

Cedar Creek

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ATHENS, GEORGIA

October 4, 2026

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PAST NEWSLETTERS

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Join the Cedar Creek Next Door and Facebook neighborhood groups to keep abreast of happenings in Cedar Creek.

CCCA Board, Past Presidents, Honor Plaque

Previous Q & A

2026 Calendar

- October 8 - Native Plant Sale, 1:30-6:30PM, State Botanical Garden of Ga.
- October 9 - Native Plant Sale, 8:30AM - Noon, State Botanical Garden of Ga.
- October 12 - Columbus Day
- October 15 - CCCA Board Meeting, 7-9 PM.
- October 19-24 - Advance Voting, SE Clarke Park Tennis Center, 8AM-6PM.
- October 20 - ACC Property Tax Bill payments are due.
- October 24 - Landscape Group work session, 10 AM to Noon, Mockingbird Circle.
- October 24 - Pumpkin Carving Event, 9 AM to Noon.
- October 24 - Athens Waterway Cleanup, Dudley Park, 8:45AM, ACCGOV.COM/RiversAlive
- October 26 - District 1&8 Town Hall, 5:30PM, Hilsman Middle School.
- October 26-30 - Advance Voting, SE Clarke Park Tennis Center, 8AM-6PM.
- October 31 - Halloween
- **November 3 - Election Day Voting, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**



Check out the ACC Calendar of events at <https://www.accgov.com/calendar.aspx>

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President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Here on Dunwoody Drive, we are watching ACC public works crews hard at work on the resurfacing we've been anticipating for some months. They are grinding off the old pavement first and laying down some patches just now. It's looking like the job could run all week, but we're looking forward to a smooth street soon. Signs are up for other streets, so hopefully we'll have our roughest roads cleaned up over the next several weeks. A word of caution if your street is up for resurfacing: the work is noisy and they start moving heavy equipment pretty early in the morning!

As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, the new native pollinator gardens are installed on Cedar Creek Court. We had a great crew working on it and everyone enjoyed working with neighbors to contribute to our community. I hope you took advantage of the Native Plant Sale on October 3. If you missed it, this was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the benefits of using native species on your property. We will try to host another one of these in early spring.

Thanks to everyone who has come out to the meetings with the engineering firm designing a new proposal for 450 Gaines School Road (across from the Ponderosa entrance). They have listened carefully to our feedback and incorporated many of our requests and recommendations. The design isn't final, but we have high hopes for a development that will be in keeping with the current Gaines School Road (GSR) corridor and set the standard for future growth. Speaking of which, we are working with the ACC planning department and our local Commissioners on an update to the GSR Special District (zoning) Overlay which will continue to preserve the character of this important element of our community.

Finally, October means pumpkin season! We'll have a pumpkin carving event on October 24 and would love to have everyone come out, even if you're just dropping by to say hello. The end of the month brings up Halloween trick or treat on Saturday the 31st, and many of us just love seeing the kids out in their costumes. If you're out that night, be sure to be extra careful. If you're walking, be sure to have lights and reflective clothing, and drivers watch out!

-Jack Dominey



Happy Birthday - 250 years of the USA - Part 4

The US Constitution – Difficult to Change



Under Article V, an amendment to the US constitution can be proposed by one of two methods. All amendments have been proposed by the first method, a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate. The second method, through a convention requested by two-thirds of the states, has never been used. Those proposed amendments passed by both houses of Congress must then be ratified by three-fourths of the states. For this reason, the US Constitution is considered one of the most difficult national constitutions to amend. Since 1789, Congress has ratified 33 amendments that were then sent on to the states for their vote. In the previous two newsletters, we have discussed the 27 that were ultimately ratified by the states, leaving six pending amendments to discuss:

- **Congressional Apportionment Amendment** — Proposed in 1789 and ratified by only 10 states, the last in 1792, with no time limit specified it remains active. It sought to regulate the apportionment of representatives, settling on one House Representative for every 50,000 constituents. If passed, the House of Representatives today would have 6,623 representatives. As the amendment has not been ratified, Congress sets the size of the House of Representatives by statute, currently at 437 members.

- **Titles of Nobility Amendment** – Proposed in 1810, it aimed to prevent US citizens from accepting titles of nobility from foreign powers. At that time it required 13 states to ratify, but only 12 states did, the last in 1812. If passed, any citizen who accepted or received any title of nobility from a foreign power, or who accepted without the consent of Congress any gift from a foreign power, would no longer be a citizen. Since no time limit was set for ratification, it remains active.
- **Slavery Amendment of 1861 (the Corwin Amendment)**– Proposed in 1861 in an effort to avoid a civil war. It specified that no amendment be made to the Constitution which would authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere within any State with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service (interpreted as slavery) by the laws of said State. Six states initially ratified this amendment with five since rescinding their support. If passed it would have made slavery immune to the constitutional amendment procedures and to interference by Congress, making the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments impermissible although a subsequent amendment could have repealed it.
- **Equal Rights Amendment** – Proposed in 1923, it aimed to guarantee equal legal rights regardless of sex. Specifically, the equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Ratification failed within the 10 years specified for this task.
- **Child Labor Amendment** – Proposed in 1924, it would grant Congress the power to regulate the labor of children under the age of 18. This amendment has been ratified by 28 states, the last in 1937, and is still pending ratification by at least 10 additional states.
- **Washington District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment** – Proposed in 1978, it aimed to grant citizens of Washington DC the same full representation in Congress as any state. If ratified this amendment would repeal the 23rd Amendment as no longer needed.

From initial ratification through January 2025, Congress has proposed 11,985 amendments. If we include proposals from sources beyond Congress, that number is doubled. Given the current political environment, we can expect to see many more proposed amendments in the coming years.

CC Volunteer Landscape Crew Activities Report



Thank you to the Landscape Crew volunteers - Jack Dominey, John Pickering, Halley Page, Cathy Payne, Nick Glade, Carolyn and Rob Gorman, Mark and Maggie Reinberger, Ellene Reeder, Edie Roche, Ross Watson, Matt Meagher and Mary Peace - who installed our two new Bee and Butterfly Native Plant Sanctuary Gardens on September 26 at Cedar Creek Court! That makes three Sanctuary Gardens now completely installed and planted. Recently Rob paid a morning visit to the gardens and saw 5 deer wandering around the fences trying to figure out how to get in. But the deer haven't once messed with our Mockingbird Circle garden since we installed it in May and we fully expect these two new gardens to hold up equally well.



This was a true team effort! Thanks to Mark and Maggie who treated the crew to refreshments on their porch after we finished planting and who have volunteered to water the gardens, to Mary who supplied refreshments during the installation, to Nick and Matt who used their trailer to load, haul and unload mulch, to Mark and Maggie for the use of their vehicle with the trailer hitch, and to John who worked along side us and provided equipment, plants and know-how. Special thanks to Susanne Warrenfeltz who helped to babysit the plants over this brutal summer. If you know anyone who would like to install their own Sanctuary Garden in their yard, they can contact either Rob Gorman (rdfgorman@gmail.com) or John Pickering (<https://www.discoverlife.org/sanctuary/>) for advice and plans. John's brainchild, the **Sanctuary Gardens Project**, now numbers almost 50 individual gardens.

We have such a great volunteer Landscape Crew and we've accomplished a lot over the past 12 months to make Cedar Creek an even nicer place to live!!!! Consider volunteering and join us for our next workday, October 24, 10AM to noon in the Mockingbird Circle green space.

Going Wild for Native Plants: #4 September, 2026 by Cathy R. Payne

Autumn is here!

Whew! Right up to the first morning of the first day after the Autumnal Equinox, I had my doubts, but by September 25 there was a definite chill in the air! The surviving Joro spiders are three and four inches in size as I write this. Through the window outside my study, I see a female gray squirrel cramming crimson-colored dogwood berries into her mouth—sometimes hanging by her toes from a branch and using both hands to hold onto them.

I went out this morning to pull some weeds and trim a native Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, that was losing its shape. This native shrub has leaves that are high in caffeine. Indigenous people made tea from them. It was sixty-two degrees with a brisk breeze. It felt so refreshing!

It's amazing to me that nature is in tune with the seasons. The hummingbirds are preparing for a long trip South within the next two weeks. Squirrels are storing acorns. I've observed a late-season family of cardinals finally wean their fledglings and enjoy the backyard birdbath. Mosquitos are having their last hurrah. The goldenrod, 'fireworks' is having a bright canary moment that brings a pop of color to the autumn palette. I've noticed that the Georgia aster, *Symphyotrichum georgianum*, has not bloomed yet, but their buds will open any day now. Spotted bee balm is still attracting carpenter bees, bumblebees, honey bees, wasps and other native bees. The Georgia aster, with a lovely purple hue, is a rare perennial flowering plant native to the Piedmont region of our state. They typically bloom from late September through November, making them vital partners for pollinators like bees and butterflies. This year, they are still in bud.

I love our neighborhood, its deep history, and the native plants and animals that we enjoy. We're fortunate to have nurseries in our county that grow native plants: the Sandy Creek Nature Center, The Athens—East Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and our own CCCA Board. At the native plant sale on October 3, we had 15 volunteers share what they know about raising native plants—including dependable methods to deter mosquitoes without chemicals! If you missed the sale, we are planning to host another one in the spring.



Halloween Pumpkin Carving Event

Social Activities Committee

Join us for a spook-tacular Halloween Pumpkin Carving Event hosted by the CCCA! On Saturday, October 24, from 10 AM to noon. Gather at the Cedar Creek swimming pool parking lot for a fun-filled morning. The first 20 family teams will receive a free carving pumpkin and we provide utensils to bring your pumpkin designs to life. If you have your own pumpkin, bring it along and enjoy a festive atmosphere as we design, carve, and dispose of the pumpkin debris together. Not interested in carving a pumpkin, come anyway and meet your neighbors. Don't miss out on this family-friendly neighborhood event!



Ongoing Issues

450 Gaines School Road - As mentioned by CCCA President Jack, a group of CC residents met with SPG Planners + Engineers to review and comment on preliminary plans for development of 450/460 Gaines School Road. What we saw was very encouraging, offering a plan that addressed many of the issues CC residents had with the Cedar Ridge proposal in 2024. A follow-up meeting planned for October 5 was canceled to allow SPG time to finalize their plans before presenting them to the Eastside community. A new meeting date will be determined later in the month once they have further refined architecture and floor plans for the buildings proposed for the development. If you want to attend this meeting, send an email to kenneth.portier@gmail.com.



Review/Revise - Gaines School Road Corridor Special District Overlay

The Eastside Neighbors Group met with ACC Planning Department Director Bruce Lonnee on Sept. 14 to discuss potential revision of the Gaines School Road Corridor Special District Overlay (GSRC_SDO). Due to heavy staff calendars, the Planning Department is unlikely to initiate a review or revision of the GSRC_SDO, but Director Lonnee said it would welcome the Eastside community's suggestion for improvements to this section of the county's municipal zoning code. Moving forward, the Eastside Neighbors Group have asked Ed Lane, principal at SPG Planners + Engineers, to lead a discussion on how planners, designers, developers, government agencies and community groups like the Eastside Neighbors can work together to create and achieve our vision for a future Eastside Athens. This discussion will take place at the next Eastside Neighbors group meeting on Monday, October 19, at 1PM in the Stratford Condominium's Clubhouse just off Barnett Shoals Rd. Cedar Creek residents are invited to attend. If you do plan to attend, send an email to Ken Portier at kenneth.portier@gmail.com or Kent Middleton at kentmiddleton@gmail.com.



What we are keeping an eye on...

Commissioner Davenport reports that **Kroger** is finally moving forward with the next phase of their Planned Development, Referred to as the "Athens Shops at Kroger," it will be constructed where the original Blind Pig restaurant was located. Kroger has spoken to staff in the ACC Planning Department about getting permits to begin construction soon.

Voting in the Upcoming Mid-Term Elections: By the time you read this, the deadline for registering to vote in the upcoming mid-term elections will have passed. On election day, residents living west of Cedar Creek are assigned to vote at Cedar Shoals High School (Precinct 8B). Those living east of Cedar Creek are assigned to vote at the Southeast Clarke Park Tennis Center (Precinct 1B). If you are unsure, check your precinct card by going to <https://www.accgov.com/precinctcard>. Polling locations can be found by going to the online voting precinct boundary map at: <https://data-athensclarke.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/AthensClarke::polling-precinct-boundaries-2024/explore>.

A copy of the **SAMPLE BALLOT** can be downloaded from <https://athensclarkecounty.org/sampleballot>. Call the Clarke County Registrar's office at 706-613-3150 if you need help voting.

Georgia Voting Rules (be forewarned)

- You **ARE REQUIRED** to show an approved PHOTO ID every time you vote in Georgia.
- You ARE allowed to give a neighbor a ride to vote in Georgia. However, you must NOT engage in any activities that could be perceived as voter intimidation or coercion while assisting them.
- Inside any polling place, within 25 feet of any voter, or 150 from the building where voting is occurring, **YOU MAY NOT:**
 - Solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method,
 - Distribute or display any campaign material.
 - Give any person money or gifts including, but not limited to, food and drink.
 - Solicit signatures for any petition or set up any tables or booths on any day in which ballots are being cast.
- You are NOT allowed to carry FIREARMS within 150 feet of any polling place.

CCCA is looking for community leaders

We have gotten some interest from CCCA members willing to serve on next year's CCCA Board. But there are still a number of open positions we are looking to fill. If you've never served on the Board, we encourage you to consider volunteering for a Board position. Fresh perspectives, new ideas, and shared leadership are essential to keeping our community vibrant, responsive, and strong. By serving on the Board, you'll have the opportunity to help shape the future of the CCCA while giving back to a community that benefits us all. We hope you'll consider stepping forward and making a difference. Contact Jack at jack.dominey@gmail.com.

Thankfully, we had one person express interest in helping manage the CCCA web site and produce the monthly newsletter. Still, if you are interested in learning WIX or Constant Contact and helping contact Ken Portier at kenneth.portier@gmail.com. We would love to have a team take on this task - many hands make the work more fun and easier!



"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily." -Sally Koch

Note: ***Shame** is a scammer's secret weapon. Victims often blame themselves, and that shame suppresses reporting and leaves others vulnerable to being scammed – helping fuel a global fraud industry with losses of \$442 billion a year. If you think you have been scammed – report it to police, they will help you get a note to the proper group. Let's together help stop scams!*

Q and A: Ask the CCCA Board a question and we will try to find an answer.

Q: Yesterday I found a dead fawn in my back yard. Who can I call to help me safely dispose of the body?



This is an easy question to answer. First, ensure the animal is actually dead before you do anything. Approaching a damaged and/or sick animal can be dangerous, so caution is strongly advised. If necessary, take a wait-and-see approach and keep others away. Next go to the ACC Leaf and Limb web page, click on the link labeled "Dead Animal Pickup Request" (<https://www.accgov.com/10890/Dead-Animal-Pickup-Request>) in the left-hand text box to get instructions. They advise you to:

1. Place the dead animal at the curb for pickup if the dead animal is in your yard. Remember to wear gloves, preferably plastic gloves, and a disposable face mask as you move the body. Get a neighbor to help if you can't do this safely by yourself. You may also want to attach a sign to warn others that the body is scheduled for pick-up.
2. Contact Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department by email at collections@accgov.com or by phone at 706-613-3501 and **press the number seven(7#)**. Someone will help you schedule a work crew to come by and remove the body. Be patient, this is the same crew that removes leaf and limb debris.

Nature is pretty efficient in taking care of dead bodies, so if you have a large lot with plenty of distance to your neighbors, you can simply leave the dead body in a remote corner for scavengers to remove. The body of a smaller animal can be buried. Just be mindful that there will be a smell and you don't want to bother your neighbors.

The CCCA newsletter is printed locally in Athens by Jack Jones of Duplicating Systems Inc. Thanks.