

### Message from the President:

When asked to speak at the last DECA Quarterly Meeting, after the vote, when I became President of DECA, I said that when it comes to making a big decision, such as whom to marry (for me, Jody), what career to follow (for me, Psychology), or, as in this case, whether or not to accept a leadership position, it is important to ask oneself, "Do I love it?". Do I love this area of DeKalb County? I do. Jody and I have lived here since 1971. We love the natural environment( the trees, creeks, and wild life); and the diverse, friendly, caring neighbors. We like the location, the low crime, the single family homes of a roughly similar nature, the good schools, the manageable traffic, and the adequately functioning (though stressed) utilities, and we hope to continue to do so. We started a Neighborhood Watch on Clairmont Terrace and Shalimar Streets> in the late '80's. The Neighborhood Watch worked. Several years later we had graphic proof that the number of criminal incidents had steadily declined. More recently, I became a member of the DeKalb Community Council.> Last year Jody and I joined with other neighbors to oppose a Developer's site plan (and rezoning to a higher density)> that we thought was unsuitable, would have set a bad precedent, and which would have destroyed the Clairmont Terrace neighborhood. (The Developer eventually withdrew the application.) I have now been President of DECA for a few months. Because of the help I am receiving, so far, so good. There are challenges ahead. There is a lot at stake in regard to the future of this area of DeKalb County. . We address issues from a constructive neighborhood point of view. Some issues that have been of concern are listed on the Membership Application. Others can be added. Membership dues are low (\$10.00). Citizen participation makes our Democracy work better. I recall a line I read by Jassmyn West: (This is a paraphrase.) " You make what seems like a simple choice: Choose a man, or a job, or a neighborhood- and what you have chosen is not a man or a job or a neighborhood, but a life." —John Stabler (jodynjohn@bellsouth.net) (404-633-3772)

### Membership Drive

I really do understand Public TV and Radio a little better after being involved in DECA. You're reading this newsletter that a volunteer stuck on your mailbox. You may say to yourself, "Gee, I'm glad somebody took the time to write this." (or not), you may think, "Gee, I sure am glad to know what's going on." (or not), you may think, "I'm glad somebody is doing something about that." (or not), or ....well, you get the idea. The thing you need to be asking is "Why haven't I sent in my \$10?" Better yet, your brain ought to saying, "Gosh, I know I got that membership flyer here somewhere! I need to send in my money and volunteer."

That's right. Not only does the association need your money, we need you to get involved. From environmental activism to code-enforcement to planning, DECA needs all of its neighbors (that's you!) to get involved. As annoying as that woman from the Atlanta Public station is (you know the one with the shoulder pads and big hair!), she has a point. You have to get involved to make this community better and a better place to live.

## **ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 19**

- *Dresden Elementary at 7:00*
- *Come at 6:30 to visit with your neighbors.*
- *The speaker will be Don Broussard. Don is an urban planner and was a candidate for the seat currently held by Jeff Rader on the Dekalb Commission . Don will speak on the DeKalb Comprehensive Plan for the county.*
- *Please make plans to attend.*

**Clean Up at I-85**  
**Earth Day      April 21**

**pícníc**  
**Dresden park**  
**may 20**  
**12-4**  
*see iside for details*

**Nikki News**

Isn't life a real adventure and full of surprises? Who would ever have thought that our house, as well as Kendall and Steve's house, would burn? Believe me, being homeless is a very strange feeling!

This tragedy has made us more aware of the importance of true friendship. The outpouring of concern, prayers, and generosity from the DECA community has been overwhelming. Even complete strangers have come to our aid. Dirk and I thank every one of you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are renting the beautiful VonSoosten home on Frontier Trail and are quite comfortable. No decision have been made concerning our home on Woodacres, which has been determined to be a complete loss. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we make our future plans.

The county recycling program is growing! In Wakefield Forest alone, there have been 12 new recyclers (up to 14% of the houses!). Frontier Woods has a bit more than a quarter of the houses doing their part. If other neighborhoods would like the info, let me know. Do I smell a competition?

In honor of Earthday, Keep DeKalb Beautiful and Publix is joining DECA on April 21 to work on the Islands at the I-85 and Shallowford Interchange. Starting at 8:30 that morning we need volunteers to help sweep, weed, and clean the area. KDB will provide latex gloves, vests, plastic bags and t-shirts. Publix is supplying water and refreshments. Park in the Publix lot and meet us in the old Waffle House lot. This will be fun.

**DECA on the WEB**

DECA has two presences on the web. The DECA website is located at **[www.decaonline.org](http://www.decaonline.org)**. Currently, DECA extends many thanks to Leslie Freyman, who no longer lives in DECA, but is gracious enough to continue as webmaster for us. If you have an interest in helping Leslie please let her know by visiting the site and click on **contact DECA**. You'll find information about the neighborhoods there including recycling and membership. Hey, any teenagers out there that are into html and need community service hours?

DECA's other web presence is a Yahoo group that serves as our electronic backyard fence. It's the fastest way to let members know about immediate concerns and goings-on in the area. You don't have to have a Yahoo address/account to get the messages that are posted. You do need to create a yahoo identify (it's very easy to do and it's free!) to access the files and databases. Jeff Weeks and Leslie co-moderate the group. Our site is located at **[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DECA\\_Atlanta/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DECA_Atlanta/)**

When you submit your membership, be sure to indicate your email address and that you want to be added to the group. This is the place the police report is posted each week for our territory.

Call Jeff at (770) 454-6729 if you have questions.

#### About this issue of the DECAzette

You've probably noticed that this is a bare-bones issue of the DECAzette. The truth is that it was put together during my spring break with Jane, Nikki, John, and Jean giving me some copy! I've spent the week doing household chores, so there's been little time to take photos or track down copy.

It's been a few years since I've served as newsletter editor. It's a big job for one person, it really needs a staff, but the truth is that if you've got a little copy from lots of people it only takes a few hours to shape it up. The other thing is that it costs DECA money. What little advertising helps, but if you use a service that might advertise or if your business might wish to advertise, please let me know. Wouldn't it be great if this publication could be self-sustaining? If you have the talent, help DECA make a great newsletter! —Jeff Weeks

Thanks to Jean Frost in Frontier Woods for organizing DECA Diners. Every month neighbors gather at different restaurants in the area for good times and great food. March's outing was to Panang. The Diners have feasted on Ethiopian, Lebanese, Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and other cuisines in the past year. If you would like to get the invitation, email [jean.frost@metrobrokers.com](mailto:jean.frost@metrobrokers.com) and ask her to put you on the e-vite list.

If you don't have access to the web and want to stay current about important events in DECA neighborhoods, call Jeff (404-454-6729). Plans to create a phone tree are in the works.

#### Sembler Development

DECA's Board of Directors voted at the last meeting to send a letter to the County Commissioners that voiced our concern about the proposed development at the N Druid Hills/Briarcliff area. There are public meetings about this development are scheduled next on April 25 at Kittredge. (Other dates: 5/31, 6/13, and 7/18) As information becomes available, it will be sent out via web on the Yahoo group site. DECA is concerned that the area density will make traffic more difficult. Many of us shop and frequent that area.

There is talk of development on the site of the Waffle House on Shallowford. These developments are the reason that we've asked Don Broussard to speak at our next quarterly meeting (see front for details).

Many of our neighborhoods are interested in the development at Buford Highway and Clairmont. Our very own Judy Brooks (Wakefield Forest) reports that the hold up seems to be the Maaco shop. Environmental studies have been completed. The plans call for a mixed-use retail/condo development. Has someone not noticed that the condo market is having a rough time in Atlanta?

St. Pius, DECA, and North Briarcliff have been watching carefully the after-hours club, the Bodyshop which is operating on Johnson Road.

#### Pius to buy Michele's Court for ballfields?

A group of investors connected to St. Pius X, High School has purchased an option to buy the Michelle Court Apartments located at the corner of Shallowford Road and Frontier Trail. Their intention is to sell the property to the school for construction of a baseball field. Residents of Frontier Woods, the neighborhood most directly affected by this project, met with St. Pius representatives David Buechner and Steve Siler to get information about the proposed plan and to discuss impact on the surrounding area.

Preliminary plans call for two ball fields and a tennis court. An entrance to the property from Johnson Road is also being considered, as is closing off Frontier Trail at Shallowford Road. David and Steve assured the Frontier Woods residents that the new ball field would be landscaped and well secured.

Residents of Frontier Woods expressed concerns about vehicle and pedestrian traffic, parking, noise, and intrusive lighting from the field. Residents complained of the noise level from the and the intrusion of the new lighting there. St. Pius has hired an outside firm to conduct a noise level study. In addition there were plans to plant a "buffer" line of trees between the football field and the neighborhood yards. (Note: Subsequent communication from David indicates that they have placed a moratorium on loudspeaker music until the noise study has been completed.)

The option to buy the Michelle Court property extends until December 2008, and no action is expected prior to that date, although the school will go before the DeKalb County zoning board within the next few months. David pledged to keep Frontier Woods residents informed as plans are finalized and stated that St. Pius definitely wants to maintain a good relationship with surrounding neighborhoods.

Frontier Woods residents were mixed in their responses. While it is agreed the sale of Michelle Court is inevitable, some say they prefer to see the property developed as condominiums. Others point out that this too comes with a price, including increased traffic, parking problems and noise. There is also disagreement about the proposal to close off of Frontier Trail at Shallowford. Some residents feel this would reduce the majority of the cut-through vehicle traffic, which is expected to otherwise increase once the new field is completed, thus making the neighborhood safer and more private. Others object, claiming that along with restricting access to I-85, closing Frontier Trail would mean that the pedestrian traffic from Dresden Park would cross private property and go through Dresden Elementary School to reach Shallowford Road. Look for more information from the web and from the DECAzette.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### WHO WE ARE:

DECA was formed over 10 years ago when issues involving zoning on Shallowford threatened to the quality of life in the neighborhoods that bordered Dresden Drive.

In the intervening years our association has grown to include Appling Heights, Beverly Hills, Dresden Square, Frontier Woods, Laventure Forest, Marlin Acres, Wakefield Forest, and Whispering Hills subdivisions.

We believe this area of DeKalb County is a great place to live. We recognize that as DeKalb matures and grows, DECA can be a significant voice in issues that arise in the area.

DECA is concerned about development, property values, traffic, code-enforcement, and other issues that affect the quality of life in all our neighborhoods.

#### **HAVE A VOICE IN DECA!**

#### **JOIN AND PARTICIPATE TODAY!**

**Due\$ are \$10/calendar year. If you ju\$ send a check with a bit about your\$elf to the addre\$\$ above.**

New in Neiborhood?

Are you new to the neighborhood?

If so, please be sure to come meet your neighbors at one of the events you've read about in this newsletter.

#### General Stuff:

DeKalb is under a level-one water restriction currently. Even-numbered addresses (addresses ending with the digits 0,2,4,6, or 8, e.g. 3000) may water Mon., Wed, Sat. from 12 midnight to 10 AM and from 4PM to 12 midnight. Odd-numbered addresses (ending digits 1,3,5,7, or 9, e.g. 3001) Tue., Thurs., Sun. during the same hours.

Yard waste must be in appropriate bio-degradable containers (no plastic bags). Large limbs must be no longer than 4 feet and weigh less than 50 pounds.

Dog owners must remove their pets' waste according to DeKalb ordinance. (This is a *pet* peeve of mine.) Your animals may not vocalize for more than 15 continuous minutes or 30 intermittent but frequent minutes. No sound meters are required. A second complaint after the first written-

warning results in a court-summons. **Tethering an animal is prohibited.** Animals off-leash must be under the control of a competent owner.

If you have news call John Stabler (404-633-3772) or Jeff Weeks (770-454-6729)

Fire safety tips:

Judy Brooks spoke to a master electrician, Jaret Garmon, after fires destroyed 2 houses in Wakefield. The cause of the fire was from wiring that had shorted.

If you have central AC, you probably had your service upgraded, but what about your panel? If you have hot fuses, that could be a sign of trouble.

Raw wiring rather than junction boxes are no longer code. Many houses have raw wiring in attics, crawlspaces, basements or sheds. Many houses do not have grounded circuits. Many of the outlets in "wet" areas may not be GFCI which is now required. Look for hot areas or discoloration. If you suspect there's a problem, call an electrician.

Do your lights dim when additional electricity is used? Your service may be overloading your wiring, which can lead to overheating the wiring and causing fires.

Varmints in your attic or under your house may chew wiring to wear down their teeth. If you've had trouble with vermin, inspect your wiring. (Jeff Weeks had that happen to his AC unit last year!)

For safety's sake, make a list of anything that concerns you and seek the advice of an electrician. Judy's contact comes highly recommended (678-947-3231). If you call, tell him you heard about his company in the DECAzette.

PDK news

The noise and fumes from PDK continue to be a concern for many residents. PDK Watch continues to take note that the weight limits imposed by the FAA are being ignored.

Furthermore, there is evidence that some owners of planes at the airport have not paid ad-valorem taxes. (Source: [www.pdkwatch.org](http://www.pdkwatch.org), 4/5/07)

For further news on lawsuits and conditions at the airport, come to the quarterly meeting or visit the pdk website.