



# The Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association



## How to Contact DHNA

Neighborhood Announcement Line & Voicemail: 404-220-9777

Website: [www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com](http://www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com) ♦ E-Mail: [DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com](mailto:DecaturHeightsNeighbors@gmail.com)

## October Meeting Recap

Ten people attended the October Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, held on Oct. 14 in the Community Room of the Church at Decatur Heights. Thank you, church neighbors, for hosting the event. Our next regular meeting will take place in January.

Notes include these topics: DHNA's Structure & Communications, Traffic Calming, DHNA Finances, Neighborhood Watch, and Park & Garden.

### ● DHNA's Structure & Communication

**Transition Team:** The DHNA Transition Team's duties have officially ended. Decatur Heights attempted to hold elections for 2012 offices, but the effort produced no candidates. Deanne Thomas declined to accept the role of president as proposed by meeting participants, but agreed to continue to help coordinate administrative and communications tasks. The consensus of the group was to continue with committees-based leadership and to reassess the DHNA's structure in 6-8 months.

**Core DHNA Projects:** The group identified three major focal points for Decatur Heights:

- Reenergize traffic calming efforts (especially speed reduction).
- Encourage active participation in the Neighborhood Watch.
- Build on the Google Group's success by utilizing online options for committees.

Several participants stated that the neighborhood's basic focus should be kept simple and that neighbors could form temporary action groups around other issues as the need arises.

**Communications:** Attendees explored the idea of relocating in-depth issue discussions that originate on the Google Group over to a neighborhood blog. One participant felt strongly that such a change was needed; others felt that temporarily switching user settings or deleting emails (with the option of visiting the site to catch up) would suffice. The Family Group and Park & Garden Group are using email exchanges for participants. The DH Neighborhood Watch is launching a free email/texting alerts tool for enrolled members, along with hashtag #DecaturHeightsGA on Twitter.

**Quorum:** After the meeting, a participant recommended that the DHNA determine what constitutes a quorum in the future, noting that the DHNA may also want to establish an active members roster.

## ● Traffic Calming

### **Update on the open petitions for Sycamore Dr/Grove St Curve and the Sycamore Dr./Ridgeland Ave./Springdale St. Stop Sign and Crosswalk:**

John Madajewski, City Engineer, has drafted plans for both proposals. The Grove St. Area Curve plan will require neighbors' input. The Stop Sign/Crosswalk request is on the City's list; however, SRTS crosswalks in higher traffic locales will be addressed first, as will another neighborhood's request long in the works. A City/Neighbors Traffic Calming Meeting will be arranged soon.

Attendees also discussed a proposal that the Grove St. Area Curve plan allow for the installation of a Decatur Heights entrance sign to be paid for with private funds. All present were in favor and agreed that the DHNA will seek the City's input. [The Hillcrest Ave. corner was suggested as another site option. The possibility of installing a north entrance sign on the corner of Forkner Dr. (right of way) was also raised, as was the idea that the sign(s) have room for announcements. Input will be sought.]

### **(In idle) Petition for 25MPH Residential Speed Zone Designation for Decatur Heights:**

To achieve our goal of having a neighborhood-friendly speed limit, we will need to successfully encourage at least 85% of drivers along Sycamore Drive to voluntarily reduce their speed. All neighbors can help out by driving the desired 25MPH throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors living on Sycamore Drive are especially encouraged to put up yard signs. Although Winn Way is the official emergency route for this area, speed humps on Sycamore Drive are not considered a viable option for slowing traffic. Participants noted that street narrowing (through a variety of means) could reduce speeds, as would an electronic speed monitoring sign (rotational use or permanent).

### **Other:**

The City is working to address needed ADA curb improvements at the E. Ponce/Sycamore Dr. intersection. The gas company repaired one corner two weeks ago; two change orders to request funds for revamping the other two curbs will be submitted. Thank you to a neighbor for notifying the City.

## ● DHNA Finances

During the Decatur Heights Neighborhood Association's reestablishment and transition phase, The Church at Decatur Heights agreed to hold the DHNA's funds temporarily. Meeting attendees selected and approved long-time neighborhood residents Grace Ann Young and Natalie Snedden to jointly manage DHNA finances. They will place the funds into a bank account, share responsibility for check signing, and regularly report to the neighborhood on balances and expenditures.

Attendees approved two expenditures -- \$50 to reimburse the Church for co-hosting the Decatur School Board Candidates Forum and \$50 to assist the DHNA Family group with expenses for the neighborhood's annual Ridgeland Avenue Halloween party.

## ● Neighborhood Watch

Block captains will contact "wired" neighbors in advance of sending out invitations to join Nation of Neighbors, our new main email/texting alerts tool for enrolled members. Neighbors using Twitter are encouraged to use the hashtag #DecaturHeightsGA in all tweets about the neighborhood, as others are

using TweetDeck to catch messages using that hashtag. Enrolled Watch neighbors without email or texting options will be contacted directly with alerts.

## ● **Park & Garden**

**[\*Past Event]** Strong neighbors dismantled a playscape and moved it from the donors' yard to the Park & Garden behind the Church. (To ensure children's safety, a professional company has been hired to reassemble it.) The work day was Saturday, Oct. 22.

## ● **Short-Term Volunteer Opportunities** (Contact DHNA to help. See page 1.)

### ◆ **Co-facilitate one DHNA meeting.**

Offer to co-facilitate a meeting with a neighbor or two. (The 2012 DHNA Meetings Schedule will be set at the January 2012 Meeting.) Co-facilitators will gather input from DHNA committees to create the agenda, identify a notes taker, and possibly plan for a guest speaker or other special treat.

### ◆ **Write a one-paragraph review for the newsletter.**

Write a mini review for *Decatur Heights Highlights*. In a few sentences, tell neighbors about your favorite local place to donate, volunteer, workout, or have fun. Want to share information about your home based business? We'd love to include it! Please submit your item by the 25th of each month.

### ◆ **Deliver Ways to Receive DHNA News door slips to 12 neighbors one time.**

Volunteer to print and deliver door slips to neighbors who aren't yet signed up on the Neighbors Contact List. We'll supply the needed info and a list of neighbors' addresses. You'll share your enthusiasm to help get them connected to neighborhood news channels.

### ◆ **Share a Halloween party potluck dish.**

Take a dish to the Ridgeland Avenue Halloween Block Party, Oct. 29. The event begins at 5pm and is open to all Decatur Heights neighbors. For more ideas, contact Natalie Snedden ([natsned@aol.com](mailto:natsned@aol.com)).

### ◆ **Post a traffic-calming sign in your yard.**

Display a traffic-calming sign in your yard. (Buy one or let your inner artist play!) Let folks know that safety is a priority in our neighborhood.

### ◆ **Donate a plant to the Park & Garden.**

The Park area is a space is for all neighbors to enjoy, and your contribution will enhance the feeling of community. Plant your gift or leave it on the Garden's potting bench as a delightful surprise for the regulars!

### ◆ **Help build a bench.**

Put your carpentry skills to great use! Join in to measure, cut, and assemble benches for the Park. A couple of hours of your time will result in visitors having a place to sit and enjoy the Park.

## ● **Announcement**

### **Neighbor's News on Susan G. Komen 3 Day for the Cure [\*Past Event]:**

Neighbor Wendy Yang led a group on this 60 mile trek, and on Friday, October 21, they winded their way through Decatur. Neighbors were encouraged to turn out to cheer them on in the early afternoon at Decatur's official cheering section in front of the historic Old Courthouse. Wendy & friends were easy to spot in their pink & orange tutus! DHNA commends Wendy for her efforts on behalf of this cause.