

DECAzette

A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter
Volume VI Number 1 March 2003

7 Communities 780 Homes 1100 Voters

DECA Quarterly Meeting Schedule

The remaining 2003 DECA Quarterly meetings will be held on April 24, July 17, and October 16. All meetings are held at Dresden Elementary School. Meeting times are 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and socializing. The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Please mark you calendar and make plans to attend.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The following DECA officers for 2003 were elected at the Quarterly meeting on January 16, 2003.

President: Ron Dennis, Appling Heights

Vice President: Dan Harris, Beverly Hills

Secretary: Brian Baker, Beverly Hills

Treasurer: Sheila Rotter, Appling Heights. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee for putting together this slate of officers.

Snap Shot Information

Ron Dennis, DECA President, has been a resident of Appling Heights for the past seven years. He has previously served DECA as our PDK Airport/Watch Liaison and as a member of NNN (see item below). Ron is self-employed as a teacher of the Alexander Technique, a method for postural correction and control. (For further information see Ron's Web site at www.unique-technique.info) Ron's hobbies include classical music performances,

computers, electronics, and martinis.

(Editor's note: I also know Ron is a voracious reader.) During the coming year Ron would like to see more resident participation in DECA affairs.

Dan Harris, Vice President, lives in Beverly Hills where he has made his home since 1993. In addition to his Vice-Presidential duties, he is a member of NNN and serves on the Dresden Park Committee. Dan, who is an accountant with Cingular Wireless, is a runner and a reader. He also picks up trash in the neighborhood and has been active in ridding the DECA community of graffiti. This year Dan would like to see an increase in community spirit among DECA residents.

Brian Baker, DECA's Secretary for 2003, is a resident of Beverly Hills where he has lived for the past three-and-a-half years. He has been a devoted supporter of DECA for the past two years. A customer service manager with Master Graphic Services of Chamblee, Brian, in his spare time, is a bicyclist, dancer, and music performer. He is also interested in local history. Brian says that he would like to see DECA residents become better acquainted with each other.

Sheila Rotter, Treasuer. This is the second consecutive year that Sheila

has been elected DECA treasurer. She is employed at Emory University and says her hobbies are "enjoying those 'moments in life' that pop up, friends, reading the paper, quiet time." Sheila states that during the coming year she would like to see more "DECA members who realize that it takes everyone to keep our neighborhoods viable and that they have to take an active interest in where they live regardless of how much or how little time they can devote. DECA members can be on the DECA Board [of Directors] or call in problems to Georgia Power. All are important." She would like to see more neighbors come forward to get involved with the different aspects of DECA. "It is a great way to meet new neighbors and learn about the area," she says.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECA NEIGHBORHOOD REPS

The DECA Nominating Committee announces the following recommendations for Neighborhood Representatives. This slate of representatives will be voted on at the DECA Quarterly meeting on April 24.

Appling Heights - Jimmy Dorsey

Jimmy, who lives at 2985 Appling Circle, has lived in the Appling Heights neighborhood for thirty-nine years. This is the second year he has been tapped to serve as Neighborhood Rep. For several years Jimmy was the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Appling Heights and residents remember the popular annual National Night Out parties he used to

organize. Jim has served DECA in many capacities, including positions on the Social and Yard-of-the-Month Committees and as distributor of the DECAzette in Appling Heights. A pharmacist by profession, he was Director of Pharmacy at Grady Memorial Hospital before his retirement. A graduate of the DeKalb County Extension Service's Master Gardener Program, Jim mentions gardening first on his list of hobbies. His other past times include antique automobiles, classical music, art, and travel. He is interested in seeing that DECA continues to pursue efforts in support of the renovation of Dresden Park. Jim would like to hear from anyone who can help him distribute the DECAzette in Appling Heights (once per quarter for about 30 minutes) and serve on the Yard-of-the-Month Committee (for about an hour at 11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month). He may be contacted at 770-451-4046 or at dorsey2985@aol.com.

Beverly Hills - Brian Baker

Brian, who lives at 3142 LaVenture Drive, is wearing two DECA hats this year. In addition to being DECA Secretary he has agreed to serve as Representative from his neighborhood. A three-and-a-half year resident of the DECA community, Brian is a customer service manager with Master Graphic Services of Chamblee. His hobbies include bicycling, dancing, and music performance. He is also interested in local history. Brian may be reached

at 770-986-0907 or at
rbbakeratl@aol.com.

Frontier Woods - Cheryl Bailey

Cheryl lives at 2787 Frontier Trail and has been a DECA resident for five years. A technical writer as well as Executive Assistant with Centennial Healthcare, Cheryl's hobbies include pets, movies, music, and sports. She says that she would like to see more residents of every neighborhood in the DECA area get involved to help the whole area feel like a community. She urges residents in her neighborhood to join DECA. You may contact Cheryl at 770-452-9759 or cbailey@centennialhc.com.

LaVenture Forest - Rich Zelnick

Rich lives at 2942 Arrow Creek Drive. He moved into the DECA community in July of 2000 and has been a supporter of DECA from the beginning. Last year he served as Neighborhood Rep from LaVenture Forest and Chair of the Social Committee. In the latter position, Rich was responsible for the memorable DECA picnic that was held last summer in Dresden Park. He is also the person who coordinates the providing of refreshments at the Quarterly DECA general membership meetings. Rich has been effective in persuading local businesses to furnish refreshments for the meetings and the picnic. Rich is a fifteen-year employee of the United States Postal Service. When it comes to hobbies, Rich says that aspect of his life is undergoing reorganization since his recent marriage. "Since I have gotten married," he says, "the hobbies have changed. I am still figuring out which ones we can enjoy as a family (which includes a young son). My past hobbies were, skiing, bicycling, hiking, socializing,

dancing, and movies to name a few." Rich as a condo in Dunwoody that he would like to sell so he can remain a DECA resident. He would like to see DECA "work on opening communications with the quick building Mexican population." To the residents of his neighborhood, Rich sends this message: "I would like to tell everyone in LaVenture Forest [that] I have never been in such a kind, open, caring neighborhood in all my life. If I am to move, I would surely miss all the wonderful folks here. Please, if you have not taken time to meet the neighbors who live a few doors away, do so this spring or summer. It may be the best year you ever had." Rich may be contacted at 678-358-4054 or richepz@yahoo.com.

Marlin Acres - Nell Ruby

Nell Ruby, who lives at 3004 Marlin Circle, has been a DECA resident since Halloween 1995. Nell, who is Professor of Art at Agnes Scott College, designed the DECA logo which is used on DECA letterheads, T-shirts, the DECAzette, and other DECA-related items. Nell's telephone number is 770-986-7076; her email is nruby@agnesscott.edu.

Michelle's Court - Shirley Hammond

Shirley lives at 2639-H Frontier Trail and may be reached at 770-457-7208.

Whispering Hills - Ann Stuart

Ann Stuart who served as Whispering Hills Rep last year is moving. The position is currently in need of being filled.

Neighborhood Representatives are members of the DECA Board of Directors. Among their duties, as listed in the DECA By-Laws, is to serve as liaison between the Board of Directors and DECA membership within their neighborhoods.

DECA NEEDS YOU!

Have a hand in shaping your community's future: Get involved in DECA. DECA is your civic association. The current officers, Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, Neighborhood Reps, and other leaders want you to join them in helping the organization achieve its goals of insuring that our constituent neighborhoods are pleasant, attractive, and safe places in which to live. Some of the ways in which you can help are to:

1. volunteer to serve on a committee,
2. attend the Quarterly meetings,
3. let your Neighborhood Rep know of any ideas you have as to how DECA might achieve its goals,
4. agree to serve as an officer when the Nominating Committee comes calling, and
5. serve as the eyes and ears of your neighborhood. If you observe activity or situations that you feel have a negative impact on your neighborhood, contact the appropriate authorities and/or your elected officials.

If you would like to be more active in DECA activities, contact your Neighborhood Representative.

Yard-of-the-Month Season Coming

DECA sponsored a Yard-of-the-Month project last year. The review of the seven neighborhoods in DECA will begin the 2003 season the first Saturday in April. If you are interested in being a judge, if just for one time only, contact Jim Dorsey at 770-451-4046 or e-mail him at dorsey2985@aol.com. Jim says that no experience is required. The judging, Jim says, will take into account the following criteria:

- "Grass should be mowed at proper height: fescue 2-3 inches, hybrid

bermuda and zoysia grass at 0.5-1.5 inches.

- Driveway and curbs should be edged.
- Shrubbery should not obscure windows.
- Some color from flowers is desirable."

If you would like to nominate a yard in your neighborhood contact Jim. An appropriate sign will be placed in the winning yard and Honorable Mention awards will be given to several yards that are runners-up. The scheduling for judging is as follows: **April 5** Appling Heights, **May 3** Beverly Hills, **June 7** Frontier Woods, **July 5** LaVenture Forest **August 2** Marlin Acres, **September 6** Whispering Hills.

Membership Renewal Time

For most of us, it's time to renew our DECA membership. Standard membership renewal is **\$10.00 per year**. Checks, made out to DECA, may be mailed to DECA, P.O. Box 49305, Atlanta, GA 30359. Be sure to include your address, telephone number, and e-mail address, if you wish to receive the DECA Update (DECA's electronic newsletter).

Sustaining membership renewal is **\$50.00 per year**. If you would like you may renew your standard or sustaining membership at www.decaonline.org.

ZONING ALERT - A developer has applied to the County to 1) amend the Land Use Plan on the southeast side of Interstate 85 Access Road, 579 feet northeast of Shallowford Road, 2) to rezone the property for the construction of apartments. The property has frontage of 483 feet and contains 13.125 acres. The application is conditional on redevelopment of the property for an apartment complex of 356 units based on a site plan. This property was most recently occupied by the Internal

Revenue Service. Long-time residents will remember when the current building housed the GEX discount store. The Hawthorne Civic Association (serving residents across I-85 from DECA) is adamantly opposed to the approval of this application and seeks the help of DECA residents in achieving that objective. The property is located in regular District 2 and Superdistrict 6 served, respectively, by Commissioners Walldorff and Yates. If you have any questions on this issue you may contact Hawthorne Civic Association member Betty Phillips at 404-634-6498. (Thanks to DECA Vice President Dan Harris for keeping DECA informed on this issue).

Board of Directors Meetings Schedule

February 10 - St. Pius X High School, Room 501, park and enter behind the new gym.

March 10 - St. Pius X High School, Rm 501.

April 14 - St. Pius X High School, Room 501.

May 12 - Rosalynn Apartments, Board Room.

June 9 - Location to be announced.

July 14 - Location to be announced.

September 15 - Rosalynn Apartments,

Board Room. **October 13** - Rosalynn

Apartments, Board Room. **November 10** - Location to be announced.

Damage Inflicted at Appling Place

Residents of Appling Heights and Marlin Acres have no doubt noticed the extensive damage that was inflicted on one of the brick walls flanking Appling Place, the short segment of pavement between Appling Drive and Appling Way that connects the I-85 Southbound Access road to Dresden Drive. Apparently the wall was hit by a large vehicle. The cut-through is referred to as "The Entrance" by Appling Heights and Marlin Acres residents, many of whom use it to enter and leave their

neighborhoods. The brick walls at the entrance have stood for close to forty years, and up until a couple of years ago, had escaped damage, either accidental or intentional. Two previous incidents left the east wall with relative minor damage that was repaired by residents of Appling Heights and Marlin Acres. The apparent extent of the current damage suggests that major repair work will be required to restore the structure. If anyone has any information on how the latest damage was caused, please contact DECA's Appling Heights representative Jim Dorsey at 770-451-4046 or dorsey2985@aol.com. If you are interested in helping rebuild the wall contact Jim.

Ticketing Enforcement Campaign

On Wednesday, February 5, during morning hours, Dresden Drive and Shallowford Road, in the vicinity of Dresden Elementary School, were targets of a campaign to ticket speeding drivers. During the hour and fifteen minutes that the campaign was in progress, the six DeKalb County Police Officers assigned to the campaign wrote 26 citations: 14 on Dresden Drive and 12 on Shallowford Road. The highest speed observed was 48 miles per hour. Ms. Janet Weisman, Coordinator, Safe Kids of DeKalb, was responsible for making the campaign possible. Ms. Weisman states that credit is due DECA resident Juliette Mansour for getting the job done sooner than later. "Juliette's tenacity was the key to the speedy implementation of the campaign," Ms. Weisman said. Juliette Mansour, who lives on Dresden Drive, has to deal with speeding motorists along her street on a daily basis. Kudos to Juliette who, out of concern for her own safety and that of her neighbors and the students of Dresden Elementary School

presented a convincing case to the appropriate authorities.

Dresden Park Renovation Ahead

You may have noticed a boarded-up former apartment building on Dresden Drive next to the entrance to Dresden Park. The building, which was purchased by DeKalb County, will be razed as part of the planned renovation of the park.

Cheryl Von Soosten, DECA's liaison person for Dresden Park issues, reports that dialogue continues between DeKalb County's Parks & Recreation Department and St. Pius X High School relative to a proposed cooperative project in which the school would use portions of the park in its athletic program and assume some of the maintenance responsibilities. If you would like to voice your support of these efforts to upgrade Dresden Park, you may do so by contacting our County CEO and the four County Commissioners. Contact information is as follows:

- CEO Vernon Jones, 404-371-2000
ceo@co.dekalb.ga.us
- Commissioner Elaine C. Boyer
404-371-2844;
clmitche@co.dekalb.ga.us
- Commissioner Gale Walldorff, 404-371-2863; galew@co.dekalb.ga.us
- Commissioner Judy Yates, 404-371-4909; jayates@co.dekalb.ga.us
- Commissioner Lou Walker, 404-371-3053; [louwalker@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:louwwalker@co.dekalb.ga.us)

The mailing address for each is Manual J. Maloof Center, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

Citizen Deputy at Work for

Code Enforcement Dan Harris, DECA's Vice President and Citizen Deputy for Code Enforcement, had a busy day a few weekends ago. He and Nikki Van Der Grinten, a Citizen Deputy who lives in

another neighborhood, spent almost four hours one Saturday conducting a street survey to report code violations for every address on a street in a nearby community. Pictures were taken and warning notices were written and delivered to Code Enforcement for issuance. If you would like to become a Citizen Deputy contact Code Enforcement at 404-417-1240 to request information.

Staff for this issue of DECAzette:

Editor/Reporter - Wayne Daniel

Typist/Layout - Peggy Hynes

Reproduction/Distribution - Jim Dorsey

All are residents of Appling Heights.

NNN MEETING HELD

What is NNN? NNN is short for Networking Northeast Neighborhoods, a concept and working committee developed within DECA deriving ideas about greater cooperation and effectiveness among civic associations first put forward by Plaza Fiesta developer Vince Riggio. At present, NNN comprises three civic associations: DECA, Hawthorne, and Drew Valley. Representatives of these groups meet on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. to exchange information relevant to their mutual concerns as residents of this area. The current DECA representatives to NNN are Cheryl Von Soosten, Brian Baker, Dan Harris, and Ron Dennis.

MAIL THEFT ALERT

Residents of Dresden Square recently had a problem with mail theft. A good samaritan in Tucker called to report that he had found some mail in his garbage can that appeared to be bills and Christmas cards with addresses from the Dresden Square community. It was determined that the stolen mail was outbound from

residents who left their red flag up for the postman. Dresden Square will be looking into purchasing locked mail boxes this spring.

Cheryl Von Soosten on School Council Former DECA President, Cheryl Von Soosten, currently serves on the Dresden Elementary School Council as a business member. Cheryl says that the Council, which includes two teachers, two parents, two business partners, and the School Principal, meets monthly. Cheryl continues to support and work on behalf of DECA.

- GARDENING TIPS -

DECA's Master Gardner, Jim Dorsey, offers these gardening tips.

- February and April are the correct times to fertilized fescue with any lawn fertilizer.
- Fescue should **NOT** be fertilized in the summer because the roots cannot support the extra growth and also, it will require more mowing.
- Warm season grasses such as bermuda, zoysia, centipede and St. Augustine should be fertilized when 50% green, which will be sometime in May.
- It will not do any damage to the yard if the mowed grass is left on the yard as long as no more that one-third of the grass is cut.
- Now is the time to remove old foliage from liriopse (monkey grass).
- Pre-emergent treatment may be spread on the lawn in March to prevent summer weeds like crabgrass. However, if you plan to put out grass seed **do not** spread pre-emergent as it will prevent grass from sprouting.

Contact Your Elected Officials

Following is information on how to contact your elected officials.

DeKalb County State Legislative Delegation

House of Representatives District 54

- Sally Harrell, 404-315-0276;
sharrell@legis.state.ga.us.

Senate

- District 40 - Liane Levetan, 404-636-3704; llevetan@attbi.com.
- District 42 - David Adelman, 404-853-8206; dadelman@legis.state.ga.us.

US House of Representatives

- 4th District - Denise Majette, 1517 Longwoth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1605
Website: www.house.gov/majette/

US Senate

- Saxby Chambliss, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-3521
- Zell Miller, 257 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-3643;

Web Form-miller.senate.gov/email.htm.

- Website for both Senators
www.senate.gov/general/contact/information/senators

Meeting with Commissioner Gale

Waldorff (from Jim Griesmer, Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) ABLE Ministry)

A meeting with Commissioner Gale Waldorff took place on February 13 and lasted one hour. Representing the IHM ABLE Ministry were Nikki Van Der Grinten, Susan De Pasquale and Jim Griesmer. Also present was Cheryl Von Soosten representing the Dresden East Civic Association (DECA).

Commissioner Walldorff was asked to discuss the funding situation with respect to sidewalks and other pedestrian safety measures. She explained her vote against the use of additional Host funds for infrastructure improvements by saying that

she felt that the higher property tax bills which will result will be a heavy burden on home owners in these difficult economic times. Her strategy for sidewalks remains that of using county money for improvements along interior streets, while seeking federal and state funding for improvements along major streets and highways. She said she has held discussions with Congresswoman Denise Majette about the Buford Highway corridor and its pedestrian safety needs, and cited the presence of a lobbyist for the County of Washington, Patty Daley. The sidewalk projects that have been recently completed, or are underway, in Commissioner Walldorff's district include Fair Oaks, University Drive, Shady Valley, Biltmore, and Sheridan Road. She then asked for our input on additional sidewalk needs. Susan De Pasquale presented a multi-page document, including pictures, to show the need for the completion of a sidewalk along a six-tenths of a mile stretch of Frazier Road, between LaVista Road, past the railroad tracks, to Springbrook Drive. Nikki Van Der Grinten provided a picture and map showing the need for a sidewalk along the eastern boundary of the Fiesta Mall. Nikki also presented a list of several ordinances, which were unclear, or not being observed, with respect to such matters as property upkeep, asking that they be looked at. Cheryl Von Soosten asked about the status of Dresden Park. Commissioner Walldorff said that three houses had been purchased and would be demolished to provide a better entrance to the Park and that the County was partnering with St. Pius X High School on improvements to the Park. Commissioner Walldorff also talked about a green space acquisition of 20 acres south of the PDK Airport on which the houses have been taken down. She also discussed in the general issues surrounding the airport with the hope that these could be worked out by all the parties concerned. Finally, Jim Griesmer brought up the subject of visitation at the DeKalb County Jail, a matter raised by the Hispanic community at the previous IHM parish assembly. Commissioner Walldorff said that the Commissioners' hands were tied in that,

while they sign checks, the Sheriff is the duly constituted authority in charge of the Jail. If you have any questions about any aspect of ABLE, please contact Jim Griesmer at 404-378-3516 or griesmer@aol.com

Domestic Violence Forum

DECA received the following message from DeKalb County State Court Judge Johnny Panos on February 19, 2003.

.....
I have put together a Public Informational Forum for Thursday, April 10, 2003, starting a 6:00 p.m. at the Maloof Building (in downtown Decatur).

Commissioners Walker and Johnson and Gwen Keyes will assist me in putting on the program "Domestic Violence, What you should know and What to do about it." This program will be an informational and how-to forum. Please spread the word around and especially in the churches and communities. At the present time the program will have a Superior court Judge talk about *How to get Temporary Protective Orders*. We will have individuals from Women's shelters and Men Stopping Violence talk about how to seek help. We will have Solicitor Keyes talk about what evidence is needed to make a case and any new legislation that has passed the General Assembly and we will have Chief Magistrate Winston Bethal talk about the new domestic violence arraignment program he wants to start.

Please, Please, Please spread the word around to the various DeKalb County Civic Coalition Members, parent-student council members, schools and/or principals and everyone else you can think of, I would think that this program would be insightful to all and especially school personnel. I am not sure to what extent school personnel are knowledgeable about the issues of Domestic Violence.

Thank you,
Judge Panos
.....

Spring forward this year, meet a neighbor. You may make a new friend.