



Deer Tracks

Deerbrook Home Owners Association Newsletter

March, 2010

DHOA Spring Report 2010: The new DHOA Member Directories were distributed to all who paid their dues at the luminary pickup in December. Dues can still be paid anytime by dropping a check for \$60 at 4015 Windhurst Ct. in the mailbox. A Directory will be delivered once your dues are paid. So far this year we have collected dues from 33 of 95 residences. To have a quorum at the May General Meeting (date & time TBD) 8 of the 33 paid members will need to be present in order to make any changes to the Homeowners Association. Of the 8 members present 2/3rds or 5 of the 8 present will need to vote in favor of any proposed change in by-laws. This is important as the current Board in general would like to **REDUCE** the dues to \$40 a year. We hope that lower dues will increase member participation.

Those who want to weigh in on the discussion in May must be paid members to vote. Please pay your dues and come see us in May at the general meeting and help us decide the direction of your Deerbrook HOA!! Dues will be accepted at the May meeting, and we will also have new Directories available for members.

The Treasury maintains the electric bills for the street lamps with Walton EMC; pays Whaley Landscaping \$195 a month for basic services for the front entrance upkeep. Mowing, trimming bushes and pickup of trash. It is also used to fund the Oktoberfest Party in the Fall each year, printing newsletters welcome packets and other expenses of the HOA.

From the Gwinnett Gazette on Jan 5th:

(Mr. Mike Beaudreau is our Dist.3 Commissioner)

By a vote of 4-1, the Gwinnett County Commission has adopted a revised budget that is \$6.3 million higher than the one published in December. During the discussion prior to the vote, Chairman Charles Bannister criticized, indirectly, this publication and the dozens of Gwinnett residents who contacted the Commission this morning to express their displeasure.

District 3's Commissioner Mike Beaudreau was the lone vote against the revised budget. Beaudreau questioned whether it was ethical or proper for Bannister to unilaterally change the budget after the public hearings held in December. County Attorney Karen Thomas argued that state law gave the Commission "flexibility" to adopt a budget that was different from what had been presented to the citizens.

Beaudreau also questioned Bannister's decision to postpone the next phase of development of the Harbins Park in the new Archer school cluster. Bannister's budget shifted the \$1.2 million to a park near his home town, Lilburn. Beaudreau made a motion to restore funding for the Archer park, but his motion died when no other Commissioner would second it.

Recall Effort Proceeding:

The effort to recall Chairman Charles Bannister is proceeding and expected to pick up steam in the first quarter of this year. Several citizen groups have allied with Randy DeVault, the Dacula resident who filed the initial recall applications. A web site to provide updates on the effort will be published at <http://www.gwinnettrecall.com>

Arcado & Killian Hill rezoning update:

The attorneys for Match Properties (representing CVS) informed the Lilburn City attorney in early Feb. they no longer intended to pursue the suit they filed against the City of Lilburn concerning the denial of Match Property's rezoning request. The city has received the paperwork from the court confirming that the case has been dropped. There is a sense among the community organizers and local property owners that development of this corner will be revisited when the economy turns around. The feeling is that CVS is not pursuing this suit for financial reasons not legal reasons. This corner will be developed at some time in the near future. Organizers are suggesting that those who live near this property make the effort to communicate with the property owners about what you intend to oppose and what you would like to encourage. This is a prime corner that will be developed once economic activity picks up. While high traffic commercial use is both unacceptable and preventable, there are limits to what the city can or should attempt to prevent. Communicating with the property owners now may save us all a lot of trouble in the future.

Gwinnett County Happenings:

Find out all about Gwinnett County at <http://www.gwinnettcounty.com>

County Commissioners approve millage rate increase: The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2009 millage rate and approved a resolution to levy taxes during a special called meeting on December 1, 2009. The new millage rate of 13.25 mills is an increase of 2.28 mills over the 2008 property tax rate. Additional tax bills are being mailed to homeowners this month.

Gwinnett adopts 2010 budget plan:

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2010 budget on January 5, 2010. The budget details total appropriations of \$1.33 billion, down considerably from the 2009 budget of \$1.71 billion. Included within the budget is \$974.6 million for operating expenses and \$355.3 million for capital expenditures.

Stimulus funds have big impact in Gwinnett! Federal stimulus money provided more than \$120 million in 2009 for Gwinnett County projects.

Major projects include the McGinnis Ferry Road extension, the State Route 324 bridge over I-85, traffic management systems on Buford Highway and Sugarloaf Parkway, a senior services center, the No Business Creek Tunnel, a methane gas-to-energy generator, and a grease receiving facility. See the links below for press releases with more detail on these and other projects.

The Census is coming!

This March, every housing unit in Gwinnett County will receive a census questionnaire from the US Census Bureau. Completing the form will be quick and easy with 10 simple questions and all answers are protected by law. Responding to the questionnaire is important. Our response rate will help determine if Georgia gains another seat in the US House of Representatives as well as our portion of an estimated \$400 billion in federal funding distributed to communities each year. So be sure to complete and mail back your questionnaire.

Commissioners adopt new solid waste ordinance:

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners adopted a new solid waste ordinance for unincorporated Gwinnett County during the board's business session on March 2, 2010. Service will begin on July 1, 2010, giving residents and haulers time to transition to the new system. The new ordinance, which does not affect city residents, will provide a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally-conscious solid waste management system and also will allow Gwinnett County to fulfill its requirements under state law. All homeowners will have access to services for the collection and disposal of household garbage, expanded recycling, white goods (household appliances), bulky wastes (mattresses, furniture, etc.), and yard trimmings.

The new ordinance sets five service districts and authorizes the County to enter into one or more service agreements with a private company or companies to provide residential garbage service with no more

than one service provider within each district. Fees for residential waste services will be made payable to Gwinnett County and will be billed as a residential solid waste fee on the same bill as county taxes. Approval of a new ordinance is the first required step in the process of implementing a new solid waste management plan. Details of the service areas, costs, and collection logistics will be made available as soon as they are finalized.

Gwinnett County's Solid Waste Information Center – 770.822.7141 – is open for callers Monday through Friday between 7:00am and 7:00pm.

City of Lilburn Happenings: (info below is taken from the City of Lilburn website at <http://www.cityoflilburn.com/>)

City Council Meeting Schedule: Monday April 12th at 7:30pm.

Location: Auditorium in City Hall at 76 Main Street.

Monday May 10th at 7:30pm.

Location: Auditorium in City Hall at 76 Main Street.

Monday June 14th at 7:30pm.

Location: Auditorium in City Hall at 76 Main Street.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday April 21st at 7:30pm.

Location: First Avenue Annex
98 First Avenue

Wednesday May 19th at 7:30pm.

Location: First Avenue Annex
98 First Avenue

Wednesday June 16th at 7:30pm.

Location: First Avenue Annex
98 First Avenue

Relay Rally!

Friday April 20th at 5pm- 10pm

Location: City Park 76 Main Street.

Lilburn's **Relay Rally** is modeled after the world renowned Relay For Life of Gwinnett and is a community event in its truest sense. Teams of 5-10 people come together for the afternoon-evening to show support for those who battle this disease 24 hours a day. The high point of the evening is the luminary ceremony walk in honor of those fighting cancer and in memory of those who have passed. The closing celebration recognizes those teams who have excelled in their fundraising efforts. Teams are forming now through the Lilburn Relay Rally Web site: www.lilburnrelayrally.org. See page below for easy instructions on how to get registered.

Lilburn Occupational Tax-Forms Now

Online: Our businesses were foremost in our minds when we decided to make the process easier by putting all formwork necessary for obtaining a "business license" online. To speak with someone about obtaining or renewing a business license, please contact Victoria Dufresne at 770-279-3710.

Centennial Heritage Celebration!!

Saturday May 15th – all day? (TBD)
City Park on 76 Main Street.

Crime Watch: Please keep the Board posted about any criminal activity after you call the police. With your permission, your story can be shared to help others keep current with what's happening. At Deerbrook we are fortunate to live in a very low crime neighborhood. Report information for Crime Watch or the Newsletter to mail AT deerbrookhoa.org

Newsletter Announcements: If you have an announcement, event, or feedback that you want in Deer Tracks, call DHOA Secretary Tom Heinze 770-923-2823.