



DEKALB COUNTY DISTRICT 5 NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2009

WWW.LEEMAYDISTRICT5.COM

LEE MAY
COMMISSIONER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Strengthening
Our Community 2

The People's
Voice 3

DeKalb At A
Glance 4,5,6

Save the Date 7

Congratulations
to Commissioner 8
May

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Understanding Your Tax Bill: Millage Rate 101

With all of the financial confusion currently constricting our economic progression in this country, I know you're wondering how to plan your financial life so that you can make it through these tough times.

Well, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring that the citizens of DeKalb are not financially ruined by global financial uncertainty. An important step towards financial strength, however, is to have a good understanding of what exactly is going on.

This section will explain happenings at the local, state and federal level pertaining to millage, taxes and various laws that will affect your financial picture.

The mere mention of taxes can be intimidating for some of us due to the rather confusing and complicated laws and regulations that govern tax code. However, it is important to know how you will be affected.

A Millage Rate is the amount of tax charged in tax dollars per every \$1,000 of assessed value. The millage rate is important because this value is the amount of money that the

county will be collecting from you based on the difference between the county's budget and expected earnings.

There are several recent events that have changed the way that we are taxed as citizens of DeKalb County; General Assembly passed new legislation, the value of homes has plummeted, a year 2000 Georgia law allows rollback in the millage rates, & Dunwoody incorporated. Each of these particular items are described below:

General Assembly Legislation: the law passed to allow foreclosed properties to be assessed alongside occupied property in order to reach an assessment of overall value within a particular community for the purposes of taxation. This previously was not allowed, and with the inclusion of foreclosed properties, the assessed value of homes has dropped.

Home Values: as the board of tax assessors re-evaluate home value with the inclusion of foreclosed property, the relative tax bill for home owners has decreased. This

affects the county significantly, because county-run facilities depend on this revenue to operate effectively.

Rollback Rates: On January 1, 2000 state law enacted a new definition on taxes called the "rollback rate". The rollback rate is defined as last year's millage rate minus the amount needed to make assessment increases result in now new revenue.

Incorporation of Dunwoody: The incorporation of Dunwoody effectively raised the tax rate for the rest of the citizens of DeKalb County. The millage rate for property tax raised from 2.74 mills to 3.99 mills. This primarily due to the incorporation of Dunwoody. In an effort to condense the effect this would have on citizens of the county, the Board of Commissioners is using 90% of sales tax money compared to 80% last year to help reduce your tax bill.

For more information on millage rates visit www.leemaydistrict5.com and find the link on the homepage. Also call your tax commissioner at 404-298-4000 for any additional questions that you may have.



Strengthening Our Community

Community Improvement Districts

Information Provided by Perimeter CID

www.perimetercid.org

DeKalb County is becoming an urban mega center. With an approximate population of 739,956, DeKalb is the third largest county in Georgia. Nevertheless, substantial growth within DeKalb County is still expected and in order to ensure that the county properly manages that growth, certain proactive measures must be taken to make DeKalb County a great place to live, work and play for each of its current and future residents.

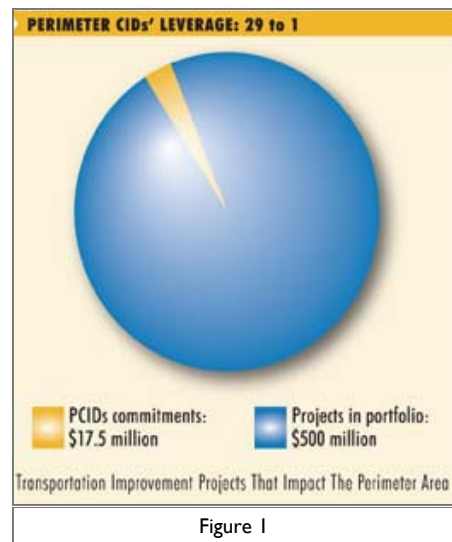
The implementation of a Community Improvement District (CID) will do its part in providing DeKalb with the transportation infrastructure that is needed for a growing area. Community Improvement Districts are currently managing the growth of other areas within the greater metro area and have made significant contributions to those communities. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners Public Works and Economic Development Committee, which is chaired by Commissioner Lee May, aims to mimic the success achieved

through the efforts of other community improvement districts and create a more efficient and aesthetically pleasing DeKalb County by implementing strategic improvement projects.

CIDs play a vital role in transforming specific areas of a particular community and maximizing that area's potential solely for the benefit of residents within that particular community. CIDs are self-taxing districts that uses additional property taxes to help accelerate transportation and infrastructure improvement projects.

The vision of the Perimeter CID organization is to "create premier 'walkable' urban centers throughout the south-east." The Perimeter CID (PCID) will be leading the charge to implement vital transportation enhancements coupled with land use and zoning strategies that will enhance mobility and improve access to DeKalb.

The PCID has achieved unparalleled success in leveraging federal funds and state dollars for projects aimed at relieving traffic congestion, improving access, and encouraging 'Walkability'. The Dekalb



PCID have maintained their competitive edge in leveraging these funds since its inception in 1999. Along with over \$6.5 million through the Livable Centers Initiative program, has managed to secure over \$500 million from various federal, state and local funding sources. (See Figure 1 for a graphical representation)

For more information on how community improvement districts will affect your community directly, visit www.perimetercid.org or call 770-390-1780.

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

Question

“Commissioner May, what can I do to become more involved in my community?”

“Thank you all for your desire to become more directly involved in the happenings of our community.”

Commissioner May's Response

Dear District 5 Constituents,

This question has been coming up a lot lately. I truly thank all of you for your ambition and desire to become more directly involved in the happenings within our community.

Well, there are several ways you can get plugged into what's happening in our DeKalb County District 5 Community. First of all, the weekly board meetings are a great way to learn the latest happenings in DeKalb County Government. Meetings are held at the Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 am, visit www.yourdekalb.com/boc for more updates.

Secondly, make sure you are visiting my website at www.leemaydistrict5.com in order to receive the latest updates; i.e. town hall meeting dates, newsletter updates and various other important information. Next, participating in events with Keep DeKalb Beautiful is a great way to beautify our community, call 404-371-2654 or visit www.yourdekalb.com/beautiful for specific details.

Lastly, your input is needed within various community action groups throughout the county. You can check with residents in your community about how to become involved in your Home Owner's Associations & Neighborhood Watch Programs. Also contact your local Police Precinct Public Education Specialist for action groups information; Sheila O'Rear, South DeKalb, 404-286-7945; or Phyllis Allen, East DeKalb, 770-482-0328.

Thank you again to your commitment towards making DeKalb County District 5 the best place to live, work and play.

-Commissioner Lee N. May

DeKalb At A Glance

(Envision the Fresh Prince and DJ Jazsire Jeff) Awwwwww Yeah, Summer Summer Summer Tiiimmmme...

That's right DeKalb, its summer time again. I know you are all ready to enjoy summer vacations, warm weather, festivals, parks, recreation sites, and of course local pools. This time of year provides great opportunity for parents to spend some quality time with your children. The strength of our communities depends on strong families, like yours. Let's make this year's summer festivities more fun and safer than ever. There are a few basic precautionary steps that every family who enjoys spending time at the pool or beach should implement. Your understanding of general pool safety measures will go a long way towards keeping our pool community safe. For more info visit www.yourdekalb.com/parks?

POOL SAFETY TIPS by DeKalb County Board of Health (DCBH)
www.dekalbhealth.net.

General Pool Tips

Adults should always supervise children 17 years of age and under, especially at private pools which operate without a trained lifeguard present. Water clarity is an important part of pool safety. If the water is not clear, the filtration system and chemicals are definitely not in balance. The ability to see if someone has been under water for a long period is critical for preventing drowning deaths.

Safety around the pool is as important as the pool itself. The deck must be kept free of obstructions and in good repair, so that bathers can walk around the deck without incident. The pool's edge must also be kept in good repair. Glass bottles and containers are serious cutting hazards. Boisterous activity or "horseplay" must be prohibited. A first aid kit and a phone for calling 911 should also be nearby in case an accident does happen.

Health and Safety Tips

- Remember to keep an eye on your child at all times. Kids can drown in seconds and in silence.
- Don't use air-filled swimming aids (such as "water wings") on children as life jackets for life preservers.
- All children should wear life jackets.
- Protect your child against sunburn by using a sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and both UVA and UVB protection, and be sure to re-apply it after swimming. A few serious sunburns can increase the risk of developing skin cancer.
- Don't allow someone with diarrhea to swim. An ill swimmer can spread germs through the water and make others sick.
- Before entering a pool, rinse any loose dirt, oils and bacteria off your body. This will help keep the pool clean.

Tips to Avoid Getting Sick From the swimming pool

- Don't swallow pool water and try to avoid getting water in your mouth.
- Change diapers in a restroom, not at the poolside.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet or after changing diapers.
- Take your kids on bathroom breaks often. Don't wait for them to tell you they have to go, because it may be too late.

Local Pool Information

Pool Season

Pools Open May 23rd and
Close August 8th

Regular Pool Hours

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Monday - Saturday
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM on
Sundays

Daily Swim Fee

\$3: 18 yrs& older
\$2: 3-17 yrs old
Under 3: Free



Find A Pool Near You

POOL	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
BriarWood	2235 Briarwood Way Atlanta, GA 30319	404-679-5924
Cofer	4259 N. Park Drive Tucker, GA 30084	770-270-6253
Gresham	3113 Gresham Road Atlanta, GA 30316	404-244-4937
Kittredge	2535 N. Druid Hills Road Atlanta, GA 30329	404-679-5925
Lithonia	2501 Park Drive Lithonia, GA 30058	770-484-3051
Lynwood	3360 Osborne Road Atlanta, GA 30319	404-303-2105
N.H. Scott	2330 Tilson Road Decatur, GA 30032	404-244-4938
Medlock	874 Gaylemont Circle Decatur, GA 30033	404-486-5904
Midway	3181 Midway Road Decatur, GA 30032	404-286-3313
Murphey Candler	1526 W. Nancy Creek Drive Atlanta, GA 30319	770-216-4917
Tobie Grant	644 Parkdale Road Scottdale, GA 30079	404-508-7616
Wade Walker	5584 Rockbridge Road Stone Mountain, GA 30088	770-879-3462
Browns Mill Family Aquatic Center	4929 Browns Mill Road Lithonia, GA 30038	770-323-4179

DeKalb At A Glance



The 2010 Census will be here before you know it. This is a very important process for our country because the results of the census count determines the distribution of more than \$300 Billion annually of government funding for critical community services. This funding generates thousands of jobs across the country. And it impacts your voice in con-

gress. In order for DeKalb County to receive its proper allocation of Federal funding, we must be properly represented in the 2010 Census Report.

The 2010 Census will be easier than ever to complete. There are only 10 questions on the census questionnaire form and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You will receive a census packet in the mail and a self addressed, pre-paid envelope will also be included, so there's no cost for you to participate. In addition, all of your personal information is 100% confidential and is not shared with any third parties, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

So DeKalb, be on the look out for your Census forms and lets let our presence be felt in this 2010 U.S. Census Report.

For More Information on the U.S. Census Bureau visit www.2010.census.gov

For Employment Opportunities with the Census visit www.2010censusjobs.gov or call toll-free at 1-866-861-2010.

Important Census Dates

- **Spring 2009:** Census employees go door-to-door to update address list nationwide.
- **Fall 2009:** Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.
- **February – March 2010:** Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
- **April 1, 2010:** Census Day;
Send completed census forms before April 1, 2010 to:
U.S. Census Bureau Ntl. Processing Ctr.
1201 East 10th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47132
- **April – July 2010:** If census forms are not collected from your household by April 9, 2010, census takers will visit your household to collect data.
- **December 2010:** By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
- **March 2011:** By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

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 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.

To utilize the CrimeTrac system, visit the DeKalb Police Department 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.

5K Walk of Heroes

When: Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 8:00 AM
Where: Stonecrest Mall
2929 Turner Hill Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

Why: The DeKalb County Community Service Board Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the Mall at Stonecrest will host its 3rd Annual Walk of Heroes to raise funds towards providing quality services to the DeKalb CSB Foundation's mental health, disabled and addiction patients. 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. All of your donations are tax deductible. For more info call 404-508-7875, or to learn how you can join Commissioner Lee May's **5K Team** Call the office at 404-371-4745.

Unbossed and Unbought: The Reverend Hosea Williams Exhibit

When: June 2nd - August 28th, 2009
Exhibit Hours: Tues- Thurs. 10 AM - 4 PM
Sat. 10 AM - 1 PM
Where: Old Courthouse on the Decatur Square
101 East Court Square
Decatur, GA 30030

Join us as we celebrate in this special exhibit that explores the legendary leadership/ service work of Hosea Williams. On loan from The Hosea Project/ Hosea Feed the Hungry, the show features photographs, archival materials and artifacts from Hosea's years as a civil rights leader & politician as well as a glimpse into his personal life.

June Events at Your DeKalb County Public Libraries

Wesley Chapel Library

Address: 2861 Wesley Chapel RD.

What: Genealogy Research Group
When: 3rd Thurs. of each month
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

What: Creative Writing Group
When: 4th Tues. of each month
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

What: Book Discussion Meeting
Book: *The Host* by Stephenie Myers
When: Tues. June 30, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM

Covington HWY Library

Address: 3500 Covington Highway

Special Lecture Series

Meeting Your Credit Workshop
Sat. June 6th (10:30AM-12:30 PM)

Creditor Practices Workshop
Sat. June 13th (1:30PM-3:00 PM)

Credit Report Analysis Workshop
Sat. June 20th (10:30AM-12:30 PM)

Credit Scoring Workshop
Sat. June 27th (10:30AM-12:30PM)

Featured Date - RE|PRESENT Youth Conference

2009 RE|PRESENT Youth Conference

"Renewing the Mind, Body & Spirit"

Featured lectures by:

Bishop Eddie Long, John Gray, Frederick Price & Rani Whitefield.

Featured Musical Performances by:

Lisa McClendon, Edward Long & Dennis Reed and the Gap.

For more info call: 770-696-9672, or visit: www.representconference.com

Registration Fee is \$25.

The first 700 registrants are invited to the free "Renewing Your Spirit: Hype Night Official After Party".

WHAT: RE|PRESENT Youth Conference

WHEN: June 15 - 17, 2009

WHERE: New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

6400 Woodrow Road

Lithonia, GA 30038

WHY: 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.

A Message From Commissioner May



Happy Father's Day

From Commissioner Lee May and all the District 5 Staff

For DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May, this Father's Day will be much like last year—at least in terms of the company he's keeping. There's his wife, Robin, their 2-year-old daughter, Ryann Kimberly, and their latest addition, Reagan Leanne, who was born May 4 of this year. That makes May the lone male in the house.

"It's a bit of a challenge living with all of them, but I wouldn't change it for anything," May said with a chuckle. "I'll tell you what: It's sharpening my negotiating skills."

- Featured Cover Story from On Common Ground Newspaper

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

Commission Office

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
5th Floor
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Visit Me At:

www.Facebook.com
Search for: Commissioner Lee May

Or Follow Me At:

www.Twitter.com/LeeMay