov. Perdue's same day announcement that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) can NOT regulate swimming pools between April and September.

Unless SB 368 passes, the door was left open to allow County authorities to make independent decisions. Cobb County leaders advise that they'll follow Gov. Perdue's directive (*see details in the section that follows*). This ease on watering bans will hopefully allow all pools to be open this summer. As Sonny Perdue said, "Swim kids, swim!"

Water Conservation and Drought Relief

Senate Bill 342 authorizes the GA Soil and Water Conservation Commission to fund up to 20% of the cost of obtaining permits for constructing and improving dams, and up to 40% of the cost of obtaining a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of new public water reservoirs. This is a good start to funding needed reservoirs.

Gov. Perdue's 2/6/08 Watering Restriction Announcement:

Pending an EPD order issued by Director Carol Couch that provides an exemption to the Level Four Drought Response, hand watering will be allowed for 25 minutes per day on an odd-even schedule between midnight and 10:00 a.m. Odd numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Even numbered addresses can water Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Hand

watering is defined as one person with one garden hose with a spray nozzle that shuts off when it is released.

If the water user participates in the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program*, the individual can water newly installed landscapes, up to three days a week from midnight to 10 a.m. for a period of 10 weeks based on the odd-even schedule. The Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is currently being developed and is expected to be implemented by Apr. 1. Georgians may also contact their county extension agents for assistance in getting registered.

...And What it Means to You!

- The new watering restrictions will go into effect as soon as the EPD Director issues an EPD Order.
- Hand watering is allowed by all users for 25 minutes per day, odd / even system. *This does not require participation in the registration program cited above.*
- New landscape installation watering is for all water users (professionals and homeowner / property owners) *who complete the Outdoor Water Usage Registration Program.* The new exemption increases the new installation watering allowance to a total of 10 weeks, 3 days per week at specified times.
- Installed irrigation systems may be used on new landscape installations under this exemption.
- All other Drought Level 4 Rules remain the same – all other outdoor water use is prohibited.
- Local government continues to have the authority to further restrict these rules and all others rules in Drought Level 4 restrictions, so be sure to check local restrictions.

The Outdoor Water Use Registration Program is under development and will be available by APRIL 1 – at the latest. Please check for updated status of the program at www.tbhngacouncil.com.

Great Offer from Georgia Pressure & Steam!

The folks from Georgia Pressure & Steam have teamed up with the Avocet Property Owners Association to bring you a great 20% discount on their pressure washing services.

To get a firm estimate, you can call William at 770-729-6200 and let him know you are an Avocet resident. You can also visit their website at www.georgiapressure.com.