



# DEKALB COUNTY DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

WWW.LEEMAYDISTRICT5.COM

**LEE MAY**  
COMMISSIONER

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## Commissioner Lee May Invited to the White House

Recently our District 5 Commissioner Lee May was invited to the White House to take part in a forum of national leaders. Commissioner May along with various other political leaders from throughout our nation met with President Obama, toured the White House and discussed political subjects. Commissioner May commented on the experience, "I had never been to the White House." "It was a great experience to be in the company of such great leaders; it was also great to visit and tour such an important historical national landmark."



DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May



United States President Barack H. Obama

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## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



### Impaired Driving

Every day, 32 people in the United States die, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 45 minutes. The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$51 billion. But there are effective measures that can help prevent injuries and deaths from alcohol-impaired driving.

This holiday season, let's all make smart decisions in order to keep our streets safe. Drunk driving creates a very dangerous environment that not only threatens the safety of the driver, but also endangers the safety of our children, neighbors, friends and family.

#### *How big is the problem?*

In 2008, 11,773 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (32%) of all traffic-related deaths in the United States. Of the 1,347 traffic fatalities among children ages 0 to 14 years in 2008, about one out of every six (16%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver. Of the 216 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2008, about half (99) were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver.

In 2008, over 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. That's less than one percent of the 159 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year. Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths. These other drugs are often used in combination with alcohol.

#### *Who is most at risk?*

Young people: At all levels of blood alcohol concentration (BAC), the risk of being involved in a crash is greater for young people than for older people. Among drivers with BAC levels of 0.08% or higher involved in fatal crashes in 2008, more than one out of every 3 were between 21 and 24 years of age (34%). The next two largest groups were ages 25 to 34 (31%) and 35 to 44 (25%).

Motorcyclists: Among motorcyclists killed in fatal crashes, 30% have BACs of 0.08% or greater. Nearly half of the alcohol-impaired motorcyclists killed each year are 40 or older, and motorcyclists ages 40-44 have the highest percentage of fatalities with BACs of 0.08% or greater (44%).

Drivers with prior driving while impaired (DWI) convictions: Drivers with a BAC of 0.08% or higher involved in fatal crashes were eight times more likely to have a prior conviction for DWI than were drivers with no alcohol (8% and 1%, respectively).

A drunk driving death can change the lives of everyone involved. Don't wait until a drunk driver impacts your life, take steps to help prevent drunk driving now! Take the keys away from that person who may have had too much to drink, be aware of your limits, and always remember to call for a taxi-cab. To learn more about how you can drive more safely visit [www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired\\_Driving/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired_Driving/index.html).

We all must do our part this holiday season to strengthen our community and keep our families safe.



# THE PEOPLE'S VOICE



Commissioner May truly values your questions, comments and concerns. In an effort to ensure 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 let your voice be heard, The People's Voice. Please e-mail any questions, comments, or concerns to [jkhockett@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:jkhockett@co.dekalb.ga.us)

November's Question

"What are some of the budget concerns for this upcoming year?"

## Commissioner May's Response

Dear District 5 Residents,

There is a budget shortfall of over \$60 million for the upcoming 2010 fiscal year. Needless to say there will have to be cuts made in the upcoming budget. It is my job as your commissioner to analyze the perspectives of constituents, while also meeting the needs of the entire county, such as police, fire and hospital services.

We are still early in the budgeting process for the upcoming year, and I will ensure that I keep you informed of the latest happenings through e-blasts, the District 5 website, Twitter and newsletter. I will also be holding various Town Hall Forums, like the one held Saturday Dec. 12, 2009 at the Poplar Springs Baptist Church. I invite more people to take advantage of these forums, because it gives you all an excellent opportunity to let your voices be heard, and it gives me the perspectives I need to make the right decisions for each of you when I cast my vote with the rest of the board members.

Thank you very much for your question and I look forward to continuing to address all of your concerns.

Commissioner Lee May

# DEKALB BUSINESS FORUM

The DeKalb Business Forum provides local business a chance to gain exposure and possibly new customers. It is also a great opportunity for the residents of DeKalb to learn about what offerings are available in the county, which will hopefully encourage residents to support businesses within our communities. The goal of the DeKalb Business Forum is to help keep the DeKalb's large and small business environment flourishing.

## Storage World Decatur

Owner	Jack Johnson
Address	3122 Panthersville Rd., Decatur, GA, 30034
Phone	(404) 244-7740
Website	<a href="http://www.storageworldlbc.com">www.storageworldlbc.com</a>
Services Offered	Storage world can meet all of your storage needs.

Storage World has been in the storage business since 1998. Their team, a dedicated staff who are among the best in the business, is committed to making Storage World the best in the industry. Two members of their staff are among the first in the state of Georgia to have completed the industry's "Manager Certification Course". The Storage World team is involved in all aspects of the storage business; all our facilities were developed, built, and are managed by our qualified staff. Their professional management team is dedicated to providing quality customer service with convenience, security and satisfaction our goal.

## Interprint Communications

President	Monica Maldonado
Address	2620 Park Central Boulevard, Decatur, GA 30035
Phone	(770) 987-7400
Website	<a href="http://www.ok2print.com">www.ok2print.com</a>
Services Offered	Design, prepress, printing, finishing, advertising/marketing, merchandising

Interprint's mission is to provide custom-made, innovative communication solutions. For over 20 years, Interprint Communications, a full-service, family-owned and operated company, has been servicing businesses in Georgia with market-savvy, solid strategies, inspired creativity, and timely, flawless execution. Their commitment to clients, the company and society is to always have integrity, maintain exceptional quality and build lasting relationships, all of which has led to Interprint's success.

# DEKALB AT A GLANCE

## DeKalb County Water Billing Changes

By now we all know that budget cuts change the way in which the county allocates its funds. In DeKalb we are running lean and mean in order to meet both the needs of our county's infrastructure and the demands of residents, while also working within the constraints of our current financial limits.

To meet rising costs, the DeKalb County Watershed Department has, since 2008, been slightly raising water usage charges in

order to make up for budget shortfalls.

Below are tables that indicate the various changes in water charges that have occurred since 2008.

As you can see in the tables below, the cost of water is increasing. Table 1 shows the service charge that each resident will receive, regardless of whether water is used, or not.

Table 2 shows the commodity usage range, 10-20 thousand gallons of water used monthly, which is

standard for most households, and the related charges per 1000 gallons.

Table 3 shows the charges that are incurred when using the county's sewer systems.

Table 4 shows the charges that are incurred when a household uses water to irrigate their lawns, gardens or flowers.

For more information about your water bill contact the DeKalb County Watershed Department at (404) 378-4475.

### Water Rate Schedule

	Monthly	Bi-Monthly
2008	\$1.33	\$2.67
2009	\$1.55	\$3.10
2010	\$1.79	\$3.60
2011 (forecast)	\$2.08	\$4.17

	Monthly Range (Gallons)	Bi-Monthly Range (Gallons)	Rate (\$/1000Gal.)
2008	10,001-20,000	20,001-40,000	\$2.17
2009	-	-	\$2.52
2010	-	-	\$2.92
2011	-	-	\$3.39

	Monthly	Bi-Monthly
2008	\$3.23	\$6.45
2009	\$3.75	\$7.49
2010	\$4.35	\$8.68
2011 (forecast)	\$5.05	\$10.07

	Monthly	Bi-Monthly
2008	\$1.33	\$2.67
2009	\$1.55	\$3.10
2010	\$1.79	\$3.60
2011 (forecast)	\$2.08	\$4.17

# DEKALB AT A GLANCE

## DeKalb County Police Department Awarded Grant

For each and every DeKalb County resident, public safety is a top priority. As your District 5 leader, Commissioner Lee May is committed to making you aware of all of the various happenings related to this issue, and he is happy to report that, the DeKalb County Police Department has been awarded a major public safety partnership H.E.A.T. grant totaling \$63,620.00 from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in Atlanta. H.E.A.T. stands for *Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic*. The primary goals of the H.E.A.T project are to: (1) reduce impaired driving crashes; (2) reduce excessive speeding; (3) in-

crease the safety belt usage rate; and (4) educate the public about traffic safety.

The DeKalb County Police Department H.E.A.T. Unit will develop and implement strategies to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities from drugs and alcohol, speed and aggressive driving, and non-use of safety belts within their jurisdiction in the GOHS Ten Traffic Enforcement Network.

GOHS Director Bob Dallas said, "This H.E.A.T. grant expresses our thanks for joining the GOHS enforcement team and for the dedication and support of the DeKalb County Police Department for their efforts to protect Georgians from

speeders and impaired drivers. Impaired driving related crashes killed 416 persons in Georgia in 2008. The chance of a crash being fatal here was almost six times higher for crashes related to alcohol or drugs than crashes not related to driver impairment."

"The H.E.A.T. project aims to increase the impaired driver apprehension rate, reduce speeders, educate the public about DUI laws and provide a higher traffic enforcement profile in the community," said GOHS Director Dallas.

For more information about HEAT, visit the DeKalb Police website at: [www.dekalbpolice.com](http://www.dekalbpolice.com).

## DeKalb Police Warn of Increased Auto Theft

Where can you find a place where people leave their wallets, purses, cell phones, navigation systems, or cars unattended and ripe for theft? The answer won't surprise you; it happens every time they pull off the road to get gas or grab their favorite drink from a convenience store and leave their keys in the ignition or their doors unlocked. More and more over the last year, gas station safety has moved to the forefront of crime prevention. There has been a dramatic rise in gas station theft over the past year. Entering auto's and auto theft for the East Precinct year to date from 2008 are both down -25%, however; we have noticed a significant increase in the last couple of weeks! PLEASE ensure you are mindful of auto safety tips even if your car is parked in your driveway.

Most of the time, gas station customers leave their car doors unlocked. This enables a thief to drive up next to the victim's car, open an unlocked door, and grab any valuables within reach. Then, the thief quickly drives off. It's a crime of opportunity that takes only a few seconds to commit. Gas station thefts can be easily prevented. You can keep from becoming a victim of gas station theft by keeping the following tips in mind.

- Pick gas stations that are well-lit and have video surveillance.
- Always remove your keys, close the windows, and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for just a moment.

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you.

"Too often residents become the victims of crimes of opportunity. We hope that through this educational effort, customers pumping gas or running to the convenience store will think twice before leaving their keys in the car or their windows down."

Please learn how you can keep these crimes of opportunity from happening to you! Visit the DeKalb Police East Precinct at 2484 Bruce Street, Lithonia, 30058; or call 770-482-0300. Visit the DeKalb Police South Precinct at 1816 Candler Road, Decatur, 30032; or call 404-286-7900.

The previous information is from a recent DeKalb County Police press release.

# SAVE THE DATE

## DEC 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

### Stone Mountain Christmas

Time: 1:00 PM

Where: 6861 Main Street

Lithonia, GA 30058

Christmas comes to life with more than two million lights at Crossroads. Gather the family, young and old, for a holiday tradition with many holiday-themed activities.

## DEC 21<sup>st</sup>

### Creative Writing Group (18+)

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: Wesley Chapel Library

2861 Wesley Chapel Rd.

Decatur, GA 30034

Aspiring writers have the opportunity to share their work and network. Repeats every fourth Tuesday of each month, except for holidays.

## DEC 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

### Holiday Observances

All county offices are closed

## JAN 1<sup>st</sup>-MAR 7<sup>th</sup>

### Snow Mountain

Time: Weekends

Where: Stone Mountain Park

1000 Robert E. Lee BLVD

Stone Mountain, GA

Come play in the snow as Stone Mountain Park is transformed into a winter wonderland. A Snow-Zone filled of activities will make your snow-filled experience complete.

## JAN 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

### Committee of the Whole Meeting

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Manuel J. Maloof Building

1300 Commerce Drive

Decatur, GA 30030

## JAN 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

### Regular BOC Meeting

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Maloof Center Auditorium

1300 Commerce Drive

Decatur, GA 30033

## CHAUNCEY DAVIS FOUNDATION'S Bike 4 Life

Time	2:00 PM
Date	Tuesday, December 22, 2009
Location	Manuel Maloof Center

The mission of the Chauncey Davis Foundation is to serve as a vehicle for information and resources on general health and wellness issues with a focus on diabetes prevention and detection among youth and adults. The foundation's Bike 4 Life event will provide local disadvantaged youth with the opportunity to live a more active and healthy lifestyle by providing them with bicycles and important information. To donate to the Chauncey Davis Foundation call 770-294-8475

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MAY FAMILY



Happy Holidays to each and every District 5 resident. With the holidays upon us, I hope that each of you are able to spend quality time with your families and that you truly enjoy that time you share.

Thank you once again for reading our newsletter, and I look forward to working with you to help make DeKalb County District 5 the best place to live, work and play.

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Manuel J. Maloof Center • 1300 Commerce Drive, 5th Floor • Decatur, GA 30030  
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