



Habitat Happenings

NW Metro Atlanta Habitat for Humanity

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H.O. P. E. Alive

Whispering Glen Subdivision in partnership with NW Metro Atlanta Habitat launched the H.O.P.E. Alive (Homeowner Organization for Partnership & Empowerment) program the weekend of July 10th . The residents of Whispering Glen are uniting to make their neighborhood a vital part of the Powder Springs Community.

The main goal of the



program is to have neighbors get together to support each other and to form a neighborhood watch program. Officer Beck from the Powder Spring Police department was there with two of her student Explorers. They helped promote the neighborhood watch, the Explorer program, the Citizen Police Academy Program and they provided finger print cards for both adults and

children. They provided



some great support.

Manitta Hood and Theodora “Teddi” Boykin, both residents in Whispering Glen, are heading up H.O.P.E. Alive and are planning on future meetings at the Ron Anderson Community Center to provide more information on the neighborhood watch.

Powder Springs Code Enforcement was there represented by Ms. Brenda Haythorne. She provided brochures with information on code violations that residents will be cited for in Powder



Springs. The brochure

also explains what licenses and permits are necessary for things you may want to do in your yard.



NW Metro Atlanta Habitat was there to support residents and the community. They held a drawing for a laptop computer. The winner will be announced in an upcoming blog or newsletter.

Finally, KSU students were there to collect information from homeowners on a “brush with kindness” event that they are coordinating. They hope to help homeowners with simple yard and home maintenance items.



Teddi Boykin and Manitta Hood head up the Whispering Glen H.O.P.E. Alive Event



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For all the latest news, check out the NWMA Habitat Family Blog at:

<http://cobbhabitatfamilies.wordpress.com>

Featured Yard of the Month

The yard of the month is intended to inspire residents of the NW Metro Atlanta Habitat for Humanity communities to take pride in the appearance and upkeep of their yards and the exterior of their homes and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

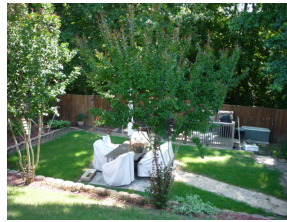
Most of our homeowners do a great job on their lawns and we at Habitat look forward to rewarding their efforts by selecting a "Yard of the Month."

However, once in a while, there is a yard that far exceeds a great job and takes "Yard of the Month," to the next level. We have had the



pleasure of discovering that yard and we would like to give special recognition to the homeowners.

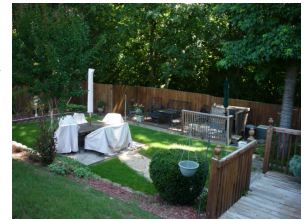
Valerie & George have been Habitat homeowners



since November of 2000 and they have spent the last 10 years turning their yard into an absolute show place. The front yard is beautiful but they have transformed their backyard into what could be a vacation paradise. Imagine taking a vacation, by just stepping into your back yard. It includes a barbecue pit, a cabana area and a koi pond. Those are

just some of the features in their lovely yard.

With dedication and hard work, every homeowner could transform their yard into a similar paradise. We encourage you to get inspired and see all the possibilities of making your yard into something special over the years to come.



George takes a moment from his yard work to pose for a picture.

5 Ways to Trim your Grocery Bills

It's the grocery cycle: You shop, you buy, you eat, then start over. But being prepared along with being vigilant on prices, coupons and brands can save big bucks.

To help you get a grip on this tasty but often expensive cost of living, here are five ways to cut the fat from your grocery bill.

1. Make a grocery list and check it twice. Going through your kitchen before hitting the supermarket is free, and a little planning can fatten your wallet by preventing expensive impulse buys. You might even save on gas by being organized because you won't need to make a second shopping trip to buy those forgotten items.

2. Watch the price scanner. Mistakes on price scans are common at the grocery store and can cost you additional dollars. A Consumer Reports survey found that 6% of respondents were overcharged at the grocery checkout, and no particular chain stood out as more or less accurate. Watching while your grocery prices scan and verifying their accuracy at checkout can save you money and may even score you free food — many grocery chains will give you the item for free if it scans at the wrong price, but it's up to you to spy the error.

3. Buy generic items over big brand names. Save a huge 10% to 50% on every shopping trip by switching your brand-name buys for generic items. It costs big bucks to market brand-name products, and you're paying for that expense when you buy a food item with a recognizable label. Compare many generic items to the brand-name equivalent and you'll find that the brands are not necessarily better than their less-advertised alternatives.

4. Stop clipping crappy coupons. Take a good look at the grocery coupons you're clipping before getting excited about the deal. Many coupons offer deals on highly packaged foods low in nutrition and high in unpronounceable ingredients. Skipping the crappy coupons and opting to pay a little bit more for whole foods may be a better deal for your health in the long run.

5. Skip the cans, buy dried beans in bulk. Why are you buying beans canned in captivity? Buying dried beans in bulk and soaking them overnight is a frugal way to add protein to your diet without paying for the high cost of meat. Besides, dried beans are extremely cheap and expand when soaked, so your family gets more meal for every dining dollar spent by forgoing the canned variety.

Finding simple ways to cut your everyday food expenses takes a bit of practice, but the payoff can be huge.

This article was reported by Kerry K. Taylor for U.S. News & World Report.

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program

The Cobb County School District is part of the National School Lunch Program which sponsors the free and reduced-price lunch program for qualifying students. To find out if your family qualifies, fill out an online meal application at mealapps.cobbk12.org. For more information, please call 770-590-4531.