



## AVOCET Prints

# Foster children Volunteer Opportunities

**Help the youth experience the Gift of Giving:** Each year we host two Christmas parties for foster children. One is a breakfast with Santa for children 10 and under and the other is a Christmas party for teens who are age 10 and up. At both parties, we set up a special Secret Santa Room where foster children can select a nice new gift for their foster parents for Christmas. After the children have selected their foster parent gifts, caring volunteers gift wrap the items. This allows the children to leave the party with the ability to experience what it feels like "to give". It also gives these children a way to say thank you to their foster parents for their loving care. The gifts we collect are only new items and are for both men and women and range in value from \$5 - \$20. Cash donations are also accepted which makes it possible for us to purchase what does not get donated. The children love to pick out these gifts knowing they will have a special surprise to give on Christmas morning. *Needed before Dec 6*

**Gift Wrap:** We are also in need of everything to gift wrap with – wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, bows, scissors and gift tags. If you would like to help and want suggestions on items, please call the Foster Children's Foundation at 770-623-6135. *Needed before Dec 6th*

### Resource Center Needs:

At the Resource Center we are in need of:  
-new underwear and socks,  
-winter hats and gloves for all age children both male and female  
-hygiene products: shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste

### Volunteer Opportunities:

Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping: Each year, the Foster Children's Foundation hosts a gift wrapping booth at Barnes & Noble located at the Forum shopping center in Norcross. We offer free gift wrapping for items purchased in Barnes & Noble and then customers are offered the opportunity to make a donation

to support the Foster Children's Foundation in providing for the needs of foster children. Volunteers are needed for the following two days: Dec 23 and 24 from 9am – 12pm. If you are available to help, contact us at [info@fosterchildrensfoundation.org](mailto:info@fosterchildrensfoundation.org)

*Year End, Tax-Deductible Contributions- If you or your company would like to make a Year End tax-deductible contribution to the Foster Children's Foundation, please visit our website at [www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org](http://www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org) and click on the DONATE button or make checks payable to: Foster Children's Foundation, P.O. Box 2469 Duluth, GA 30096. All contributions are truly appreciated.*

### 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](http://www.georgiapressure.com).*

## Rob Hiller Landscaping

5 years experience  
Avocet Resident  
References available

[robhillerlandscaping@yahoo.com](mailto:robhillerlandscaping@yahoo.com)  
**404-312-2284**

## THE UPS STORE

**Special Pricing for Avocet Residents!!!**

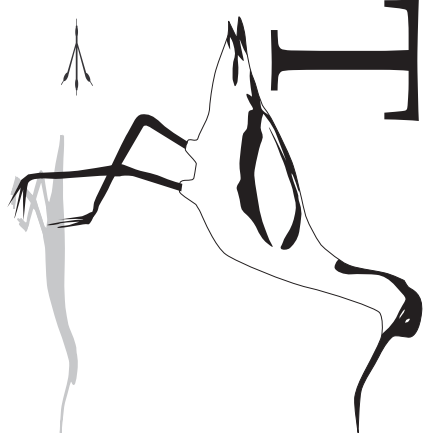
Color Copies - 33 cents each; Black and White Copies - 5 cents each.  
Mail Box Rental - 1 month free with a 3-month mailbox services agreement; 2 months free with a 6-month mailbox services agreement; 3 months free with a 12-month mailbox services agreement.

**\*Bring this ad or mention you are a resident of Avocet\***

Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and Summit Ridge Parkway  
(Public Shopping Center)  
3870 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Ste. 150 • Duluth, GA 30096  
(770) 623-8222 • [store3857@theupsstore.com](mailto:store3857@theupsstore.com)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2008  
Bobby McVey, Editor

# AVOCET Prints



## Holiday Activities at Avocet

We have a number of fun things to do over the holidays. Check your mailboxes for additional details!

### Decorating the Entry

Please join us at 11:00 am on Sunday, November 30 to turn our entry into a holiday delight! With enough folks assisting, we should have the job done in about an hour!

### Kids Club Holiday Party

Calling all kids! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the clubhouse. Please RSVP to our Kids Club at [kids@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:kids@avocet-hoa.org) to let them know you will be attending our annual Kids Club Holiday Party. Planned activities include crafts and snacks. There will be train rides in the parking lot and s'mores after 6:00.

### Adult Holiday Party

Come join your neighbors for fun and food. We will be providing the meats and mixers. Please bring appetizers, sides and desserts. Also bring your preferred beverage. The

party will be Saturday evening, December 13. Please RSVP to [social@avocet-hoa.org](mailto:social@avocet-hoa.org). Let us know how many in your party will be attending and what dish you will be providing.

### Access Management Group... New Management Starting December 20

We have experienced on-going problems with our transition from Heritage to Association Management Advisory Group (AMAG). Because of our inability to resolve these problems successfully, we have terminated the contract with AMAG and hired Access Management Group. You can review the details in the BOD minutes at [http://avocet-hoa.org/bod/meetings/2008/bod\\_minutes\\_2008.htm](http://avocet-hoa.org/bod/meetings/2008/bod_minutes_2008.htm).

Access Management Group (AMG) was one of four companies we interviewed. Our criteria were to have a company located nearby, able to handle monthly payments, handle a majority of single family communities versus condos/townhomes, and responsive to homeowner and BOD requests. We had two finalists after our interviews.

The tie breaker was when we interviewed John Thisdale, the property manager that would be assigned to us by AMG. John is a retired Delta employee with a lot of experience in customer service. We were all very impressed with him. When we followed up with communities he managed, he received glowing recommendations.

We will not only save money from reduced management fees, but will have the benefits of on-line access to information. This information includes management and financial reports for the BOD. Homeowners will also have on-line access to their account information. Plus, the auto-debit feature for dues payments will be available.

Please send December payments to AMAG as usual. You will be receiving a new coupon book prior to the end of the year that will have the mailing address for your payments. There will also be instructions for obtaining a login to AMG and setting up an auto-debit payment. If you are using on-line bill pay with your bank, please be certain to change the address there. If you prefer to pay annually or quarterly, just bundle the appropriate number of coupons and return them with your check.

We are very excited about this change and look forward to working closely with John Thisdale. You can check out AMG at <http://www.accessmgt.com/index.html>.





## Security Issues for Avocet

by *Barry Sharp,*  
*COPS/Security Committee*

On Monday, November 10, there was a robbery on Natchez Trace Court in Aprenmont Subdivision. The first reports indicated that the husband was injured and that the Gwinnett Police took 25 minutes to respond. After checking with Cpl. Wilkerson, our Police Liaison Officer for the COPS Program, we learned that the lady of the house arrived home around 10:30 p.m. and that an unknown number of suspects grabbed her purse after she left her car. These suspects left on foot, and no one was injured. It is believed that the suspects may have been hiding in the bushes on the homeowner's property. The lady was not sure that the suspects were armed. A total of four police cars responded, with the first arriving in 12 minutes. The police were not given a very good description and were unable to find the suspects. As is often the case, the first reports of this crime were different from what actually happened.

The Community Affairs Policeman for this precinct is Cpl. Marches. He said that this crime is another incident in an on-going series of robberies. The victims in these cases are primarily Asian and restaurant owners. They are being targeted for these reasons.

Historically there are not many incidents in our neighborhoods. We should be alert to suspicious activities. We should contact the police if we see suspicious people or vehicles.

A few years ago, there was an attempted robbery in Avocet that was

very similar to this crime. Fortunately, nothing was taken in that attempted robbery. Some good advice for our neighborhood:

- Do not bring home money from a business if possible.
- Please be observant and call 911, if someone is following you or waiting near your house. Wait for the police to arrive before leaving a vehicle.
- Please add timers to outside lighting if you come home frequently after dark. Please prune shrubs around your home to remove hiding places.

Cpl. Wilkerson has offered to meet with us to discuss recent criminal activity. He suspects that the people breaking into area vehicles at night may live in apartments near our neighborhood. Cpl. Wilkerson has requested a more specialized patrol for our community, and he hopes that the suspects will be apprehended soon. Please park vehicles in locked garages as much as possible. If vehicles must be parked in the driveway or street, please remove all valuables. Please keep vehicles locked.

On November 13, there was a burglary in Spalding Corners. Avocet faces the risk of burglaries as the holiday season approaches. If you have a burglar alarm, please arm it whenever you leave. Make sure all of your doors and windows are locked and outside lights are on. Set interior lights, televisions, and radios on timers to make your house appear occupied if you are traveling. Have someone pick up your mail and newspapers.

On November 20, a Peachtree Station woman believed that she was stalked inside the Target where Peachtree Corners and Peachtree Parkway split. She had the assistant

manager walk her to her car. Another woman had a similar incident happen to her there. The Gwinnett Police have reported frequent robberies occurring outside the Publix and Target at this location. A security patrol is occasionally present in the parking lot during the evenings. Regardless of where you shop, please be alert to your surroundings. Follow the example of this woman, if you feel someone is stalking you.

## Hail Damage

Apparently, Avocet experienced more roof damage from the March hail storm than many of us realized. It would be prudent, if you have not yet had your roof checked, to so. Insurance will pay to have your roof replaced if you have damage.

If you have had a roof replacement recently and had a good experience with your roofing company, please share this with others in our community. You can either post a recommendation to the forum or add a recommendation at [http://avocet-hoa.org/resources/home\\_services.htm](http://avocet-hoa.org/resources/home_services.htm).

Roof replacement does require ACC approval. You can get the ACC request form at <http://avocet-hoa.org/Documents/ACC%20Change%20Request.pdf>. Please include a description of the type of shingle you will be using as well as the color. You can include either a brochure with this information or a link to a web site where the material can be viewed. The new "architectural" shingles are permitted.

As a reminder, only "For Sale" signs are permitted in our neighborhood. If your contractor would like to advertise, the best place to reach your neighbors is by posting a recommendation as described above.



## Bits & Pieces

### Please Help Protect Avocet's Assets

Many folks walk through the amenities area for exercise or to walk your dogs. When you do, we would like to ask for your help to secure the area. If you are in the area and there is no one at the courts or the pool, please check the following:

- Ensure the gates at the courts and the pool are shut and latched. There have been a number of occasions where gates were left open.
- Ensure the door to the clubhouse is closed and the window in the bathroom hallway is closed and secure.
- If the umbrellas by the pool are open, please close them. If they are open, they can be damaged by the wind.

### Stay Updated

The fastest way to get up to date Avocet information is to join our secure forum. You can sign up at [http://avocet-hoa.org/general/forms/request\\_avocetclub.htm](http://avocet-hoa.org/general/forms/request_avocetclub.htm).

### Replacing Windows?

Painting, replacing windows and doors, adding a deck or patio and other exterior work requires ACC approval. You can get the ACC request form here <http://avocet-hoa.org/Documents/ACC%20Change%20Request.pdf>. Check here <http://avocet-hoa.org/Documents/ACCRevisedStandards.pdf> for the details of documentation required and other items requiring approval.

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### Job Resource

We're all aware that these are difficult economic times. As a result of the current economy, many people are looking for ways to replace a lost job or to earn some extra income. The community seems very pleased to use this e-mail list for lost pets, charity events, school activities, COPS programs, etc.

With that in mind, I'd like to try and help connect people with employment opportunities as a community service. If you, or your company, have a temporary, part-time or full-time position that may appeal to some of your Peachtree Corners neighbors, please e-mail me with the details. I will be happy to forward the posting to the 400 +/- people on the Peachtree Corners e-mail list.

Rhonda Levan  
[Levan1@bellsouth.net](mailto:Levan1@bellsouth.net)

### Board Meetings

The Avocet BOD meets monthly on the third Tuesday of every month. The next BOD meeting is scheduled for December 16 at 7:00 pm at the clubhouse. Please join us.

### Satellite Dishes

Satellite dishes cannot be placed on the front of your home. Corner lots have 2 "fronts". Satellite companies can place the dish so it is not clearly visible from the street. This is not something they like to do. In fact the

installers will attempt to convince you that any other placement is impossible. However, if instructed by you that our covenants require the dish placement to be obscured from the street, they will find a way to make it work.

## December 2, 2008 runoff information

To find your poll location for the December 2, 2008 runoff please go to <http://www.gwinnettcounty.com>

**Advanced Voting Information:** Georgia voters no longer need a reason for voting prior to election day. Any registered voter who is eligible to vote may cast a ballot prior to election day in one of the following ways.

**Absentee ballots:** Voters who want to vote early using a paper ballot may request an absentee ballot by mail or fax. Marked ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by mail or by the voter in person in time to be counted on Election Day, December 2nd. All votes will be tallied after the polls close at 7:00pm.

**Early voting in person** is available the week of November 17 – 26, 2008 (closed on November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving), at the following location:

**Gwinnett County Elections Office**  
455 Grayson Highway, Suite 200  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
Hours: 9:00am to 4:30pm

**Absolutely no type of voting is available on the Monday before Election Day on Tuesday. Satellite Advanced Voting locations will not be open for the runoff election.**