



Deer Tracks

Deerbrook Homeowners Association Newsletter
April 2014

DHOA e-mail
mail@deerbrookhoa.org

Website
deerbrookhoa.org

Facebook Page
Deerbrook Homeowner's Association, Inc.
<https://www.facebook.com/DeerbrookLilburn>

Gwinnett County and nearby municipalities
gwinnettcounty.com/cityoflilburn.com/
<http://www.snellville.org/>

Our District 2 Gwinnett County Commissioner
Contact Commissioner Howard at 770-822-7002 or
Lynette.Howard@gwinnettcounty.com

Newsletter Announcements
If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email Claire Gloeckner.

DHOA General Meeting: Monday, May 12

The first general membership meeting is **Monday, May 12 at 7 pm** at the Dyers' house

This is the time of year we plan the upcoming year's activities and elect officers, so it's important to come out and vote – or if you feel brave, even run for office! Please, come and share your opinions, ideas, and enthusiasm for keeping our neighborhood great.

If you can't attend this meeting, please give your signed proxy to a neighbor so that we can complete business (we need 20% of DHOA membership represented). **Proxy ballots will be in your mailbox around 10 days** before the meeting.

Only members can vote at the meeting. If you did not have a chance to provide your \$60 membership dues, please send them to our Treasurer, Roger Hagen.

Community-wide Yard Sale on Saturday, April 26

On **Saturday, April 26** we'll have a **community-wide yard sale**, 9 am to 2 pm. It's spring cleaning – time to pass on things you don't use so that others can enjoy them. This year we'll have wider advertising, so expect to see more customers!

Graduation Signs for OUR Front Entry

Proud parents of high school graduates often buy a sign to display at our Deerbrook front entrance. If you would like to collaborate with other parents of Graduates, please visit our Facebook page.

SSSSnakes of Gwinnett County ...by Patricia Yeargin

If you've been reading the news, you'll know it seems that "good snakes"—the ones that eat bugs, rats, and vermin, are disappearing from our area, while the venomous copperheads are growing in number. Most species here have been non-venomous, like garter snakes, rat snakes, king snakes, and earth snakes (these look like big earthworms). However, a few copperheads have been spotted, especially near the Yellow River.

Know your local snakes. In Georgia, venomous snakes include copperheads, rattlesnakes, and coral snakes, but only copperheads have been found near here. That's the one you want to have a mental picture of as you ramble through

the woods and tall grasses. Here's an excellent website with pictures of non-venomous and venomous snakes:

<http://timberrattlesnake89.tripod.com/ganovenomous.html>

Which snakes should you kill? Many people are fearful of snakes and feel like the only good snake is a dead one. But snakes are protected in Georgia – it's against the law to kill non-venomous snakes, with fines up to \$1,000 at last check. If you see a copperhead, you can legally bring out the long-handled hoe and behead it. Leave the other kinds of snakes alone, though, and they'll slither off, help keep down the rodent count, and maybe displace a few copperheads.

(Continued on Page 2 Snake)

Deerbrook Homeowners Association

Officers 2013-2014

President

Patricia Yeargin

Vice President

James Jacobson

Treasurer

Roger Hagen

Secretary

Claire Gloeckner

Board Members

Geoff Abraham

Randy Brown

Brenda Brown

What about That Snake? (continued from page 1)

Avoiding bites: Snakes generally get away from people if they can, and if left alone they rarely bite. Even poisonous snakes don't bite unless threatened or surprised, so keep your eyes open when in vegetation and especially near water. Most bites happen when someone is trying to kill the snake. If you're handling a dead snake, beware of its head – according to Medline, snakes can still reflex-bite for some time after death.

Non-poisonous snakes will bite too, but their bites usually don't make it through clothing. This can be painful but will generally just require cleaning it up and protecting it like you would any cut.

How many people die from snakebites?

It may comfort you to know that copperhead bites almost never kill people. In a survey of Poison Control centers, only one death was reported in the whole US over a 25-year period. In fact, although

they swell and cause pain, copperhead bites rarely even require anti-venom treatments. The most lethal snakes in Georgia are rattlesnakes primarily to the north and south of us, which often require emergency treatment and sometimes surgery.

If you get a snakebite: Quick treatment can prevent most complications. Try to get a couple of pictures of the snake for identification, or get a good description of color, size, and markings. Some people try to kill it and bring it in for ID despite the hazards involved. **Call 911 and Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222** (this is a good number to have in your cell phone, especially if you have children.) Locally, there's really only one kind of snake to worry about, but if you're driving a couple of hours north or south you might meet other venomous varieties.

Have a safe and bite-free summer!

Nearby... A New Neighborhood and Request for Striping

Rezoning across from Hasty Acres.

Developers asked that a large tract of land across Five Forks Trickum from Hasty Acres be rezoned to R-ZT, to build more than 60 homes. The Planning Commission heard objections and recommended a change to an R-75 modified, along with other requests. This vote was approved during the April 1, 2014 session. Agendas and Minutes of the Commission's meetings are available under Public Meetings on their website:

<http://www.gwinnettcountry.com/portal/gwinnett/Departments/BoardofCommissioners/PublicMeetings>

Crosswalk striping and signals

requested at Five Forks Trickum-Killian Hill Intersection. That 1% SPLOST tax goes to the county to fund special projects. Our DHOA President recently asked for funding to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection at Five Forks Trickum and Killian Hill. The DOT is already upgrading at Arcado and Killian Hill, and the DOT seemed interested. She also asked for sidewalks, but hearing the urgency of the competing requests and the costs involved, that doesn't seem as likely to get funded.

Quotes

Aprils have never meant much to me, autumns seem that season of beginning, spring.

~Truman Capote, *Breakfast at Tiffany's: And Three Stories*

If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring.

~Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

About Our Organization...

The objectives of this Association shall be to protect, preserve, and enhance the property values; to promote integrity and good faith and friendly relations amongst its members; to prevent or adjust

controversies; and to represent the community in the consideration and decisions of public policy in municipal, county, and state affairs.