



Photo Courtesy Joshua Spruiel – Mayor's Office of Communications

Mayor's Golf Cup Raises Funds for Atlanta Youth Scholarship

The 24th Annual Mayor's Golf Cup was held August 31 at City of Atlanta's Browns Mill Golf Course. Over 100 golfers participated. The fundraiser benefits [The Mayor's Youth Scholarship Program \(MYSP\)](#), providing financial relief to students in achieving their goal of attaining higher learning. "Financial barriers should not stand between students continuing their education," said Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens.

Financial issues account for over 70 percent of perceived stress for college students. In addition to today's national crisis related to cost-of-living expenses, many students find themselves accepting long-term financial loans to pay for college.

According to federal data, today's [four-year universities charge an average of nearly \\$17,000 a year in tuition and mandatory fees](#), more than double the inflation-adjusted average 30 years ago.

"A quality college education is one of the biggest expenses most families will incur, and the Mayor's Youth Scholarship

Program is our way of standing in the gap for these bright young minds who need some financial support getting through college," Mayor Dickens explained.

This year's Annual Mayor's Golf Cup raised more than \$137,000 with nearly \$95,000 going toward youth scholarships. During the 2022 – 2023 academic year, the [Mayor's Youth Scholarship Program](#) has provided 88 Atlanta students with nearly \$500,000 in scholarship assistance.

"We were fortunate to be able to host the 2022 Atlanta Mayor's Cup benefitting the Mayor's Youth Scholarship Program," said Jeffrey King, General Manager of Golf Services. "This program provides opportunities to many young people in Atlanta to be able to continue their education after high school. We are excited the Mayor [Dickens] is having his event at one of our properties again next year."

For more information on MYSP and resources for scholars, [please visit MySPATL.](#)

24th Annual Mayor's Golf Cup





A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The leaves are already falling and our parks and nature preserves offer great spaces for respite. Fall is an incredible time to unwind from the hustle and bustle of work, school and even technology to simply enjoy connecting with others and nature.

We invite you to join us for “Popsicles in the Park,” at Chastain Park Thursday, October 13 at 5 p.m. This monthly event is hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in collaboration with the Atlanta Police Department and provides an opportunity for one-to-one interaction with park and police staff. We want to meet you, so come out and enjoy!

DPR also offers eight off-leash dog parks for your fur babies to meet new friends! As a reminder and for the safety of others, please keep your pets on leash in non-designated areas. Fines could apply. [CLICK HERE for a list of off-leash dog parks and rules.](#) Follow us on all social media platforms for the latest news and updates.



REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Plans to activate Atlanta’s first park with direct access to the Chattahoochee River are on the horizon! City officials along with partners and the community gathered to officially celebrate the City’s \$27M acquisition of the former 75-acre Chattahoochee Brick Company, September 24. The purchase was made possible through a partnership with The Conservation Fund supported by The Kendeda Fund.

The event began with the sonic procession of African drummers! Donna Stephens, President of the Chattahoochee Brick Company Descendants Coalition led remarks followed by a libations’ ceremony honoring ancestors who toiled at the

former work site. The factory, previously owned and operated by former Atlanta Mayor James English used convict labor, primarily African American men, to manufacture bricks used to construct city buildings and streets. A memorial honoring the victims is planned when construction of the new parkland begins.

Mayor Andre Dickens, Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Justin Cutler and Councilmember Dustin Hillis provided remarks and inspired hope for the future. A collaborative effort, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Watershed Management and the Department of City Planning will play an integral role in moving the project forward. Stay connected as the vision unfolds.

Get in the Groove with Atlanta's Prime Time Seniors



The Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a special open house for the Prime Time seniors of Atlanta. Over 200 seniors enjoyed a morning filled with warm welcomes, hugs, and laughter as programming returned for the 2022-2023 season.

One senior stood out: Ms. Gladys H. Jackson. The 94-year-old Prime Time member was full of life and energy as she participated in the first morning activity: aerobics. During the morning celebration, [Ms. Jackson was joined by Atlanta City Council President Doug Shipman during the Electric Slide](#), a popular line dance loved by many!

Senior Open House featured a preview of activities coming this fall along with FREE preventative care treatments from Our Community Healthcare System (OCHS). Members of the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services were also present to share a wide array of senior services offered. [Onsite, at least 80 seniors signed up for programming.](#)

Click the links in this article to enjoy more!

Upcoming Events



Dolphins Swim Team

Registration: Ongoing

Season: Underway

Ages: 6-18

Register: Onsite at C.T. Martin Natatorium or online www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs

Prime Time Senior Program

Registration: Ongoing

Season: Underway

Register: www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs

Afterschool Program and

Atlanta Teen Leaders Academy

Registration: Ongoing

Schedule: M-F, 2:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Ages: 5-12 & 13-18

Register: Recreation Centers or online www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs

Girls' Volleyball

Registration: Ongoing

Season Begins: October 6

Youth Ages: 10-14

Register: www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs

Southwest Atlanta Brings Home Second Championship Title



THE MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL SEASON TWO CHAMPIONSHIP game was indeed a battle of the South vs. West. The energy throughout C.T. Martin Natatorium and Recreation Center was intense as Atlanta community leaders and neighbors cheered on the Rosel Fann Raiders and C.T. Martin ATL teams.

The evening opened with music by DJ Dre and free community resources including haircuts and manicures provided by Atlanta Technical College students. In what we at Midnight Basketball call, "Da Shop," this service gives barbers and beauticians the opportunity to engage with youth and parents.

Community members also received free health screenings from Grady Health System and select families were provided free sneakers and school supplies thanks to the organization, Can I Kick It and various donations collected citywide. The collaboration was a tremendous community giving effort designed to assist youth returning to school.

In the gymnasium, it was the ultimate championship battle! The returning champs, C.T. Martin ATL, representing the West Division, put up a great all-star game against the South Division Rosel Fann Raiders. The night opened with a [surprise walk-through with Stacey Abrams and United States Senator Raphael Warnock](#). From the unbelievable three-point shots to slam dunks, both teams showed their skills. In fact some players displayed professional-level skills on par with players in the National Basketball Association.

In the end, C.T. Martin ATL took home the trophy with a 68 to 67 win.





Photo Credit: Mayor's Office of Communication

Ceremonial Ribbon Tying Honors Hispanic Heritage Month

The Friends of Sara J. González Park celebrated the installation of a youth soccer field, September 23, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from Park Pride. It is Georgia's first park to be named after a LatinX individual. Founded on the principles of diversity, community, unity, and family, the friends' group is meeting community needs through various efforts including bi-weekly food distribution in partnership with Welcoming Atlanta. Isabel González Whitaker is the park's founder, named in

her mother's honor. "She committed herself tirelessly to uplifting the Latino community in Atlanta and across the Southeast," Isabel shared. "She taught me that diversity and inclusion make communities stronger.... My mother also valued parks, nature, and greenspace as places that inherently don't discriminate, safe places where communities from all walks can convene and connect especially through the lens of inclusion and celebration of diversity."

Atlanta Leader Receives National Recognition



Melody Harclerode

Blue Heron Nature Preserve Executive Director Melody Harclerode, FAIA is featured in the SAY IT LOUD exhibition at the Octagon Museum portion of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) national headquarters in Washington, DC. The 94,000-member organization represents licensed architects and design professionals across the United States and world. In the 165-year history of the American Institute of Architects, 2820 architects have been elevated as Fellows for their exceptional contributions.

The SAY IT LOUD exhibition highlights Melody and the 140 African-American Fellows, 22 of which are women, who have received the AIA's highest membership recognition for licensed architects as of 2021. An award-winning architect, author, and Atlanta INtown columnist since 2011, Melody was recognized as a Fellow for the local and national impact of her design advocacy initiatives, K-12 design education work, writings, and Institute and civic leadership.



Dr. Martin Cipollini and Jasen Johns

a fiery lecture on forest restoration

The Department of Parks and Recreation manages forests on 4,212 acres of parkland across the City of Atlanta. To educate both volunteers and professionals in best forestry management practices, DPR partners with Trees Atlanta in engaging nationally renowned experts such as Dr. Martin L. Cipollini, who has run forest restoration projects since 1995 at neighboring Berry College in Rome, Georgia. With over 27,000 acres of wilderness preserve open to all for recreation, Berry is the largest college campus in the world! Dr. Cipollini gave a free presentation recently at Trees Atlanta's Kendeda Center. He described the ecology of the old growth montane Longleaf pine forests under his care, in addition to his use of controlled burns in restoring those forests.

Thanks to Arboricultural Manager Jasen Johns for contributing this article.

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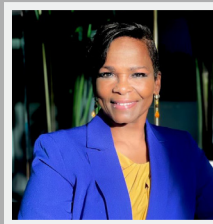
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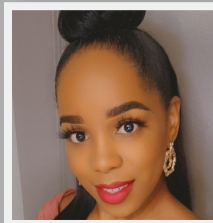
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