

Afton Downs Community News



June 2007

A publication for the homeowners and renters of the
Afton Downs subdivision

Contact the Board

President
Sean Tintle

Vice President
Allison Hill

Secretary
Sandra Kuchno

Treasurer
Faye First

If you have a suggestion
for the board, send an
e-mail to
aftondowns@gmail.com.

Atlanta Botanical Garden

1345 Piedmont Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Sunday
9am - 7 am, April - October
Closed Mondays

Admission

\$12 adult
\$9 senior 65+
\$9 children ages 3-18
children under 3 free

atlantabotanicalgarden.org
404-876-5859

Community Yard Sale

We will be having a Community Yard Sale the weekend of June 8th and 9th, (rain date June 16th and 17th). Your trash can be someone else's treasure. Contact Marita Lambert at 404-219-8324 for more information.

Yard of the Month

June 2007 Yard Of The Month is awarded to 2001 Oakley Trace. This is the second property in Afton Downs that Micah Green, a renter, has re-landscaped. He keeps the house well maintained, and the yard always looks updated and well kept. Drive by and look at the wonderful flowers and shade loving plants. Our thanks to Micah for all his hard work.

Remember: To receive the \$25.00 gift card for Y-O-T-M you must be a 'dues paid' member of the HOA for 2007.



Smyrna Proposal: Read and Act

According to Mr. Alan Durham, a financial executive with the City of Smyrna responsible for the re-development of the Belmont Hills Shopping Center at Atlanta Rd. and Windy Hill Rd., the City is in favor of the proposed plan to tear down the old buildings and construct a multi-purpose retail/residential community. The current value of the property is \$16,000,000.00 and will be valued at \$251,000,000.00 when the project is completed. T.A.D. dollars (basically tax assisted development) would be allocated for improvement of area water, sewers, roads, sidewalks, parking, etc. The revenue generated for the City of Smyrna from \$251,000,000.00 would soon cover the T.A.D. dollars spent and continue to bring in revenue in the future. The end result would reduce our tax mileage rate thereby lowering our taxes as well as continue to improve the appearance of Smyrna and provide a variety of services according to Mr. Durham. The Smyrna Counsel will meet on June 12th to vote on whether to approve the commitment of T.A.D. You may have received information in the mail about this effort. If you agree with this allocation of T.A.D. then we encourage you to sign and mail the tear out card immediately. Also, you can email Commissioner Joe Thompson at jthompson@cobbcounty.org or call 770/528-3316 to let him know this is important to you as a Smyrna resident. To reach Mr. Durham for more information call 678/631-5352.

Gone with the Wind

There was a land of Cavaliers and Cotton Fields called the Old South... Here in this pretty world Gallantry took its last bow... Here was the last ever to be seen of Knights and their Ladies Fair, of Master and of Slave... Look for it only in books, for it is no more than a dream remembered. A Civilization gone with the wind...

Margaret Mitchell House & Museum

Discover the story behind Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Price-winning novel that inspired the world's most beloved movie.

990 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30309

Hours of Operation

9:30am - 5pm
Museum gift shop open daily 10am - 6pm

Admissions

\$12 for adults
\$9 for seniors & students
\$5 children (6-12)
Free for children under 6

www.gwtw.org
404-249-7015

Property Improvements

The condition of your house and yard is impacting property values in Afton Downs either positively or negatively. While many owners/renters have made significant improvements, others have not yet begun. Please consider the whole neighborhood and take action, especially with landscape maintenance and updating. Keep furniture out of your front yards, hide recycle bins from view, mow, lower shrubs, toys/sporting equipment including trikes and bikes must be out of sight when not currently being used. Motorcycles must be parked in garages or out of sight. Our Restrictive Covenants require that you contact the ACC 770/434-2389 or 770/431-9975 for approval when making any exterior changes to your house including color. Back yards must be maintained also. The City Marshal will enforce Smyrna Codes.

Noise Ordinance Reminder

Please watch your noise levels with blaring radios, late night parties, barking dogs, etc. Remember that Smyrna has a noise ordinance that is enforceable by law whether you are inside or out. Thank you for your cooperation!

Doggie Duty!

Please be neighbor friendly, and pick up after your dog. There is nothing worse than finding dog surprises in your front yard. If your dog is drawn to someone's flower bed, please pull them away! All property in Afton Downs is privately owned, even the large corner lots. Remember, even if you think no one is looking, they usually are.

Homeowners Association Dues

Pay your 2007 Homeowner Association dues to HOA for \$25.00 (one time per year) by mailing your check to Faye First at 5028 Bell Dr., Smyrna, GA 30080. The fee for our island maintenance is \$100 monthly. Your contributions help pay for this landscaping that adds value to our neighborhood and makes Afton Downs a better place to call home!

Mailboxes

Several homeowners have replaced their mailboxes recently. This is a great and inexpensive way to improve the curb appeal to your home. Please remember that the Afton Downs covenants state that all mailboxes must be on wooden (non-painted) posts with black mailboxes. Take this time to take a look at your mailbox to see if it is rusted, missing the door, or falling off the post, and replace it with a new black mailbox.

Parking

We would like to remind all owners and renters that there are NO common areas in Afton Downs. Parking in a neighbors' parking space, whether inhabited or vacant, is trespassing. Please request that all guests park legally on the side of the road without impeding traffic.

*Titanic:
The Artifact
Exhibition*

It takes you on a journey back in time to experience the legend of *Titanic* like never before. The galleries in this fascinating exhibition feature over 300 real artifacts recovered from the ocean floor along with room re-creations and personal stories; each highlighting a different chapter in the compelling story of *Titanic's* maiden voyage.

Atlanta Civic Center
395 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30308

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday
9am - 7pm
Friday - Sunday
9am - 9pm

Tickets

Adult: \$20
Seniors (65+): \$18
Child (12 & Under): \$16

TitanicTix.com
866-640-0303

*Fact:
The ship was still so
brand new when
passengers boarded it on
April 10, 1912 that the
paint was still wet
in some spots.*

June Garden Tips

- * Plant Hydrangeas and Crape Myrtles now. They are blooming, so it is easy to see what color you are planting!
- * Water your lawn in the early morning. Turf will have time to dry off before night, preventing disease.
- * Fertilize your Bermuda lawn.
- * Set out rooted Chrysanthemum cuttings and begin pinching back new growth to encourage the production of more stems. Continue to pinch back through the month of July. The more stems -- the more flowers later in the fall. Continue feeding schedule until buds begin to show color in the fall.
- * June is a good time to take cuttings for rooting of deciduous and broadleaf evergreen shrubs. Use air-layering method on hard to root plants.
- * Continue planting Gladioli bulbs each week, through mid June, if you want a succession of blooms.
- * Plants Herbs in a sunny spot close to your kitchen door. Basil, Oregano, Thyme and Rosemary are easy to grow and great for cooking!
- * Fertilize flower beds.
- * Mid June is your last chance to plant bulbs such as: Dahlias, Tuberoses, Tigridias and Cannas.
- * In the vegetable garden pull spent plants, re-till the soil and plant your second crops. Water well as needed.
- * If the soil is excessively wet or dry, do not fertilize.
- * Prune arborvitaes, junipers, yews and hemlocks.
- * June is your last chance to fertilize Camellias and other broadleaf evergreens.
- * Clean up spent foliage of spring bulbs once the foliage has completely died back.
- * Cut back bearded iris and divide. Keep Japanese iris watered.
- * Weeds can be a problem now. Be vigilant! Don't allow them to go to seed! Keep them pulled!
- * Watch for harmful insects and disease problems. If insect pests or diseases are a major problem in a flower bed or the vegetable garden, plan a different crop in that particular area next year.
- * During dry weather, be sure to keep the garden adequately watered. A weekly deep, thorough soaking is more beneficial than a daily light sprinkling. Don't forget to comply with local watering restrictions, if applicable.

New Neighbors

If you are a newcomer to the neighborhood and have not yet received a welcome package, please contact Chris Reynolds at 770-437-1429.

Annual Homeowners Association Meeting

The annual Homeowners Association meeting will be held in July. Please be thinking about how you can get involved to make your neighborhood a better place. We will send out a notice to mark your calendar once the date is finalized!