



## Fall 2009 Newsletter

Please read the entire newsletter. It takes a long time to put together and most information is valuable to each and every resident.

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### Friday Night Tailgate Block Party After Dark

Ready to defend your team. Ready to gobble down a few hotdogs. Football, Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, etc. The sport does not matter. We will tailgate to celebrate every team. Outside on a chilly evening, there is nothing better for the soul. You just wear the jersey, pin, hat of your choice. Or you can carry a banner, pom poms, or a megaphone. Neighbors must bring their own beer, but sodas and water will be on ice. Hotdogs will be on the grills, with all the condiments. But we need neighbors to sign up for the side items and desserts. Chips, beans, slaw, etc. for side items and we will go gourmet with the desserts, as so many neighbors are great at providing for the sweet tooth.



Date: November 6<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Yard: 4505 Fairway View Court—The Clodfelter's



Call Debbie  
at: 770-  
729-8997

*Let her  
know what  
you are  
bringing.*

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### A Beautiful First Impression (continued on page 12)

We were getting old. Our front entries had slowly but surely grown too tall, rotted away and gotten dark. The wiring for the lights had disintegrated. The junipers had rotted at the root leaving scraggly limbs above ground. The dead junipers were blocking the remaining lights from shining on the monuments. The ground was as hard as a rock. The water restrictions were killing us. The brick had turned green. What we had was a front entry that would not attract a home buyer, and for those who pay attention it was not attractive to come home to. So what do we do with little money??? We use free labor. Once again the neighbors came through to save the neighborhood money. Our dues were spent for the materials and to run wiring under the street, but everything else was the sweat, toil, calluses, and ODOR of the people who live here.





She deserves a breakfast of champions for volunteering to be the president of the homeowners association. To thank her, we took her to the Berkeley Hills Golf and Country Club for a marvelous brunch. Lynn stuck it out for two years and addressed many issues. The most time consuming and tedious was the creation, finalization and approval process of our updated covenants.

The 'legalese' in those documents will fry your brain, but Lynn hung in there til the end. We all thank her for her service. She is a gem and a good friend to have. Everyone is lucky to have her for a neighbor.

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## **Went to commissioners meeting.**

Gwinnett County is cutting about 53 police officers. Early retirement. Also over the next four years they will be cutting costs by not hiring the planned 200 police officers. So we will not be keeping up with population increase. I went to the meeting to beg for another alternative. No avail but what I heard made my chin hit the floor. Many other neighborhoods in Gwinnett County were represented by residents who spoke of their problems in their own neighborhoods. What I heard made me feel lucky. We have security and vigilant neighbors, they do not have security. They were telling stories of prostitution rings beside their homes, diving to the floor to dodge the gunfire, the toilets and mattresses that are laying in the front yards. They made a point of saying that they did not call Quality Control for tall grass in the front yard, they called for reasons much more disturbing. I feel bad for them, but I am grateful I live where I live.

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## **Are you a gardener or not??**

With a small investment in time, money and energy, you can have a beautiful garden area. Once the following plants have been installed, very little maintenance is required. Your garden can be as big or as small as you like. I can say, wholeheartedly, gardening is a way of working off stress, irritations, or boredom and may even work off a few of those pounds put on over the winter. Start with a 2' x 4' area: dig out existing grass, add a little soil conditioner, plant 3 knockout roses about 2 feet apart (they come in red and pink, single or double blooms) and you will have color all summer. For knockout roses and daylillies, full sun is needed at least 6 hours a day. Most garden designers suggest planting in groups of 3, 5, 7, etc. but if you only have space for 2 - go for it! They do not need a lot of care once established. Cut back around September and you will have another burst of blooms. Add daylillies (available in a multitude of colors) between or in front of the roses for additional color. Daylillies will be green thru the fall, lose their foliage during the winter, and return the following spring. Let's have the most beautiful subdivisions in the county.



Contributed by Maggie Deutsch

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## Thank you Liz Knoedler

We need to thank Liz for taking on the job of president of our HOA. All of you that have filled the volunteer job before know it is no fun. But somebody has to do it. Liz has an eye like a hawk, I am sure she will not miss a thing this year. Thanks Liz.

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## Welcome---Congrats---and Congrats

Thought you might like to see one of the baskets that was delivered to a neighbor of yours. This basket was to congratulate a neighbor who successfully completed the process of becoming a citizen of the United States. Congratulations to her. We also deliver baskets to Newborns and of course new homeowners. Belle and Richard are the culprits who put the baskets together. Publix donates some of the ingredients, and Matthew provides the baskets and ribbon. Thanks to all for making this neighborly practice such a success.



## Toilet Rebate Program

**Toilet rebates:** Thanks to a measure approved by the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners, Gwinnett water customers can get rebates of either \$50 or \$100 for replacing the toilet/toilets in their single family residential home, depending on whether the replacement toilet is 1.6 gallons per flush or 1.28 gallons per flush.



Only single family residential homes built before 1993 are eligible for the rebate for a maximum of two toilets per household. Also, only toilets purchased after September 28, 2007, are eligible for the rebate. The rebate is a lump sum amount as stipulated above and excludes the Georgia sales tax, additional installation parts, or labor costs. Details of the program and applications can be found on the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District website, [www.northgeorgiawater.com](http://www.northgeorgiawater.com). Customers may also request an application by calling 404.463.8645 or e-mail at [toiletrebate@northgeorgiawater.org](mailto:toiletrebate@northgeorgiawater.org).

Funds for this program are limited, but the County's intention is to set aside funds for the rebate program each year. Rebates will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers who do not receive rebates this year are encouraged to reapply next year provided funds are available.

Contributed by Marc Rhodes

(Note: I bet money has run out for this year, but you will be ready to apply at the first of the year.)

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## Jobs Help

### How about a little networking???

We want to help our neighbors as much as possible with the job situation as it is. I know many in our neighborhood are actively looking for employment. If you know of any position that has opened up please take the time to call or email Marc Rhodes. He will post the position and the contact information for the prospective job on our Website under a jobs header. Any job you know of, whether it is full or part time. There is no better way to help. Networking works the best. And we have 122 homes that could participate here. Email: [MarcRhodes@mac.com](mailto:MarcRhodes@mac.com) or call 404-702-9620. Thanks a million

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### Neighbors with their own business

Some neighbors started their own business. We thought it would be good to help out here as well. For the neighbors who live here and have their own business, we will list your company, contact info and a short description of the business on our Website: [www.myfairlake.com](http://www.myfairlake.com) For instance, Deborah McGlawn has opened a travel business. Her flyer reads as follows:



Hassle free online booking  
Travel and Shopping in one place  
Incredible prices

We know you're busy. Our discounted all-inclusive packages mean you don't have to worry about every logistical detail or waste time price shopping. Browse our site, choose your destination and let us do the rest.

[www.eunedaconcierge.com](http://www.eunedaconcierge.com)

Euneda Travel Concierge, Deborah McGlawn, 678-437-2441

To have your company listed on the Website please call or email Marc Rhodes as shown in the JOBS Help section above.

(Note that home businesses are prohibited by law if traffic increases in the neighborhood)

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### Traffic light at Satellite Blvd and Hopkins Mill

I thought we were going to get a light here. I was told by the commissioners that it was in the works. But right now there is nothing planned. I spoke with the DOT because I saw the yellow outline on Satellite Blvd. Turns out the yellow markings are not a cross walk, they are just utility markings for fibre optics. Anyway, I put in a request for the DOT to do a study of the intersection, citing the numerous accidents that occur there. So cross your fingers that they determine a light is needed. But be very careful at the intersection, so you are not part of their statistics.

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## Color At the Lake (Spending No Money)

We are planning to do some landscaping at the lake in the fall and desperately need bulbs and perennials. We are going to perform this task at no cost to the HOA. If you are going to thin out your bulbs or perennials, we would greatly appreciate all we can get. Iris are great for deer resistant flowering. If you don't have anything colorful that will grow well at the lake, maybe you could buy a bag of bulbs or flower seeds. PLEASE, PLEASE try to help out. Notify Maggie @770-734-0907 or Liz @770-2481880.



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## Need a Dog/Cat Sitter

Lynn Hughes and friends will take care of your animals while you are away. The small, best behaved dogs are even allowed to take a ride in her car. (Of course my Rottweiler/mutt would rather ride the back seat than take a walk.) It is one of this Roti's favorite things to do. Remember to check on our Website: [www.MyFairLake.com](http://www.MyFairLake.com). It has all kinds of helpful information for your little furry friends. And has information regarding our 'in neighborhood' dog and cat sitter. **Her phone is: 770-840-0679**

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## Trash Pick-up on Hopkins Mill

Once again we are volunteering to keep Hopkins Mill from looking like a land fill. We as neighbors need to thank all of the people listed below, for taking care of what would be an eyesore and would lower our property values. We took volunteers for each month at the annual meeting, but it is not too late to help out. If you would like to participate in keeping your neighborhood clean, please call and sign up for a couple of hours of work.

Those who have already picked up the stink:

May: Bruce Curry, Garrick Riley  
June: Mr. Park, Matthew Broyles  
July: Bea Williams, Lynn Hughes  
August: Melisa Philips, Richard Brimfield  
September: Dana Buttera, Janelle & Nathan Clodfelter,  
Todd Gregory

Those who look forward to the stink:

October: Janet & Ron Hicks, Eric Kasiske  
November: Liz Knoedler, Maggie Deutsch  
December: Janelle Clodfelter, Mike Pennesi  
January: Liz Knoedler, Maggie Deutsch  
February: Eileen Houser, Thomas Oh  
March: Jim & Martha Kessenich  
April: Chuck & Diane Whelan



# Annual Meeting Discussion

## Front Entries

We discussed the problems with the front entry and what needed to be done to fix them. Discussed and voted to dip into our savings to get the lighting repair done. More detail on front entry problems is shown on the last page of the newsletter.

## Security

We voted to keep security and to renew automatically until changes need to be made to our service. All attendees were very pleased with security and some say it is the smartest single investment we could have made for our neighborhoods.

## Covenant violations

We discussed some of the problems with the neighborhood. Namely... some lawns looked pretty sad...Solution was to talk with neighbor, but also to take a more proactive approach in helping neighbors remember lawn care in the winter. As described on page 8 we will be placing FERTILIZE signs at the front entries at appropriate times.

Some neighbors park in the street. We had a long discussion regarding this issue. Some neighbors offered their driveways to help with parking issues. We also discussed possible signs on the street.

## Voted on new officers

Thank you to Liz, Chuck and Richie for signing on, and everyone else for staying on

Liz Knoedler, president

Debbie Riley, vice president

Marc Rhodes, secretary

Janelle Clodfelter, treasurer

We discussed the new committee members for Covenant Control Committee.

Chuck Whelan is taking over as chairman of the Covenant Control Committee.

Richie McGlawn will handle Lake Ford Circle

Garrick Riley will handle Creek Ford Drive

Chuck Whelan will handle The Fairways streets

*See list with phone numbers on page 11*

## Trash

We signed up volunteers for our trash pickup on Hopkins Mill.

## Foreclosures

We asked neighbors to help out with foreclosures and rentals. It is not our responsibility to take care of someone else's lawn but it is in our best interest. Many people mowed, edged, dug up plants, planted new flowers, etc. All in the name of keeping our neighborhood from showing the frightening deterioration caused by deserted houses. Thank you to those neighbors who made that effort.

(At print time, our neighborhoods have all foreclosures in a sold status) We do have a few empty rentals.


## Green Weed Free Lawns

If you wait til spring to treat your yard you are too late. You are going to have weeds out the wazoo. We are going to try to help remind everyone that it is time for fertilizer/weed preventer. We are having a sign made for the entryways that will read: "Time to Fertilize". We will leave the sign up for one weekend. This will be your reminder to look at the Website: [www.MyFairLake.com](http://www.MyFairLake.com) to review the recommendation for your lawn treatment. Just click on the Bermuda Grass Information link located on the right side of the homepage to see the recommendation.

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## Creepy Crawlers (RATS)

Some neighbors have seen rats in the backyard, inside their grills, in their attic, etc. If you see any sign of a rat please call Gwinnett County Environmental at 770-963-5132 or call your exterminator: These furry critters are attracted to areas with dumped lawn clippings, tall grass, water sources and unfortunately bird feeders. As well, some people are dumping food outside. Food dumped outside is a huge attraction for rats and is unsanitary. Dumping food outside is also a violation of the law. So if you do not want rats, keep these things out of your yard.



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## Complaints from Neighbors (I would love to stop putting these complaints in the newsletter. Help us out by fixing the problem)

### Parking in the street

What do I have to do to make people understand that parking on the street invites burglars into our neighborhood. People can't see to get out of their own driveway. If you are not worried about buglars, then how about just being considerate of your neighbor.

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### Commercial Vehicles (including autos with signage)

Commercial vehicles must be parked in the garage or left at your place of business. Our covenants require this to help keep the neighborhood looking like a neighborhood, not a business parking lot.

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### Speeding through the neighborhood (it's not cool to speed)

So do you get home one or two seconds earlier when you speed? Slow down, take the time to wave at your neighbor. Go slow enough that they are able to recognize you. Kids, pets and walking neighbors will thank you.

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### Dogs and cats (take care of your pets)

Barking too much, means your poor dog needs something. The owner is not doing the right thing. And the dogs must be on a leash. It is the law. And if something happens, like for instance your dog bites a neighbor's dog, you could be sued and worse your dog could be punished for your mistake. Many cats are being killed on the street of Hopkins Mill. Try to keep kitty's in your yard or inside.

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## **Morals of the story at the forefront:**

- 1.If you hear an alarm going off, even for only a few seconds...LOOK, and keep looking. Do not assume it is a false alarm.
2. Keep the lawn mowed so burglars will not think you are out of town.
3. Do a check on your security system to make sure it is working properly.

Now for the story. We were working on the Fairways front entry on a Saturday afternoon. An alarm coming from a house on Hopkins Mill went off for a few seconds. For some reason we all looked and there were two teens outside the home looking like they had been stung by a bee. We kept watching. The alarm had turned off and we were about to look away when here they come. The two kids were running out of the home with a wide screen TV and they were headed for a neighboring street through the bamboo. We were stunned and started screaming. Matthew and Nathan gave chase, while Janelle called the police. A guy on a motorcycle gave chase. Our neighbor Dana gave chase in her car. The police came quickly and gave chase. Nathan pointed the police in the right direction, while Matthew went between houses to see if they were hiding. Matthew and Nathan could not figure out how the kids had outrun them with that huge TV, so they started looking for a dump site. Meanwhile the police saw the two goobers and started chasing them on foot. Unfortunately they chased them to Satellite Blvd through the briars and lost them. (Nevertheless I bet their knees were shaking, because we were so close. Right on their heels.)

Low and behold hidden in the bamboo was the TV and an electronic device. At least they got nothing for criminal behavior, but maybe a few briar cuts and worn tennis shoes. Nathan and Matthew felt better that the kids had to drop the TV to get away. They are not too old after all. The homeowner on Hopkins Mill has gotten her Security alarm fixed, mowed and landscaped her yard, and calls us her security alarm company. A big thanks to the neighbors for thwarting the crime. Everyone remember the morals of the story.

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### **Roof**

Many homes in this neighborhood are in need of a new roof. Many have already replaced their roof and had them paid for in full by their insurance company. Some have had hail damage, some wind damage, some just partial damage. But check with your insurance company before you make the purchase. I need a new roof and I am currently arguing with my insurance company. So don't be afraid to push a little. Also, the recommendation is that you replace your shingles with Architectural Grade shingles. They do not cost much more, but they have a better warranty and the look is very attractive. Insist that they replace all rotten/wet wood. Also, make sure your roofer puts flashing around the chimney and other appropriate places. And last but not least, make sure that your roofer has a Certificate of Insurance. (Call the number on the certificate to verify that it is current) If insurance is not current, and they fall off of the roof, you could be liable for medical expenses.

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## Children for the holidays.

Last year we were able to help four children for the holidays. One of the children asked us to sing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' to Santa Claus. Another little one told us she wanted a house to decorate for Christmas. They certainly are cute and unfortunately in need.

See their photos here.

We are going to try to bring a few smiles to little faces this holiday season. We will put the details about the children on the Website sometime in November. Please help if you can.

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## Real and Green

If you would like to dress your home with a real tree for the holidays, JD will deliver it, and haul it off in January. If you are interested in this service, call JD Kelley at 404-754-4119. Call for a quote.

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## A little holiday cheer.



It sure would be nice to have a decorated neighborhood this holiday season. I know that many do not want to go to the trouble, but a hanging snowflake, a star, a wreath, anything that is pretty by day, or twinkles at night would be good. A few minutes of effort to make someone smile? A twinkle to make someone's day? A candle to give someone taking a stroll something to discover? Too much to ask?

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## County Waste

The county is performing another study to determine what to do about Gwinnet County trash pickup. The study is due to be released this October. Keep an eye on the news or watch the Web to learn what they have determined. I am hoping we do not end up with another confusing, inconvenient, trash pile up as we did back in January.

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**Newspapers:** Gwinnett is delivering newspapers for free. Obviously many people do not read them. But even if you do not read them, pick them up and put them in the trash please. They are messy when wet, and the pile-up invites burglars.

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## Get Out

Wow I have the most wonderful neighbors. If you only knew. Oh, I guess you do know, because you live here too. Get out and meet your neighbors. It amazes me sometimes that people do not know the person who lives right beside them. For the next newsletter I would love for you to tell your story about your wonderful neighbor. I should get a million stories for the next newsletter. I have a million of my own. (as a matter of fact, my neighbor just made me a bowl of homemade soup...I think I will go have some lunch)

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## Really going to need help this year!!!

If you are able please help this year with our Thanksgiving Charity. We need food or money for Thanksgiving meals.

Below is a list of the foods we are in need of or if you would like to donate money, it really helps in completing the boxes of food or helps in the purchase of Turkeys.

We are going to be helping families at the Sheltering Arms.

If you can contribute please drop food or checks off at Debbie Riley's: 4544 Creek Ford Drive or if it is more convenient, drop the items or checks off at 4505 Fairway View Court. Make checks payable to BCHOA. Our deadline is November 21st.



Each box will consist of the items listed below:

- 4 cans of **green beans**
  - 1 5lb bag of **sugar**
  - 2 cans of **cranberry sauce**
  - 1 can of **cake frosting**
  - 4 boxes of **macaroni and cheese**
  - 1 large can of **sweet potatoes**
  - 4 boxes of **cornbread**
  - 1 box of **cake mix**
  - 2 2-liter bottles of **soda**
  - 2 bottles of **apple juice**
- and one turkey**

For more information please contact Debbie Riley at 404- 371-2188 or 770-729-8997

## Contact Information

Here is the Homeowner's Association Board and committee contact Info for 2009-10. Please feel free to contact them. Keep these names on your refrigerator for easy access.

### Homeowner's Association Board.

President: ..... Liz Knoedler -----Ph: 770-248-1880  
 Vice President: ..... Debbie Riley -----Ph: 770-729-8997  
 Secretary ..... Marc Rhodes-----Ph: 404-702-9620  
 Treasurer:..... Janelle Clodfelter-----Ph: 770-416-9550

### Architectural Control

Nathan Clodfelter-----Ph: 770-416-9550

### Covenant Control Committee

If you want to report a covenant violation, please contact the person listed below who represents the street in which the violation is occurring. For instance: If someone on Fairway View Court is violating a covenant then you should call Chuck. If you live on Creek Ford call Garrick, etc., etc.

Lake Ford Circle: .....Richie McGlawn-----Ph: 678-754-4360  
 Creek Ford Drive: .....Garrick Riley-----Ph: 770-729-8997  
 Fairway View's: .....Chuck Whelan-----Ph: 770-441-1650

## From front page...A beautiful first impression

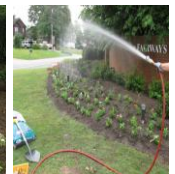
What did we do? First we dug holes for wiring that had rotted underground. Ran new wiring and purchased new lights. (The new LED lights use 520 watts as opposed to the 1000 watts our old lights used...and we now have more light) We then dug up the old scratchy junipers and their millions of roots. Then tilled the rock hard ground. Next we added and spread Manure filled fresh dirt and extended the surface area for the flora.

Manure sure does stink. Next we dug ditches to bury the path light wiring. Next the flowers and new bushes were purchased. Then we dug the holes and planted the beauty. Then we picked up and distributed two truckloads of bark and spread it. Then we had water drip hoses added so that each year we will be able to water in



the heat of the summer while still conserving water. And last we finished the installation of path lighting. Finishing touch was the pressure washing of brick and curbs. All of this work was spread out over weeks and weeks. But it is

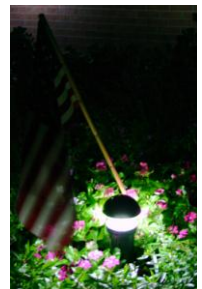
done. Some of the bushes still need to grow a little, but they will do well in shade or sun. They will trim well, and our new lights are placed in a way that they will not be hidden by taller bushes. The flowers were gorgeous and original. So who do we thank...There are a few photos of planting day, but all the other work is visually undocumented. Probably just as well, because spreading manure,



digging ditches and tearing out roots does not leave a photogenic human appearance. Some neighbors performed one, two or all



of the above and some ran errands to pick up bulbs, or wiring. Some documented the sweat with their cameras. So we will just list the names of those who contributed because each bit of help is much appreciated: Nathan



Clodfelter, Matthew Broyles, Don Douglas, Bruce Curry, Melisa Phillips, Belle Faulkner, Richard Lay, Chuck and Diane Whelan, Maggie Deutsch, Richie, Richie II and Deborah McGlawn, Marc Rhodes, Garrick Riley, Mary Worthington, Pam Stallings, Mary and Willie Frasier, Bea Williams. Finished product is on front page, and you have seen it all summer.