

NORMANS NEWS

Norman Downes Home Owners Association
ndhboard@gmail.com

From the President's Corner

By Cheryl Smith

Norman Downes (ND) had a very well-attended and successful pool season this year. The new crop of kids, their parents, and other residents seemed to really enjoy the new improvements and cheery decor. We had the standard minor violations to deal with, some unhappy trespassers to eject, and one lifeguard to replace mid-season; but all in all, it was a good summer at the pool. Robert Clark, our last minute volunteer chairman handled things beautifully. Thank you Robert for a job well done! Robert would like to thank those parents that got involved when they saw something that needed addressed. Robert reminds us that the pool is a property, and responsibility, owned and shared by all of us. The same goes with the other amenities and common areas. Please help to keep them safe and always report destructive behavior and habits to the board and the authorities!

Speaking of destructive habits, some creek side litter sparked a very positive educational event for the kids at the pool. They painted a special trash receptacle with fish art to remind everyone to ...stash your trash! What ends up on the ground often floods into the streams that flow into Lake Norman. Earlier this summer some Boy Scouts picked up many bags of trash near Norman Dam with everything from bottles of used motor oil and plastic containers of every size and shape, to cans and glass bottles and loads of tree and yard debris.

Please also notice the blue fish stenciled on the storm drains in our neighborhood on September 15th by volunteers from Norman Downes and the City Water Department. They were put there to

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remind us that discharges of waste or pollutants to storm drains are a huge problem, and illegal!

Our fourth and final litter awareness activity planned this year is a Stream Walk by Volunteers from Norman Downes and the City of Duluth. This will be held on November 11th. We will be gathering at the tennis courts to pick up trash and litter that has accumulated in the stream between Lake Norman and the retention pond at Publix. Fifteen (15) volunteers are needed for this event! Please wear boots, long sleeves, pants and work gloves if you have them. Everything else will be provided. Other streams in our neighborhood will be cleared of debris depending on time and manpower or, at a later date. Please come out to support this event with your neighbors. Register at www.normandownes.com; times will be posted at the message boards as we get closer to the event.

As we head into the fall season, we want to remind everyone to make sure they are visible when walking and for drivers to be on the alert for walkers and bike riders in the road. As dusk nears, and at night, wear light and/or reflective clothing and carry a flashlight so you are easily seen by drivers. Dogs need reflective collars or vests too. Let's all take care and stay safe!

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Lake Access: Recently one of our neighbors, Reggie Brown, asked if we were ever going to make Lake Norman more assessable to people not living directly on the lake. As a matter of fact, earlier this year a task force of Norman Downes residents was appointed to explore ways of making our access better and what steps are needed to make it happen. This report will be presented to the community at The General Meeting of Homeowners to be held on December 5, 2017 at Bunten Park at 7 PM.

For those of you new to Norman Downes, Lake Norman is a 23-acre lake surrounded by beautiful trees, homes and wildlife, and some pretty good fishing! The common access path to the lake is near our tennis courts and is one of the amenities open to Norman Downes Homes Association members. The lake is bordered on one side by homes in Norman Downes and on the other side by homes on Norman Circle (which is not part of Norman Downes). At one end is the Norman Dam and at the other end, a wooded area and our recently updated Norman Downes tennis courts.

Although Norman Dam is owned and maintained by Norman Downes, Lake Norman is owned by an individual. However, Norman Downes has a 10-year usage agreement with the current lake owner to use and regulate the lake. This agreement was written so that Norman Downes would have the option of taking over the Lake Norman property deed at the end of the lease (April 2019) or when we have paid the remaining balance of \$5,000. Per our covenants, acquiring that property will require a majority vote of homeowners. That vote is scheduled for 2018 or 2019 at the very latest. The outcome of that vote may determine what sort of better access we wish to pursue going forward.

Although there is currently an access path to the lake, it is particularly difficult to launch a canoe or fishing boat due to heavy accumulation of silt. And, the path goes through a flood plain which makes

accessibility even more difficult, especially with the more frequent heavy rain falls we have experienced the past few years.

As the Lake Norman owners, we would have the ability to maintain the lake properly at this common area and ensure that passage to the lake remains open to our community going forward. More importantly, we would ensure that Lake Norman remains private and not sold to someone outside the Norman Downes community who may decide to restrict access or tax heavy usage fees.

So please join us on December 5th for the General Meeting at Bunten Park at 7 PM when we will have more information for you. In the meantime, please do all you can to help keep the streams that run through our neighborhood clear of litter and yard waste. That preventable debris ends up in, and fills up, our beautiful Lake Norman! (See Volunteers Needed for Stream Walk above.)

Cheryl Smith, Norman Downes

Don't be a Robbery Victim!

Sadly, over thirty reported cars were broken into this August, including in Norman Downes, Peachtree Walk and Abbotts Bridge! All of them were either unlocked or had valuables visible. ND is a relatively safe neighborhood, but crime still sometimes visits us. You can make it harder for criminals to victimize you if you get into the habit of following a few safety tips.

- Always! Lock your cars and house doors.
- Do not leave garage door open while away.
- Do not leave valuables visible in your car or outside your home.
- Leave extra keys with a trusted neighbor, not under a mat or over the door.
- Caution children not to give out security codes.
- Never leave garage door openers in cars parked in the driveway or on the street overnight.
- Keep hedges trimmed around windows and mail and newspapers picked up.
- Light up entryways or use motion detectors near access points on your property.

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The local police urge you to always report suspicious activity or criminal acts. If anyone has questions, please email directly at CRIMESTATS@DULUTHPD.COM. Please call Duluth Police Department at (770) 476-4151 to report anything suspicious.

Please see the following taken from the City of Duluth website.

Nextdoor Program - A private social network for neighborhoods.

In an effort to help facilitate a virtual neighborhood watch program and help foster neighbor-to-neighbor communications, the Duluth Police Department has partnered with Nextdoor the private social network for neighborhoods.

Nextdoor is free for residents and the city. Each Duluth neighborhood has its own private Nextdoor neighborhood website, accessible only to residents of that neighborhood. Residents can use their website to get to know their neighbors, ask questions, and exchange local advice and recommendations.

At this time, there are over 45 neighborhoods with over 2,000 Duluth residents already utilizing Nextdoor. Neighborhoods establish and self-manage their own Nextdoor website. Information shared on Nextdoor is only visible to verified members. The Duluth Police Department will be able to post important information, such as crime updates to Nextdoor sites within the city but will not be able to access the residents' websites, contact information, or content.

Nextdoor was specifically designed to make neighbors feel comfortable sharing information with one another in order to build stronger communities. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood. Information shared on Nextdoor is password protected and cannot be accessed by those outside the neighborhood or found on Google or other search engines. In addition, Nextdoor never shares personal information with any third parties.

Those interested in joining the Nextdoor website can visit www.nextdoor.com and enter their address. If a Nextdoor website has already been created for their neighborhood, they can immediately sign up! If a Nextdoor website has not yet been established for their neighborhood, active and engaged neighbors are invited to apply to bring Nextdoor to their neighborhood. If you have questions about your Nextdoor website, contact Officer Ted Sadowski at tsadowski@duluthpd.com or help.nextdoor.com.

Officer Ted Sadowski #171 Crime/Intelligence Analyst and Public Information Officer (PIO) will be presenting the free monitoring program that the Duluth police is offering HOA's and private individuals at the HOA meeting on Tuesday, October 17th. This meeting is at the Bunten Road Park Community Center at 7 PM. Residents are welcome to attend. Officer Sadowski is also the Social Media Coordinator and the Police Contact for the Nextdoor Social Media Program that many of the residents in Norman Downes have joined and will be happy to answer questions.

Stay Safe On Evening Walks

Let's face it! Summer in Georgia can mean hot days...so hot you wait until the sun sets before you take your evening walk or run. But as the sun goes down, so goes the protective light that can mean the difference between... well, night and day.

It's important to stay safe while walking along the streets of our Norman Downes Community and throughout Duluth. Here are some important tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe:

Face the Traffic. Always walk on the side of the street facing the on-coming cars. That way you can tell if the driver sees you and react quickly if they do NOT see you. It's always safer to assume a driver does NOT see you and be prepared to move to the shoulder on the LEFT and to safety.

Wear Reflective Light Colors. This can make all the difference whether a driver sees you walking there on the side of the road. If you don't have reflective clothing, carry a flashlight or wear a headlamp. The best light should have a bright LED. It not only helps you BE SEEN, it also helps you to SEE your path ahead in areas where the street lighting is limited or blocked by trees. And don't forget Fido! Reflective collars and harnesses are essential to safeguard our four-legged family members!

Unplug! You need to be able to hear an approaching car so avoid wearing headphones. Why not take this time to listen to the wonders of nature? The cicadas and crickets are singing...don't drown out their chorus with *All My Exes Live in Texas!*

Hills and Curves. If you can't see the road ahead you can be sure the on-coming traffic can't see you either. Approach a hill with caution and watch for headlights. On curves, it is best to move to the outside of the curve...safely cross the street and walk in the same direction as traffic while in the curve. Cross back over safely when the street is straight again.

Mind your manners. At a stop sign or light, make eye contact and wait for the driver to wave you through—then acknowledge with your own polite wave. That acknowledgement will make the driver feel more inclined to do it again for the next walker or runner. Use polite hand signals to show which way you plan to turn.

Slow DOWN! DRIVERS. This. Means. You. Come on, now. This is our neighborhood. We are your neighbors. Don't be in such a hurry that you forget that when you turn off of Bunten Road you are home. Remember to be a good neighbor, too!

10 Good Reasons To Leash Your Dog

Virtually every community throughout Gwinnett County has a leash law. According to the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 10-71 - Restraint of dogs, it is unlawful for a dog owner to fail to keep the dog under restraint or control. The laws require that dogs be on a leash at all times when walking on public property. While on private property, dogs must be under the control of their owners. The intent of this law is to protect the health and safety of the public and to protect your pet. The use of a leash will benefit you, your neighborhood, and your pet. There are many good reasons to keep your dog on a leash.

1. It's a great good neighbor policy, preventing your dog from trespassing on neighbor's property during your walk. It also keeps your dog from jumping on people you encounter, ensuring that your dog has the chance of being properly introduced.
2. Improved companionship. A well trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.
3. Walking your pet on a leash will prevent the spread of disease. It is less likely that your dog will be exposed to Parvo or Distemper. A leashed dog can be restrained from sniffing the droppings of other animals.
4. A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals. Accidents or animal bites are greatly reduced when responsible pet owners obey the leash law.
5. An obedient and well behaved dog is a positive reflection of its owner.

6. Re-locating your dog into another household is 100% easier if your dog is obedient and leash trained.

7. It's a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the leash.

8. It's a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash and identification tag attached to the dog's collar to find you if you and your pet should become separated.

9. It's a great relief to wildlife, keeping your dog from chasing squirrels, deer and other wildlife.

10. It's the law! The law is in place to protect other members of the public and your pet from injury.

Be a good neighbor. Use a leash.

Outdoor Burning in Gwinnett and Duluth

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has issued a ban on open burning May 1 - September 30 of each year. Fifty-four counties in Georgia (including Gwinnett County) are affected. Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services are responsible for the enforcement of this state-issued burning ban within the County. From May 1 - September 30, **you may NOT burn** leaves, tree limbs, or other yard waste, forest land, or use air curtain destructors for land clearing. ***Sunday is NOT a Burn Day as prescribed by Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 46, Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance (2012ed).*** The Community Risk Reduction Division is responsible for fire investigations, fire inspections, and fire code enforcement within the county. This division also investigates citizen complaints regarding fire and life safety hazards and enforces compliance with state and county burning regulations.

OUTDOOR BURN LINE: 678-518-4979

The Burn Information line and the website www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com are updated daily by 9:00am. Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services provides online access for citizens reporting a fire code violation 24 hours-a-day, seven (7) days-a-week.

Fires Allowed Without a Written Permit

The following types of fires do not require a written permit but must follow the outdoor burning ordinance restrictions.

You are not required to have a written permit for the burning of leaves, limbs, and natural vegetation that may fall on your own property, however you must follow the rules for safe burning.

- 1) The location for open burning of natural vegetation shall not be less than 50' from any structure and not less than 25' from a property line. Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50' of any structure and 25' from a property line.
- 2) Fires should be a size that is easily controlled under the conditions and with the resources available on the property. Fires for the purpose of keeping warm.
- 3) Warming fires must be contained within a metal barrel of 55 gallon capacity or less.
- 4) Untreated wood or lumber are the only materials or substances permitted to be burned.
- 5) No on-ground warming fires are permitted.
- 6) The container for the warming fire cannot be less than 50' from any structure.
- 7) The outside temperature shall be 50°F or less.

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Also permitted without a permit are fires for the purpose of keeping warm, cooking food for human consumption, and recreational fires in commercially available Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces.

Fires Requiring a Written Permit are pit fires and bonfires. Bonfires are limited to activities sponsored by civic, educational, religious, or other groups for the purpose of celebration such as a high school pep rally.

IS OUTDOOR BURNING SMOKE MAKING YOU SICK? A [Medical Burn Ban](#) may be established by the Fire Marshal to provide relief for citizens with a medical condition that may be adversely affected by smoke from outdoor burning. Citizens may request a Medical Burn Ban by having their medical doctor complete, sign, and submit the “Medical Burn Ban Application” annually and returning the original form to the Fire Marshal’s Office. Citizens may request a “Medical Burn Ban application” by contacting our office at [678-518-4980](tel:678-518-4980) or mail firemarshal@gwinnettcounty.com

If you suspect someone is improperly burning please report it by calling 770.513.5700.

Source: <https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/portal/gwinnett/Departments/FireandEmergencyServices/OutdoorBurningInformation>

CITY OF DULUTH ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLICIT CONNECTION ORDINANCE *Dealing with Yard Waste Responsibly*

Want to do your part to ensure the health and welfare of our Lake and Streams? It can be as simple as using a mulching mower. If you own a side-discharge mower, mow in a direction to ensure that grass clippings stay on your property and don’t fly onto the streets and into the drain ways, eventually ending up in the lake. There are plenty of articles and websites that talk about grass clippings as a rich source of organic material for your lawn and your garden. So why would anyone dump a source of free lawn and garden nutrients into the street?

If you DO dump your grass clippings/leaves onto the street and drain ways it’s called a “non-storm water discharge,” a.k.a **POLLUTION!** You must clean it up or face the possibility of fines up to \$2,500 or 60 days in jail. The City Council has enacted the CITY OF DULUTH ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLICIT CONNECTION ORDINANCE which regulates **non-storm water discharges**. The city’s separate storm sewer system was designed and installed to manage storm water so as to prevent localized flooding, damage to property and risk to public safety. The city’s separate storm sewer system was not designed or installed as a receiving system for **non-storm water discharges**. Discharges to the city’s separate storm sewer system that are not composed entirely of storm water contribute to increased nonpoint source pollution and degradation of receiving waters.

So what exactly does “Non-Storm water Discharge” mean? A non-storm water discharge is **any** surface flow, runoff, drainage, or discharge that is not composed **entirely of storm water** and which may include **pollutants**. **Pollutants** include yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves discharged into the streets and drainage system.

So it looks like the City Council and the City of Duluth are serious about protecting the health and welfare of our lakes and streams! And if you enjoy our lakes and streams...or appreciate the abundant wildlife that does...get on board and make it **YOUR** priority to remove yard waste responsibly.

For a complete copy of the CITY OF DULUTH ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLICIT CONNECTION ORDINANCE follow this link - http://www.duluthga.net/duluth/departments/planning_and_development/ordinances_and_regulations/uploads/illicit_discharge_or_d.pdf

DULUTH FALL FESTIVAL COMING SOON COME JOIN THE FUN!

Did you know the Duluth Fall Festival is Sept 30 & Oct 1st? Did you know that you can ride to the festival for free on an air conditioned shuttle bus that is available right down the street from our subdivision at Mason Elementary? The shuttle picks up and drops off every 15 minutes starting Saturday, 8am to 8pm, and also on Sunday, 8am to 6pm. Did you know there is a fabulous parade on Saturday that starts at 10 am? **Important: If you plan to attend the Parade we suggest that you arrive at the Shuttle Lot by 9 am as the Shuttles do not run during the Parade from 9:45am to noon due to road closings.*

Did you know the carnival opens on Thursday Sept 28th? There is a special Thursday and Friday only; buy a \$20 wrist band and get one free, which enables you to ride unlimited rides until closing for no additional cost. The carnival runs 6pm to 10pm Thursday and Friday. To get this special deal, you must have a special ticket. If you are interested, let me know and I will make sure you get as many as you need for your family and friends. Carnival hours for Saturday are 11am to 10pm, and Sunday 11am to 5pm. Carol Vidyasagar carolvidya@gmail.com, 770-265-1437.

Did you know there is a 5K race on Sunday called the Donut Dash? Come out and have some fun; you can walk or run this 3.1 mile route. The race starts on Hill Street. You get a shirt and free donuts and coffee. Arrive around 7:30 am to attend the Zumba class as the race starts at 8am. Register before Sept 30th for \$35 or on race day for \$45. Go to the Duluth Fall Festival website to sign up today. <http://duluthfallfestival.org/>

Did you know you can volunteer to help with the festival? Did you know there are several volunteers that live right here in our neighborhood that would love to show you the ropes? It's a great way to get to know more people and get involved with the community. Look at the volunteer section on the website below for more information.

Come enjoy Arts & Crafts, an auction, food, man's corner, live music, parade, kid's corner, carnival and much more. Come see all the new buildings downtown and enjoy the spirit of Duluth come alive! The festival is a wonderful community event. If you have any questions look on this website for more information: <http://duluthfallfestival.org/>
Hope to see you there!

Newsletters will now be distributed and archived electronically on our neighborhood website.

For more information please contact
[**normansnews@gmail.com**](mailto:normansnews@gmail.com)

A limited number of hard copies will be available at the entrances for those without internet access.

Online:

<http://www.normandownes.net>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/norman.downes.community>

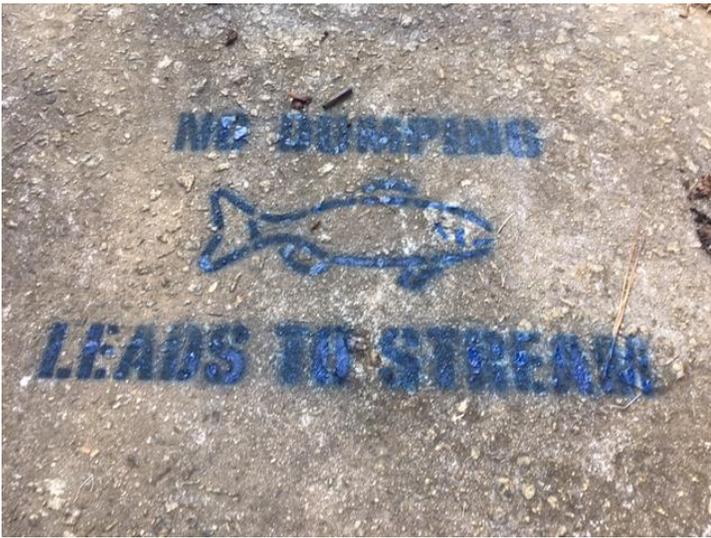
E-Mail:

ndhaboard@gmail.com

On September 15th, together with the City of Duluth, community members walked the neighborhood and painted storm drain tops. This initiative reminds citizens that water quality and aquatic life are directly affected by waste going down storm drains. (Part of the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Campaign.)



**DO NOT LITTER
DO NOT POLLUTE**



On July 8th a Boy Scout Troop helped to pick up trash on the Lake Norman dam. An incredible amount of trash ends up in our lake and it takes constant effort to keep it clean. These photos show how much trash and debris was collected in and around the lake.

