



## Deer Tracks

### Deerbrook Home Owners Association Newsletter

June 2011

**General Membership Meeting** The May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was very productive. The budget was approved with an eye toward saving money. Officers were elected (see Officer and Board list on back page).

**Participation an issue:** The group voiced concern that not enough people are involved in DHOA, which is made up of volunteers who are interested in serving the well-being of the community and keeping up property values as much as possible -- very important these days. A plan was discussed to create & distribute an interest survey to all Deerbrook residents. Tell us what you & your family consider most important in the neighborhood. Potential additions to the web site were also discussed.

#### **Interest survey coming in July**

Expect a neighbor to come to your door with the request that you look over the survey and decide what the DHOA does or can do that is most important to you. Please complete and return it so that plans can be made accordingly. (See story: General Membership Meeting.)

#### **Pet owners neglect their duty**

There have been numerous complaints about people who let their pets poop in others' yards and not cleaning it up. The pet owner is responsible for removing waste left by their pet, whether in the street or in a yard. Don't be a crappy neighbor – pick up after your pet!

#### **Your Gwinnett Commissioner**

You can visit our commissioner Beaudreau's web site and subscribe to his free newsletter at:  
[www.mikebeaudreau.com](http://www.mikebeaudreau.com)

#### **Septic tanks: we all have 'em**

Don't wait till you have a house or yard full of sewage before learning some tips on care for yours. When well maintained, they work great, but many people don't know much about what happens after they flush. The homes in Deerbrook were built in the early 1980s. Recently several homes have reported their septic tank baffles disintegrating, which lead to solids spilling over into the drain field, which in turn lead to a very expensive repair and re-digging of the drain field.

**What size is mine?** The minimum size septic tank approved for use in Georgia is a 1000 gallon tank, which serves a 3 or 4 bedroom house. The county can confirm it for you as well as help you locate it on your property. This is available online starting this month at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) if you choose Geographic Information Systems from the Quicklinks bar on the left. You can still call the Gwinnett County Environmental Health Section at 770.963.5132.

**Get informed.** Septic tanks need a pump-out potentially as often as every 5 years depending upon use. Visit the Georgia septic tank guide at:

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/environmental/LandUse/misc/OnsiteHomeownersGuide.pdf>

**Hot tip:** the powder that's advertised to maintain septic tanks is not proven to help at all, and may cause harm. For a

diagram of one-compartment septic tanks and good practical info, visit the University of Maryland at <http://extension.umd.edu/environment/water/files/septic.html>

You can find a list of state-certified septic tank pumpers for Georgia at <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/envservices/landuse.asp>

## What to do if you find a lost cat or dog

If you feel safe doing so, slowly approach the cat or dog. If the pet acts aggressive or otherwise unstable, call Animal Control for help.

- If you are OK approaching the pet and it is wearing a collar with tags, check for contact info or rabies tag (you can call the vet who gave the vaccine to get owner info.)
- If the pet is not wearing visible tags but you are able to safely pick up the pet, take it to the nearest vet clinic to be scanned for a microchip.
- Ask people nearby if they recognize the pet. Be sure to ask the children.

If you can't approach the pet or find the pet's owner, call the Gwinnett Police non-emergency number, 770.513.5100, to request an Animal Control officer. Animal Control can get the pet off the streets so it doesn't get injured. They can also scan the pet for a microchip.

**If you decide to shelter the pet** until you find the owner or while awaiting the owner's arrival, keep the found pet separate from your children and pets. Even the friendliest pet may act differently in a new place.

Make "found pet" signs to attach to stop signs in the neighborhood. Post them at busy intersections at least one neighborhood over in each direction. (See previous issues for ideas on how to do this more effectively.) Check for lost pet ads in newspapers and online at <http://ajcexchange.com/>. Follow up by checking the paper and web sites for "lost pet" ads. Keep an eye out for signs of lost pets in the area.

## Falling trees

The recent wind and rain has weakened and brought down huge trees and branches in the neighborhood. It's a good time to look around to be sure that you don't have dead or unhealthy trees that may endanger neighbors, property, or yourself.

For dead or dying trees that are on private property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear it. If talking to the owner doesn't get action, you can report potentially hazardous trees to the County at 770.513.5020.

For trees that have fallen in the roadway, call the DOT at 770.822.7400. If a tree has hit a power line, call WEMC at 770.267.2505.

## Gwinnett burning ban

No outdoor burning is allowed May 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. You can be fined for a fire in your yard. To learn more, call 678.518.4979 or check [www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com). **To report unlawful burning, call 678.518.4980.**

## Watering restrictions

For watering plants using sprinklers, we can water lawns and landscapes any day between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. Hand watering, drip or soaker hose irrigation can take place anytime.

For washing cars, pressure washing exteriors, and other uses, the odd-even schedule applies: **even numbered addresses** on Mon, Wed, Sat, and **odd numbered addresses** on Tue, Thu, and Sun. This info and more at [http://www.gwinnettcountry.com/static/departments/DWR/pdf/2010\\_Water\\_Use\\_FA\\_Q.pdf](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com/static/departments/DWR/pdf/2010_Water_Use_FA_Q.pdf) If you have questions about watering, call 678.376.7100 or you can email [dwrwaterbanquestions AT Gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrwaterbanquestions@Gwinnettcountry.com).

## Gwinnett County and other Info

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

## Newsletter Announcements

If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email Patricia Yeargin or call her at 770.923.2823.