

# The DECAzette

A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter  
 Volume 5 Issue 2 April 2002



DRESDEN EAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

7 Communities 780 Homes 1100 Voters

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

As many of you have gathered, DECA has undertaken a membership drive for this year. Our goal is to get at least fifty percent of the DECA neighborhoods to join.

Sam Powell and Mary Johnson, both residents of LaVenture Forest, have taken on the responsibility of chairing our membership committee.

Many of you have responded to the call and joined. The Board of Directors of DECA thanks all of you for your continued support.

Take this opportunity to send in your membership dues and information. You probably meant to join, but put the applications away. Please use the application on the

back of this issue. It's quick and it's easy and it only costs you \$10.



DECA is actively working for its membership in important zoning changes (see the ACOD article), restoration of Dresden Park into a community asset, seeking green-friendly developers for the Shallowford Road corridor, and involvement in the development of the Buford Highway Corridor.

**JOIN DECA TODAY!!**

## DECA QUARTERLY MEETING AT DRESDEN ELEMENTARY APRIL 25 JANICE SCRANTON OF ZONING TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER + CEO JONES

DECA welcomes to our next quarterly general membership meeting the Director of Zoning Enforcement, Ms. Janice Scranton.

This past year the County Commission moved the Zoning En-

forcement agency from Public Works to Public Safety. Ms. Scranton was appointed Director at the time of the move.

Our members list zoning issues, such as businesses in homes,

cars parked in yards, and property maintenance, as the most worrisome.

If you have questions that you want Ms. Scranton to address, please contact your neighborhood representative.

DECA President Wayne Daniel has been notified that DeKalb Co CEO Vernon Jones will also be in attendance at the meeting as a visitor.

The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria.

## AIR ALERT! ACOD PUTS PDK IN CHARGE!

Homeowners in the area should be aware that there is a move afoot to pass the Airport Compatibility Overlay District ordinance over the strenuous objections of those affected.

The following information was taken from the PDKWatch website

(<http://www.pdkwatch.org>).

"This ordinance would remove zoning decisions within the ACOD area from the hands of the elected DeKalb Board of Commissioners, where it currently resides, and place it wholly, and without any appeal process, in

the hands of the appointed, rather than elected, DeKalb County Director of Public Works and the Director of DeKalb Peachtree Airport. "

Disappointing as it may be, it seems that there was a move that

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## Yard of the Month ADVENTURES IN GARDENING!

Beauty is more than dirt deep. DECA is now running a Yard of the Month contest. Each month a different neighborhood is scoured for the most pristine perfect horticultural artistry.

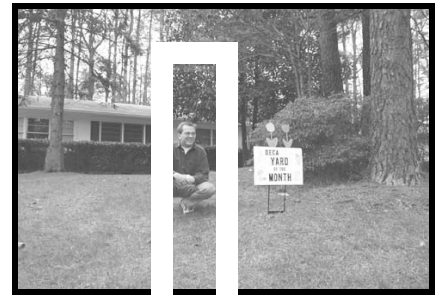
DECA Secretary Leslie Freyman of the Beverly Hills Neighborhood is the Chair of the Search and Reward Committee. She is always interested in volunteers helping her to decide on the winning yard. Leslie's email and phone number are on the back page. She would like 3 volunteers each month.

Congratulations to our first winners:

- " February: 1st Place: Pat Alvord & Larry Bradley (Frontier Woods) Honorable Mentions: Melissa Folk, The Cavenders, & Scott Caples
- " March: 1st Place: Craig Ewing (Beverly Hills) Honorable Mentions: Roy Goldenberg, Bill Oakley, The Barrongs

The schedule for 2002 is

- April: LaVenture Forest
- May: Appling Heights



Winner Craig Ewing in his winning yard.

- June: Whispering Hills
- July: Marlin Acres
- August: Frontier Woods
- September: LaVenture Forest
- October: Beverly Hills
- November: Appling Heights
- December: Whispering Hills

## January Quarterly Meeting Report

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE KEITH MELTON OUTLINES BUFORD HIGHWAY REDEVELOPMENT

January 24, the regular quarterly DECA business meeting was held in the cafeteria of Dresden Elementary School.

The evening was rainy, but 45 brave souls ventured out to hear the guest speaker, Keith Melton of the Chamber of Commerce, talk about the development plans along the Buford Highway Corridor.

The re-development plans call for creating pedestrian islands and

**Buford Highway was over-engineered. It is designed to relieve I-85, not be pedestrian friendly.**

sidewalks to be built the length of the corridor. Also plans call to rewrite the sign ordinances in the municipalities along the corridor. The current ordinances in Dora-

ville are 40 years old.

Some of the highlights of the redevelopment are for the IRS building and the hidden CDC campus just below Chamblee-Tucker Road. Current plans call for expanding the CDC campus. Also touted was a special tax-allocation district to allow tax collections to be used in the poorly developed areas.

Members voted to write letters in support of the redevelopment.



not too big. not too small. Just right.



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DECA THANKS TUCKER FEDERAL BANK FOR ITS SUPPORT

Membership Drive Roundup (as of April 10)

Subdivision	Homes	Members	Percent
Appling Heights	123	54	43
Beverly Hills	194	21	11
Frontier Woods	78	23	29
LaVenture Forest	75	41	55
Marlin Acres	95	18	19
Michelle's Court	67	3	4
Whispering Hills	139	15	11

# 48 Area Transactions In The Past Six Years!

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## KEN SIDWELL

RE/MAX Greater Atlanta

404-250-1021

*Experience That Matters!*

**DECA Listings At 6% Or Less**

Special Thanks to DECA Residents for Our Continued Success and to all a Very Happy New Year

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Do you have time to make a difference in the life of a child?** \*  
\* **Contact Debra White, Principal at Dresden Elementary School and become a reading volunteer or mentor.** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Decazette is looking for volunteers to help translate our articles into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, or other languages spoken by our neighbors. All too often non-English speakers don't know about laws and ordinances that govern our lives. Help make our neighborhoods the best in DeKalb. To volunteer call Jeff Weeks 770-454-6729

**Call Jeff Weeks for information on advertising in the DECAzette!**

### T-shirts? Flags? Mailbox Stickers? HOW DO WE SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR DECA?

Let your representative know if you've proud of your community. DECA t-shirts are on sale at every quarterly meeting.

Now Sheila Rotter has heard comments that the shirts are, well, too "pink" for some and too "beige" for others.

The Board of Directors has been considering a change in the t-shirt design. Just think how cool a t-

shirt would look on those Saturdays that we cleanup the 'hoods!

The Board is also considering the use of flags to identify our neighborhoods. Inman Park and others have distinctive emblems. The DECA logo can be found on the front cover. How would that look on a flag?

Or how about a sticker with the logo for your mailbox?

Some residents of Grant Park and Inman Park credit their flags for getting their membership up, which got more homeowners into working on homes, which led to increased property values (something that we'd all love to see!)

Got some suggestions? Call or email your representative with your ideas .

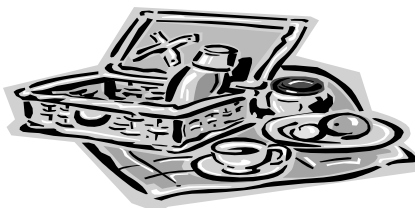
### Community Social Picnic!

Join your neighbors Sunday June 9, 220 from 2 PM until 5 PM for a picnic in Dresden Park.

Rich Zelnick, promises an event for neighbors to play, eat, and socialize with music, giveaways, & a visit from Public Safety.

If you know someone who might

share talent or a business that wants some free advertising, call Rich at 770.618.8732.



Special Thanks to Publix at I-85 and Shallowford Rd. for supplying refreshments for the quarterly meeting. When you're in the store,, tell the manager that DECA supports

# ACOD

(Continued from page 1)

would slip the proposal in the back door by making a textual amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. At press time, that move had been defeated.

DECA's Board of Directors was briefed on this development by our PDKWatch coordinator Ron Dennis. The Board wants its membership to stand ready to oppose this plan.

Here are some of the problems as the ordinance currently reads.

" "No material change shall be made in the use of land, and no structure or natural growth shall be materially erected, altered, planted, or otherwise

established, in the ACOD unless a permit therefore shall have been applied for and granted by the Director of Public Works, subject to review by the Airport Director of DeKalb Peachtree Airport."

- " "...any permit or variance granted under the provisions of this Division shall be granted with the condition that the owner of the structure or natural growth in question shall enter into an avigation easement." (In other words a present and future easement that would stop any right of complaint or redress for any of the annoyances with the airport, such as noise, odors, dust, smoke, etc.)
- " Creation of such easements

would mean that rebuilding a property which is in the ACOD and which had been damaged by fire or wind would require might not be allowed by the Director of Public Works or the Airport Director!

" The proposal would require FAA approval of any structure more than 200 feet in height anywhere in the county!

DECA will keep up to date on this looming disaster for homeowners.

A legal fund called F.O.R. (For Our Rights) has been started to assist homeowners. The Board of Directors voted at the March meeting to give \$100 to F.O.R.

Contact your County Commissioner and let her know of your stand on this ordinance.

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**MICHAEL HYMES**  
**REALTOR**

**MIKE MAKES IT HAPPEN!!!**

The Board of Directors  
Wishes to Thank the  
Households That Joined  
This Year at the Sustaining  
Membership Level of \$50  
and above.

## Update on Water Restrictions

In the past 3 months, Georgia has not gotten the rainfall it needs to break the drought conditions. Don't let the recent rains fool you. Georgia is in dire straits for water. Currently the 15 county Metro area is under condition 3 restrictions. You should be aware of the following:

- " You may only water outdoors from 10 PM until 10 AM.
- " If your street number is even, you may water on even days; an odd street number on odd days.
- " Only commercial car washes

**Report water abuse!**  
**770-270-6243**

**1st offense is a warning.**

**2nd offense is having water shut off or a fine of \$500/day!**

may be used.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS**—that means no cabs and no trucks!

- " For information on watering vegetable gardens and ornamental plants see <http://www.georgiadrought.org>.
- " Gardens are NOT exempt from the outdoor watering restrictions.
- " The same site has a wealth of information on conserving water.
- " If you have questions email

## New DECA Historian

Welcome to Nicki Brown, DECA's new Historian. Nicki succeeds Sheila Rotter who has become DECA Treasurer.

Do you have some bit of historical information about the neighborhood? If you do, give Nicki a call and invite her to tea to tell your tale!

The DECAzetter would love to publish a "get-to-know-you-neighbors" story about some of the residents who can remember when Dresden didn't even go through to Cham-

blee-Tucker Road. And we know you're out there, just chomping at the bit to tell everyone the story of your neighborhood.

It's important as a community to know where we've been in order for us to know where we're going!

Some of the in-town neighborhoods have much more history that we do, but that doesn't mean that our neighborhood history isn't important!

Nicki told the Board of Directors that she isn't 100% sure of what she is supposed to be doing, but she does know the importance of knowing the history of the area.

For instance, did you know that Appling Heights used to be a farm? Given the topography of the area, I'd love to know where the original farm house was and where the barns were!

If you have information on your lot or neighborhood, call Nicki.

Next issue: DECA residents share recommendations for contractors and other services. Call or email Jeff Weeks to share yours!

## New in the Neighborhood?

### Talking Trash:

- ◇ Tuesday: General Pick-up
- ◇ Thursday: Yard Waste NO PLASTIC BAGS! Get recyclable paper bags at Lowe's or Home Depot.
- ◇ Friday: General Pick-up & Certain Recyclables
- ◇ What if one of those days is a holiday? You should call Water and Sewer and ask for the card that shows the rescheduled days. Call 770-621-7200 .

- ◇ Put all your trash in bags in a container. Loose trash winds up on the street.
- ◇ Trash may not be put on the curb more than 12 hours before it is collected.
- ◇ Want to get rid of an old tire? Call 404-294-2900. \$2/tire.

### Talking Safety:

Charles Delk, the DeKalb Police Community Liaison, sent a newsletter called Neighbor News. Here are some suggestions from him for

protecting your home.

- ◇ Install motion-sensitive floods.
- ◇ Keep shrubbery cut below window level.
- ◇ Install double-keyed dead-bolt locks.
- ◇ Get to know your neighbors. (Hint, Hint: Picnic!)
- ◇ Call him at 770.604.3928 for a free home security survey.

**Poison Control:** 404-619-9000

You can **register to vote** at the Chamblee Library on Clairmont.

## DECA's Committee for Civic Association Empowerment

Thanks to Ron Dennis, Cheryl VonSoosten, Brian Baker, and Dan Harris who have met with Vic Riggio recently to develop the Committee for Civic Association Empowerment (CCAIE). In an effort to create a more proactive stance for homeowners in the area, CCAIE has been founded to help bring together organizations that have a vested interest in intelligent development around the PDK area and Shallowford corridor.

The following is taken from CCAIE's goal statement (thanks Ron!)

1. Identifying and graphically displaying on a map the location and

potential political power, in terms of numbers of registered voters, of the Civic Associations of the geographic area;

2. Encouraging the establishment of CCAIE's within each of these Associations;
3. Vigorously interacting with public

officials.

4. Cultivating relationships with the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce as well as individual developers and other business people.

5. In general, keeping organized and informed.

The intent is to create smart growth around the DECA neighborhoods that will enhance the quality of life in each of our seven neighborhoods.

If you are interested in the plans and activities of CCAIE, give Ron Dennis a call at (770) 454-1177.



DECA's Mailing Address  
 P.O. Box 49305  
 Atlanta, GA 30359

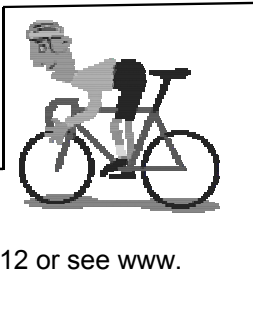


**New Web Address!!!**  
**Http://decaonline.org**

**Electronic Backyard Fence**

If you have an internet connection, please join the Electronic Back Yard Fence Community (called a list-serve or group) by going to **http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DECA\_Atlanta**. This is an email service to share ideas, concerns, get references for home repairs, complain, alert neighbors, ask questions, whatever.

Brian Baker, from Beverly Hills, invites everyone to join the Bike There Ride & Festival on May 4, 2002 at Emory University-McDonough Field. Call 404-881-1112 or see www.atlantabike.org.



**MAKE DECA BEE-YOU-TI-FUL**

- ◇ Zoning prohibits parking cars on grass. Hey folks, it's just tacky!
- ◇ Zoning requires that grass be cut and shrubbery be trimmed.

PLEASE LET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REP KNOW WHEN WATCHES SHOULD BE LISTED.

PLEASE NOTIFY 911 WHENEVER YOU OBSERVE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS!! **ANYTHING** SUSPICIOUS!!

BEHIND THE GREEN FENCE ON SHALLOWFORD IS A SCHOOL! THEY HAVE HAD SOME BREAK-INS THERE. CALL 911 IF YOU SEEN ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.

CALENDAR OF DECA EVENTS

Board of Directors Meetings  
 May 13. Jun 10 Jul 8.  
 Sept 9. Oct 14. Nov 11

Membership Meetings  
**April 25 July 25 October 24**

Clean-up Days  
**April 27 October 26**

Membership Application

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

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

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

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 for DECA

Mail to address at top of page.

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