



# DEKALB COUNTY DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

JAN - FEB 2011

WWW.LEEMAYDISTRICT5.COM

**LEE MAY**  
COMMISSIONER

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## 2011 DeKalb County Budget: What You Should Know

As the new chairman of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioner's Budget and Finance Committee, Commissioner May is committed to tackling this year's budget concerns, while also keeping constituents informed. It is Commissioner May's goal to see the most efficient allocation of the county's resources.

The DeKalb County Annual Budget must be approved by March 1<sup>ST</sup>. The board will be making final determinations for the budget by Tuesday, February 22, 2011. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is currently reviewing the CEO proposed budget.



Commissioner Lee May speaks to residents at Lou Walker Senior center regarding the 2011 Annual Budget Process

The CEO proposed budget includes:

- Cut Cooperative Extension programs
- 12% tax increase
- Closing of 5 recreation centers

Commissioner May has made his position very clear, "I will not support a tax increase." May continued, "There are some fundamental changes that must be made in our management of the day-to-day operations... In these times we have to be creative, we cannot simply do things as we have for the last 30 years."

Commissioner May has held several Budget Town Hall Forums this year to discuss these topics with constituents. The focus of these meeting was to learn which items of the budget are most critical to the constituents of DeKalb County, so that smart budget decisions could be made.



Declining home values has affected the taxable revenue for DeKalb County. This is a major factor contributing to the County's budget deficit.

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# LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

## Commissioner Lee May's Perspective: Why I Won't Support A Tax Increase

The DeKalb Board of Commissioners is in the middle of 'Budget Season'. We're staring in the face another tough budget year with deficits climbing. The deficit itself is primarily the result of the economy experiencing record job losses and foreclosures.

Record job losses have contributed to our revenue deficit in a number of ways: 1) no jobs means less household purchases, which means less sales taxes generated for the operation of county government. 2) no jobs exacerbate the foreclosure rates in the county which directly affects our quality of life. Record foreclosures hurt our collection rate of property taxes.

The amount of property taxes you pay is contingent on the value of your home and the tax rate. Our state legislature passed a bill that allows appraisals to include foreclosures when calculating the value of your property. This brought the value of houses down throughout the County.

As a result of this major revenue shortfall we must learn how



to operate within an economy that has fundamentally changed.

Entire industries are having to fundamentally change its *modus operandi* or risk facing extinction.

Likewise, **DeKalb County Government must fundamentally change how it does business.** We must ensure that we are operating more efficiently than ever, with less revenues at our disposal.

"We are facing a near permanent reduction in state tax revenues that will require us to reduce the size and scope of our state governments" states Rob Gurwitt of Governing Magazine.

County governments are products of the state, and it is not a far stretch to think that if states are experiencing fundamental changes, so are county governments.

I will not support any budget that calls for tax increases without first comprehensively working to make the county more efficient.

It is our first duty to ensure that we are running the County as efficiently and effectively as possible before we can ask our citizens for more of their tax dollars.

For more visit [www.leemaydistrict5.com](http://www.leemaydistrict5.com).

## STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



### FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH



#### HEART RISK

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is a major cause of disability. The most common heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which often appears as a heart attack.

#### PREVENTION

The chance of developing coronary heart disease can be reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk.

Eat a healthy Diet—At least half your diet should include the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Maintain a Healthy Weight—for more information on your ideal weight visit [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/adult\\_bmi/english\\_bmi\\_calculator/bmi\\_calculator.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/adult_bmi/english_bmi_calculator/bmi_calculator.html)

Exercise Regularly—The surgeon general recommends at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily.

Don't Smoke—not only does smoking cause cancer, it significantly increase your chance for heart disease.

#### AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The American Heart Association is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is: "Building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke." Since 1963 Congress has declared the month of February American Heart Month.

The American Heart Association provides excellent resources to the public related to managing your heart health. Visit [www.hearhub.org](http://www.hearhub.org), or call 800-242-8721, if you have any questions about managing your health.

**Being a healthier you in 2011 is a great start towards Strengthening Our Community.**

# 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@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:jkhockett@dekalbcountyga.gov)

## February's Question

"The winter storm in early January caught me completely off guard. How can I better prepare for future storms, and what is DeKalb County doing to ensure better preparedness?"

## Commissioner May's Response

Dear District 5 Residents,

DeKalb County was severely affected by the extreme winter conditions in January. Currently the county is evaluating the effectiveness of its response to the recent winter storm. Road conditions throughout this recent winter storm were bad, and the county will investigate what changes could make for improvement, should another similar storm occur.

Residents should stay indoors during extreme weather conditions. However, if you must leave make sure your walkways are shoveled and salted. Make sure to dress warmly. As always exercise your best judgment. Finally, you can tune into your favorite weather channel for critical winter weather advisories.

For more information visit [http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/DK\\_Police/pdf/dema-action-plan.pdf](http://web.co.dekalb.ga.us/DK_Police/pdf/dema-action-plan.pdf) .

Thank you so much for your question, I hope my response has been helpful, and I look forward to continually working with each of you to make DeKalb County District 5, the best place to live, work and play.

Commissioner Lee May

## DEKALB BUSINESS FORUM

The DeKalb Business Forum highlights local businesses providing the opportunity to gain exposure and possibly new customers. The forum provides the opportunity for the residents of DeKalb to DeKalb businesses, which will hopefully encourage residents to support business within our communities. The goal of the DeKalb Business Forum is to help keep the DeKalb's large and small business environment flourishing.

### Smokey Bones BBQ & Grill

Address	2930 Stonecrest Circle, Lithonia, GA 30038
Phone	770-484-0051
Website	Www.smokeybones.com
Services Offered	Full Service Restaurant, BBQ, Salads, Delicious Sides

At Smokey Bones they specialize in three things: Good Food, Good Drinks and Good Times. They specialize in simple, yet flavorful meals cooked under the open flame.

Come in today and try some of Smokey Bone's world famous grilled BBQ.

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### This Is It BBQ & Seafood

Address	(New Location) 2853 Panola Road, Lithonia, GA 30038
Phone	770-817-5400
Website	www.thisisitbbq.com
Services Offered	Catering, Restaurant, Banquet Room, Barbeque and Seafood

Let This Is It! cater your holiday event. Whether Thanksgiving Christmas, Fourth of July or Memorial Day – This Is It! ca-tered holiday spreads will make any occasion special.

All holiday packages feed up to 20 or more guests. Custom orders are welcomed. Go online for the catering menu, for details contact their corporate sales office at 678-817-7757.

# DEKALB AT A GLANCE

## City of Decatur Encourages DeKalb Citizens to Walk For Lunch

The City of Decatur Active Living Department is introducing a new walking program in May 2011 called Walk For Lunch.

The program was in downtown Atlanta last year and we are bringing the folks who ran it to Decatur to begin the program here on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Participants will sign up at [www.walkforlunch.com](http://www.walkforlunch.com) and pay a small fee to walk pre-determined routes of 1, 2 or 3 miles and have an option of buying a lunch to pick up on the square. All the routes so far will begin at the Square. We want to include DeKalb



The Surgeon General recommends at least 30 minutes of physical activity per day. The Surgeon General advises that to be beneficial, physical activity can be continuous or intermittent, should be moderately or vigorously intense, and can be acquired through leisure-time exercise or through everyday activities such as cleaning the house.

Becoming involved in this WalkForLunch Program could be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Take your next step towards fitness beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

County employees/staff/ citizens in the event and hope to get them to join us in the program walking and lunching in downtown Decatur.

Decatur Active living will be leading several walks, and would like to challenge you to join us and lead a walk as well.

We are encouraging our em-

ployees to participate and would like to see how many DeKalb County citizens and employees we can have join us. The Walks will begin at noon on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This will be a great opportunity for Decatur and DeKalb County to join forces to encourage our employees and citizens to be more active and stay healthy.

# DEKALB AT A GLANCE

## Infrastructure Service Numbers

Division	Number	Hours
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION</b>		
Water and Sewer Problems	770-270-6243	24/7
Roads and Drainage	404-297-3840	M-F 7 AM until Midnight
	678-794-3916	Holidays, Weekends and Midnight to 7 AM M-F
Parks and Recreation	404-392-2791	After Normal Business Hours and Holidays
Signal Lights/Stop Signs	678-406-7944	After Normal Business Hours and Holidays

Infrastructure Departments and Divisions		
Watershed Billing Office		
Billing and Customer Service	404-378-4475	M-F 8:30 AM to 5 PM
Billing Questions, New Services, Water off for Non-payment		
Watershed Customer Services		
Backflow Inspections	770-414-6180	M-F 8:30 to 5
Construction Standards	770-621-7272	M-F 8:30 to 5
FOG Permits/Questions	770-414-6184	M-F 8:30 to 5
Hydrant Meters	770-621-7272	M-F 8:30 to 5
Maps for Line Locations	770-621-7272	M-F 8:30 to 5
Toilet Rebates	770-621-7298	M-F 8:30 to 5
Underground Locates	811	M-F 8:30 to 5
Infrastructure Divisions/Departments		
Parks and Recreation	404-371-2631	M-F 8 to 5:30
Roads and Drainage	770-414-6199	M-F 8 to 5:30
Sanitation	404-294-2900	M-F 8 to 5:30
Traffic Engineering	404-297-3947	M-F 8 to 5:30

# DEKALB AT A GLANCE

## 2011 Youth Commission Application Deadline Extended



2009-2010 Youth Commissioners w/ DeKalb County Board of Commissioners

The recent extreme winter conditions has delayed the recruitment process for the 2011 Youth Commission. As a result, we are extending The Youth Commission application deadline.

DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May launched the DeKalb County Youth Commission in 2009 with Board funding.

The goal of the Youth Commission is to develop our future civic and community leaders .

The Youth Commission is an innovative development and leadership training program established to educate DeKalb students on local, national and global issues. The program also engages partici-

pants in civic activities.

The program will expose the youth of our communities to new ideas and concepts, it will provide an opportunity for them to be of service to the community, and will equip them with the valuable leadership skills and training."

Interested students must be residents of DeKalb County and currently enrolled in 10th or 11th grade at a DeKalb County High School.

Many of the participants from the inaugural group, chosen to participate in the hands-on leadership training program, have now graduated from high school leaving twenty-one vacancies to be filled.

"The Youth Commission is a valuable asset to DeKalb County and will work in harmony with Board of Commissioners to resolve the pressing issues facing our youth and county as a whole," says May.

Students can download an application packet at [www.leemaydistrict5.com](http://www.leemaydistrict5.com) or contact their high school guidance counselor.

**Application deadline has been extended to Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> by 5pm due to the January Winter Storm.**

For additional information, please contact Carolyn Frisby, Program Coordinator, at (404) 370-8178, or e-mail: [cmfrisby@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:cmfrisby@dekalbcountyga.gov)

# SAVE THE DATE

## FEB 13<sup>th</sup>

### Meet and Greet:

Author Dorothy Nash

Time: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Where: Wesley Chapel Library  
2861 Wesley Chapel Road  
Decatur, GA 30034

Dr. Dorothy Nash, the author of the book series, Potatoes Don't Grow on Trees; will be on hand for a book reading, signing, meet and greet.

## FEB 15<sup>th</sup>

### Board of Commissioners

Committee of the Whole

Meeting

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Manuel Maloof Auditorium  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, GA 30030

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

## FEB 19<sup>th</sup>

### Learn the Basics of Gardening

Time: 11:00AM-1:00PM

Where: 4380 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, GA

Save time, save money and learn the essential fundamentals of gardening that will last a lifetime; all the while improving the quality of life year after year. For more information call 404-298-4080, or email [uge1089@uga.edu](mailto:uge1089@uga.edu).

## FEB 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Board of Commissioners

Regular BOC Meeting

**Note: 2011 Budget will be approved at this meeting**

Time: 9:00 AM

Where: Manuel Maloof Auditorium  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, GA 30030

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday

## FEBRUARY

### Training:

Computer and Internet Basics

Time: 10:00 AM-11:30AM

Where: Wesley Chapel Library  
2861 Wesley Chapel Road  
Decatur, GA 30034

Learn the components of the computer and explore internet searching. Register by calling 404-370-8450, ext. 2259.

## FEBRUARY

### Acting After School

Time: 2:30PM-6:30PM

Where: 3181 Rainbow Drive  
Decatur, GA 30034

This after school program is available for children ages 6-17 who are interested in acting. Learn improvisation, standup and stage production. Call 404-285-3336 for more information.

## February is Black History Month

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

For more Black History Month Information visit [www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov)

### Featured Event:

What: Storytelling

When: February 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Where: Callonwolde Fine Arts Center  
980 Briarcliff Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306

This show features performers from the dynamic Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia. For more information call 866-633-5252 ext. 3344 or visit [www.callonwolde.org](http://www.callonwolde.org).

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM THE MAY FAMILY



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.

*Lee N. May*

Commissioner Lee N. May, District 5

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