



Princess of Communications - J. Keesee

Y2K Compliant

NOTES FROM THE THRONE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

THANKS, DEKALB!

Well, it must be tax time. With the housing market as crazy as it is, many of us are over joyed to discover that the value of our homes has gone up. Unfortunately, conversely, we cry over the tax bill when Dekalb County discovers the fact as well.

Before you get too upset, one of the reasons that the county is intent on "properly" assessing our homes, is that the HOST program is going into affect, and our beloved elected officials are trying to prevent the total tax rolls from decreasing.

Some of you may be well versed in tax information, but for the rest of you for whom "HOST", "ASSESSMENT", and "MILLAGE" may seem an inexact science at best, perhaps my investigation may shed a little light...

If you look at your tax bill from last year, you can see the bill broken out into several different line items. HOST is the program that diverts the existing 1% sales tax into county funds to offset taxes that residents pay to Dekalb. We WILL NOT be paying:

- County Operations
- Hospitals
- Fire
- Unicorp. Taxes

We WILL continue paying:

- School Operations
- County Bonds
- State Taxes
- Retention Pond
- Street Light

You can roughly calculate you new taxes by multiplying your newly assessed home value (minus \$10,000 homeowner's exemption) against the millages on last year's tax bill. I say roughly because there is a chance that the millage for School Operations may go up (BOO!) and that the Homeowner's exemption may go to \$12,000 (YEAH!). We'll know in July.

Dear Neighbors,

This letter is primarily for the dog owners in the 'hood. We have a slight problem and I need your assistance. As you all know, we spent a lot of money on the front entrance this past year in hopes of making it look extra nice. The beds have been tended to with great care. For that reason, it is very disheartening to see neighbors letting their dogs walk through the beds and do their 'business' there. If you walk your dog around the front entrance area, like me and so many others, please do not let them walk through the flower beds. It would be very much appreciated.

Also, several neighbors have asked that I broach another topic regarding our beloved pets...that would be the DeKalb County Leash Law. When you are out with your dogs, please adhere to this law. People are afraid of walking by themselves, with their small children and/or their leashed dogs, when other dogs are running free. I understand the need for dogs to get exercise, but be considerate of those who walk through the neighborhood.

Thanks,

Brent

What We Can Do!

I hope that everyone is as upset as I am upon hearing the latest Neighborhood Watch update of the event on Katie Kerr.

I also hope that everyone is upset in the way that I am.

[expletive, expletive, expletive] this is my neighborhood and I want to walk in it! I will not be locked up in my own home. This latest incident should serve to remind us that there are terrible people everywhere in the world, and that we need to be cautious and responsible, but not frightened of where we live.

I don't know the right answers, and I'm no crime fighter, but maybe it would help to walk in groups. We've all read about the "Take back the streets" marches; maybe every night in Ashwood needs be a mini-march.

Not walking alone doesn't mean not walking at all.

Walk the dog, get that exercise you always intended to get, and get to know your neighbors. Call and arrange to walk your dogs with that person next door that you've always meant to get to know better.

Maybe every night at 6:00PM. Maybe after dinner. Maybe each morning.

It would sure be something to see groups of people walking together around the neighborhood every night. It would certainly mean something to the thugs looking for lone victims.

Don't be a victim, be a neighbor.

INSIDE

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1 Gossip

Thanks to all the inquiring neighbors, but no, there is no new child at 2840 Ashwood Place. My brother and his wife and kid were staying in my house while transitioning back to the Atlanta area. Granted, the millenium is approaching, but one immaculate conception every 2000 years is more than enough.

2 Transitions

Well, "The Place" has been a bad neighbor and been hidden away during the winter. We have many new neighbors and look to soon have many more, but here's the scoop on some:

- Prakash and Varsha Bhuyan
2825 Ashwood Place
(404) 286-9719
- Kris Copes and Craig Burnette
2841 Royal Bluff
(404) 286-5082
- John and Lynn Briggs' new bouncing baby Jack!

Come welcome them pizza night, May 13th!

3 Committees

Here's the scoop on the committees...

LANDSCAPING

Stewards - Paul Chamlies & Will Smith

Frank, our founding and long lived Chairman of Landscaping, has gracefully stepped down from being our Lawn Leader. Thanks to him for his hard work on the front landscaping, the county sidewalk issues, and the retention pond fence, not to mention the regular grind of landscape and sprinkler maintenance.

And thanks to Paul and Will, our co-chairs, for taking on the chore.

ARCHITECTURAL

Steward - Jim Boynton
Phone - (404) 286-8455
Members

- Sandee House - Karen Dessables
- Kelly Dak - Terry Pickard
- Cathie Herman - Linda Brooks
- Brett Norton - Claire Phillips
- Beth Wilson - Susan Zoller

Still seeing to you home customizing needs...

SOCIAL

Steward - Jeff Keesee
Phone - (404) 288-0712
Fabulous Committee in of herself
- Sandee House

Our last event was before the rush of the holidays; a trip to Decatur lanes for a very much less than serious night of bowling. The most important two rules were: Not standing between a bowler and his/her beer and picking out just the right nickname. With such an intense sport, pitting Fifi against JFK might not have seemed like a good idea, but I, for one, had a ball...

...about 16 pounds worth.

Now that I don't have the excuse of the holidays or being out of town with work, how about a reprise of Pizza night, and a Summer Picnic? More later...

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Steward - Michele McHale-Pickard
Phone - (404) 284-2800

Everyone should have gotten their block captain assignments. Thanks for the responses. The network is in place, let's use it!

Be Nosey! Be Safe!
Be Informed! Be a Neighbor...

WELCOMING

Steward - Robin Moore
Phone - (404) 286-4490
Members - Brent Henderson
- Karen Dessables
- Kelly Dak
- Beth Wilson
- Michele McHale-Pickard
- Lynn Briggs

FINANCIAL

Treasurer - Robin Moore
Phone - (404) 286-4490

Most all Homeowner's dues are collected; thanks to those who got them in on time, and let's get those last few in...

4 Notices

SPECIAL THANKS

Sandee House and Andrew Pierpont have updated the neighborhood directory. You should all have gotten a copy in your mailbox. Let one of the officers know if you didn't get yours.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brent Henderson is "Teacher of the Year" at Mt. Olive. Way to go, Brent!

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE

Now and upcoming...

"Driving Miss Daisy"
April 22 - May 30

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"
June 24 - August 8

...and you thought the neighborhood was good theater...

DON'T FORGET

Ashwood Place is everyone's newsletter and as such, everyone should feel free to contribute! Anything written down and submitted to Jeff Keesee (2840 Ashwood Place) will be considered for inclusion herein (and we are not very picky). We emphasize written down, because if you can't write it, neither can We.

CLIP AND SAVE ASHWOOD CALENDAR

Thursday, May 13th at 6:30 PM ---

Gather in Jeff's driveway at 2840 Ashwood Place to caravan to Avondale Pizza Cafe. Topics for you and your neighbors include:

- Neighborhood Safety
- Beer
- Property Values
- Beer
- New Neighbors
- Beer

Saturday, June 5th at 9:45 AM ---

Preliminary date for the Association Meeting for the entire neighborhood in the Lower Royal Bluff cul-de-sac. Bring a chair, your coffee, and anything (legal) you need to stay awake.

Saturday, June 19th at 6:30 PM ---

Ashwood Picnic! Mark the date on your calendar, today; Luau details to follow. Don't even tell me you can't limbo...