

Decatur Heights Highlights

News & Events in Our Decatur Heights Neighborhood

February 2012 DHNA Email: decaturheightsneighbors@gmail.com
DHNA Website: www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com

JAN DHNA Meeting Notes attached for delivered copies (see Publications on website)

DHNA News & Voicemail Line Trial Ends

We've discontinued the DHNA News & Voicemail Line after receiving very little feedback on its usefulness. We definitely want to keep our neighbors without internet informed, so we'll be trying out an automated message service to deliver any key news between newsletters. (Maximum of two one minute messages with a short introductory promo ad per month.) "Unwired" neighbors will also be given a phone number to use for sharing info, volunteering, and questions. Online neighbors are encouraged to join the Decatur Heights Neighbors Google Group and to use email address above.

Deanne Thomas: My phone number's (404)373-6701 (machine's on). Please don't hesitate to call!

Up For Helping to Write the DHNA's Bylaws?

The first step to becoming an incorporated neighborhood association is drafting the DHNA's bylaws. From preliminary neighbors discussions, we know that it's important that we preserve our inclusive and friendly neighborhood feel while adding needed framework for DHNA decision making. We're now seeking folks to collaborate on a set of bylaws that will best represent the many neighbors within Decatur Heights' map boundaries. Our game plan is to meet weekly for six weeks on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm (start date tbd) and to seek neighbors' input before presenting the final document for approval. If you'd be willing to invest your time, wisdom, and efforts into this project, then please email decaturheightsneighbors@gmail.com or use the phone number (for neighbors without internet). There's some homework before meetings begin, so please contact sooner rather than later. Thanks!

Feb. 9th Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm-6pm at Dekalb Medical Women's Center

If you're able, please show some love by giving the gift of blood. Blood supplies are critically low due to a decrease in donations this winter. Your help is needed now to prevent the delay or cancellation of surgeries. Type B and Type O are especially needed.

As a thank you, there will be: validated parking and a lunch coupon for Subway or the Cafeteria, along with a chance to win a \$25 Gas Card and enter a raffle for one of three pairs of Delta Air Lines tickets.

Blood Drive will be held in the Women's Center Auditorium- 1st Floor (to left as you enter).

* Drink lots of water ahead of time and bring photo ID.

For info on other area Blood Drives, call **1-800-RED CROSS** or go to **redcrossblood.org**.

BIG PROPS to Our “Decorate Decatur Winners Announced for 2011” Neighbors!

by **Katie Abel** (excerpted with permission from The Decatur Minute, the City's blog)

Commissioners Cup Winner: 332 Lockwood Terrace

On the east side of Decatur, what to the wondering eyes of the anonymous judges appeared but this explosion of lights. They cover the roof of this home, outline the windows and doorways, extend to the shrubs and ornamental trees, and go all the way up the trunk of a tall pine tree smack dab in the middle of the yard. There are few things our judges like more than an over-the-top interpretation of what holiday décor should be, and they hope that the awarding of the Commissioners Cup encourages more of this decorating behavior.

Neighborhood award: E. Ponce de Leon Avenue between Arcadia and Sycamore

This well-orchestrated effort resulted in a row of nine cozy cottages all decorated with white lights that welcome drivers entering Decatur from the east, and make a dazzling succession of lights for drivers heading west.

* To enjoy Austin's award winning display again (and what Katie didn't mention was that Austin was outside adding MORE!!! LIGHTS!!! when the judges drove by!!!):

<http://thedecaturminute.wordpress.com/2011/12/20/decorate-decatur-winners-announced-for-2011/>

“Box Tops for Education” Neighborhood Drop Off Site from Lynn Adams

Have you been saving your “Box Tops for Education”? Renfroe Middle School is collecting them. If you're looking for a “home” for your Box Tops, you can bring them by my house and I'll submit them with the RMA batch. I'm the “Box Tops” coordinator at Renfroe and I'm at 223 Mountain View St.

(For those of you wondering what Box Tops are, they're the pink rectangles found on many commonly used household items such as Cheerios, Kleenex, Scott tissue, Hamburger helper, Gogurt, etc.)

Park & Garden Interest? Perfect Timing for Newbie Gardeners!

Interested in plot gardening, but new to growing veggies? Then mark your calendar for the upcoming *Your First Edible Garden*, a free informational program for first time gardeners and folks new to organic gardening! Learn about spring and summer vegetables and herbs perfect for our region from Stephanie Van Parys, Executive Director of the Oakhurst Community Garden Project. This kicks off *Living the Green Life*, a year-long set of programs on how to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle. The free series is a collaboration by Dekalb County Public Library, the OCGP, and City of Decatur. **Two dates offered:** Wed, Feb 22 and Sat, Feb 25 from 11:30am-1pm at the Decatur Library.

Received a 2012 Citizens Survey (from National Research Center)?

If you're one of the lucky Decatur citizens randomly selected to receive this year's survey, please take a few minutes to complete it and send it in! The survey is completely anonymous and the City of Decatur receives only the final tabulations. The information is used by the City in its budget process, strategic plan and annual planning process. For any questions, please contact Meredith Roark: (404)370-4102.

Hope you've enjoyed this month's edition of Decatur Heights highlights! The goal is to keep everyone up to date on neighborhood news. Neighbors without internet access receive a delivered copy, and it is available online for “wired” neighbors.