



DECAzette

July 2016



www.decaonline.org



[/groups/DECAAtlanta](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DECAAtlanta)



[/groups/DresdenEast](https://www.youtube.com/groups/DresdenEast)

Cross Keys Guerrilla Gardening

Rebekah Morris



Summertime is notorious for relaxation, rest, and, of course, mischief, for many students who have time away from school. However, many of the students in my freshman English class at Cross Keys High School wanted to find a way to do more than the average teenager. They wanted to continue the work of The BuHi Project -- a student-created initiative conceived during the past school year -- during the summer. They said they didn't want to lose "momentum."

I spent some time thinking about ways to constructively engage the students while also carrying out the purpose of The BuHi Project which seeks to involve students in taking ownership of their community through speaking to city councils,

hosting exhibits of their ideas, and tackling social and economic issues present along the Buford Highway corridor. Our class decided that "guerilla gardening," the act of planting flowers and plants on an abandoned site or properties that are not being cared for, would be the perfect summer project.

Every Friday morning, a dozen or so students and community volunteers have been meeting at Plaza Fiesta, and then collectively deciding on a task for the day. In just two weeks, we have created guerilla gardens at the following locations along Buford Highway:

- an abandoned flower bed in the parking lot of Plaza Fiesta
- an unmaintained garden at Bismillah Cafe
- the MARTA stop at the entrance of Plaza Fiesta
- the intersection of Bragg Street and Buford Highway
- Precision Tune AutoCare

Continued on page 7

DECA QUATERLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

7:00PM

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

2674 Johnson Road, Chamblee, GA 30345

What's Inside

Cross Keys Guerrilla Gardening	1
President's Message	2
Community Calendar	3
Pet Rescue Organizations	4
WANTED - 2017 Board Members	4
Hotdogs, Apple Pie & Fireworks!	5
Neighbor Spotlight	6
City of Chamblee Update	9
Join DECA	12

Meeting Agenda

1. *Association Business, including Treasurer's Report and Annual Elections Reminder*
2. *Guest Presentation: DeKalb Fire & Rescue Hazmat team presentation on Emergency Response Capabilities for the AGL Natural Gas regulator located near Tanglewood Cir.*
3. *Guest Speaker: Kathy Zahul, Georgia Department of Transportation, presentation on GDOT efforts to combat traffic congestion in the DECA/ Chamblee area*
4. *Quarterly Charity Spotlight*

2016 DECA Board of Directors

info@decaonline.org

Officers

President president@decaonline.org
Todd Price 404-661-4820

Vice President vp@decaonline.org
Lane Holman

Secretary secretary@decaonline.org
Julie Erwin (interim)

Treasurer treasurer@decaonline.org
Charlotte-ann Rogers

Past President pastpresident@decaonline.org
Todd Price 404-661-4820

Neighborhood Representatives

Appling Heights ah@decaonline.org
Agnes Nelson 770-458-3473

Dresden Square ds@decaonline.org
Robert Wolfe

Frontier Woods fw@decaonline.org
Marty Johnson 770-451-3165

LaVenture Forest lf@decaonline.org
[Open for nomination]

Marlin Acres ma@decaonline.org
[Open for nomination]

Tanglewood tc@decaonline.org
Amber Mosler

Wakefield Forest wf@decaonline.org
Julie Erwin
[Open for nomination]
[Open for nomination]
[Open for nomination]

Whispering Hills wh@decaonline.org
Sondra Martin

***Help us nominate the 2017 DECA Board.
See page 4 for more details!***

President's Message: When Communities and Public Safety Come Together

Todd Price



When I first moved into my home in Wakefield Forest, I lived in my own sort of bubble. I didn't do much research on crime rates in the area — the street and neighborhood seemed well-kept and felt "safe," so any thoughts that it could be otherwise just didn't come into my consciousness. Until one day when I received an email from a DECA

neighborhood representative, inviting me to get involved in a revived Neighborhood Watch program. That's when my eyes were opened and my little bubble was popped.

It was shortly after that when I started hearing about frequent home and car break-ins, the assaults that happened regularly along Plaster Road and Buford Highway, and other crimes. And I realized then that staying in a bubble is not good, clearly. I learned that all of us as neighbors have to work together to ensure our homes and communities remain safe. I joined others in the neighborhood to establish the Neighborhood Watch program and try to communicate the basic tenets of it to those in the area— "If something looks suspicious, call 911;" "Get to know your immediate neighbors and communicate;" etc. Soon we established a neighborhood-wide email list to send out alerts or other information about crime in the area. And it worked, for a while.

As time goes on, complacency takes hold. People move in and out. Email lists become out-dated. Bubbles begin to form.

So in the spirit of building and improving our community, I hope this message can be a reminder to each of you to re-engage with your neighbors. Reach out to your DECA rep and inquire about Neighborhood Watch programs in your area. If one doesn't yet exist, work to get it going. And when feeling complacent, spend a few minutes reviewing local crime reports for motivation. And join in celebrating crime-free neighborhoods next month at a National Night Out Against Crime event.

For thirty-three years, neighborhoods and communities across the nation have celebrated National Night Out on the first Tuesday of August in an effort to strengthen ties between us all, promote relationships with local police departments, and strive to make our neighborhoods better and safer. This year, over 16-thousand communities will take part — and once again, DECA is committed to helping our neighborhoods sustain this important initiative.

As in years past, the DECA board this year voted once again to approve funding for participating DECA *Continued on page 8*

Community Calendar

JULY

- 19 Chamblee City Council Meeting, 7:30-9 PM, Civic Center
- 20 DECA Quarterly Meeting , 7 PM, St. Pius X HS**
- 21 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast , All Day, Civic Center
- 26 Chamblee Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6:30 PM, City Hall

AUGUST

- 1 Chamblee Main Street Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM, City Hall
- 1 DECA Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM, American Legion
- 2 Chamblee Architectural Review Board meeting, 7-9 PM, City Hall
- 2 National Night Out against crime. Meet Chamblee Police in your neighborhood. Contact your DECA neighborhood rep for more info**
- 4 Chamblee Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, 7 PM, Community Building at Keswick Park
- 5 The Molly Ringwolds - An 80's band performs in Chamblee Summer Concert Series, 6:30-10 PM, Peachtree Park (next to City Hall). FREE! More info at www.chambleega.com**
- 11 Chamblee City Council Work Session, 6-10 PM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 16 Chamblee Council Meeting, 7:30-9 PM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 19 DECA Diners, Location TBD, 7 PM
- 20 Electronics Recycling , All Day, Public Works
- 21 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 AM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 23 Chamblee Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6:30pm City Hall
- 31 P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class 6-8 PM, Civic Center

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Chamblee Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, 7 PM, Community Building at Keswick Park
- 2 DECA Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM, American Legion
- 5 Labor Day
- 6 Chamblee Architectural Review Board meeting, 7-9 PM, City Hall
- 12 DECA Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM, American Legion. Nominations for 2017 DECA Board are due by this meeting**

- 15 Chamblee City Council Work Session, 6-10 PM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 15 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast, 7:30 AM, Civic Center
- 16 DECA Diners, Location TBD, 7 PM
- 17 Electronic Recycling, All Day, Public Works
- 20 Chamblee City Council Meeting, 7:30-9 PM, Chamblee Civic Center

24-25 Atlanta Warbird Weekend. The Commemorative Air Force Dixie Wing, DeKalb Peachtree Airport (PDK). More info at www.atlantawarbirdweekend.com

- 27 Chamblee Downtown Development Authority Meeting 6:30pm City Hall
- 28 P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class, 6-8 PM, Civic Center
- 29 Fall Blood Drive at St. Pius X. More info at www.spx.org

OCTOBER

- 1 Taste of Chamblee, 12-7, downtown Chamblee. Free entry, but there is a cost for tasting. More info at www.tasteofchamblee.net**
- 2 Buford Highway International Half Marathon, 7 AM, Plaza Fiesta. More info at www.buhihalf.com**
- 3 Chamblee Main Street Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM, City Hall
- 4 Chamblee Architectural Advisory Review Board Meeting, 7 PM, City Hall Conference Room
- 6 Chamblee Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting, 7 PM, Community Building at Keswick Park
- 6 DECA Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM, American Legion
- 13 Chamblee City Council Work Session, 6-10 PM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 15 Electronic Recycling, All Day, Public Works
- 18 Chamblee City Council Meeting, 7:30-9 PM, Chamblee Civic Center
- 19 DECA Quarterly Meeting and annual elections , 7-8:30 PM, St. Pius X HS**
- 20 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast, 7:30 AM, Civic Center**
- 21 DECA Diners, Location TBD, 7 PM
- 20-23 Fall Play at St. Pius X. More info at www.spx.org

CHAMBLEE CITY ANIMAL ORDINANCE REMINDER

According to Chamblee City law:

- A "pooper scooper" ordinance requires the owners of dogs to clean up after their pets in public areas
- As a courtesy, please clean up after your pets on your neighbor's property while walking your dog
- No animal is allowed to roam unattended on the streets of the city
- No animal is allowed to roam onto other people's property without the property owner's permission



For further information, please contact **Chamblee Animal Control: 770-986-5019**

Recommended Pet Rescue Organizations

Ruffus Rescue
awos.petfinder.com/shelters/ruffusrescue.html

Fur Kids
<https://furkids.org>

LifeLine Animal Project
www.lifelineanimal.org

Atlanta Pet Rescue
www.atlantapetrescue.org

Angels Among Us
www.angelsrescue.org

Southern Animal Rescue
southernanimalrescue.org

Mostly Mutts
mostlymutts.org

Atlanta Humane Society
atlantahumane.org

Paws Atlanta
www.pawsatlanta.org

Pet Finder
www.petfinder.com

Rescue Me
www.rescueme.org

Royal Potcake Rescue
www.potcake.org

Atlanta Lab Rescue
www.atlantabrescue.com

WANTED - DECA Board Members for 2017

It's time to nominate our DECA Board for 2017. No previous DECA experience is necessary! Please consider becoming or recommending a candidate for the 2017 slate of officers. Self nomination is allowed. Please contact the DECA Nominating Committee at info@decaonline.org with recommendations or questions.

DECA Board positions:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Neighborhood Representatives**

The deadline for recommending candidates is the September Board meeting (**Monday, September 12**). The proposed slate of officers will be published in the October DECAzette and then voted on at the October 2016 Quarterly Meeting. All members who are in good standing (those who have paid their 2016 dues) will vote to approve the slate of offices.

Please be open to the idea of getting involved and serving your community!

Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, and Fireworks!

Todd Price



Independence Day has a few iconic symbols and traditions that resonate with most of us as we celebrate the Fourth, and each of them screams “Red, White and Blue!” The US flag, hot dogs and burgers on the grill, a slice of apple pie with vanilla ice cream, cold drinks, sometimes maybe a sunburn. But always — fireworks!

The Fourth of July has not been the same in Georgia since the General Assembly last year passed a sweeping new law which allowed the buying, selling and possessing of fireworks in the state. Now we can buy firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and other mortars right here in the Peach State without having to drive to neighboring states like Tennessee.

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While most may view this as progress, many of us also realized quickly that the broad scope of the law created a nuisance: noisy, exploding fireworks and firecrackers not only on holidays, but on random nights of the week. The law allowed use of fireworks until midnight (and until 2 am on Independence Day and New Year’s Day). Further, it did not provide any authority for local cities and counties to enact further restrictions on their use.

Patrick Heaton, a resident of Wakefield Forest, noticed the problem during the year end holidays. “Our Christmas sounded like a war zone,” he said. “Four days in a row until 1 or 2 o’clock in the morning.” Patrick contacted Chamblee Police, but they told him there was nothing that they could do about it because of the new, state-wide law.

Mr. Heaton was not alone. Others across the state complained to their legislators and demanded changes. Georgia House Representatives Scott Holcomb and Mary Margaret Oliver both confirmed to DECA in December 2015 that the law was imperfect, needing changes, and that the General Assembly would be addressing citizen complaints and amending the bill in the 2016 session to fix the problems.

And, as promised, those changes happened. Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation this Spring which restricted the use of fireworks after 9 pm on regular days throughout the year. Their use on New Year’s was culled back to 1 am, and on the Fourth of July to 12 pm midnight. And finally, more local control was provided to cities and counties to extend or restrict those hours as they see fit.

For Patrick, these were welcome changes. “Nothing gets done if you don’t speak up,” he said. Indeed.

With the din of another Independence Day fading into history, it offers a moment for us to reflect upon the many great things our nation and state have accomplished. And also to appreciate democracy, and our state legislators who listen to their constituents. So hopefully, after the kids were in bed and the remnants of BBQs were cleaned up, those familiar booms, cracks and bursts of fireworks on this last Fourth of July faded quietly into the darkness, promptly at midnight! Well, we can always hope anyway.

For specifics on the law’s amendments, see Georgia HB 727 Section 6 Paragraph 3B.





Neighbor Spotlight: Betty Lindberg

Pat Thomas



At the age of ninety, Betty Lindberg ran in last year's July 4th Peachtree Road Race (PRR). It was her 25th Peachtree. She entered her first one when she was 64. Naturally enough with her history and talent, Betty plans to participate in her 26th this year. Betty walks briskly through the neighborhood most every day but before this Peachtree, she has been following the training schedule published by the Atlanta Journal Constitution, a sponsor of the PRR.

Besides the training and preparations being made for the Peachtree, the Atlanta Track Club's All Comers track and field meets are held in May and June each Tuesday evening at the Emory University track. On May 10th, Betty entered and completed the 200 meter event. A few weeks later, when she realized the 800 meter would be held on May 24th, she decided to give it a try, although she had never entered an 800 before.

Betty registered for the event, her goal being to earn more points in the Track Club's Grand Prix Series to add to the ones she had already earned in the 200 meter event. Betty's strategy was going to be to make the two laps around the Emory track for the 800 meter event, pacing her racewalking technique so as to ensure she would make it to the finish.

But when the ninety-one year old got to the last 100 meters, instead of a sparsely populated finish area (the other younger entrants had already crossed the finish line), Betty saw and heard a group of well-wishers clapping and cheering her on by name.

That was such a great gesture of encouragement that Betty decided to run, not racewalk, the rest of the way to the finish line. She credits those well-wishers with her breaking the 800 meter record in her age group. Running the last 100 meters is what she feels made her fast enough to best the former record.

Betty's 800 meter time was 6:57.56, a world record for the women's 90-94 age group. For nearly the last fifteen years, Mexico's Rosario Iglesias held the record with a time of 6:59.18. Betty also shattered the national record of 9:26.00 that was held by Mary Kirsling since 2013 and bested the 7:14.89 world and national indoor 800 meter record set by Mary Norckauer last year.

Betty did not set out to break a world record and did not know she had accomplished doing that at the time she completed the 800 meters. "I just wanted to finish before they turned out the lights," Betty joked.

Come join us at our Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 7:00PM. St. Pius X
(See agenda on front cover)



Join DECA today!

Fill out membership form
on the back cover.

Cross Keys Guerrilla Gardening, continued from page 1

One community member Kelly Leigh Livingston heard about our project through Facebook and decided to get involved. She developed one of our signature gardens which involves the repurposing of old tires by spray-painting them, lining them with durable material, and then filling them with soil and flowers.

Students like Julie Thach and Lisa Sims have also spearheaded this initiative by suggesting watering techniques, as well as designing other simple strategies for gardening and recruiting other students to join the effort.

The thing about Guerilla Gardening is that it unifies the community around a common goal: beautifying Buford Highway. Nothing brings me more joy than to see students becoming community leaders who inspires other stakeholders to invest their time and resources into their neighborhood.



Ultimately, the Guerilla Gardeners hope to see the cities of Chamblee, Brookhaven, and Doraville,



along with MARTA and the Georgia Department of Transportation and other organizations, create and initiate a more sustainable method of streetscape design and pedestrian walkability. We hope that our efforts attract the investments of these municipal and state authorities and that these efforts demonstrate our dedication to seeing long-lasting community preservation and revitalization.

Join the movement by starting your own guerilla garden or by meeting with us at Plaza Fiesta every Friday from 10AM-12PM. More information is available at buhiproject.weebly.com events or on Facebook at "The BuHi Project."



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President's Message, continued from page 2

neighborhoods who wish to hold a National Night Out event. DECA will provide \$5 per paid membership, with a minimum amount of \$50 and a maximum amount of \$150, for your neighborhood's National Night Out celebration. If you've not yet renewed or joined DECA, please do so as 25% of your annual dues will go to your neighborhood for this event. Your DECA rep can provide more information. And as always, volunteers are always encouraged to help pull these parties off.

Thank you all for your diligence in thinking of your neighbors, watching out for suspicious activities, and celebrating crime-free neighborhoods on Tuesday, August 2nd!



DECAzette ad size & rates

- Business card** (3.65" x 2") \$25
- Quarter page** (3.65"x5") \$35
- Half page** (7.5"x5") \$60
- Full page** (7.5"x10") \$100

Ads should be "camera-ready" and submitted as images (jpg) or in PDF format. Create ads to the exact dimensions stated above.





City of Chamblee Update

Teresa Taylor, Assistant to the Chamblee City Manager

The City has a busy summer ahead with summer concerts, preparation for Taste of Chamblee and Development 101 classes in the works. We also have some new faces in the City and new partnerships.

New Faces

In May, Chamblee City Manager Marc Johnson announced his retirement. Johnson worked for the city for more than 40 years, starting as a dispatcher in the 1970s. In his 40th year with the city, the Chamblee City Council appointed him city manager, a position he'd held on a number of occasions on an interim basis.

Jon Walker became the interim city administrator, upon Marc Johnson's retirement. Walker most recently was a key member of the SAFEbuilt leadership team during a period of growth that culminated in its acquisition by the Riverside Company in 2014. He opened and managed operations for the company in four Southeastern states before being promoted to vice president for client services. Walker is a former city manager with broad public agency experience. He has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Georgia.

Another new face in the City is Jodie Gilfillan, Chamblee's new Parks and Recreation director. She served more than 16 years as a recreation supervisor for the City of Alpharetta. During her tenure there, she managed facilities that included aquatics, arts, athletics, and fitness. She also coordinated and secured sponsorships and grant funding for city programs, special events, and facility improvements.

Upcoming Classes and Events

In the fall, the Development 101 program will host a series of classes about development to educate residents and business owners on the Unified Development Ordinance, zoning, permitting and code enforcement. The classes are open to anyone who wants to take them, though spaces are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Five classes are tentatively planned: Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 1 and Dec. 13. For more information visit www.chambleega.gov/registerdev101.

August 5th is 80's night in Chamblee! The Molly Ringwalds are The World's Greatest 80's Experience.

On October 1, the City will host Taste of Chamblee in downtown Chamblee.

Partnerships

Government and business leaders in the cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville and Dunwoody have formed the Peachtree Gateway Partnership, an effort to make this already thriving part

of metro Atlanta an even better place to live, work and play. The Peachtree Gateway Partnership is working to create a strategic plan that sets priorities for improving and promoting the area. That plan may include branding and quality of life improvements such as a connected trail network.

The cities of Chamblee and Doraville have been awarded a grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to undertake a joint study of the Buford Highway Corridor. The \$96,000 grant will be used to hire a consultant team to help identify needed public improvements and to form public-private partnerships to:

- Strengthen economic vitality
- Improve safety for autos, bikes and Pedestrians
- Encourage more use of the street for pedestrians, Bikes, and transit
- Improve the aesthetics and wayfinding along The roadside

The year-long project will begin in July.

Open everyday
11:00 am to 8:00 pm

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teacup spa for smaller pets, and a canine rehabilitation and fitness center featuring an AquaPAWS PLUS underwater treadmill system (the only one in the state of Georgia). They exclusively feature a line of one-of-a-kind cedar pet furnishings direct from the heart of Arkansas.

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DECA Membership Form

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership! By doing so, you are supporting many on-going DECA projects and programs including:

- Neighborhood Watch & National Night Out against crime
- Our annual picnic and other social activities
- Maintaining the I-85/Shallowford Rd islands and other neighborhood beautification projects
- Supporting the Cross Keys Foundation and our local schools

Dues are only \$20 per household or business per calendar year. Please send check made payable to **Dresden East Civic Association with this form to: PO Box 49305, Atlanta, GA 30359**. You may also join or renew online securely through PayPal at www.decaonline.org/join-deca. Membership dues are NOT tax deductible.

Name:		Date:	
Address:			
Phone:	Email:		
How did you hear about DECA (Check one):			
Renewing Member	Real Estate Agent	DECAzette	
Neighbor/Friend	Meeting Sign	DECA Website/Yahoo/Facebook	
<i>Do not publish my name in the DECAzette</i>			
Please check your subdivision:			
Appling Heights	Dresden Square	Frontier Woods	LaVenture Forest
Marlin Acres	Tanglewood	Wakefield Forest	Whispering Hills
Other: _____			
Would you consider becoming more involved? Check your area(s) of interest:			
Neighborhood Watch	Zoning/Development	Community Beautification	
Public Relations	Local Schools	Leadership	
Programming/Social	Advocacy	Other: _____	



St. Pius X Catholic High School
welcomes the DECA community to
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performances throughout the year.

For information,
please visit our website:
www.spx.org.



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