



Deer Tracks

Deerbrook Home Owners Association Newsletter

November 2005

Luminaria Night and Cookie Swap Sunday December 11: At the October general meeting, members voted to put out luminaries again this year. You can pick up luminary supplies Saturday, December 10, 1 to 5 pm on Rustlewood Court. If you want to swap cookies, bring some by on Sunday afternoon the 11th between 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. to trade. ***Please bring a bucket for sand!*** You can bring your dues as well (see below), and a luminary supply charge of \$5. You may write a single check for \$45 to DHOA for dues and luminary supplies. Luminaries are placed at every other seam or break in the concrete on the curbs, and lit at dusk. For a picture of how beautiful this can look when everyone participates, go check out the picture on our Web site from 2003, at www.DeerbrookHOA.org.

DHOA Membership Dues: Dues for 2006 are payable in December. Pay when you pick up your luminaries or drop them off in the mailbox of the Treasurer, Brian Swinkola at 4163 Deerbrook Way. Our dues are very low currently at \$40.00 per year. Deerbrook expects a major expense as we will need to replace the sign in the front entrance soon. It is over 20 years old and is starting to show its age. The sign has been repaired once, 3 years ago. We hope to collect 100% of dues this year to begin saving for the new sign. And if you have ideas for fundraisers, let us know.

Other General Meeting Actions: The HOA members present voted to put out Luminaries again this year. After some discussion, Sunday, December 11th was selected, with a backup date of the 18th—remembering how the wind blew down our candles last year. This year Don Papenbrock & Greg Hansen volunteered to manage luminary supplies. They will be handed out at the end of the Rustlewood cul-de-sac on December 10th & 11th. In addition, Don & Greg will collect dues for 2006. Please bring a bucket or bag for the sand when you pick up your luminaries. There will also be a cookie swap the second day of luminary pick up at the end of Rustlewood Ct. from 3 pm to 5 pm. Bring a dozen or two, and take home something different. Mark Ackerman, a former DHOA President & longtime resident, has agreed to start up a Garden club. He will get a sign for 'Yard of the Month' sign made and is looking for members to

participate. The minutes from the May General Meeting were approved by members in attendance.

Octoberfest & General Meeting: The October General Meeting and Oktoberfest BBQ turned out a quorum this year. Special thanks to all of the residents who volunteered to set up activities, buy or rent supplies, cook food, and amuse children for the event (Teri Parkman, Debbie Jacobson, Greg Hansen, Roger Hagen, and John Dyer, to name a few). This was the culmination of many people's participation and efforts. The kids enjoyed the Nemo Moon Bounce and had a great time making Pumpkins during the General Meeting. Several adults brought their favorite beer (German and otherwise) to share as they enjoyed grilled bratwurst. The Gwinnett Fire Department showed off one of their big fire engines for the kids, many of whom got to sit in the driver's seat. Photos of the event were taken by Blake Parkman, and have been posted on the Deerbrook Web site by Tom Heinze --go check it out at www.DeerbrookHOA.org. We hope in the future that more residents can come out to enjoy the good food and share some hearty Oktoberfest refreshments.

Garden Club Startup: You should have gotten an announcement last week about our newest DHOA activity, which is being spearheaded by Mark Ackerman. Most of you know already that Mark is a lawn expert, and if you've ever asked, you know he is happy to consult and advise. You may not know how much he loves gardens—though you may have guessed if you've noticed the little bench area at the bend of Deerbrook, which is kept up with seasonal flowers and greenery, there for all to enjoy. This club offers a great chance to learn and share what each of us knows about lawns and local plants. Call Mark at 770-925-8207 if you have questions or would like to be part of this group.

Storm drains and roadside waterways: If you have a storm drain on your property, you may know that you, the resident, are responsible for keeping it clear. Lots of people think that it's okay to toss trash or blow leaves into storm drains. We are hoping to educate kids and adults alike that these drains are strictly for getting rainwater off the roads and keeping it from washing yards away.

Of course, storm drains don't work very well without the little channels on either side of the road, which are designed to direct the water to the drains. These channels are the also the responsibility of those whose yards adjoin them. If you've ever driven down Deerbrook after a hard rain, you can see where the blockages are—sheets of water go all the way across the street. Please help keep our waterways open and clear.

What the DHOA Board has been up to: The Board is a group of volunteer residents who are working to serve our community. In addition to responding to complaints about problem situations, we welcome new ideas for the community. We also love to hear positive things about neighbors, and we can publicize some events and announcements in the newsletter.

At the General Meeting accomplishments of the past 6 months were reviewed:

- Established Neighbors Helping Neighbors Committee
- Set up new DHOA website and email

- Accepted bid for front entry lawn maintenance contract
- Publicized, helped organize meeting with Commissioner Beaudreau & real estate agent Connie Lawson, which Sherry Hoger initiated and hosted.
- Published 4 newsletters (including this one)
- Organized and set up our DHOA Oktoberfest and general meeting

Timber Glen Update: Several Timber Glen members joined us for Oktoberfest and the general meeting. Mark & Tanya Zamora have offered to represent Timber Glen at the next Board meeting on January 9th at 7:30pm.

Welcome! This issue we send a warm welcome to Joan and Geoff Abraham and their daughter Amanda, who just moved in at 4063 Deerbrook Way.

Officer List May 2005 through May 2006

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Visit our website at www.deerbrookhoa.org for frequently asked questions, DHOA bylaws, covenants, photos, links to Gwinnett County government—which include Gwinnett property maintenance laws, parking code, animal control, and how to report violations.

If you have suggestions for the website or for the Association in general, please email us at mail@deerbrookhoa.org. Or, if you prefer a real-time conversation, you can call any officer or board member listed above. Remember too, that members are welcome at the monthly DHOA Board meetings. The time and place changes from month to month, but you can call any officer to find out when and where the next meeting will be.

If you have an announcement, special event, or feedback that you'd like to see in Deer Tracks, please contact DHOA Secretary Roger Hagen at rh4g3n@yahoo.com or call 678-524-2797 and leave a message.