



# Mill Grove News

## Special Interest:

- Columbus Day is Oct 14th
- Boss's Day is Oct 16th
- Sweetest Day is Oct 19th
- Halloween Day is Oct 31st
- Daylight Savings ends on Nov 3rd
- Veterans' Day is Nov 11th
- Thanksgiving Day is Nov 28th

## Highlights:

Cheer Fest	2
Georgia State Fair	2
Make-A-Wish	3
Mulching	4
Mulching	5
Fall Festival	5

## Mill Grove Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 2042 • Mableton, Georgia 30126

E-MAIL: [millgrovehoaboard@yahoo.com](mailto:millgrovehoaboard@yahoo.com)

Sept 2013

## From Your HOA Board

Many families have struggled through the financial crisis over the last few years. Homeowners have been particularly hard hit and a number of programs have been implemented to lessen their emotional and financial pain. Every community has been affected and we are no different.

Your 2013 HOA board has worked with a real estate expert and an attorney, over the last several weeks to refine the guidance already provided in our covenants. The strategy was to develop a fair, transparent and repeatable process to help association members document and display financial hardship outlined in Article 7.29.

Our new process and 'Leasing Application' will be finalized in a couple of weeks and eventually become an addendum to our covenants. It is available now in draft form, so please contact any board member for more information.

## PENS Program - Parking

After reviewing the PENS report from last month, which centered around a commonly asked question from our citizens, in that case, Georgia's gun laws, Captain Adcock remarked that some citizens have called him complaining of improperly parked vehicles on their street. So in response to the numerous questions he's fielded regarding Georgia's parking laws, I thought I'd cover the topic in this month's report.

The basic parking procedures are found in state law O.C.G.A 40-6-200. This code section states in part that a vehicle parked upon a two-way roadway, shall be "parked with the right hand wheels parked 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." On a one way roadway, the stopped or parked vehicle must be "parallel to the curb or the edge of the roadway, in the direction of

authorized traffic movement." In other words, facing the direction of travel.

Specific parking prohibitions are under O.C.G.A. 40-6-203. This section states one shall not stop, stand or park a vehicle:

- On a sidewalk
- Within an intersection
- On a crosswalk
- On any railroad tracks
- On any controlled access highways
- On any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel

Furthermore, unless you are momentarily stopping a vehicle to pick up or drop off passenger, you cannot stand or park:

- In front of a public or private driveway
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign or traffic-control sign located at the side of a roadway
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station or on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of such entrance
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing

And, of course, you can't park anywhere official signs prohibit parking!

In addition to our state laws, there are also a few county ordinances pertaining to parking. One such ordinance prohibits folks from parking a vehicle on a roadway for the purpose of washing and/or repairing the vehicle (the latter has an exception for emergency repairs). Another ordinance that many people don't realize is that you cannot park a vehicle on your lawn; all tires must be on a hardened surface such as a driveway and that hardened surface must be flush to the ground. For a full list of our county ordinances, see the website [municode.com](http://municode.com)

## Ultimate Cheer Fest at Cobb Civic Center



The fifth annual Ultimate Cheer Fest will be held Nov. 3 at Cobb Civic Center. This event is the middle school, high school and recreational cheerleading championships.

Registration runs through Oct. 15 and is \$15 per participant. The Ultimate

Cheer Fest is an opportunity for cheerleaders ages 5 and older to compete in cheer and dance. Participants will receive T-shirts and medals as part of their registration fees. Team trophies will also be awarded for each place. The top two teams that are awarded the Grand

Champion title will receive jackets and banners. Spectators are encouraged to support their favorite teams as spirit and sportsmanship awards will be given. For more information, please contact Wendy Collins by calling 770-528-8885 or emailing [Wendy.Collins@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Wendy.Collins@cobbcounty.org).

## The 81st Annual North Georgia State Fair



The 81st Annual Superior Plumbing North Georgia State Fair will take place Thursday, Sept. 19 through Sunday, Sept. 29, at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta. Attracting nearly 300,000 people from throughout metro Atlanta, North Georgia and surrounding states, the Superior Plumbing North Georgia State Fair is the largest fair in metro Atlanta and the second largest in Georgia. Once again, exciting concerts are scheduled for The Georgia Lottery Concert Series. Scheduled entertainers who will perform in the covered arena include: Phillips, Craig and Dean on Friday, Sept. 20 Lauren Alaina on Saturday, Sept. 21 Lee Brice on Wednesday, Sept. 25 Loretta Lynn on Thursday, Sept. 26 Colt Ford on Friday, Sept. 27 Jerrod Niemann on Saturday, Sept. 28 All concerts begin at 8 p.m. and admission is free with your fair admission.

New for 2013 is the Georgia Mountain Lift, the longest lift in Georgia, spanning more than 2,000 feet. Patrons can ride from one end of the fairgrounds to the other as more than 130 cars take you above all the action of the fair and the James H. Drew Carnival Midway. New Live shows that are free with paid admission include Sea Lion Splash!, The Tiger Encounter with Teen Tiger Mom, Felicia Frisco and the Rowdy Rooster Puppet Show. All-time favorite shows and attractions returning again this year include Horses, Horses, Horses!, Brian Ruth "Master of the Chainsaw" and Wit Carson's Petting Zoo. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 for adults, and \$11.00 for a book of 21 ride tickets - nearly 50 percent off. There is a \$1.00 fee for postage and handling. Advance tickets are on sale at [northgeorgiastatefair.com](http://northgeorgiastatefair.com). Regular tickets can be purchased at the gate at \$7.00 for adults, with children 10 and under free.

Ride tickets are \$1.25 each, \$20.00 for 21 tickets, \$50.00 for 55 tickets and 120 tickets for \$100. Parking is \$3.00. Discount tickets are available at all metro-Atlanta Walgreens stores through Sept. 20. Discount tickets are \$3.50 for adult admission and \$11 for 21 ride tickets. Specials during the fair include 'Unlimited Ride Specials' - \$15 pay one price ride special on Monday, Sept. 23; \$18 pay one price ride special on Thursday, Sept. 19 (opening day), Tuesday, Sept. 24 and Wednesday, Sept. 25; \$25 pay one price ride special on Saturdays, Sept. 21 and 28 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (good till close). For more information, visit [northgeorgiastatefair.com](http://northgeorgiastatefair.com) or [facebook.com/thenorthgeorgiastatefair](https://facebook.com/thenorthgeorgiastatefair).

*New contact information to report potholes and other issues  
If you need to report a transportation issue such as potholes or maintenance issues in the right-of-way, please contact the Cobb Department of Transportation Work Order Desk at 770-528-3666.*

*To request sidewalks, please contact Jane Stricklin at the Cobb Department of Transportation at [Jane.Stricklin@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Jane.Stricklin@cobbcounty.org) or 770-420-6664.*



The 13th annual Cobb County 5K to benefit Make-A-Wish Georgia will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, on the Marietta Square. The race helps grant wishes for local children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength and joy. All net proceeds go to Make-A-Wish Georgia. Since 2001, more than \$376,000 has been raised, helping grant the wishes of 65

local children.

Registration is open now and fees until Sept. 27 are \$20 for an untimed walk/run and \$25 for a timed run. Fees after Sept. 27 are \$25 for an untimed walk/run and \$35 for a timed run. Teams of 10 or more are \$15 untimed and \$20 timed. Children six to 10 years old are \$10 and children five and younger are free.

Those who would like to

support the race, but may not be able to attend can be Phantom Runners for \$20. Registered participants will receive commemorative long sleeve T-shirts. The T-shirt design is picked from among elementary school students who were asked to draw a picture that represents the Make-A-Wish 5K. For more information, or to register online, visit [cobbmakeawish5k.org](http://cobbmakeawish5k.org).



## Fall mulching guide for Atlanta homeowners

By Angela Tague

When summer winds down and the evenings get cooler, yard work should move to a top spot on your to-do list. Mulching your flower beds, patios and landscaped areas in the fall keeps the soil warm during winter months. Mulch protects plant roots from freezing or being pushed to the surface as the soil expands during the cooler weather. Adding a fresh layer of mulch in the fall means you'll have healthier plants when spring rolls around.

### When to apply mulch

Plan to spend a day laying down mulch in October or November, or just before the weatherman calls for the first freeze. The ground should be cool but not frozen. Start by covering the ground with weed barrier paper, newspaper or landscape cloth. Use ground staples

to secure the barrier to the soil.

Then, add a 2- to 3-inch deep layer of mulch to your landscaped areas. Using too little doesn't provide enough insulation from cool weather. Using too much mulch makes it difficult for moisture to penetrate the barrier and nourish plants.

### Choosing your mulch

There are two categories of mulch: natural, organic mulch and manmade, inorganic mulch. Within each category, there are several options to choose from. Choose a mulch that coordinates with other landscaping features in your Atlanta yard. For example, if you have a backyard patio with a pea gravel substrate, consider using earthy wood or rock mulch.

### Organic mulch

Grass clippings: When mowing your lawn, save

the grass clippings. These can be used to mulch around plants in a garden or in small landscaped areas. When first applied, this mulch has a lush, green appearance. After a week or so, the color will fade to a tan-gray color. For the best presentation, replace grass clippings each time you mow.

**Bark chips:** Head to the home improvement store for bags of bark chips, also called bark nuggets. These smooth-edged, large pieces of wood mulch are great for covering large landscaped areas. The smooth texture makes them a safe option to use around children's play areas and in yards with pets.

**Shredded wood:** For a more rustic appeal, use shredded wood as mulch. Although this is one of the most inexpensive mulch options, it does come with a few hazards, such as splinters when walked on



### Reminder:

*Overnight, on-street parking is not permitted within the community, except as approved by the Board in writing.*

## Fall mulching guide for Atlanta homeowners – *cont.*



with bare feet. Also the color of the mulch fades gradually. Plan to rake shredded wood mulch once a month so it discolors evenly.

**Nut shells:** Get into the recycling movement by choosing shredded walnut or pecan shells. The dark brown mulch is great at retaining moisture and is inexpensive in the south where pecans are harvested.

**Pine needles:** For a woody appeal, use pine needles as mulch. This ground cover looks natural when placed around the bases of evergreen trees. The small, slender size of pine needles makes them stay put better than larger mulch options. Use pine needle mulch on slopes and around acid-loving shrubs.

**Rocks:** For a long-lasting, natural mulch, consider rock. Larger lava rock with a red tint coordinates well with brick homes, while gray pea gravel looks classic near homes with a white exterior. Rock comes in a variety of sizes and colors to coordinate with nearly any landscaping style.

### Inorganic mulch

**Recycled rubber:** Have you ever wondered what happens to recycled tires? Some of them are ground into small, irregular-sized bits and sold as mulch. The spongy ground cover is soft enough for children to play on and lasts for years--unlike organic options that will decompose over time.

**Recycled glass:** If you have a small area to mulch, consider using recycled glass. The smooth pebbles come in a variety of colors that glisten like jewels, making them the perfect artistic accent to a garden or decorative planter.

**Recycled plastic:** Like

recycled rubber, plastic mulch is a byproduct of waste. This type of mulch is long-lasting and won't degrade over time. Although plastic mulch is available in various colors, choose light hues such as white or cream to deflect sunlight. If the mulch will be used exclusively in the shade, black may be used. Black recycled plastic mulch will fade if exposed to the sun.

### Where to use mulch

Although mulching adds a finished look to your landscaped areas, it's functional, too. If you're planting new shrubs or small trees at the end of summer, use mulch to give new plantings a good start. The ground cover protects new roots from the first frost and keeps moisture in place as the plant's root ball slowly crumbles and mixes with the soil.

So, are you ready to get your lawn ready for the fall? Give an Atlanta-area landscaping company a call to get recommendations and a price quote.



*Now is a good time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.*



## Fall Family Potluck and Trick or Treat

The annual Mill Grove Fall Family Festival is scheduled for Saturday, **October 26th at 6:00pm** in the Mill Grove Lane cul-de-sac. Please join your neighbors for a Pumpkin Carving and pot-luck supper. At dusk, the kids trick-or-treating as a group on MG Lane and Way. If you're planning to attend, please let us know what food items you plan to bring so we can make sure we have enough for everyone.

To RSVP, or if you have questions, please contact Nancy Walker [dogemail@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogemail@bellsouth.net) or 770-434-7646