



# Decatur Heights Highlights

News & Events in Our Decatur Heights Neighborhood

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**September 2011**

- ❖ Announcement Line & Voicemail: 404-220-9777
- ❖ Website: [www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com](http://www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com)

## Welcome to Decatur Heights Highlights!

This monthly information source is provided as a service to Decatur Heights residents who do not currently use the Internet. It is distributed by hand and via mail upon request. If you do have regular Internet access, please join Decatur Heights' big lively Google group. Contact us at [DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com), and we'll show you how.



## Neighborhood Meeting this October

When: To be Announced On the Web & via the Announcement Line  
Where: The Church at Decatur Heights (735 Sycamore Dr.)

Join your neighbors in October to participate in 2012 DHNA elections and get the latest scoop on Decatur Heights news, events, and committees. Read more about elections on pages 5-6. Help DHNA thrive by volunteering for an office or nominating a neighbor.



## Park & Garden Group

By Deanne Thomas

We'd love to have a pass-along plant or two from neighbors' gardens! Invite us, and we'll dig! We're looking for native plants, sunny and shady, to add to the Park area. We've enjoyed our summer as plot gardeners, and now it's time for fall planting! Come join us! Please see the August DHNA meeting notes for details.

For information on how to adopt a plot, contribute your skills, or donate materials, leave a message at the DHNA Announcement Line (404-220-9777) or write [DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com).



## September Neighborhood Business Spotlight

Suburban Nursery and Preschool

- Suburban Nursery is a private business that offers lottery-funded Pre-K for 4-year-olds.
- Open Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. • Serves ages 0 months to 4 years
- 853 Sycamore Drive • 404-373-0085 • [nursery5@bellsouth.net](mailto:nursery5@bellsouth.net)

“We’re excited that, next April, we will celebrate 50 years of being the same preschool in the very same place in Decatur Heights. We pride ourselves on providing a loving, home-like, multicultural setting for families. Our children are really our best advertisement.”

-- Connie Moore, Assistant Director (Daughter of Mrs. JoAnna Tatum, Owner/Operator)



## Decatur Heights Crime Reports

Documentation retrieved from [www.CrimeReports.com](http://www.CrimeReports.com)

- July: No crimes reported
- August: One theft reported by Neighborhood Watch



## Neighborhood Watch Update

By Deanne Thomas

### Theft and Recovery:

#### **Kids Picnic Table from Garden behind The Church at Decatur Heights**

During the night/early hours of August 25-26, the kids-sized “old school” wooden picnic table was swiped from the Garden area behind the Church. Alert Sycamore Ridge Watch neighbors spotted it in a backyard on August 27 and notified the Decatur Police Department, who returned it to the Garden. Found propped against the table was a bicycle and helmet. It's not known if these are stolen items (the residents weren't home at time of discovery), but if yours have gone missing, please call or go by the Police Department to describe/claim. Their phone number is 404-373-6551. BIG THANKS go out to the alert neighbors and the Decatur Police Department!

\* Neighbors looking out for neighbors is so key to deterring criminal activity, as is getting the word out when problems do crop up. All neighbors and HOAs are encouraged to participate in the Decatur Heights Watch so that we can ensure everyone – wired and unwired-- is kept up-to-date on concerns.

### **Alert**

There's been suspicious activity occurring on the side/back of The Church at Decatur Heights' gym. While some of it's been neighborhood kids, an unknown youngish adult male has been seen a few times. The Decatur Police have added the gym area to their patrol rounds. Please use the walkway by the Church's offices when visiting the Park & Garden. **The fenced-in area behind the gym is closed to the public. Anyone seen alongside the gym should be pushing a wheelbarrow or a mower.** Please keep an eye out and phone the police if you spot a trespasser. The non-emergency line: 404-373-6551. Please also let the Church and the Park & Garden Folks know about it through the DHNA phone line or email.

### **Twitter WATCH**

Dave Kell has set up **#DecaturHeights** as another useful tool for sending out alerts. Thank you Dave! Online folks can read about it on Dave's blog: [www.decaturreights.com](http://www.decaturreights.com).

### **From the August 220-444 Sycamore Dr. Block Watch Get Together**

Eleven neighbors mingled and enjoyed tasty refreshments offered by our Peer Support Wellness Center neighbors. Thank you to Jayme Lynch, Director, and Darryl Goss, Certified Peer Specialist, for the gracious hospitality! Neighbors learned about the PSWC and took a tour of the house. We discussed how having the PSWC as a Safe Harbor site

## **August 220-444 Sycamore Dr Block Watch, continued**

will benefit all neighbors. Anyone who becomes uneasy while out in the neighborhood can go there to phone the police or wait it out. Nearby neighbors can duck in rather than risk letting someone suspicious discover where they live. Block neighbors plan to hold a Sunday cookout when the weather's a bit cooler.



### **Traffic Calming & Safety Update**

By Deanne Thomas

#### **August-September Street Improvements**

Sharrows are now on Sycamore Drive! Sharrows are chevrons painted onto the street indicating to all to Share the Road. Slated for September: the Lockwood Terrace/Pinehurst Street crosswalks! BIG Thank You to John Madajewski, Senior Engineer; David Junger, Assistant City Manager-Public Works; and our City Commissioners! BIG Props to the friendly crew who did the work on a hot, sunny day!

#### **Petitions**

**25 MPH Residential Speed Zone-** We received the disappointing news that the City's 2010 traffic analysis report for Sycamore Drive does not support reducing the speed limit. YET. Our major hurdle is GA D.O.T.'s 85 Percentile Rule where the speed of 85% of drivers dictates the speed for radar use, meaning that if the City lowers the speed as requested, they won't be able to enforce it. It's up to us to figure out an effective campaign to convince drivers to voluntarily lower their speed, and it'll require an all out show of support as a neighborhood to achieve it. Seeing little kids headed to bus stops alongside even the law abiding 35MPH drivers is nerve-wracking. Please share your ideas!

**Sycamore Dr./Ridgeland. Ave./Springdale St. Crosswalk-** John Madajewski is working on plans.

**Grove Street Curve Study-** David Junger and John Madajewski are assessing options/impacts on neighbors to present to us. A meeting date hasn't been set.



### **Citizens Public Safety Academy Taking Applications**

Website: <http://www.decalurga.com/index.aspx?page=610>

More Info: Deputy Chief Lee at (678) 553-6620 / [keith.lee@decalurga.com](mailto:keith.lee@decalurga.com)

Decatur residents, 21 and older (by the program start date), are invited to enroll in the Citizens Public Safety Academy, to learn about police procedures, crime prevention, and fire safety. The 2011 class will meet every Thursday, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., from September 22 through November 10. Apply by Friday, September 9. Space is limited.

**From the Application:** “The Citizens Public Safety Academy (CPSA) is an exciting way to learn about police work and how the community can respond to emergencies. Through a well-prepared curriculum, taught once a week for 8 weeks, students will learn about all

## Citizens Public Safety Academy, continued

aspects of police operations. Academy participants will meet many of the men and women who serve in the Decatur Police and Fire Departments as they explain the functions of patrol officers, investigators, administrators, and firefighters. Academy participants will also learn how officers are trained and how one can protect against crime and fire hazards. Interesting demonstrations will illustrate the many skills and abilities police officers and fire fighters must have to effectively protect Decatur.”



### **Recycling News: Clean Pizza Boxes Now Accepted**

Website: <http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=108>

More Info: Sean Woodson, Solid Waste Superintendent  
(404-377-5571 / [sean.woodson@decaturga.com](mailto:sean.woodson@decaturga.com))

Lena Stevens, Decatur’s Resource Conservation Coordinator, offers the following tips and information (comments from the [DecaturMetro](#) blog):

**Electronics Recycling:** “Twice a year, in October and March, the city holds an Electronics Recycling Day. This semi-annual event has been dramatically successful in diverting electronic equipment from landfills, where they may contaminate soil and water.”

**Plastic/Wax Coated Paper:** “These types of cartons CANNOT be recycled at this time. This means that cartons for things like juice or soy milk should be put in the trash.” [The processor is exploring technology to accommodate plastic/wax coated paper in the future.]

**What Can I Recycle?** “Because of new single-stream recycling technologies, you do not need to sort, separate or bag the recyclables that you place in your recycling bin. However, all materials must be clean and free from food contamination. *Please note: If recycling service for your commercial or multi-family building is provided by a private company, contact them directly as their rules may differ.*”

**Decatur’s Online Recycling List** (from <http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=108>)

### **Acceptable Items:**

**Paper:** Newspapers, magazines, junk mail and catalogs, envelopes (can include plastic windows), chipboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.), corrugated cardboard, pizza boxes with minimal food contamination (Tear off parts with grease or food.)

**Plastics:** Black planting trays and black plastic flower pots, bleach bottles, yellow or white plastic milk cartons, clear and green plastic soda and water bottles, plastic bags (grocery, cleaner, etc.), styrofoam with the recycling logo (no packing peanuts) (Note: All Plastics must be labeled with a recycling logo and any Number 1- 7.)

**Glass:** All colors accepted

**Metal:** Soda cans, tin cans (vegetable, soup, beans, cat food, etc.), aluminum foil

## Recycling News, continued

### Items to Exclude:

Light bulbs, batteries; broken glass; used napkins, paper towels, or tissue; wrappers with metallic material; electronic devices (Save for [Electronics Recycling Day](#).)

**For a complete list of recyclable items**, click here to view the [Recycling User Guide](#) [PDF], provided courtesy of Latham Home Sanitation, Inc. and the City of Decatur.



## **Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association (DHNA)** **Proposed Process for the Election of 2012 Officers**

The following process description is based on bylaws of multiple neighborhood associations. The incoming DHNA officers will have the opportunity to draft full DHNA bylaws and present them for adoption before the neighborhood.

❖ **Eligibility to Vote or Hold Office:** Any adult, 18 or over, who lives or operates a business within the boundaries of Decatur Heights is eligible to vote in DHNA elections or hold office. (See “Boundaries” on page 6.)

❖ **DHNA Offices:** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

❖ **Duties:** For reference, the following descriptions are presented from the City of Portland’s Suggested Neighborhood Association Bylaws Template. After elections, officers shall develop DHNA bylaws, to include revised duty descriptions.

(Portland Link: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?a=113708&c=42039>)

### **Duties of Board Officers:**

a. **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall preside at all board meetings and all membership meetings and shall perform such duties as the Board and the membership from time to time authorizes. The Chairperson shall represent the position of the Board and the interests of the Neighborhood Association.

b. **Vice Chairperson:** The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the Chairperson’s absence and as authorized by the bylaws or regulations of the Board.

c. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record and maintain minutes of Membership and Board meetings, assist the Chairperson with correspondence and maintain the non-financial files of the Neighborhood Association. The Secretary will maintain a list of Board members and their terms.

d. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds belonging to the Neighborhood Association and shall receive, deposit and disburse funds for the Neighborhood Association in a bank(s) or financial institution(s) in such manner as designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall make financial reports as directed by the Board.

## Election Process, continued

❖ **Who May Submit Nominations:** Any adult resident of Decatur Heights may nominate a fellow resident to an office with the potential candidate's permission. Residents are also encouraged to volunteer for offices and submit self-nominations.

❖ **How to Submit Nominations:** Residents may submit nominations in writing to [DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com), or they may make a nomination by phone through DHNA's voicemail: 404-220-9777. The following information is required:

- Name and phone number or e-mail of person nominating a candidate
- Name and phone number or e-mail of the candidate being nominated

❖ **Deadline:** The deadline for submitting nominations is **September 15**.

❖ **Presentation of Candidates:** DHNA will list candidates in the **October** newsletter.

❖ **Failure to Secure Adequate Nominations:** In the event that DHNA fails to receive one or more nominations for each office, the Association may consider postponing elections until a future date to be determined at the October 2011 meeting. Until such elections are held, DHNA will continue to conduct operations under the oversight of voluntary, non-elected committees.

❖ **Boundaries: Decatur Heights (currently active area) includes:**

- E. Ponce de Leon Ave. 804-1104
- Fairview St.
- Grove St.
- Hickory St.
- Hillcrest Ave.
- Lockwood Terr.
- Mountainview St.
- Oak Lane
- Pinehurst St.
- Poplar St.
- Ridgeland Ave.
- Springdale St.
- Sycamore Dr. 220-933
- Sycamore Ridge neighborhood
- Sycamore Station

Forkner Drive neighbors are also encouraged to sign up for the DHNA contact list and participate in Decatur Heights activities.



## **Decatur Heights Highlights – Submissions & Free Subscriptions**

We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of Decatur Heights Highlights. Please share it with your friends and tell us what you'd like to see in next month's edition. For more information or to submit a news item, contact the editor via the Decatur Heights Announcement Line at 404-220-9777. If you have access to e-mail, please write us instead at [DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com). Content suggestions are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

## September Traffic Supplement: Sharrows

(Excerpt from the City of Decatur Website, Posted 8/29/11)

<http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=42&recordid=131&returnURL=%2findex.aspx>

### What is a sharrow?

Sharrows are street lane markings that remind motorists to share the lane with bicycles. They are used on streets with speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less and when there is not enough width or the right road conditions to stripe a bicycle lane. These markings are used to show bicyclists and vehicle drivers where the bicycles will be located on the road. Unlike bicycle lanes, sharrows do not designate a part of the street exclusively for bikes. For more information on the installation of sharrows go to the [Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices Section 9C](#).

### Why is the city installing sharrows?

Building streets that provide safe transportation choices for all ages and all types of travel has been widely supported by the community. The city installed sharrows as part of the implementation of the [Strategic Plan](#) and [Community Transportation Plan \(CTP\)](#). The Decatur Bicycle Network was adopted as part of the CTP in 2008. It designates the city streets that are part of the network and identifies what types of facilities should be provided. Bicycle facilities are often challenging to design because there is such a wide range of experience and comfort level among bicycle riders. The CTP calls for a mixture of facilities to meet the needs of beginning riders. An example of an off street facility is the multi-use path that runs along Howard Avenue. An example of an on-street facility is the bicycle lane on West Ponce de Leon and West Trinity Place. Sharrows are another type of on-street bicycle facility.

### Where is the city installing sharrows?

Ponce de Leon and Sycamore Drive were chosen for sharrows because they are streets that provide important connections through town and have a wide variety of users on the street. Ultimately, the city will continue to place sharrows on all the streets in the [Decatur Bicycle Network](#) that call for an “on-street facility” and do not meet the requirements for bike lanes.

