



DEKALB COUNTY DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY 2009

WWW.LEEMAYDISTRICT5.COM

LEE MAY
COMMISSIONER

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Stop! Enough Is Enough

Bullying: *the act of intentionally causing harm to others through verbal harassment or intimidation, physical assault, or other more subtle methods of coercion such as manipulation.*

It's likely you have been a victim of or witness to some facet of bullying in your life. Whether you have been affected directly by a bully or indirectly through your family and friends, the effects of bullying should be taken very seriously. However, the seriousness of many bullying incidences are typically underestimated and simply ignored. Most of us, when we hear of a child being bullied either shrug it off, or chalk it up as "kids being kids". However, as acts of bullying become more drastic and severe there needs to be more attention given towards offering solutions to resolve the underlying causes of bullying.

As we all know, incidences of bullying have grown over the last several years and the resulting consequences have grown increasingly tragic. You probably remember the events at Columbine High School, the perpetrator a formerly bullied student at his school. As these tragedies become more frequent, I've noticed that it seems a lot of focus has been placed on reaction-

ary steps towards dealing with this issue, which I agree are helpful once an event has already occurred, however, provide little assistance towards actually addressing the underlying causes of the issue of bullying itself.

Recently a young, 11 year old boy killed himself in DeKalb County. He was the victim of bullying at his local DeKalb School. I wonder what this young boy was feeling like to think that he had no alternative than to commit suicide. When I heard this story, I kept asking myself, "Why?". Why didn't anyone help this boy? Why didn't anyone stand up for him? Why didn't the school take stronger action to rectify this situation? Why aren't more people upset and angry about this?

We are losing our youth to violence, drugs, gangs, hyper-sexed environments, bullying and to God knows what else is present in our communities. It is going to take very strategic and deliberate action from each of us in the community to confront these issues. We have to decide if we're going to do something to make a difference, or if we're going sit idly while our children self-destruct.

Somewhere in the chaos of our own lives, from cell phones and internet to Youtube and Facebook we lost sight of

each other. It's amazing how, that in a world that is so technologically advanced, our humanity is becoming increasingly primitive.

It's time we rejoice in our commonalities and embrace our differences. Let's stand tall and make a real difference in our communities. When you see something wrong fix it. When you're encouraged to do something wrong, fight that temptation.

Our parents and teachers have to be more responsible for our children and our children's actions. Let's stop letting MTV raise our kids and let's create a legacy for our youth that we can be proud of. Each of us has to raise the bar and set a strong example for our youth. We have to embrace standards that will challenge our own complacencies.

When you're faced with adverse times like these it is important to evaluate, then re-evaluate the status-quo. You have to look deep inside yourself and see if you're doing the best that you can do. Our community needs people with compassion and high standards. We need people like you to stand up and fight for what's right and help fix what's wrong in our communities. We need people who are ready to take action and say enough is enough.

For More Information On Bullying Visit:
www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov



Strengthening Our Community

The achievement gap acts as a prerequisite for inclusion in many other “gaps” that are present in our society; i.e. the poverty gap, the earnings gap, the performance gap, etc. These gaps have traditionally fallen along racial lines, with blacks achieving, earning and performing at lower levels than whites. There have been important steps made to help correct this gap phenomenon; however, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, an average black male in this country earns \$10,000 less per year than his white counterpart.

It is important that we address this issue, and there is a way you can become involved. Please attend this upcoming event (Shown Below), to learn how you can help in closing the achievement gap. Your input will go a long way towards strengthening our community. For more information call (404) 656-0109 or visit www.alishamorgan.com.

“CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP”

Education Summit

Monday, May 18th, 2009

State Capitol
206 Washington St SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Meet/Greet & Action Center

4 PM – 4:30 PM
Room 403

Seminar A:
**Closing the Gap
in Graduation Rates**

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM
Room 403

Seminar B:
**Closing the Gap
in College Preparedness**

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM
Room 403

“Closing the Achievement Gap” Rally

6 PM – 7 PM
Capitol Steps, Washington Street

The People's Voice



Commissioner May truly values your questions, comments and concerns. Therefore in an effort to make sure that he is better meeting the needs of District 5 constituents, Commissioner May will address a specific question or comment. This is your forum to be heard, The People's Voice. Please e-mail any questions, comments, or concerns to jkhockett@co.dekalb.ga.us

This Edition's Question From:

Wishing Well Home Owners

The Wishing Well Home Owner's Association is a very respected community of individuals within our district. Recently, our home owner association raised an issue concerning code enforcement vio-

lations within our local area.

The Wishing Well Community is especially concerned with one particular home located in their community. This home is significantly affecting the appeal of the neighborhood, which can adversely affect property values. In addition the structure isn't being

properly kept up and is a potential hazard.

Commissioner Lee May has been very effective in dealing with our issues in the past and the Wishing Well Community is very interested to learn how the Commissioner will help with this particular concern.

Commissioner May's Response

Dear Wishing Well HOA,

Thank you for your comment. I wish I could say that I had a quick fix to every problem that faces our district. I don't. But, what I can offer you is my commitment to ensuring that the policies I support will reflect the issues that you as a hard-working tax payer advocate for.

Recently, DeKalb County has received money from the Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Act. These funds allow local communities like ours to correct the problems that have arisen from the meltdown of our real estate markets. In DeKalb, we are working hard to identify areas that are troubled by blight and make improvements to these areas. To be more specific to your concern, I have contacted the DeKalb County Code Enforcement Office and we have made progress concerning your issue. The owner of the property was personally served a summons from the Recorder's Court for code violation of having a dangerous/uninhabitable structure. The court date was originally set for January 2009. The owner of the property failed to appear in court and an affidavit was completed and issued for his/her arrest, additional court summonses were issued for a court date of May 20, 2009. In addition, the Officer who is dealing with this matter has forwarded the complaint-in-rem documents to the Law Office for final processing. I urge your association to continue to follow up with the office of code enforcement at 770-724-7940 or visit www.yourdekalb.com.

I know the process of dealing with your concerns can be long and arduous, but I'm committed towards finding a resolution to each issue that you bring to my attention. Thank you and God Bless.

-Commissioner Lee N. May

"I'm committed towards finding a resolution to each issue that you bring to my attention."

DeKalb At A Glance

The DeKalb County Police Department is encouraging the public to exercise caution when using the online site **Craigslist**. Online bartering has become increasingly popular over the last several years with the creation of sights like E-Bay and Craigslist. It is important to use caution when using these type of sites because many people are using these forums as platforms for criminal activity. Since January 2009, detectives have investigated 13 cases in DeKalb County where citizens have been robbed after meeting individuals to purchase items advertised on the Craigslist site. Although detectives do not believe all the cases are commit-

ted by the same suspects, the items used to lure in victims have been similar. Investigation into these cases revealed that victims were responding to postings for I-Phones and the Sony PSP Gaming Systems. Those victims later met the suspects at various locations in DeKalb County at night. Once the victims arrived at the agreed upon area, they were robbed. More recently a national story has unfolded where a man had been answering personal ads through Craigslist and then killed those women who met him. This man has since been arrested for his crimes, however, the threat of a similar

situations still exists. You should always exercise caution when using any online site or when meeting in person, someone you met online.

The DeKalb County Police Department is urging you to use the following precautions when engaging in online transactions:

- Set meetings during daylight hours
- Meet in safe, public places
- Never meet alone
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times

For additional tips visit DeKalb Police online at www.dekalbpolice.com

Quick Reference Information

[DeKalb County District 5 Office](#)

www.leemaydistrict5.com
Direct Line: 404-371-4745

[DeKalb County](#)

www.yourdekalb.com

[DeKalb County Board of Education](#)

www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/board
Information Line: 678-676-0027

[DeKalb County CEO's Office](#)

Direct Line: (404) 371-3696

[DeKalb County Family Services](#)

www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov
Information Line: 404-651-6316

[DeKalb County Libraries](#)

www.dekalblibrary.org
Reference Desk: 404-370-8450

[DeKalb County Magistrate Court](#)

www.dekalbstatecourt.net
Information Line: 404-371-2261

[DeKalb County Planning Department](#)

www.yourdekalb.com/planning
Information Line: 404-371-2155

[DeKalb County Police Department](#)

www.dekalbpolice.com
Information Line: 404-294-2000
For Emergencies Dial 911

[DeKalb Recorder's \(Traffic\) Court](#)

dklbweb.dekalbga.org/courts/recorders
Information Line: 404-508-0368

[DeKalb County Tax Commissioner](#)

www.yourdekalb.com/taxcommissioner
Information Line: 404-298-4000

[DeKalb County Visitor's Bureau](#)

www.dcvb.org
General Information: 770-492-5000

[DeKalb Watershed Management](#)

www.dekalbwatershed.com
Information Line: 404-378-4475

DeKalb At A Glance

The Partnership for Community Action is offering two programs for youth during the summer to expose them to entrepreneurship and volunteerism. These programs are the Youth Entrepreneur's Explorer Club (YEEC) and the Inter-Generational Connection (IGC).

The YEEC is a program geared towards students 12-17 year olds. The students will meet once a week for six weeks and

will be given interactive lessons on how to research, negotiate and develop various business concepts. This program will provide a competitive edge for the participant when choosing career options.

The IGC is geared towards junior and senior high school students. This program will develop service minded individuals. The students are paired with a

senior citizen and will complete 24 hours of volunteerism, and will be awarded a stipend upon completion. There will also be an opportunity to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied towards college.

To learn more about either program contact Mohammad Saleem at (404) 929-2453 or e-mail at mohammad.saleem@pcaction.org.

Swine Flu In Georgia

With several reported cases of the H1N1 virus in Georgia, it is important that DeKalb County take proactive measures to ensure the good health and well being of its citizens. There have been nearly 250 reported cases of Swine Flu in the U.S., the majority in New York and Texas. Thus far, the swine flu cases reported in the U.S. are considered mild and are treatable with antiviral medication. It is important to use precautions, however, since the virus has shown its presence so close to home. Please review the FAQs below, and if you have any additional questions regarding the Swine Influenza Virus, please contact the Center for Disease Control at 1-800-232-2636 or visit at www.cdc.gov.

FAQs

What is swine flu?

Swine Influenza (Swine Flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Most commonly, human cases of swine flu happen in people who are around pigs.

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Swine Flu In Georgia

FAQs

Is this swine flu virus contagious?

The CDC has determined that this virus is contagious, however, at this time, it is not known how easily the virus spreads between people.

What are the signs and symptoms of swine flu in people?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people.

How do you catch swine flu?

A person can catch the swine flu by coming into contact with infected persons, or coming into contact with infected pigs. Swine flu can also live on surfaces and can be contracted by coming into contact with environments contaminated with virus.

Are there medicines to treat swine flu?

Yes. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that fight against the flu by keeping flu viruses from reproducing in your body. If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For treatment, antiviral drugs work best if started soon after getting sick (within 2 days of symptoms).

What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against swine flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Use hand sanitizer.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

What should I do if I get sick?

If you are worried about your symptoms, contact your health care provider. He/She will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed. If you are sick, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness to others. If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.

In children emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing, Bluish skin color, Not drinking enough fluids, Not waking up or not interacting, Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held, Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, Sudden dizziness, Confusion, Severe or persistent vomiting.

Can I get swine influenza from eating or preparing pork?

No. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

DeKalb At A Glance

The DeKalb County Police Department will continue to work with the community in 2009 to aggressively fight crime by instituting programs such as CrimeTrac (Shown Below) in order to make DeKalb County a safer place to live, work and play.”

Commissioner May is committed to working alongside DeKalb Police to improve Public Safety.

There has been a decrease in automotive thefts from the previous year, however, automotive break-ins are rising. Experts suggest that break-ins are growing more popular amongst thieves due to the low-risk and high reward of these thefts.

The DeKalb Police Department recommends that you use good judgment when leaving your vehi-

cle unattended. Make sure that all valuables are out of the car. Items such as GPS units, mobile phones, laptops and iPods are considered big ticket items for thieves looking to make a quick buck.

And always remember to report any suspicious activity or any break-ins to your DeKalb Police Department at (404) 294-2911, or in an emergency dial 911.


Keep “Trac” of your Neighborhood With CRIMETRAC

The CrimeTrac system is a newly adopted program by DeKalb County, which provides users with information regarding crimes that have occurred within a given area of DeKalb. This software is very useful for a variety of purposes including:

- Current residents who want to know what’s happening in their communities.
- Residents who need information in order to form a neighborhood watch organization. CrimeTrac gives the time and dates in which crimes occurred, helping to establish trends in these activities.
- Future residents can now make an informed decision about the community in which they are moving into.

Overall this new software will do a lot of good for all those people who have interests within DeKalb. With this added tool, hopefully crime rates in DeKalb will continue to fall.

For more information about CrimeTrac, visit the DeKalb Police website at www.dekalbpolice.com



DeKalb County Police Department

KEEPING “TRAC” OF DEKALB COUNTY WITH CRIMETRAC

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- ▶ **1. Search**
 - By Address
 - By Crime
- ▶ **2. Focus**
 - Number of crimes within radius
 - Number of crimes near specific address
- ▶ **3. Obtain Report**
 - Date Range
 - Crime Type

- Innovative mapping system for citizens
- Provides accurate and timely crime data in the form of reports and maps
- Informs citizens of activities taking place in their own neighborhoods
- Citizen friendly and easy to use
- Easy as 1, 2, 3– just search, focus and obtain report on any area in unincorporated DeKalb County
- Log on to www.dekalbpolice.com

Save the Date

Board Of Commissioners (BOC) Meetings

When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month
Time: 9:00 AM
Where: Manuel J. Maloof Center Auditorium

BOC Work Sessions

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month
Time: 9:00 AM
Where: Manuel J. Maloof Center Auditorium
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30033.

Community Development Grant

The DeKalb Community Development department is now accepting applications toward grant funds for the 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and HOME/CHDO Grant. The deadline for submitting applications is **May 15, 2009**. For More Information Call 404-286-3308.

There will be a Proposed Budget Hearing on Thursday August 13, 2009 in order to discuss the budget with the public. This meeting will be held in the Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium and will begin promptly at 6:30 PM. The Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium is located at 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA, 30033.

National Tourism Week

When: May 9-17, 2009
Take advantage of great travel deals during National Tourism Week. Many deals are offered throughout the country on air travel and hotels.

Memorial Day Weekend Events

Atlanta Jazz Festival ft. The Jasperts
When: May 23 & 24
Where: Grant Park
Located Near Zoo-Atlanta

Salute to the Troops

When: May 23rd, 24th & 25th 2009
Where: Stone Mountain Park
1000 Robert E. Lee Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Time: 5:00 PM-9:30 PM

Sheep Shearing Day

When: May 19, 2009
Where: Stone Mountain Park
Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sheep shearing is a fun event for the entire family.

Aerobics Event

When: Thursday, May 21, 2009
Where: Manuel J. Maloof Center
3rd Floor Aerobics Room
Time: 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
YOU'RE INVITED!!!
Come Celebrate with us at the 1st Annual DeKalb County "Getting Into Shape" Evening Aerobics Class.

New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

RE|PRESENT Youth Conference
When: June 15-17, 2009
Where: New Birth Church
6400 Woodrow Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

RE|PRESENT™ is designed to provide a community environment where our young people will be equipped to radically transform the current status quo within our culture.

For more info call: 770-696-9672.
Or visit online at: www.newbirth.org

Featured Date - 5K Walk/Run

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, The DeKalb County Community Service Board Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the Mall at Stonecrest will host its 3rd Annual Walk of Heroes. This event will feature a 5K run/walk, tot trot and other fun day activities. Your support of this event will make it a great success. As always all of your donations are tax deductible. For more information call 404-508-7875.

WHAT: 5K Walk/Run & Other Activities

WHEN: Saturday, June 20, 2009

WHERE: Stonecrest Mall

2929 Turner Hill Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

WHY: To raise funds towards providing quality services to the DeKalb CSB Foundation's mental health, disabled and addiction patients. DeKalb CSB Foundation is a not-for-profit organization.

A Message From Commissioner May



It's A Girl!
Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Lee May



Reagan Leanne May

Our Newest D-5 Resident
Born: May 4, 2009 at 8:06 AM
Weight: 7 lbs., 32 oz

To My District 5 Constituents,

It is a privilege to represent you on the DeKalb County Commission, As your District 5 Commissioner, I am honored to be your active voice on the County Commission, but in order to represent you effectively first I need to hear directly from you. From your email messages to hand written notes, your feedback is invaluable.

I hope that you will use this newsletter as another link to me and that you find it to be a very useful tool in helping me better serve you.

Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas on how we can press forward to redefine policies that elevate the quality of life in District 5 and DeKalb County.

Thank you once again for reading our newsletter, and I look forward to working with you to help make DeKalb County a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Lee N. May
Commissioner, District 5

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Visit Me At:

www.Facebook.com

Search for: Commissioner Lee May

Or Follow Me At:

www.Twitter.com/LeeMay