

# DECAzette

A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter  
Volume V Number 4 November 2002

7 Communities 780 Homes 1100 Voters

## **Yard-of-the-Month**

Early this year DECA resident Leslie Freymann, who lives in Beverly Hills, accepted the position of Yard-of-the-Month chairperson. Residences in the neighborhoods making up the DECA community are judged for the Yard-of-the-Month award on a rotating basis with judging conducted in a different neighborhood each month. So far this year each of the DECA neighborhoods has been judged at least once. The most recent winners are as follows.

### October 2002 – Beverly Hills

*1st Place* 2563 Woodgreen Drive

#### *Honorable Mentions:*

3072 Stratford Arms Drive

2532 Beverly Hills

2590 Mural Drive

### *Best Halloween Decorations*

2532 Beverly Hills

### September 2002 – LaVenture Forest

*1st Place* 2871 Arrow Creek (Email us if you know who lives here)

#### *Honorable Mentions:*

2849 Arrow Creek (Email us if you know who lives here)

2934 Arrow Creek (Keith Tindle)

2873 Dresden Way (Jerry & Marcine Head)

### August 2002 – Frontier Trail

*1st Place* 2790 Pioneer Court (Julie & Jeff Roden)

#### *Honorable Mentions*

2773 Frontier Trail (Billy & James)

2762 Pioneer Court (Craig Thomas)

2752 Frontier Trail (Sallie Daegling)

### July 2002 – Marlin Acres

*1st Place* 2873 Marlin Way (Jeanne & Raymond Camp)

## *Honorable Mention*

2962 Marlin Circle (Email us if you know who lives here)

2840 Marlin Drive (Carol & Jon Hamatry)

2834 Marlin Drive (Carolyn & Paul Mathias)

The winners are to be congratulated and commended for contributing to the attractiveness of our neighborhoods. If you would like to serve as a judge or nominate a home in your neighborhood for an award, contact Leslie at 678-547-0350 or [lfreymann@mindspring.com](mailto:lfreymann@mindspring.com).

## **DECAzette Editor Ill**

We regret to have to inform DECAzette readers that Jeff Weeks, the regular DECAzette editor, has been experiencing serious health problems for the past couple of months and has not been able to devote time to the production and distribution of the fall-quarter newsletter. The issue you are now reading was produced by former DECA President Peggy Hynes (Appling Heights). Jim Dorsey (Appling Heights) was in charge of distribution. The DECA Board of Directors is grateful to these members who stepped forward to keep the ball rolling, so to speak. We all wish Jeff a speedy recovery.

***Dead birds recently found in Michelle's Court (behind the Circle K on Shallowford Road) and in the Flair Forest community (across I-85 behind the Presbyterian Church) tested positive for West Nile Virus.***

## **BY-LAWS REVISION APPROVED**

DECA members approved a revision to the organization's By-Laws at the October 24,

2002 meeting. The revision, drafted by a committee consisting of DECA members Sam Powell (La Venture Forest), Mary Johnson (La Venture Forest), and Ed McLeskey (Marlin Acres), clarified and updated the DECA membership categories. Effective immediately, the membership categories are as follows:

**A. Standard Member:** Any adult resident or property owner in DECA neighborhoods who is current in payment of the annual dues as set by the DECA Board of Directors.

**B. Sustaining Member:**

- A Standard member who contributes \$50.00 or more, which includes dues for Standard membership.
- An individual, organization, business or enterprise who, in the interest of promoting the objectives of DECA, makes an annual contribution to the Association of \$50.00 or more annually.

**C. Honorary Member:** An individual (resident or non-resident), organization, and/or business selected by the Board of Directors to be given an honorary membership.

This was the first time the DECA By-Laws have been revised since they were initially adopted in 1997.

## **Keep DECA Beautiful**

Real estate agents say “Location, location, location.” Location, used in that way, is a loaded word. Implied in the chant, “location, location, location,” is location within an attractive neighborhood. One way to make a neighborhood attractive is for all residents to comply with the local residential codes and zoning ordinances. The following information on residential codes applicable in the DECA communities are found in a pamphlet published and distributed by the Code Enforcement Unit of the DeKalb County Police Department and in the official “Code of DeKalb County.”

All property owners and occupants in DeKalb County, are responsible for maintaining their properties in accordance with certain standards. These standards are designed to protect the environment, and maintain the appearance of our neighborhoods.

1. GRASS AND WEEDS must be maintained below 18-inches in height.

2. OUTSIDE STORAGE is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: tires, old

appliances, building materials, auto parts, trash, junk, old furniture, brush piles and dead trees, and junk vehicles. All stored items must be kept in an area enclosed on all sides by walls and a roof.

3. STORAGE BUILDINGS are considered accessory structures, and may only be located in the rear yard. They must be maintained in good condition. Furthermore, a building permit is required before the unit may be put on the premises.

4. FENCES may only be 4-feet high in the front yard, or 8-feet high in the side or rear yard. Fences must be maintained in good repair, and should be made out of materials suitable for fence construction.

5. SIGNS may not be erected in the right of way, nor may they be placed on utility poles.

6. YARD SIGNS. Permissible Signs in Residential Areas. The “Code of DeKalb County,” Section 21-102(b), states that: “In all residential zoning districts, one (1) wall and one (1) freestanding sign per housing unit is allowed. These signs shall only identify home occupancy and address and shall not exceed two (2) square feet maximum size per sign.” This section prohibits the display of “marketing signs” or “advertising signs” in residential areas. Real Estate signs are considered in a separate section of the “Code.”

7. JUNK VEHICLES are any vehicles which are inoperable, or do not bear current tags. Junk vehicles may not be parking in residential zones. Also, PARKING ON THE GRASS is prohibited.

8. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES are restricted in residential zones. Business vehicles such as passenger cars, pick-ups, or ordinary passenger vans must be parked in a carport, or to the side or rear of the house. Other commercial vehicles (e.g. Semi tractors, panel vans, school buses, and cargo vans) may not be kept in a residential zone.

9. BOATS AND TRAILERS may only be parked to the side of one’s house, or within a carport or garage.

10. TRANSIENT SALES are restricted. No selling may take place within 50 feet of the curb. Permission of the property owner must be obtained prior to setting up for business. Also, a business license must be obtained from DeKalb County prior to start of operations.

When a property owner or tenant is found to be in violation with the Property Maintenance Code or the Zoning Ordinance, he or she will be issued a

warning giving them a set period to come into compliance. Failure to comply with the warning will result in the issuance of a citation to appear in court.

Code Violations continue to be of concern to DECA residents. Many of you have called Code Enforcement and contacted property owners about some of these violations, and some positive results have resulted. If you observe what you believe to be a code violation, you may call Code Enforcement at 404-417-1240 and file a complaint. You may identify yourself as a member of the Dresden East Civic Association. If you would like to see what the DeKalb County Code of Ordinance has to say on various subjects you may consult a paper copy of the Code at the Chamblee Library. A good online version of the Code can be viewed at [www.mindspring.com/~bbelton/zoning/](http://www.mindspring.com/~bbelton/zoning/)



**One of the objectives of DECA** as stated in the By-Laws is as follows:

“To ensure that the area is preserved principally for quality residential use and to oppose the intrusion of elements that adversely affect the quality of our neighborhoods in terms of appearance, safety, property value, and overall atmosphere.”

One way in which this objective can be achieved is for residents to observe the DeKalb County Codes and Zoning Ordinances and encourage their neighbors to do the same.

## DECA Treasure's Report as of October 23, 2002

Income:	
Balance forward from 2001	\$1,813.06
Membership Dues 2002	\$2,982.00
Other Income:	\$ 37.41
	\$4,832.47
Expenses:	
Operating supplies, postage,	\$1,258.51
Printing (includes newsletter)	
Registrations & other fees	\$ 249.95
Picnic Expenses	\$ 401.02
Meeting Room rental	\$ 135.00
	\$2,044.48
Balance to Date:	<u>\$2,787.99</u>

Advertising Rates for the DECAzette  
Business Card (3.5"x 2"): \$20/issue  
Quarter-page Ad: \$50/issue  
**Tell Businesses that You Use!**

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**DECA thanks RBC Centura for its support!**

## What is DECA?

DECA is a non-profit organization established in 1997. These goals, stated in the by-laws of our constitution, guide the actions of DECA.

DECA works to ensure that the area is preserved principally for quality residential use and to oppose the intrusion of elements that adversely affect the quality our neighborhoods in terms of appearance, safety, property value, and overall atmosphere.

DECA maintains liaison with governing bodies so as to influence decision-making and remain alert to courses of action of inherent interest to the community, such as zoning and code enforcement.

*DECA will act as a communication vehicle to keep the citizens of its neighborhood informed of community problems or opportunities and to build a "sense of community."*



## **New Police Department**

### **Numbers:**

Some telephone numbers at the DeKalb Police Department's North Precinct have changed. The new numbers are as follows:  
Emergency -- 911

Uniform Division Screening or desk officer -  
- 770-901-6015 - 770-901-6006 (fax)

Criminal Investigation Division (Detectives)  
- 770-901-6008 - 770-604-3929 (fax)

If you have questions contact:

Charles Delk, Community Relations Officer,  
770-604-3928, [dkpdcommrel@hotmail.com](mailto:dkpdcommrel@hotmail.com)

### **Electronic Mail**

#### **Keeps DECA Members in Touch**

Do you want to be able to instantly alert your neighbors to crime or other emergency events in your community? Do you want help in locating a lost pet? Are you looking for recommendations for home repair services? Do you wish to share some good news with your neighbors? If so, the [DECA Atlanta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:DECA.Atlanta@yahoogroups.com) may be just what you need. Enter this address in the "To" box of your e-mail message screen and make instant contact with a large number of your DECA neighbors. You can expect quick feedback from members of this electronic community. Another electronic mail vehicle is the DECA Update which goes out to approximately 150 DECA residents. The DECA Update, typically transmitted once a week, provides up-to-date information on news, events, emergencies, and other topics thought to be of interest to DECA residents. To have your name added to the list of recipients, e-mail your name, address, and e-mail address to [wwdaniel@yahoo.com](mailto:wwdaniel@yahoo.com).

### **Commissioner Yates Urges Voter**

**Registration** At a recent public meeting, DeKalb County District 6 Commissioner Judy Yates stressed the importance of every DeKalb County resident being a registered voter and a consistent voter. She emphasized that local elected officials do pay attention to voting figures, especially those that indicate a consistent pattern of voting in local elections. If you are not a registered voter you may become one by registering at the Voter Registration

Office at 4380 Memorial Drive (in the County Government Complex across from the County Jail). You may register online at [www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/applications.htm](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections/applications.htm)

### **DeKalb County Civic Coalition Meetings Open to DECA Residents**

The DeKalb County Civic Coalition (DCCC) is a consortium of county homeowners' associations such as DECA that provides opportunities for homeowners to become better acquainted with county government and to interact with their counterparts in other areas of the county to air, discuss and work together in addressing issues of common concern. Each member association has a designated liaison person who attends the DCCC meetings and reports back to the association on issues of interest. DECA is a long-time member of DCCC, and Cheryl Von Soosten (Frontier Woods) is the current DECA liaison. Any DECA member is welcome to attend the general DCCC meetings which are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday night of each month except March, July, September, and December. Meetings are held at the DeKalb County Complex Auditorium 4380 Memorial Drive.

The official purpose of DCCC as published in its latest brochure is as follows:

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Coalition is to promote the common interests of DeKalb Homeowners through their member organizations.

We promote our commons interests by:

- Advocating homeowners' views and positions on improving DeKalb's quality of life to elected officials and government representatives.
- Sponsoring public forums for homeowners and taxpayers on issues of concern; i.e., zoning and land use.
- Providing educational and training programs for member organizations.
- Sponsoring candidate forums.

For further information contact Cheryl Von Soosten at 770-454-6414 or [cjvonsoosten@hotmail.com](mailto:cjvonsoosten@hotmail.com)

### Recycling Resources

1. Waste Not Georgia 404-266-0820  
[www.wastenotgeorgia.org](http://www.wastenotgeorgia.org)
2. GrassRoots Recycling Network  
706-613-7121, [www.grrn.org](http://www.grrn.org)
3. Georgia Recycling Coalition  
404-634-3095 [www.georgiarecycles.org](http://www.georgiarecycles.org)
4. Keep Georgia Beautiful 404-679-4910
5. For a list of recycling companies and resources check the Department of Community Affairs at  
[www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental](http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental).
6. To locate recycling and reuse sites for numerous items including computers, car batteries, paint, propane tanks, and hazardous waste products contact 1-800-253-2687, [www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org)

## 61 Area Transactions in the Past Six Years!

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**Special Thanks to All DECA Residents for Our Continued Success**

### **DECA Officers 2002**

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Mike Besal-Vice President  
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770-457-4652

Jeff Weeks-Newsletter Editor  
[jweeks@attbi.com](mailto:jweeks@attbi.com)  
3024 Whispering Hills Drive  
770-454-6729

### **Community Representatives**

Shirley Hammond-Michelle's Court  
2639-H Frontier Trail  
770-457-7208

Ruth Kenny-Frontier Woods  
2761 Frontier Trail

Anne Stuart-Whispering Hills  
[astuarta@bellsouth.net](mailto:astuarta@bellsouth.net)  
2947 Whispering Hills Drive  
770-454-6558

Brian Baker  
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770-986-0907

Becky Norris-Marlin Acres  
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2938 Marlin Circle  
770-451-8963

Jim Dorsey-Appling Heights  
[dorsey2985@aol.com](mailto:dorsey2985@aol.com)  
2985 Appling Circle  
770-451-4046

Rich Zelnick-LaVenture Forest  
[laventureforest@yahoo.com](mailto:laventureforest@yahoo.com)

2942 Arrow Creek Drive  
770-618-8732

### ***Some Web Sites of Interest***

The following are some Web sites that you might find informative and interesting:

1. For the latest information on zoning issues in DeKalb County as well as other matters, Blair Belton, Drew Valley resident, has the Web site of choice among county residents  
[www.mindspring.com/~bbelton/zoning/](http://www.mindspring.com/~bbelton/zoning/).
2. For the latest news pertaining to DeKalb/Peachtree Airport and PDK Watch, logon to [www.pdkwatch.org](http://www.pdkwatch.org).
3. DeKalb County District 1 Commissioner Elaine Boyer has a Web site to which she periodically posts messages and other information that you may find of interest. The address is [www.commissionerboyer.homestead.com](http://www.commissionerboyer.homestead.com). District 1 includes the area making up the largest portion of DECA.
4. Neighborhood Association Web sites of interest. North Lake Community Alliance: [www.nlake.org](http://www.nlake.org). At this Web site you can learn, among other things, how this community association obtained a \$90,000 grant and how they spent the money.
5. Dresden Square: Our neighbors at Dresden Square, off Dresden Drive between Appling Drive and Marlin Way, have a Web site. The address is [www.dresdensquare.org](http://www.dresdensquare.org).
6. Don't forget the DECA Web site which contains a wealth of information of interest to DECA residents [www.decaonline.org](http://www.decaonline.org). The Web site now includes yard-of-the-month pictures, homes for sale, minutes, local clubs/organizations, important phone numbers, updated neighborhood news and much more!

### **FREE! FREE! DeKalb County Library's OnLine Book Club**

Do you know DeKalb County Library sponsors a **free** online book club? It's called "Chapter-A-Day" and emails a 5-minute read everyday from a new book each week. It is a wonderful way to find new, interesting books. It is a great way to "take a break" during a busy day. Join at [TalkBook@dekalblibrary.org](mailto:TalkBook@dekalblibrary.org). This will take you to the DeKalb County Library web site. Under "Quick References" on the right of the page select "OnLine Book Club", then "Join Now", enter your email address and your first name, and then subscribe.

You do not have to have a DeKalb County Library card to join the OnLine Book Club. Join now! Read for fun!

### **Membership Application**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

[    ] Check if you wish to be on the elist.

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: (circle one)

\$10-Standard membership, calendar year

\$50-Sustaining membership, calendar year to provide financial support to DECA.

Mail to: DECA

PO Box 49305 – Atlanta, GA 30359

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### **&**

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**RE/MAX Greater Atlanta**