



# DECAzette

A newsletter for the members and friends  
of Dresden East Civic Association (DECA)

October 2001

Vol. 4, Issue 4

## DECA 2001 Board of Directors:

- President – Cheryl Von Soosten, Frontier Woods
- Vice President – Wayne Daniel, Appling Heights
- Secretary – Mary Johnson, LaVenture Forest
- Treasurer – Scott Davis, Whispering Hills



## DECA 2001 Neighborhood Representatives:

- Appling Heights – Jim Dorsey
- Beverly Hills - Melissa Slaughter
- Frontier Woods – Marty Locker
- LaVenture Forest – Liz Rouse
- Marlin Acres – Becky Norris
- Michelle's Court – Shirley Hammond
- Whispering Hills – Jeff Weeks



## DECA 2001 Associates:

- Historian – Sheila Rotter, Appling Heights
- Newsletter – Bill Petritz, Appling Heights
- PDK Coordinator – Ron Dennis, Appling Heights
- Webmaster – Aaron Granger

P.O. Box 49305 Atlanta, GA 30359

<http://DECAONLINE.tripod.com>

## Letter From DECA's President

In an effort to improve property appearances, earlier this year DECA started to send code awareness letters to property owners in our community who are in violation of the DeKalb Residential Code. In the initial letter, the owners are made aware of code issues and are asked to bring their property into compliance.

DECA will send the owner a thank you letter for efforts put forth or send a second letter of concern with a copy

to code enforcement if the property owner makes no apparent effort to comply with county codes. We have been working on specific streets and individual homes in our area throughout this year, and we remain serious about maintaining the value of our homes and community.

This effort is a small example of the DECA activities performed since the establishment of the non-profit organization in 1997.

DECA was created to ensure our 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. DECA consists of Appling Heights, Beverly Hills, Frontier Woods, LaVenture Forest, Marlin Acres, Michelle's Court Apartments and Whispering Hills subdivisions.

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## DECA Fourth Quarter Open Meeting

Our guest speaker for the Fourth Quarter Meeting will be Mr. Vince Riggio, partner of Ram Development Corporation.

He will speak on his vision of our area, the work conducted in creating Plaza Fiesta and the DeKalb Atlanta Center.

Join us Thursday, October 18th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Chamblee Library.

## County Leaders Hear PDK Airport Security Update

By Ron Dennis

On Tuesday, October 2nd, members of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, CEO Vernon Jones, other county officials, and members of the public heard a presentation by Airport Director Lee Remmel on security at PDK in wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Commissioner Gale Walldorff had expressly requested this report as a result of many concerns and questions voiced by her constituents, among them

several members of DECA present at the meeting.

With a slide show organized around the theme "Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going?", Remmel reported as well as dramatized the airport's response. For several days immediately following the attack, the airport was virtually locked down with only one access entrance and ID checks on anyone not personally known at the facility. No VFR (Visual Flight Rules) activity in the

airspace was permitted, this by order of the FAA, including flight school operations. Access codes were changed where possible. Wallet cards with quick-access phone numbers for security personnel were distributed. An Airport Security Committee was established to identify, analyze, and coordinate security matters, with an emphasis on much-heightened personal awareness of the total airport environment. Remmel noted that security

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## County Leaders Hear PDK Airport Security Update (*cont. from the cover page*)

used to refer basically to people and property, but that now it must reflect a strongly proactive mode relative to the threats posed by terrorism. As operations gradually returned to normal during the weeks after 9/11, the ongoing impacts on the airport, with regard to revenues, business infrastructure, operating costs, and federal grants, are as yet unknown, he concluded.

After his report, Remmel responded to questions from the Board, notably by Commissioners Walldorff and Hank Johnson. Walldorff

initially wanted to know whether DeKalb County could take actions deemed appropriate for security at the airport independent of the FAA. Yes, she was assured by Scott Seritt, Manager of the Atlanta District Office of the FAA, also present at the meeting. Finally, Walldorff brought up the matter of the Web site of a charter business operating out of PDK that had been advertising, "No security checks required!" "Aircraft is waiting out the back door!" "Walk from your car directly to the aircraft!" Remmel responded that this was

simply advertising of a corporate charter service and that it had been withdrawn from the Website. Commissioner Johnson expressed concern that not only terrorists, but also drug dealers, money launderers, and other criminal types would only be encouraged by this kind of advertising to utilize PDK. Commissioners Boyer, Ellis, and Scott did not materially question Remmel further.

A consensus of DECA and PDK Watch members, discussing the session immediately afterwards, thought that their most

pressing issue, that of increasing passenger and large-jet operations at the airport, with the attendant possibility of appropriation by criminal elements, was adroitly downplayed by Remmel, somewhat abetted by the absence of more aggressive questioning by the Commissioners. DECA members further interested in Remmel's report can find highlights on the airport's website, [www.pdkairporth.org](http://www.pdkairporth.org). You're also encouraged to visit the PDK Watch website, [www.pdkwatch.org](http://www.pdkwatch.org), to get "the rest of the story."



## Reporting Incidents to the North DeKalb Police Precinct

It is important to report all suspicious criminal incidents to the Police Department. Many of us don't feel it is important to report minor incidents, but it is impossible for the Police Department to respond according to the procedures put forth to them without a record of a

situation that has occurred. Should something occur to your property, please contact (404) 294.2375 and make a report. If it is in the process of occurring, dial 911 immediately!

Charles Delk, Crime Awareness Officer, stresses,

"if it doesn't look good, feel good, or causes you concern – call – because your instincts are usually correct."

## DECA Slate of Officers and Representatives for 2002

We still have volunteer positions available for the Board of Directors for 2002, please consider one of these positions as it gives a whole new perspective to what we do and how the County works. Our neighborhoods are great places to live – let's work to keep it that way.

The slate of officers and representatives for 2002:

### Board of Directors

- President: Wayne Daniel
- Vice President: *Open*
- Secretary: Leslie E. Freymann
- Treasurer: *Open*

### Associates

- Newsletter: Jeff Weeks
- P.D.K. Coordinator: Ron Dennis
- Zoning Coordinator: Open

### Web Master: Open

### DCCC Coordinator: Open

### Neighborhood Reps

- Appling Heights: Jim Dorsey
- Beverly Hills: Melissa Slaughter
- Frontier Woods: Ruth Kenny
- LaVenture Forest: Rich Zelnick

- Michelle's Court: Shirley Hammond

- Marlin Acres: Becky Norris
- Whispering Hills: Ann Stuart

### Membership

- Mary Johnson
- Sam Powell

Special thanks to our 2001 officers and representatives and in advance to our 2002 nominees!



## Letter From DECA's President *(cont. from the cover page)*

We maintain liaisons with governing bodies by belonging to DeKalb County Civic Coalition, PDK Watch and the Airport Advisory Board and by attending Board of Commissioner meetings and any County meeting that affects our neighborhoods. We also act as a communication vehicle that keeps our citizens informed of community problems and opportunities, and we build a sense of community in each of our subdivisions. Simply put, we are the voice of our community.

With all this in mind, I want to write about some areas of importance that have come to the forefront during the later part of this year.

### Dresden Park

Our guest speaker at this year's 2nd quarterly meeting was Ms. Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. She gave the neighbors a chance to state their thoughts regarding the direction of Dresden Park.

This summer, several neighbors joined a steering committee organized by the Parks and Recreation Department to work through improving our neighborhood park. It is expected that we will benefit from this effort, and we look forward to one or more proposals for improvement of the park to be put forth and discussed at a public meeting within the next few months.

### Loiterers on Shallowford

When Commissioner Walldorff spoke last fall regarding loiterers on Shallowford, she stated it was up to us to "make something happen." Since that time, we have met with several establishments in an effort to create a space for these individuals to congregate. Unlike established communities, like Roswell and Marietta, we are in an unincorporated location, which makes it more difficult to generate funds to create work force gathering places. As a consequence, nothing has been accomplished thus far, but we continue to pursue this effort.

### Shallowford Duplexes

This year, DECA set about establishing a database consisting of the owner's addresses for the duplexes on Shallowford Road from Dresden Drive to Whispering Hills Drive. Once completed, we sent out letters requesting that they comply with the

DeKalb County Code Ordinance. I received calls from several owners "thanking us" for bringing their attention to the situation. The homeowners who responded complied with our requests. The others received a second letter, which was copied to the County. Interestingly enough, many of those homes with owners who did not care to improve their property have gone on the market.

### Guardrails at the Entrance to I-85

Our biggest success, thanks to the assistance of State Representative Dist.#62 Sally Harrell, was the guardrail placement on the plot of land owned by the D.O.T. at the entrance to I-85 by Shallowford and Johnson Roads. Many of you are aware that truckers had been parking their tractors/trailers on that lot. With the guardrail in place, they can no longer do so. The D.O.T. also committed to cleaning up the overgrowth and trash in that area, which is still to be completed.

*Cheryl Von Soosten – President*

## 43 Area Transactions In The Past Six Years!

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**The next DECA public meeting will be Thursday, October 18th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Chamblee Library**



DRESDEN EAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

#### ***DECA Membership Form***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision (Circle One):

Appling Heights • Dresden Square •

Frontier Woods • LaVenture Forest •

Marlin Acres • Whispering Hills

Membership Category:

Standard (\$10)

Sustaining (\$50)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: You may also join or renew online

<http://DECAONLINE.tripod.com>



## **DECA Is Making Progress But Still Needs Your Support**

The typical longevity of a civic association is four years. DECA is proudly looking ahead to its sixth year next year; however, your participation and active membership is important to the future of your civic association.

We are just getting to know the who's, what's, where's and when's of the County arena, while making DECA recognizable and letting our elected officials know we are a force to be reckoned with.

Your support is essential to continue this cause. However, our membership over the past years has declined dramatically.

Support your civic association. Our seven subdivisions have approximately 730 homes; your participation is crucial to achieving quality results.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
1997	148
1998	37
1999	59
2000	55
2001	61

As you can see, our membership level needs your support.

Our fiscal year runs January 1st to December 31st, and our dues are minimal compared to other homeowner associations at only \$10.00 per household.

Our Board of Directors and neighborhood representatives are active in the community and all membership monies go to DECA activities, such as securing meeting space, community sponsored activities, printing and distribution of our newsletter and an occasional "Holiday Party" in the month of December (budget allowing).

## **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.

#### **Citations for Violations**

The Code, Section 21-24, states that:

The director or duly authorized representatives of the director may issue

citations for violation of this chapter requiring the presence of the violator in court in any case where it is found that a sign is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, converted or maintained in violation of any provision of this chapter."

#### **Penalties**

The Code, Section 21-26, states that:

"Any person, firm or corporation that shall do anything prohibited or fail to do anything required by the provisions of this chapter, as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, upon conviction of a violation in recorder's court shall be subject to a fine and/or imprisonment in accordance with section 1-10 of the

DeKalb County Code. Where any offense or violation continues from day to day, each day's continuance thereof shall be deemed a separate offense."

#### **What You Can Do**

If you observe what you suspect is a violation of the Code pertaining to signs, you may report your suspicions to the DeKalb County Code Enforcement office at 404-371-2776 or 404-371-2118.

The Code of DeKalb County may be accessed on the Internet at <http://fws.municode.com> or consulted at any DeKalb County library, including the Chamblee Library where it is available at the reference desk.