

Decatur Heights Highlights

News & Events in Our Decatur Heights Neighborhood

March 2012

DHNA Email: decaturheightsneighbors@gmail.com

DHNA Website: www.DecaturHeights.wordpress.com

Big News! Traffic Calming Petitions on March 21 Commissioners Meeting Agenda!

John Madajewski, Senior Engineer, and David Junger, Assistant City Manager-Public Works, after reviewing data, conducting on site evaluations, and meeting a number of times with Deanne Thomas and other neighbors relating to the petitions, are recommending for consideration and approval:

- **Petition for 25 MPH Residential Speed Zone Designation**

This is a big step in our quest for a uniform 25MPH posted speed limit throughout our Decatur Heights neighborhood. Because changes require GDOT approval, the City is now working on mapping speed limits throughout Decatur in order for our City Folks to be able to make an overall Decatur presentation to GDOT for the reduction of residential speed limits that can be enforced. It's very exciting that our petition will play a role. We're making good progress, so start practicing that 25MPH speed now!

- **Action on: Statement of Interest in a Study of the Sycamore Dr. Curve at Grove St for Safety and Traffic Calming Improvements**

Recommendation is for the conversion of the intersection to an all-way stop with stop signs, stop bars, centerline re-stripping, and a crosswalk. The added crosswalk will address our request for an additional crosswalk on the stretch of Sycamore Dr. between E. Ponce and Pinehurst St. This solution should help tame the double curve and increase stop sign compliance at Grove St. It should also benefit the nearby neighbors without inconveniencing them (as the medians option would have done).

Two Neighborhood Watch Alerts

March 4th Mail Theft on Sycamore Drive (posted on Decatur Heights Neighbors Google Group)

Just wanted to let everyone know to be careful: I put some mail out late Sunday night (around midnight), put the flag up, and went to bed. I had a strange feeling that morning, and checked the box at 7:45 before I left for work, and all of the mail was gone! There was a bill with a check in it, so we had to close the bank account, change routing numbers for online billing, get new checks printed, lock down our credit, and hope we don't experience identity theft in the future. We did file a police report, and the police were surprised that we would even put anything in our mailbox to be mailed out. The officer commented that "putting the red flag up is just a red flag for criminals"! We are likely going to buy a locked mailbox, and of course will mail everything from the post office from now on. I share this so others can learn from our mistakes.

March 16th Suspicious Driver Approaching Children in Sycamore Dr. Area (phoned in by neighbor)

Please be on the alert for a green Honda station wagon driven by a white male in his late 40's. This afternoon on the Dekalb end of Sycamore Dr. (coming from Church St.), this man caught the attention of a neighbor walking toward Church St. because he slowed to a stop as he neared a young girl. The child didn't indicate a problem, so after the man drove past the child, the neighbor resumed walking until he heard the child's mother calling after him, asking if he'd noted the car's tag. The mother told the neighbor that the man had pulled into their driveway and attempted to call the young girl over from her front yard. The mother spotted it and went outside, and the man quickly backed out and headed down the street toward Decatur. The neighbor called 911, and a Dekalb officer responded, took the information, and said that they would patrol the area. The mother said that this man has been spotted driving slowly through the area in the same vehicle over the last two weeks, and that this also occurred with another child (thwarted). All Decatur police officers have been alerted.

DHNA Bylaws Committee Update

The committee is pleased to report that there's plenty of good discussion occurring in our weekly meetings. So far we've concentrated on identifying what our bylaws need to include, and we've reviewed the bylaws of four associations that we've picked to serve as guides. We'll now begin focusing on each section in detail. Our goal is to have a set of bylaws ready for neighbors' input in April. Bylaw committee members: Josh Barbieri, David R. Draper, James Gillespie, Michael Hagan, and Deanne Thomas.

Suburban Plaza Update

Bill Stogner of Selig Enterprises gave an update to North Druid Hills Patch editor Jonathan Cribbs, saying it'll be April or May before the project plans are ready. When asked about Good Growth Dekalb, he replied, "They need to do what they need to do." He added that he continues to receive emails daily in support of their plans, including Walmart. He closed by saying, "What's going to be there is a lot better than what's there now."

Very nice to see the recent sprucing up-- Selig has repainted the crosswalks and curbs, and the entire parking lot has been re-striped.

* Several neighbors have asked about the materials stacked in the rarely used parking section near the N. Decatur Rd. entrance. It's a staging area for the Atlanta Gas pipeline replacement project.

Nature Lovers: Two Volunteering Opportunities on Saturday, March 24th !

- **Glenn Creek Nature Preserve from 9am to noon (end of Fairview St. off Ridgeland Ave)**

Enjoy helping out on a service project alongside students from the Mu Gamma Phi and Mu Gamma Psi step teams of Mundy Mill High in Clayton County. Says Neil Norton, "We like it when young people get their Nature on!" Neighbors are welcome, especially adults that can help lead a team.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glenn-Creek-Nature-Preserve/323223702763>

- **Park & Garden from 10am to noon (behind The Church at Decatur Heights)**

All are welcome to pitch in on getting the Park ready for the pretty days ahead! We'll be mulching the paths, tidying up, and transplanting pass along plants in our shaded areas. In the Garden area we'll be busy weeding. Look for info on signing up for a garden plot in April's newsletter.

Recyclers: Two Specialized Recycling Events on Saturday, March 31st!

- **9am-1pm City of Decatur Paper Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling – FREE!
Decatur Public Works located at 2635 Talley St.(enter from Columbia Dr. side)**

AAA Security Shredding Inc will shred personal documents on site. Styrofoam with the recycling logo will be accepted. (NO to packing peanuts or styrofoam contaminated with waste).

- **8Am-noon Dekalb Household Hazardous Waste Recycling- FREE!
Dekalb County Central Transfer Station 3720 Leroy Scott Dr. (off Kensington Rd.)**

Acceptable: Aerosols, batteries, adhesives, flammables, fertilizers, pesticides, auto oil, sand & other solvents, fluorescent bulbs, photo chemicals, hobby/artist supplies, paints & related products, cleaners and pool chemicals
NO: bio-hazardous/medical waste, agricultural waste, ammo, explosives, pharmaceuticals, radioactive materials

We hope you've enjoyed this month's Decatur Heights Highlights! Our goal is to keep everyone up to date on neighborhood news. Neighbors without internet access receive a delivered copy.