



The Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association



How to Contact DHNA

Neighborhood Announcement Line & Voicemail: 404-220-9777

Website: www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com ♦ E-Mail: DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com

August Meeting Recap

More than 20 people attended the August Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, held on Aug. 11 in the Community Room of the Church at Decatur Heights. Thank you, church neighbors, for hosting the event! Our next meeting, to be held in October, will feature 2012 elections.

Notes include these topics: Neighborhood Watch, Petitions, Events Committee, Kids & Parents Group, Decatur Heights at Play, Elections, Safe Routes to School, and Home Energy Efficiency.

● Neighborhood Watch Update (Deanne Thomas)

Block captains are needed for the following areas: Poplar, East Ponce, Hillcrest, and homeowners associations in the neighborhood. Individuals interested in the Sycamore Ridge neighborhood watch can write or call DHNA for contact information.

Neighbor Dave Kell has offered to create a Twitter feed to alert the neighborhood to crime announcements. More information is forthcoming.

● Petition News (Deanne Thomas)

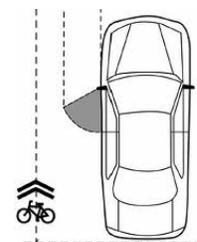
The City of Decatur reviewed DHNA's request for a 25 MPH residential speed zone designation and determined that last year's traffic reports do not warrant a speed reduction. Limits are based, in part, on 85% of drivers' average documented rates of speed, meaning that GA DOT won't approve radar use for a 25 MPH speed limit until we can convince drivers to slow down. David Junger, Assistant City Manager for Public Works, praised the traffic calming signs, and we need to now focus on ways to get drivers to drop their speeds. Possibilities include more traffic calming signs, creating visual interest in curb areas, and on-street parking.

The City is still studying the following traffic-calming measures:

- stop signs and a crosswalk at Sycamore Dr./Ridgeland Ave./Springdale St.
- study of Sycamore Dr./Grove St. Curve Area for Traffic Calming.

A Safe Routes to School proposal of adding crosswalks at Lockwood Terrace and Pinehurst Street is on a list for future funding.

Continued



↑ example of a sharrow

Petition News, cont.

Sycamore Drive will be getting sharrows, lane markings that provide guidance to bikes and autos sharing a roadway. John Madajewski, Chief Engineer, has it listed as one of the first streets slated for marking in the very near future.

● **Events Committee** (Vicki Tuttle)

Church folks (Stephanie Smith and Vicki Tuttle) and neighbors (Eleanore Kulers and Joanne Gillespie) will coordinate the twice-a-year neighborhood get-togethers. An October cookout has been proposed, so look for good news to come.

Vicki invites neighbors to donate to DEAM, the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry. DEAM receives support from many Decatur area faith communities, including The Church at Decatur Heights. Donation bins will be available in the Church's entry alcoves (735 Sycamore Dr) on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in August. Requested items are cereal, peanut butter, small boxes of corn muffin mix, 1 lb. packages of rice, and toilet paper. You may also make a donation to the Church's change jar, and they'll do the shopping for you.

The Church gym is open Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., for neighborhood youth activities such as skateboarding, basketball, and board games. Kids from elementary to high-school age are welcome.

● **Kids & Parents Group** (Natalie Sneddon)

Natalie Sneddon, the group's coordinator, is exploring the services of a parenting coach, Susan Eppley, who has led a popular workshop series at First Baptist. She is open to collaborating with other committees. Parents interested in pitching in on this group may reach Natalie through decaturheightsneighbors@gmail.com.

● **Garden Group** (Deanne Thomas)

"It's time for fall planting, and we'd love to have you join us as a plot gardener! A bed kit is \$35; it's DIY soil & plants, and rain barrels supply the water. We ask all gardeners to pitch in on maintaining the Park & Garden areas and to participate in work days." Contact Deanne for info by leaving a message on the DHNA phone line (404-220-9777) or email deanneindecaturheights@yahoo.com.

● **Decatur Heights at Play** (Cynthia Dunn)

Online voters selected bowling at Suburban Plaza as their first activity choice, followed by an arts and crafts party at a nursing home, a dog training demonstration, and Suburban Plaza pottery painting. Natalie offered to collaborate with other neighbors to organize one or more of these activities as a family event.

● **DHNA Elections** (Cynthia Dunn)

During the October meeting, the reactivated DHNA (reorganized by community vote in 2011) will elect its first formal officers – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Role descriptions and nomination details are forthcoming.

● **Safe Routes to School**

(City Commissioner Fred Boykin: Fred.Boykin@decaturga.com)

Local Safe Routes to School Page

Learn more about Decatur's Safe Routes to School program here:

<http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=347>.

History

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a U.S. Department of Transportation program that began in 2000 and was implemented in Decatur in 2002. It began as a volunteer-led initiative in Clairemont and Glennwood Schools and is now staffed professionally by the City of Decatur's Active Living Department, with help from parent volunteers at each participating school. Special initiatives are taking place this year at 4/5 Academy and Renfroe.

Glennwood Program

Glennwood's SRTS parent volunteer contacts are Amanda Davis (bokiebd@gmail.com) and Lisa Coronado (lisamauldin@att.net). For a full list of schools and volunteer parent contacts, click here: <http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=347>.

Youth Training

Every fourth-grade class participates in bicycle safety training, which is performed during PE classes. Children in grades K-3 are receiving pedestrian training. Decatur will make the instruction available to all schools through a train-the-trainer system.

Map

The Active Living Department has produced a walking route map for the 4/5 Academy. ([Click here.](#)) Medallions -- designed by parent volunteers and suggested by David Junger -- are glued to sidewalks to mark safe routes.

Surveys

Parents may receive surveys with questions about walking and biking frequency, distance, and obstacles. Responses help the City prioritize sidewalk improvements and other mobility enhancements to improve safety and navigability.

Hotspots

The City of Decatur is using feedback to identify trouble spots for walkers and cyclists. Examples include these. The City will:

- Make bike and pedestrian improvements to the railroad intersection near Dairy Queen,
- Further study the traffic light at Fellini's to increase intersection safety and ease of use
- Straighten the Atlanta Avenue intersection that crosses over the railroad tracks
- Add separated bike lanes along N. McDonough (sp), going toward Decatur High School.

Important Dates

- Walk & Roll to School Day is Oct. 5.
- In addition, parent volunteers schedule events that promote walking and biking to school.

Reminder

Thank crossing guards for their work in keeping students safe throughout Decatur.

● Home Energy Efficiency Mini Workshop

Contact: Lena Stevens, Resource Conservation Coordinator, City of Decatur
404-370-4102 / lena.stevens@decaturga.com

Caitlin Reese, DecaturWise Program Manager
678-729-SAVE (7283) / decaturwise@clearesult.com

August meeting participants learned about hidden energy culprits in their homes and ways to improve efficiency in a City of Decatur mini-workshop led by Lena Stevens.

Stevens noted that, since the DecaturWISE rebate program began in April, Decatur residents have participated in 45 home energy audits and established 38 contracts for retrofits to save money on energy bills and increase comfort. Participants reap significant benefits and quality for rebates by contacting approved contractors. See below for details.

Program Benefits

- Up to \$3,200 in rebates.
- Energy cost reductions of 15 percent or more.
- Improved comfort, fewer drafts, less dust, improved air quality and a quieter home.
- Increased visibility for Decatur as a sustainable community.

Rebates

- Georgia Power offers residents up to \$2,200 in rebates based on energy savings they achieve.
- DecaturWISE will award up to an additional \$1,000 for homes achieving a 15 percent or greater improvement in energy savings. (The DecaturWISE rebate program is on hiatus and may offer percentage-based rebates in the future.)

How to Participate

1. Choose one of the approved contractors listed below.
2. Contractor will complete a comprehensive home energy audit.
3. Contractor will install energy saving upgrades.
4. Contractor complete post-installation inspection.
5. Contractor applies for rebates.
6. You receive money back!

Participating Contractors

The following approved contractors (listed in alphabetical order) attended the August DHNA meeting to describe their services. All three have met requirements to offer Georgia Power and DecaturWISE rebates.

Bird Family Insulation
Bob Bird (404-538-9168) / <http://www.birdinsulation.com>

Renewal System Solutions
Joe Thomas (404-378-6962) / <http://www.renewalsystemsolutions.com>

WellHome
Reggie Lopes (770-368-1063) / <http://www.wellhome.com/locations/georgia/atlanta>

For more information, call 678-954-SAVE (7283)

Or visit the City of Decatur's website at <http://www.decaturga.com/index.aspx?page=595>