



Deer Tracks

Deerbrook Home Owners Association Newsletter

Feb 2011

Mark your calendar!

The **Annual General Membership Meeting** will take place **Monday May 9th at 7 p.m.** at 1384 Rustlewood Ct. The annual budget and election of officers will be on the agenda. Now's a great time to get involved with DHOA!

The **DHOA Spring Yard Sale** is set for **Saturday April 30th** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Buying or selling, it's always fun.

Snowstorm kept most people home:

Last month's icy roads stranded cars and frustrated many people trying to drive. Some people wondered if we might be able to prevent being stuck like this in the future. Of course, Deerbrook is not a major street, so DOT does not have it listed as a road to be plowed. We believe we can clear the hills ourselves. Anyone who is interested in helping to clear snow from the streets (*before* it turns to ice) or willing to store bags of salt and road sand, and clean up sand after, please contact any Board member or email us at mail_AT_deerbrookhoa.org.

Lost dogs

This neighborhood has *many* dogs., and despite our best efforts, they sometimes get out and wander off. A gate or door is broken or left open; or a dogsitter, repairman, child, or visitor accidentally sets the dog free.

Your dog should always wear a collar with at least 2 active phone numbers at all times. Most times, your neighbors will be the first to see your dog, so you want to make it easy for them to find you. Microchips can be invaluable if your dog's collar gets removed or lost.

Get help early. Start your search as soon as you realize the dog is missing. Ask friends and family to help. Check under beds, utility rooms, closets, garages, pools, sheds, and other places a dog may hide in your house or nearby.

Dogs who get out often wander within a 1-2 mile radius, but bigger dogs, hunters, runners, and wary dogs can go 10 miles or more. Go door to door asking neighbors, delivery people, & children – and show photos.

Make signs. If you have a dog, there are things you may want to keep on hand – you never know when you'll need them:

1. Neon orange poster board
2. Clear plastic sheet protectors
3. Indelible black marker
4. 5 or more good **pictures** of the dog, before and after grooming.

Use the orange poster board and indelible marker to make signs at least 8½ x 11 inches in size, and include:

- "Lost dog" in very large letters across the top
- Dog breed, weight, color, and distinctive markings
- Your phone number and/or email address
- Photo of dog (beneath sign)

Use few words and very large print so it can be read from a passing car. If you offer a reward, don't post an amount. Plan to use an unreported detail about the dog to ask about before you arrange to meet anyone who calls to say they have your dog.

Print and copy 8 x 10" photos which will fit into the 8½ x 11" sheet protectors. These can hang underneath your signs.

Put up signs at stop signs in the neighborhood and at busy intersections and at least one neighborhood over in any direction your dog might run. Remember the dog may head through back yards and woods. Try to think like your dog as you search.

Make lost dog notices for local vets too – these are different from street signs, with more detail, such as where and when the dog went missing.

You can also post this notice and a photo online for free at <http://ajcexchange.com/>.

Follow up: Don't forget to check the paper and other sites every day for "found dog" ads. You and others should look for "found dog" signs when driving.

You will also need to go to the Gwinnett shelter to see if they have your pet. The shelter is at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville, and is open only 4 to 5-1/2 hours a day, closed on Mondays. To reclaim your lost pet, bring identification and proof of ownership, such as vet records.

Thefts are harder to resolve. If you are concerned about possible theft, make a police report. Microchips can help provide proof of ownership and are cheaper than you may think.

Other ideas for dog searches include going on the web to look for lost & found dog sites. More search tips and ideas can be found at: www.homeagain.com and www.petdetectivetraining.com

Deerbrook Neighborhood Info

<http://www.cityofilburn.com/>
<http://www.gwinnettcounty.com/>

Your Gwinnett Commissioner

You can visit our commissioner's web site and subscribe to his free newsletter at: www.mikebeaudreau.com

Upcoming newsletter special:
 Lost cats!

Newsletter Announcements:

Email Patricia Yeargin yeargin2000 AT yahoo.com
 or call 770.923.2823.