

Decatur Heights Highlights

News & Events in Our Decatur Heights Neighborhood

January 2012

DHNA News & Voicemail Line: (404) 220-9777

DHNA Email: decaturheightsneighbors@gmail.com

DHNA Website: www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com

Kicking off 2012 with an Awesome Neighborhood Resolution!

We should strive to be the “friendliest neighborhood in Decatur!” Maybe we could start by finding out when folks move in and get to know them! Tough times will come and go, but we will weather them best if our neighborhood is made up of not just neighbors, but is made up of friends!

~ James Gillespie, our neighbor and friend (from Decatur Heights Neighbors Google Group)

◆ DHNA Meeting- Please Do Your Best to Attend!

When: Tuesday, January 24, 7:00- 8:30pm

Where: Community Room of The Church at Decatur Heights (735 Sycamore Dr.)

On the Agenda (Check for updates on News Line and Google Group):

* **Deputy Police Chief Keith Lee and Neighborhood Watch block captains** will address crime concerns. Deputy Chief Lee will update us on recent incidents and share awareness tips. Block captains will share info by zone on participation, planned meet ups, and particular concerns. Neighbors will be able to enroll in the Watch and get signed up for the Nation of Neighbors alerts system.

* **Deciding on our approach to making neighborhood decisions.** Although twice in 2011 we opted to forgo a formal DHNA Board, we may want to reevaluate in light of the difficulties that arose during the Selig/Walmart issue. The DHNA needs to be able to take stances – for example, on commercial growth and MARTA expansion plans along Winn Way. Let's go ahead and get started establishing the How's, Who's, and What's so that we're ready for future challenges.

* **Traffic Calming Update**

* **Open forum for last 15 minutes for folks to propose ideas and share neighborhood news.**

◆ Neighborhood Watch Update (as reported to Watch):

December: Burglary on Pinehurst St.; attempted burglary on Sycamore Ridge Dr.; pedestrian stop and release of neighbor by Decatur Police Dept. (DPD); suspicious person trespassing on Sycamore Dr. tracked by alert neighbor who summoned DPD.

January: Theft of unlocked bike from porch on Sycamore Dr.; unfamiliar person exiting Pinehurst St. driveway with duffel bag spotted by alert neighbor who summoned DPD. Back garage door found open-- nothing missing. Potential crime likely thwarted by neighbor and alarm system in use. (Also: Decatur Metro comment: Theft of U-locked bikes from locked shed in gated backyard. Dog in yard.)

Please alert DPD of problems (404)373-6551 AND notify the Watch (via block captain or DHNA).

◆ Traffic Calming Update (to be covered at the DHNA Meeting)

- * David Junger (for City) is reviewing the steps for the 25MPH Residential Speed Zone designation.
- * Possible trial test using stop signs at Sycamore Dr/Grove St. under active consideration.
- * Selig Enterprises included Sycamore Dr. traffic calming measures in their agreement with MANA.
- * BIG PROPS to the 211-444 Sycamore Drive neighbors for the increased on street parking!

◆ Park & Garden Update

BIG THANKS to Roger Thomas (Deanne's dad!) for building a bench for the Park! It'll make perfect spectator seating when horseshoes season arrives! Interested in planting, building, or providing for our feathered friends? Let us know! deanneindecaturheights@yahoo.com or leave message (404)220-9777

◆ Selig/ Walmart Issue Update

Neighborhood Reps were pleased with negotiations outcome. (Agreement recap will be supplied with Feb. newsletter.) Zoning Board approved the Parking Variance request. DHNA took a Neutral Stance.

Selig/MANA Agreement: <http://www.medlockpark.org/search/label/Suburban%20Plaza>
ZBOA Hearing coverage, including audio: http://airbornecombatengineer.typepad.com/greater_decatur/

◆ PSWC + Pastor Alan Smith team up for AWARE Towel Donations!

Kudos to our “helping others” neighbors for assisting wildlife too! Peer Support & Wellness Center serves as an AWARE drop-off site, and Pastor Alan Smith of The Church at Decatur Heights delivers them to the Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort in Lithonia. Now we just need neighbors to donate towels and baby blankets! (Please no holes or raveled edges to avoid accidental injuries to the baby animals). The PSWC House is located at 444 Sycamore Drive. AWARE info: www.awareone.org

◆ Thank You to Mail +More in Suburban Plaza!

BIG THANKS to **Tim McKay, owner of Mail + More**, for the surprise gifting of the copies of December's Decatur Highlights! This handy business offers many useful services-- shipping and U.S. Postal, self & full service copies, faxes, passports, notary, fingerprinting, document shredding, key cutting, and businesses services galore!-- and values their neighborhood customers!

Hours: M-F 9am-7pm; Sat 10am-2pm; closed Sun
Info: www.mailplussmoredecat.com (404)508-1412

◆ Interested in Sponsoring the Decatur Heights News and Voicemail Line?

We're looking for a sponsor – neighborhood or nearby business or a neighbor. It's an excellent way to highlight your business or simply share goodwill. Each recording will include your provided information. Rates are \$36/6 months and \$60/year. Please contact the DHNA (see page 1).

* A very sincere thank you to **Dusty Attic Digital Services** for sponsoring our first seven months. www.dustyatticdigital.com (404)377-23338 “We scan the photos. You share the memories.”

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.