

## **Hall County Launches Foreclosure Registry**

November 18, 2013

Hall County has officially launched its foreclosure registry.

The registry provides the Hall County Marshal's Office with a new tool to track the owners of foreclosed and vacant properties, holding those owners accountable for lack of maintenance and security issues at those homes and protecting surrounding property values as well. In essence, the registry will give County marshals contact information for the owner of a property in the case of a code violation or other safety issue that needs to be addressed.

According to Hall County Commission Clerk Melissa McCain, banks and mortgage companies in the area will be receiving a letter letting them know that properties in unincorporated Hall County that were foreclosed on prior to Oct. 1, 2013 need to be entered into the foreclosure registry by Jan. 2, 2014. In addition to foreclosed properties, the owner of any vacant, real property that has not been inhabited for 60 days and has no signs of utility usage in 60 days is also required to register. The owners of these properties can do so by logging on to [hallcounty.org](http://hallcounty.org), filling out the foreclosure registry form and submitting that paperwork to the county along with a \$100 payment for joining the registry. McCain said the \$100 payment must be submitted, along with a new foreclosure registry form, any time the foreclosed property changes hands.

The owner of any property in unincorporated Hall County that was or is foreclosed on after Sept. 30, 2013 has 90 days from the date of foreclosure or vacancy to register.

Payments sent by mail may be made by check or money order and made payable to Hall County Foreclosure Registry and mailed to Hall County Foreclosure Registry, P.O. Drawer 1435, Gainesville, Ga. 30503.

Cash, check or credit card payments may also be made in person at the Hall County Government Center, 4th Floor Administration, 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, Ga. 30504 between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Incomplete forms, forms without payment or forms that are illegible will be returned for resubmittal.

Telephone inquiries can be made to 770-297-5518 or by email at [hallcountyforeclosure@hallcounty.org](mailto:hallcountyforeclosure@hallcounty.org).

Anyone who fails to register a foreclosed property is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. Additional fines may be levied if the Hall County Marshal's Office issues citations on the property.

The creation of a foreclosure registry was passed by the Hall County Board of Commissioners in June 2013. In addition to acting as a tool for the Marshal's Office, the registry may also be beneficial to the County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The program is funded by a federal grant which allows the county to buy foreclosed properties, rehabilitate them and sell them to new owners, which improves nearby property values and puts those properties back onto the tax digest. The registry may also be a way for County staff to identify properties that qualify as NSP homes.