

THE *Cobbham Courier*
G A Z E T T E

Containing the freshest Advices

Occasional Newsletter for the Historic Cobbham District

May 2003

• ***Waking Up the Neighborhood summer party!***

Three in-town neighborhood associations are joining together to play and consider our collective futures. The event will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th on the front lawn of Chase Street School. Activities for children. Conversation and information for adults. Food and fun for all. Also don't miss the on-the-lawn movie at the Old Jail at 8 p.m. See attached yellow flyers for schedule of events. Please plan to attend. For more information, call Mimi Elliott-Gower or Tom Reynolds or John English.

• ***A combined occasion for our Annual Meeting!***

Since the Cobbham annual meeting was planned for May, we decided to conduct our meeting at the outset of this event, at 4 p.m. Please meet on the front steps. It should be brief, so as not to detract from the party activities. If you have agenda items, call John English (353-1832) or e-mail him at english-smith@mindspring.com.

• ***Enforcing city ordinances will enhance all our lives!***

Some residents plead ignorance of the local laws that govern our community. Yet clearly there are ordinances that don't allow parking in front yards or keeping junk vehicles on private property. Others restrict overgrown vegetation, intolerable noise levels and unsafe structures. The Big One, of course, limits the number of unrelated people who can occupy a house in a single-family neighborhood. Please read the attached ACC brochure and let's collectively see that these ordinances are used to improve the quality of life for everyone in our district!

- ***Recap of ACHF Tour of Cobbham Homes.***

Liz DeMarco reports:

This year's Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (ACHF) 33rd Spring Tour of Homes, which featured nine homes in Historic Cobbham, was a success! Friday evening, the event began with a lovely Patron's party at Bonnie and Henry Ramsey's house with its stunning gardens. On Saturday the day of the tour, the weather was absolutely beautiful and tourgoers happily walked in our neighborhood. The ACHF has received many compliments. The tour hosted over 400 visitors from around the Southeast and raised a \$5,125 profit to benefit historic preservation in Athens. Thank you to homeowners, house captains, docents, lemonade stands, and everyone else in the neighborhood who contributed. In addition to ACHF's annual sponsors, Athens Regional Medical Center donated money to ACHF specifically for the tour. One side note, ACHF is selling note cards with photographs of Cobbham homes featured in the Tour of Homes along with historical backgrounds (\$8 for a box of 10 notecards).

- ***Have YOU paid your annual dues yet?*** Treasurer John McLeod says the list is still short, so please make YOUR check out to Historic Cobbham Foundation and get it to John at 650 Cobb St. (543-0994). Remember, our activities are supported by members' dues, so respond now.
- ***Last call for Info for new Cobbham Directory.*** Get your family details to Liz DeMarco at 549-4751 or Myra Moore at 369-0458, so we can wrap this project up. Include an e-mail address, so we can create a neighborhood listserve.
- ***Three new Cobbham signs are in place.*** These signs were installed at the intersection of Prince Ave. and Hill St. in front of the ACHF Firehall, at the triangle at Hill St. and Hillcrest and on the corner of Milledge Ave. and Cobb St. Each sign cost \$350; ACHF is considering paying for one.

- ***Landscaping of Triangles Planned.*** The Hill & Hillcrest triangle is being planted by landscape designer Micah Lipscomb and Leslie Dorris, a master gardener. Steve and Mimi Elliott-Gower have agreed to water the new plantings during the summer. Total ACHF expense for landscaping was \$350 for 3 trees (to Aubrey Arbor) and \$151 for plants. The triangle at Prince & Hill will be re-planted in the fall by the city, says Roger Cauthen, of the ACC Landscape Management Dept.
- ***Let the tree survey begin!*** Athens' first neighborhood tree inventory will begin this summer in Cobbham. Athens-Clarke forester Connie Head has hired a passel of students to help her record our stock. If you have any questions about this survey, call Connie at 613-3565 or e-mail her at forester@co.clarke.ga.us.
- ***Your house doesn't belong in Cobbham if it's not sporting an official district marker.*** Well, that's a bit of overstatement, but if you still don't have a house marker, this is yet another *final* call to get one! Only 11 are left. Markers cost \$42.50 and you can get one from John English (353-1832).

Talk of the 'hood...

- **Newest Cobbhamites:** Thomas Grinnan Ehlers, new resident of 258 Hill St. The son of Sarah and Ben Ehlers, Thomas arrived on Wednesday, May 14th. He tipped the scales at 10 pounds, 6 ounces.
Evelyn Moser arrived at 460 Franklin St. in late March, weighing a petite 7 pounds. Her folks, Robert and Anne Moser, are planning to stay in Cobbham, even though they expect to move to another Franklin St. address.
- **649 Hill St.—**Jeff and Carol Bishop have hired Preservation Services, Inc. (aka Tim Walsh) to restore their new residence. Work commenced on May 15th and renovations are expected to take six months. Carol is overseeing the project. Plans call for 2 bedrooms and baths upstairs and a new kitchen and breakfast room downstairs. The front

porch will be restored, using an old postcard of the house from Gary Doster's new book.

- **The Fuller House, on the corner of Cobb Street and Hillcrest, (685 Cobb) is for sale again, after being renovated by owner Chris Peterson. The 3000-sq. ft. house has 4 BR, 2 BA, new kitchen, HV/AC, utilities, insulation, paint, etc., on a double, pie-shaped lot. Asking \$369,000.**
- **378 Meigs St.—A 3 BR, 3 Bath bungalow is for sale by its owner/occupants, Monica and Reign Streiter. Asking \$285,000.**
- ***Rites of Spring on Cobb St.* Paige Otwell recently rescued two baby birds and has kept them thriving. She expects the pair to return to nature late this week. Birdwatchers say Paige was an outstanding surrogate bird mom!**
- ***An official neighborhood flower?* Recent HCF Prexy Milton Leathers has proposed the Lenten rose (aka Helleborus) as the Cobbham flower. Helleborus came to Cobbham, when Landscape Professor Wigginton lived on Franklin Street and planted a shady garden full. Lynn Hill later got neighbor Richard Giardini under their spell and Richard now has ample stock. In fact, he sells them widely through helleborus.com. Wholesale prices for Cobbhamites are \$12 for a mature, flowering plant.**

- **Cobbham casual laborers (& panhandlers)**

A cautionary word from Milton Leathers...

For all we know, Anthony Long is your favorite gardener. But not all neighborhood reports are so sanguine. Most of you are familiar with Mr. Long and his long, sad story of prison and the New Testament and his quick estimates on yard work. This is not an unsympathetic part of town, but the best advice would be: "Send him on his way." (He also has been known to come back after dark asking for more money.) He can be vexing. One choice is to pay him in advance (as he prefers). Then he may never darken your door again. But he will probably be encouraged to make a nuisance of himself at your neighbor's house.

Definition of Family Restrictions in AR and RS Zones (9-15-18)



Family: Two or more persons residing in a single dwelling unit where all members are related by blood, marriage, or adoption up to the second degree of consanguinity, or by foster care. For the purposes of this definition, "consanguinity" means only the following persons are related within the second degree of consanguinity: Husbands and wives, parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces, and first cousins. For the purposes of this definition, a person shall be considered to reside in a dwelling unit if he or she stays overnight in a dwelling unit for more than 30 days within a 90 day period. The term "family" does not include any organization or institutional group.

AR Neighborhood: Properties in any AR (Agricultural Residential) zoning district which are in proximity of ten or more single family dwelling units, not separated by other uses or vacant property.

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any single dwelling unit located in any RS zoning district or any "AR neighborhood" to have more than two unrelated individuals residing therein, whether or not a family also resides therein nor shall any family as defined in Section 9-15-18 have, additionally, more than one unrelated individual residing with such family. When a dwelling is located in any zoning district other than RS or in an "AR Neighborhood," one of the following is permitted:

1. Family related by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care may have two additional unrelated individuals; or
2. Unrelated individuals not exceeding four."

It is unlawful for the owner or authorized rental agent to allow a dwelling to be occupied by more than the permitted number of unrelated individuals.

HELPFUL NUMBERS



ACC Attorney	613-3035
Animal Control	613-3540
Building Inspections & Permits	613-3520
Business Tax & Permits	613-3050
Clerk of Commission	613-3031
Fire Marshal & Permits	613-3360
Health Department	542-8600
Marshal Services	613-3790
Municipal Court & Administrative Hearing Officer	613-3690 ext. 303
Planning	613-3515
Police Administration	613-3330
Public Utilities	613-3470
Public Works Transportation	613-3440
Recycling Center	613-3512
Solid Waste & Leaf/Limb	613-3501

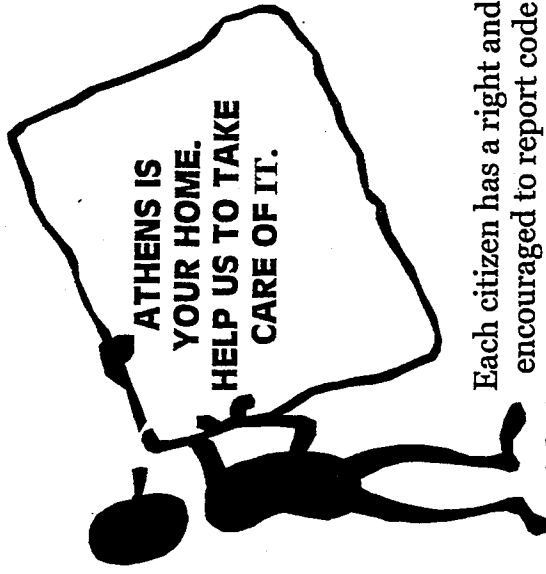
Community Education Project

Developed by
Athens-Clarke County
Building Permits & Inspections,
Marshal Services &
Planning Department

December 2001

Athens-Clarke County

ORDINANCES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



Each citizen has a right and is encouraged to report code violations. Reports may be made by telephone or in person to Marshal Services, and/or the Clerk of Commission.

This brochure contains some brief descriptions of codes that generate the majority of all issues handled by Marshal Services. The code of Athens-Clarke County is available to all citizens through the Clerk of Commission. Please refer to the list of departmental and agency phone numbers on the brochure.

Please take a few minutes and read this brochure. Thank you.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE ORDINANCES?

The following are brief descriptions of ordinances that generate the most questions about the code.

Fires (3-5-7)

It is unlawful to set fire to grass or brush without permission from the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department.

Noise Disturbances (3-5-24)

It is unlawful, at any time of the day, to create loud or unusual noises that are detrimental or annoying to the public.

Registration is required for all outdoor events that have commercial entertainment and/or electronic amplification. Call the Athens-Clarke County Police Services for assistance.

Junk Vehicles (3-9-2)

Junk vehicles may not be parked, stored, or left on private property for more than 30 days or on public property more than three (3) days. A

junk vehicle is any vehicle that does not have a current license plate lawfully displayed, or is not fully operational, or is wrecked, dismantled, abandoned, or discarded.

Bicycles (3-10-01)

Every person riding a bicycle on the roadway shall be granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties of a driver of a vehicle. Some exceptions apply. Please refer to the *Uniform Rules of the Road*, OCGA 40-6-1 to 40-6-395.

Littering (3-12-2)

No person shall throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place.



No person shall throw or deposit litter on any occupied private property whether owned by that person or not. (3-12-18)

Private property should be free of litter at all times. The responsibility to maintain the property is with the owner or the person in control of the property. (3-12-20)

No person shall throw or deposit litter on any vacant or open private property whether owned by that person or not. (3-12-19)

Unsafe structures (3-13-3)

Any building that endangers the life, health, property, or safety of its occupants or the general public, as determined by the building inspector, is illegal and shall be immediately repaired, rehabilitated, or demolished. (3-13-3)

Overgrown Vegetation (3-13-7)

It is unlawful for the owner, occupant, or agent of a lot to permit or maintain any growth of undesirable vegetation as determined by the building inspector. (3-13-7)

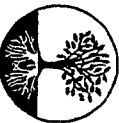
Smoking regulations (4-3-11 to 4-3-13)

Smoking is prohibited in all areas that have public access or are places of employment, except in bars, retail tobacco stores, private meeting rooms, and designated smoking areas that do not have public access. Restaurants and places of employment must designate smoking areas. (4-3-11 to 4-3-13)



Leaf and Limb Pickup (5-2-7)

Up to one 3/4 ton load of leaf and limb material will be removed from residential curbsides per cycle. Individuals or companies under hire must remove all leaf and limb from the property. Leaves, limbs, grass or other trimmings cannot be placed on the curbside for collection more than ten days before the first day of the week scheduled for pick up. (5-2-7)



Business occupation tax (6-1-1)

A business occupation tax certificate is required for each person engaged in business, trade or occupation. The certificate must be displayed. (6-1-1)

Street Sales (6-6-2)

A valid permit for each business and location is required for all street and itinerant sales. (6-6-2)



(6-6-3)

An individual identification badge must be displayed on each person engaging in street and itinerant sales and a valid permit must also be displayed. (6-6-3)

Prohibited Signs (7-4-5)

Temporary signs and banners are prohibited in Athens-Clarke County, unless permitted by the Planning Department. Pennants, streamers, and portable signs with changeable reader boards are included in this section. Please refer to section 7-4-5 for a complete list of prohibited signs. (7-4-5)



It shall be unlawful for any person to direct, order, or instigate the placing of signs in the public right-of-way. The product, person, or place of business advertised shall be responsible for violations. (7-4-8)

Parking (9-30-8)

Parking on a non-prepared surface in a front yard or side yard when adjacent to the public right-of-way in a residential zone is a violation of this ordinance. (9-30-8)



In all residential zones, all off-street parking of automobiles, trucks, trailers and recreational vehicles in the front yard and side yard when adjacent to a public right-of-way shall be limited to a contiguous area which is no more than twenty (25%) percent of the area of the front yard, or a contiguous area twenty-five (25) feet wide and the depth of the front yard, whichever is greater. Such parking area shall be surfaced in an approved material as defined in this section 9-30-8 (E).