

Cedar Creek

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

ATHENS, GEORGIA

September 8, 2026

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2026 Calendar

- September 12 - Saturday - Home UGA Football vs Western Kentucky, 12:45 PM
- September 14 - Monday - Revising the Gaines School Road - Special District Overlay discussion with ACC Planning Department Director, 1-2:30 PM, Stratford Condominiums Club House, Stratford Dr off Barnett Shoals.
- September 14 - Monday - 450 Gaines School Road Development Discussion, 5:30 to 7 PM in the Community Room of Fire Station #7.
- September 17 - Thursday - CCCA Board Meeting, 7-9 PM.
- September 19 - Saturday - Away UGA Football vs Arkansas.
- September 20 - Sunday - Cedar Creek Pool Last Day.
- September 26 - Saturday - Home UGA Football vs Oklahoma.
- September 26 - Saturday - Landscape Group work session, 1:30-3:30 PM, Cedar Creek Court green space.
- September 27 - Sunday - 36th Annual Insectival, 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM, State Botanical Garden of Georgia (paid event for children).
- October 3 - Saturday - Cedar Creek Autumn Native Plant Sale (see article below)
- October 3 - Saturday - Home UGA Football vs Vanderbilt
- October 15 - Thursday - CCCA Board Meeting, 7-9 PM.
- October 24 - Saturday - Landscape Group work session, 10 AM to Noon, Mockingbird Circle.
- October 24 - Saturday - Pumpkin Carving Event, 10 AM to Noon (tentative date)



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President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

My calendar says it's September, but my thermometer is stuck on the dog days of summer. Despite the heat, schools are back in session and we are almost all back from vacation.

We are planning two things in the next few weeks, which you should see detailed elsewhere in this newsletter: 1) Planting two more native pollinator gardens on Cedar Creek Court near the pool, and 2) A native plant sale on October 3. I feel strongly that one of the best things we can do as property owners is remove invasive plant species and encourage natives. It's better for the environment and better for us!

Another thing I'd like to encourage is for all CCCA members to think about taking a turn serving on the Board. There are a handful of you who have done so previously, some for many years, and I thank you for that service! But if you've not done so, please consider it. Working on the CCCA Board is not terribly difficult or time consuming, but it is important. If you are interested, or if there's someone else you'd like to recommend, please contact any of the Board members. For more info, see item 7 in this newsletter.

-Jack Dominey



Happy Birthday - 250 years of the USA - Part 3

The Rest of Our Rights



The US Constitution establishes our rights as citizens. Changes to our constitution come via amendments. As mentioned last month, the first congress enacted the first 10 amendments, our Bill of Rights, as one of its first tasks. Subsequent changes to our constitution have proven to be relatively rare and difficult to establish. This is on purpose. Look at the ratification dates of the 17 additional amendments and read the summary provided below. Clearly decades have passed during which the US Constitution was not amended. Amendments were proposed and ratified to address problems large enough that our basic rules had to be rewritten or new rules established to deal with changing culture and beliefs. Can you tell what issues produced which amendments?

Amendment 11 (1795): States' sovereign immunity limits some federal lawsuits: The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment 12 (1804): New system for electing President and Vice President: Revised the Electoral College process, requiring electors to cast separate votes for President and Vice President rather than voting for two candidates for President. It goes into who is allowed to vote, qualified electors, and delegates. Also, the requirements for becoming president.

Amendment 13 (1865): Abolished slavery: The promise that slavery, or "involuntary servitude," would exist no longer within the United States. The exception here is on the conviction of a crime.

Amendment 14 (1868): Defines citizenship, due process, equal protection: Asserts that all those born or naturalized within the United States are citizens of the United States. If you are born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to its jurisdiction, you are a citizen. Furthermore, no state can enforce any law that will damage these privileges in any way. Also known as the **Equal Protection Clause**, states must provide due process and equal protection of the laws, and cannot take away key rights without following constitutional rules.

Amendment 15 (1870) : Voting rights cannot be denied based on race: Government cannot deny or abridge the right to vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Stipulates that any citizen of the United States has the right to vote, regardless of their race or the color of their skin. This constitutional amendment also mentions those with a "previous condition of servitude," which grants the right to vote to former male slaves. See Amendment 19 for women's right to vote.

Amendment 16 (1913): Federal income tax allowed: Congress can collect a federal income tax without dividing it among the states based on population.

Amendment 17 (1913): Direct election of U.S. Senators: The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures. This amendment gave the people of the US the power to choose their representatives and set the terms of office.

Amendment 18 (1819): The Prohibition Law: Banned the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States.

Amendment 19 (1920): Women's suffrage: Established that government cannot deny the right to vote because of sex.

Amendment 20 (1933): New start dates and transition rules: Established that all presidential terms, and those of vice presidents, will end at noon on January 20th. In addition, it was decided that the start of a term in the Senate would move to January 3rd.

Amendment 21 (1933): Repeals Amendment 18: Repeals the 18th Amendment, the Prohibition Law, and allow for the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol.

Amendment 22 (1951): Presidential two-term limit: Proclaimed that no president may serve more than two terms. Furthermore, anyone who has served as president for two or more years of a term cannot be elected to more than one additional term. The amendment was proposed in 1947, following FDR's term from 1933 to 1945.

Amendment 23 (1961): Washington, DC gets electoral votes: Establishes that Washington, DC can appoint electors to the Electoral College for President and Vice President, as if it were a state, but no more than the least populous state.

Amendment 24 (1964): No poll taxes in federal elections: Banned poll taxes in federal elections, ensuring that citizens could not be denied the right to vote because they failed to pay a tax. The Supreme Court later struck down poll taxes in state elections using the **Equal Protection Clause**.

Amendment 25 (1967): New rules for presidential succession: Set the rules for what happens if the President dies, resigns, or cannot do the job, and how a new Vice President is chosen if that office becomes vacant. Provided a legal path for continuity during medical emergencies or crises.

Amendment 26 (1971): Lowers the voting age to 18:

Amendment 27 (proposed in 1789, ratified 1992): Delays congressional pay raises: No law varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives shall take effect until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. That is, Congress cannot give itself a pay raise that takes effect before the next election thus giving voters a chance to vote on their representatives before the salary change.

Did you know that members of the US House and Senate typically propose around 200 amendments during each two-year term of Congress. Most do not receive enough support to win Congressional approval. Next month we will explore the few amendments which are currently going through the constitutional ratification process.

CC Volunteer Landscape Crew Activities Report



Cooler weather is on the way! Yes, really! The Landscape Crew will be planting two native pollinator Bee and Butterfly Sanctuary Gardens, side-by-side, in Cedar Creek Court, which is just down the street from the swimming pool, on Saturday, September 26 from 1:30-3:30 pm - note the change from its regular morning work time. Equipment, water, and plants we have, but we need about a dozen volunteers to establish both gardens in the designated two hour window. Join us - you will learn more about native plants which will help your own landscaping plans. You know you really want to do this! Contact Rob Gorman at rdfgorman@gmail.com to let him know you are coming.

Speaking of Sanctuary Gardens - don't forget to check out our first garden on Mockingbird Circle. Several plants are still flowering and the bumblebees are loving it. At our invitation, Cedar Creek native plant experts visited Mockingbird Circle and identified and marked multiple native plants in the Circle (see Cathy's article below). Removal of invasive plants will help Mockingbird Circle to become more native and less weedy. Under the direction of the native plant specialists, the Landscape Group



will begin removing invasive plants in Mockingbird Circle in October. The fall mowing of the understory has been delayed until after this work session so that native plants can be marked and protected. This is another learning opportunity for you, so come join us! This is a great opportunity for high school students needing volunteer hours. So, mark your calendars and come by Mockingbird Circle on Saturday, October 24 from 10 AM to 12 noon to help the Landscape Crew remove invasive plants. The initial focus will be removal of nandina.

Going Wild for Native Plants: #3 September, 2026 by Cathy R. Payne

What is in our larger green spaces?

August was too hot and humid for gardening, and I'm looking forward to cooler weather in September to getting back to work. I'm excited to meet more native plant gardeners in the Cedar Creek Subdivision community at our upcoming Landscape Group work sessions!

On Saturday, August 22, neighbors Halley Page, Susanne Warrenfeltz, Nick Glade, Nick's business partner Matthew Meagher, and I met at the Mockingbird Circle green space to census its current flora. We scouted the area to identify native plants growing there and determine which invasive species need to be removed. Native plants can't thrive if invasive plants overtake an area. We were delighted to identify eight varieties of native plants in the green space.

American Beautyberry—*Callicarpa americana*
 Anglepod, Milkvine—*Gonolobus suberosus*
 Black Tupelo—*Nyssa sylvatica*
 Carolina Wild Petunia—*Ruellia caroliniensis*
 Longstalk Sedge—*Carex pedunculata*
 Paw Paw—*Asimina triloba*
 Purple Passionflower or Maypop—*Passiflora incarnata*
 Yaupon Holly—*Ilex vomitoria*



Of course, we also identified a lot of invasive plants that need removal, hence the Landscape Group workday planned for October 24.

Native Plant Sale and Information Fair - Coming in October!

Save these details! Please invite your friends!



We're holding a **Native Plant Sale and Information Fair** on October 3 from 8:00 PM to noon. This will be one week prior to the three-day sale at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. We'll stage tables at the Natural Area of Cedar Creek Ct and Cedar Creek Dr. Sunrise Nursery and Pablo from Seed will have native plants for sale. Beth Warner of Sheepcote Farm will be there with wool pellets for your garden or house plants. These help retain moisture and slow-release nitrogen around your plants. As of the date of this newsletter, we will have information tables from the following groups:

- The Athens—East Piedmont Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society
- Regenerative Gardens: Creating a More Sustainable Generation
- Kiley Aguar: "Ask a Landscape Architect"
- Friends of Sandy Creek Nature Center

Keep checking this space for updates as additional organizations, special guests, and demonstrations are forthcoming. All proceeds will go to the participating growers and planters. Let's support them!

Ongoing Issues



450 Gaines School Road – On Monday, August 10, the Cedar Creek Civic Association hosted a community meeting with SPG Planners + Engineers of Watkinsville to discuss SPG's preliminary concepts for the development of 450/460 Gaines School Road. There was a lot of back-and-forth discussion among the 27 participants. SPG staff led the participants through a series of multiple choice questions that helped narrow down the key design components most would like to see implemented at the site. Among other things, the group preferred to see structures set-back from Gaines School Road, with large trees along Gaines School Road, and a wide multi-use path separated from the roadway. These were identified as key characteristics which help maintain the current character of Gaines School Road.

A second meeting to view and discuss with SPG a more concrete site design is scheduled for Monday, September 14th from 5:30 to 7 PM in the Community Room of Fire Station #7 (Barnett Shoals Road, near the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital). All are invited, although the room holds a maximum of 40 people. If you want to attend this meeting, send an email to kenneth.portier@gmail.com.

Review/Revise - Gaines School Road Corridor Special District Overlay

Commercial parcels along Gaines School Road have extra zoning restrictions that are codified in Special District Overlay (SDO). This SDO was first incorporated into the ACC municipal code in 2001 and last modified in 2010. It was initially created to protect a large segment of Gaines School Road from commercial development that could negatively impact the large residential communities that lie just behind the commercial properties that line both sides of the road. A lot of growth and change has happened in Athens-Clarke county in the 15 years since this SDO was last modified. Under the new Athens-Clarke County Future Land Use Map, Gaines School Road is designated as a "minor corridor". This designation has implications for redevelopment of its commercial parcels forcing a revisit/revision the SDO.

On Sept. 14, 1-2:30 PM in the Stratford Condominiums' Clubhouse on S. Stratford Drive (just down from the Waffle House off Barnett Shoals) the Eastside Neighbors Group will be discussing the Gaines School Road Corridor Special District Overlay with Bruce Lonnee, ACC Planning Department Director. The goal of this discussion is to better understand SDOs and in particular explore the limits of a revised SDO. Part of our goal is to ensure that residential communities that border the commercially zoned parcels along Gaines School Road are minimally impacted by future redevelopment, that the current character of the road is maintained, and that safety on Gaines School Road is improved. Cedar Creek residents are invited to attend. If you do plan to attend, send an email to Ken Portier at kenneth.portier@gmail.com.

What we are keeping an eye on...



Major Zoning Changes Proposed for Single Family Residential Neighborhoods –At the August 4th Mayor and Commissioner meeting, the proposed zoning change to single family residential neighborhoods to allow by right the construction of Secondary Dwelling Units was **rejected**. The proposed change to the allowable minimum residential unit sizes was **approved**. What this means is that the minimal size of a "guest house" that can be built by right on a single family residential lot has been reduced to less than 1000 square feet. Guest houses continue to be defined as residential housing without a working stove.

Voting in the Upcoming Mid-Term Elections: If you plan to vote in the upcoming elections, check to see that you are still registered. You can safely check this by going to the **GA My Voter Page** at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/> and **Vote.Gov** at <https://vote.gov>. Both of these sites are secure and DO NOT retain any of the information you provide. If after using one of these sites you still have concerns about your registration status, call the Clarke County Registrar's office at 706-613-3150.

We are aware of new sites advertised on social media as available to "help" you check your registration that are much less secure than the official government sites. These sites are designed to capture your personal information and sell it to marketers and others. One such site is [VoteSafe.Org](https://votesafe.org) which asks for, archives, and sells the following personal information:

1. First, middle, and last name
2. Date of birth
3. Full home address
4. Email address
5. Cell phone number
6. IP address and location (IDs your city, zip code, time zone, and internet provider)
7. Which browser, operating system, screen size and language used on your device
8. The website that referred you to votesafe.org
9. Your voter registration status (does not use the state's actual records)
10. Your voting district and ballot

As you might suspect, this kind of information can be used to scam you at a later date. Don't be fooled. Don't give up your personal information if you don't need to. Pay attention and pass this information along to others.

CCCA is looking for community leaders

As mentioned by CCCA President Jack Dominey, it is that time of year when we begin recruiting members to serve on next year's CCCA Board. 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.

Want to learn web site development using the website builder, WIX? Interested in learning the marketing tool, Constant Contact? Contact Ken Portier at kenneth.portier@gmail.com. He is willing to teach you these tools provided you commit to managing the Cedar Creek website & newsletter for 2027. He will even teach a small team to take on this task. Talk to your friends. Such a deal!



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

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

Q: Someone told me that parking your vehicle facing traffic in residential streets can lead to a parking ticket. Is this true?



The answer is **YES**, you can be ticketed for parking a motor vehicle against the direction of traffic. The specific regulation can be found in the 2025 Code of Georgia, Title 40 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 6 - Uniform Rules of the Road, Article 10 - Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Part 1 - General Provisions, § 40-6-200. How vehicles are to be parked (e.g. GA Code § 40-6-200 - 2025) which states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a two-way roadway shall be stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels parallel to and within 12 inches of the right-hand curb or as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder.

Note that this regulation includes all the residential streets in Cedar Creek. If you find someone regularly parking facing the wrong way, report the violation to the ACC Police Department by calling their non-emergency phone number - (706) 613-3345.

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