



# **Thousands of dollars** donated for annual **Thanksgiving dinner**

by Carla Parker carla@dekalbchamp.com

osea Helps, formerly known as Hosea . Feed the Hungry, kicked off the 2015 Festival of Services with its annual "The Great Turkey Drop Off" Nov. 12 at the DeKalb County Jail.

Kroger, Publix, Wade Ford and the Ford Motor Company and the law firm Kanner and Pintaluga made donations to the organization to help prepare for the Hosea Helps Thanksgiving dinner at the Georgia World Congress Center Nov. 26 and other holiday events.

Before the annual Thanksgiving event, Hosea Helps uses DeKalb County Jail's kitchen to prepare the food. DeKalb County Sheriff Jeff Mann said the jail has embraced the opportunity to help the community's disenfranchised.

"For more than 15 years, traditional holidays have come to mean something special for our officers and staff," Mann said. "We look forward to each year hosting hundreds of volunteers and staff who come to our kitchen and prepare the meals for the tens of thousands of men, women and children as part of their outreach program." Afemo Omilami, COO of Hosea Helps, said the theme for this year is "Hosea

Strong All Year Long" painting out Hosea Helps serves those in need all year, not just on holidays. He also said the Thanksgiving event is for everyone to attend. "This is not just for those

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who don't have or in need,"



Kroger donated 500 turkeys and \$10,000 to Hosea Helps.

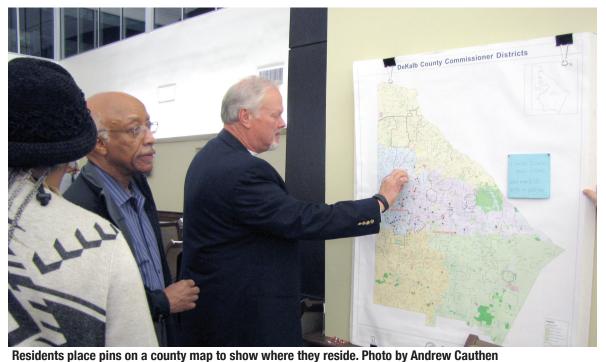
# **Residents meet to discuss new county blueprint**

by Andrew Cauthen andrew@dekalbchamp.com

pproximately 100 residents attended a town hall meeting Nov. 16 to discuss DeKalb County's form of government.

DeKalb County Super District 6 Commissioner Kathie Gannon hosted the town hall meeting, titled Blueprint II, to launch a citizen study of local governments to guide elected officials.

Gannon said her goal is to enlist "a new group of citizen leaders...who will tackle the form of government and talk about it," Gannon said during the meeting held at the South DeKalb Senior Center on Candler Road. It



will not be a charter commission, but it's more likely a way to help us prepare to understand and participate

if the charter commission moves forward...in the next legislative session."

Gannon called the meeting because "the dysfunction and corruption in DeKalb County requires citizens to consider changes in the DeKalb form of government," she stated in an announcement. "Government is supposed to be of the people, by the people and for the people. DeKalb citizens must be actively involved in choosing their form of government. It cannot be imposed by politicians or selected by experts."

Gannon said she is in favor of "reviewing and improving our form of government, but I think we should look before we leap. We need to understand how changing the form of government will correct the problems. What

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CHAMPIONNEWSPAPER 







CHAMPIONNEWS

#### LOCAL

# **Dunwoody hosts annual Veterans Day program**

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

Veterans are especially honored and remembered on Nov. 11 for their service to the United States, a tradition that began in commemoration of the formal end to World War I in 1918.

This year to celebrate the holiday, hundreds of people gathered in Dunwoody's Brook Run Park for the city's annual Veterans Day Program.

Outgoing Mayor **Mike Davis** said, "As I often tell my family, Thanksgiving and November are my favorite times of the year–when we give thanks for our freedoms."

He added, "Today is Veterans Day when we give thanks to the people who provide that freedom and fight for our freedoms."

The colors were presented by Dunwoody High School Air Force ROTC senior cadets led by Lt. Col. **Kenneth Bennett**; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Loren Cook; the national anthem was performed by the Dunwoody High School chorus, led by director **Mark Lamback**; and the prayer was led by Rev. Jeff Reams of Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church.

Dunwoody Police Department Lt. **Michael Carlson**, executive officer for the Georgia National Guard and former United States Marine Corps (USMC) sergeant, was the guest speaker.

Carlson served in the USMC reserve from 1994 until 2000. After receiving honorable discharge, he focused his career in law enforcement.

"We all have different stories, different backgrounds and different experiences, however, we all take an oath—an oath that can possibly lead up to end of our life for this great nation," he said.

In April 2009, Carlson began working for the Dunwoody Police Department as the administrative sergeant and later became the shift sergeant on night patrol.

He said, "I took an oath and adopted six more core values: service, integrity, courage, professionalism, respect and teamwork."

In 2010 he began attending officer candidate school through the Georgia Military Institute and received his commission in December 2012. In the same year he received his master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University.

"This young man has accomplished more in a short lifetime than most of us could in a full lifetime," Cook said.

Last year Carlson was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Carlson said, "When I patrol these streets I keep those core values in mind.... I embrace them the same way I adopted the Marine Corps values in 1994 and current army values I took today. The other 51 officers that patrol these streets also embrace those core values. Please know that you are protected whether you live, work or play within the city of Dunwoody."



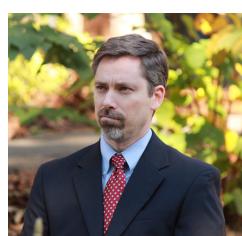
Community leaders, veterans and supporters gather at the annual Dunwoody Veterans Day ceremony.



Dunwoody High School choral ensemble, directed by Mark Lamback, performs the National Anthem.



Command Sergeant Major Simon Jones served in the United States Army for 30 vears.



Rev. Jeff Reams has been on staff with Dunwoody Baptist Church since 2002.



Dunwoody High School Air Force JROTC senior cadets present the colors.



Dunwoody Police Department Lt. Michael Carlson served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



Loren Cook served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.



Dunwoody Mayor Mike Davis welcomes gust to the celebration.

# Family files lawsuit in officer-involved shooting

by Andrew Cauthen andrew@dekalbchamp.com

On Veterans Day, the family of **Anthony Hill** filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the DeKalb County Police officer who shot and killed the unarmed veteran.

"We are pursuing a civil action, not only for the legacy of Anthony Hill, but for the future of veterans—for better treatment for veterans and for the future of Americans," said Atlanta attorney **Christopher Chestnut**.

Hill, 27, an Air Force veteran from Chamblee, was shot and killed March 9 by DeKalb County Police Officer **Robert Olsen**, who responded to a call about a man acting "deranged," knocking on apartment doors and crawling on the ground, **Cedric Alexander**, deputy chief operating officer for public safety, stated in a March news conference.

"Unfortunately, Officer Olsen of the DeKalb County Police Department shot and killed Anthony Hill who was unarmed, who was disrobed...who had no weapons, had made no threatening statements to Officer Olsen and to date there has been no justification for this," Chestnut said.

In October, a grand jury could not decide whether to recommend an indictment of Olsen "because there were contradictions and inconsistencies in the testimonies presented." The grand jury recommended that the case be investigated further to aid DeKalb County District Attorney **Robert James**' decision to pursue the case.

James has stated that he has "serious concerns" about the case.

"We hope that the district attorney will file murder charges against Officer Olsen for his unjustified, unlawful, unnecessary and certainly excessive force," Chestnut said.

Hill, who was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, "returned home with posttraumatic stress disorder and [was] bipolar," Chestnut said.

"Statistics show that 10

percent of Americans suffer from some type of psychological disorder," Chestnut said. "We need specialized training of police officers in encountering the mentally ill.

"The frontline [responders] for mentally ill patients, when they have mental disorder episodes, are the police," he said. "Many [police departments] have acknowledged this and have specialized training for officers on how to engage, interact and deescalate instances of mentally ill disorder. DeKalb County did not have that.

"Our lawsuit, we hope, will bring attention to this matter," Chestnut said.

He said the family initially was "trying to let the criminal process take its course, but when the civil grand jury could not reach a consensus, the family decided to file the lawsuit."

"There hasn't been an indictment," Chestnut said. "Officer Olsen has not been arrested. He should be. This was murder. There was no justification for this shooting. Anthony Hill was unarmed. He was not aggressive. He was not angry. He was having a psychological episode.

<sup>c</sup>Officer Olsen had backup coming. The only excuse for him using lethal force is he has to feel that his life...is in imminent danger. If he felt that his life was in imminent danger, then he never should have gotten out of his police car.

"Officer Olsen had a Taser. Officer Olsen had an ASP baton. Officer Olsen had a pepper spray. He had many alternatives to pulling a firearm and shooting Anthony Hill once in the neck and once in the chest.

Hill's mother, **Carolyn Baylor Giummo**, said, "If my son was here, we would really be celebrating Veterans Day.

<sup>'</sup>"I'm sad because he's not here, but I'm also thankful

LOCAL

Hill was an Air Force veteran.

for the veterans who fought for us," Giummo said.

"A lot don't come back the way they go," she said. Giummo said she doesn't

consider Olsen to be "crook" or "bad cop."

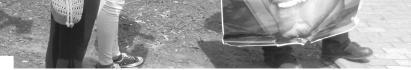
"I just say he made a mistake that he has to be accountable for," Giummo said.

Chestnut said the officer is "a dangerous man" and "a threat to the safety of citizens of DeKalb County."

During his seven-year tenure, Olsen has had five complaints filed against him—"all of them alleging that he has an aggressive attitude toward citizens.

"This was a boiling point that culminated in...Anthony Hill's death," Chestnut said. "It was preventable. This is a bad cop. This is a criminal with a badge and a gun."

Chestnut said the family is "prayerful and cautiously optimistic" that charges will be filed against Olsen.



Earlier this year protestors demand justice in the police-involved shooting Anthony Hill, who was naked and unarmed at the time.



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#### LOCAL

The Boys and Girls Club played a big role in forming the man **Derrick Williams** is today.

His experience growing up in southwest Atlanta is why Williams tries to be a positive role model for children.

"If it wasn't for those community-made programs I definitely wouldn't have found myself in college," he said. "I came from a singleparent home and that still exists for many of the youth today. Not only is it important to try to create a positive male role model for the kids,



but we need to try to... lead

them into the right way so they can make the best decisions in terms of creating a great future for themselves."

Williams, who lives in Dunwoody, tries to be a positive role model for children through his hobby as a referee for youth and high school football. He has refereed games for 24 years. He began officiating games in North Carolina while in college. He now officiates high school games in DeKalb County and Atlanta, and youth football games across metro Atlanta. "I work as a full-time

accountant, but officiating

is still a hobby for me," Williams said.

Williams said the best part about officiating youth football games is being able to interact with the players.

"When you officiate, you pretty much stick with the same teams—from ages 6 through 12—and you get to see the players' development," he said. "I get to interact with the coaches and the fans. I've always played football and it's the next best thing for me to actually being out on the field and putting on equipment myself. I just absolutely love being around the game."

Champion of the Week

Williams does other community work with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Williams said it is important that everyone try to be a positive figure for children.

"I think it's important that everyone gets involved to try to raise these kids," he said. "It's not just contingent upon what goes on in the home, but also contingent on what goes on outside of the home."

If you would like to nominate someone to be considered as a future Champion of the Week, please contact Andrew Cauthen at andrew@dekalbchamp.com or at (404) 373-7779, ext. 117.



City Councilwoman Pam Tallmadge was elected Nov. 3 to the post vacated by the current mayor-elect Denny Shortal.

# **Dunwoody welcomes new councilwoman**

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

**Pam Tallmadge** took her place on Dunwoody's city council Nov. 9 after being sworn in at the start of the meeting. Tallmadge ran unopposed in the Nov. 3 election for the District One At-large council seat vacated earlier this year by **Denis Shortal** who ran for, and won, the mayor's race.

"This is a huge opportunity," she said.

The Colorado native first moved to Dunwoody during her junior year of high school and attended Dunwoody High School where she took part in Student Government Association and Model United Nations.

Tallmadge later moved to Athens to attend the University of Georgia where she majored in music education but returned to Dunwoody with her husband to raise their three children.

For more than 25 years Tallmadge has been involved with education efforts throughout the state. She's worked in DeKalb County

Schools for five years, co-authored the charter for what is now Peachtree Charter School, served as president for Dunwoody High School's National Parent Teacher Association and currently works as the executive assistant for Charter System Foundation.

She said, "Education is a high priority for me."

Tallmadge said some of her efforts as council woman will be in support of state Rep. **Tom Taylor**'s HR-4 bill, which would allow cities such as Dunwoody to form their own school systems.

The proposed bill, aims to allow local control of education dollars and management of personnel and curriculum.

Tallmadge said the process for HR-4 will "take some time."

She said, "Regardless, it's important we work closely with DeKalb County Schools. If we don't have a good education system in Dunwoody via our own or DeKalb; if our [schools] are not strong; people aren't going to move here or do business here."

Tallmadge is known for her community involvement and volunteerism including serving as co-chairwoman for events such as Dunwoody's fourth of July parade and Light Up Dunwoody. She's also a member of the Dunwoody Homeowners Association and is cochairwoman of the Education and Workforce Development Committee for the Dunwoody Chamber of Commerce.

# It could have ended badly

It started with a problem with a computer at work and ended with me walking backwards with my hands in the air toward three cops, at least one of whom had his gun drawn.

It was Nov. 3 approximately 11:30 p.m. at The Champion Newspaper's office. I had come to the office after covering the elections. I wasn't supposed to be there; the plan was for me to help finish up the paper remotely at home. But a coworker's computer malfunctioned and she was unable to access it remotely to lay out the paper. So that meant me going to the office. I was the only person in the whole office complex.

When entering the office at 11 p.m. I accidentally set off the alarm because of a battery problem with the keypad. I was able to stop the alarm and go about my busi-



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ness getting the paper out. Approximately 30 minutes later while on the phone with a coworker, when I gradually became aware of yelling in the hall. The voices said, "Decatur Police! Come out!" I opened my office door and yelled, "I'm coming out with my hands up." I carried my phone with me—my coworker was still on the phone.

I walked down the hall slowly toward the cops until

I was directed to turn around and walk backwards to the three cops. As I turned I noticed that one officer had his gun drawn. Before reaching the officers, I was told to put my phone on the floor and put my hands behind my head. I complied. An officer asked to search me. I agreed. They told me they had received a call from the alarm company and that when they arrived a door that I didn't use was unlocked. They asked for my ID and reason for being in the office complex at night. I told them I worked for The Champion and was covering the election. They asked for company ID. I walked with them toward the back of my office to get my ID which was in my bag.

In my office, an officer asked what I presume may have been a test question: What was the outcome of the cityhood vote? Of course I knew the answer and said, "Tucker passed, LaVista Hills didn't."

One officer, presumably the team lead for the incident, gave me his business card and informed me that I could call the police department if I had any questions about what had happened. Then they left.

A lot of thoughts went through my mind as I was walking backwards in a building with just me and three cops, one with his gun drawn. I've written lots of stories about police-involved shootings in which a Black male is killed, sometimes seeming unjustly. As I walked toward the gun, I knew I had done nothing wrong and I hoped that the three cops were reasonable, good cops and not like those on my wall of shame in my office. I knew that my only

hope and appropriate course of action was to cooperate with the officers as my parents had taught me.

I didn't protest the drawn gun, or the fact that they didn't knock on my office door, or ask me if I was OK. I didn't protest the fact that I felt like they treated me like a suspect first and asked to search me. I didn't ask whether a professional looking White man would have been treated the same way. I just cooperated; I wanted to go home.

The incident was a little scary, and I can see how it could have easily had a negative outcome, particularly for me. But this time the officers were professional and respectful and I was cooperative. That's the only way we can decrease police brutality and inappropriate officerinvolved shootings.

## **GUESS EDITORIAL**

#### When can the police search your cell phone?

I recently took a break from my regular news sources (as I sometimes do) and here is what I learned from watching about 30 minutes of the "mainstream" news. First, "terrorists" are going to destroy our way of life in the near future. Second, both Democrats and Republicans will say almost anything to get elected. Third, someone's funny cat video on YouTube went viral. And lastly, **Wolf Blitzer**'s beard hasn't grown since the last time I tuned in.

Now don't get me wrong, these stories deserve some attention–well, maybe not Blitzer's beard–but I'd like to take a break from the normal 24/7 news cycle to share with you (on a serious note) a recent issue that's been important to me both personally and professionally.

I was pleasantly surprised recently when I read the Supreme Court's recent decision of *Riley v. California*, which held that it is unconstitutional to search a person's cell phone simply because he or she is being arrested (also known as a "search incident to arrest)". In my opinion, *Riley* is immensely important because it could determine the constitutionality of searches involving new electronic devices in the foreseeable future.

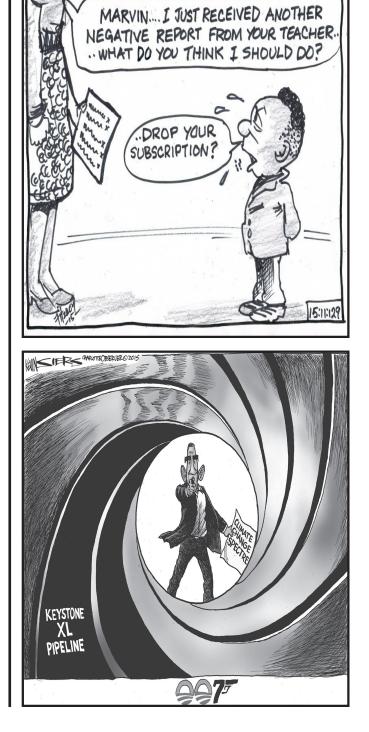
In *Riley*, the namesake defendant was pulled over for an expired tag. The police arrested Riley and then searched his cell phone without a warrant nearly 90 minutes later. The government argued at trial that a warrant was not required because the search was done "incident to arrest," to prevent evidence from being destroyed. Previously, the Supreme Court has upheld such searches for this reason, correctly in my opinion, for this reason and also to protect officers or prevent an escape.

Fortunately, the Supreme Court disagreed

with the government and, in a very well-written opinion, outlined how it will likely interpret constitutional rights in the context of new technologies in the future. The gist of the court's reasoning is the commonsense recognition that "smartphones" are no longer merely used to make phone calls. They can be a camera, a video/audio recorder, a diary or a picture album. Moreover, they're frequently used to make purchases, browse the Internet, view a bank statement or email friends or family. I think that *Riley* recognizes the basic notion that invading of all of these personal aspects of a person's life is unacceptable based solely on the fact that he or she is being arrested-at least get a warrant first.

I spoke about *Riley* at this year's DragonCon event, and I've talked with many people about this and similar issues in years past. I'd like to share a few observations based on my experience that I think *Riley* highlights. The first is the basic idea that everybody, whether they admit it or not, has some an inner sense of liberty, justice and privacy. Additionally, I believe that it is much easier to browbeat or suppress these traits in people than it is to foster them.

We need to be more careful in the future that as we continue innovating newer technologies we don't alienate ourselves in the process. "Civil liberties" is not a catchphrase or a partisan issue. They are something that universally increases people's enjoyment of life, and our soldiers fight wars for this belief. And I would point out, as a practical matter, fostering these uniquely human traits helps induce personal development, maturity and a more cohesive and productive society. *Riley* implicitly recognized these truths and I hope that we'll see more cases like it in the future.

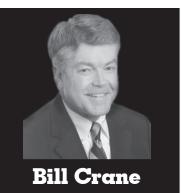


# ONE MAN'S OPINION — Vive La France

"It was unknowable then, but so much of the progress that would define the 20th century, on both sides of the Atlantic, came down to the battle for a slice of beach only 6 miles long and 2 miles wide."—President Barack Obama at the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion along the shores of Normandy, France.

The people of France are America's longest ally. General LaFayette, a close friend of George Washington, was a French aristocrat who led his troops during our Revolutionary War to several major strategic battle victories. Washington commissioned prominent French architect, Pierre L'Enfant to design Washington, D.C, our nation's capital, and the State of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to America in 1886.

In 1944, the Allied D-Day Invasion on the beaches of Normandy, led by American forces in one of the deadliest battles of World War II, turned the tide and began the take-back of France and western Europe from occupying Nazi forces. In the decades since, relations have chilled somewhat with the various governments of France, leaving only veterans and those with long memories a strong embrace of that deep kinship and support of the most basic



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Columnist

precepts of liberty. President John F. Kennedy followed French efforts into Vietnam, and in the generation since, the ocean which separates us only seems to have widened.

Yet following the recent horrific attacks on civilians in Paris, and the prompt claim of responsibility by ISIS, there are both parallels and broad differences worth noting in the American attacks of 9/11/2001.

Instead of attacking symbols of American governance, hubris and the corridors of power, ISIS chose to seed broader fears, by attacking multiple locations simply because they had large gatherings of people, and one obvious strategic target, which included the past and current presidents of France.

U.S. intelligence, air strike support and other assistance have already been offered, and will, of course, be gladly accepted. But, as Hitler learned with the repeated bombing of London and the United Kingdom, air strikes alone in many cases dampen spirits, but they do not always break will or resolve. It was the ground invasion of France that caused its temporary fall.

Conventional warfare, as we have come to know it, may not be the only path to victory over this insidious enemy who also attempts infiltration from within; but if defending their own flanks, front doors, homesteads and families, they would be a bit more than preoccupied from planning and implementing vast overseas and international operations simultaneously.

In the decades since Vietnam, our world has shrunk, many borders have fallen, but political divides have often pushed even the closest traditional allies to opposing sides. French President Hollande leads a Socialist government in France, a nation well further down a path of government taking a much more intensive and extensive role in the lives of its everyday citizenry. Though Hollande has been a longtime critic of U.S. foreign policy, particularly during both of our conflicts in the Middle East, that same president is now proposing amendments to the French Constitution which may temporarily suspend certain civil liberties and extend the reach and monitoring by the French government and law enforcement to boundaries not even attempted by the U.S. Patriot Act.

Desperate times and a climate of fear often change the rules of political engagement. Many of the words and messages selected and directed by Hollande more than slightly echo a few of the more cowboy remarks and post-9/11 utterances of former U.S. President George W. Bush.

We should consider and take this opportunity, much as the 9/11 attacks temporarily galvanized and unified our nation, to rebuild the bond with the people of France. With Syrian refugees and other matters of similar concern, we should better share intelligence, military resources, and outside the normal theater of political debate, consider what it will take to wipe our common enemy off the face of the planet.

I suspect it will not be simply drone strikes and more significant air sorties.

One can only hope as America's leaders move forward and we voters select our next commander-inchief that we again select a path of vigilance and strong defenses, to prevent another 9/11 here, and to prevent an even larger swath of America to end up, like the most successful cultural export of France to the states, being French fried. God Bless America and Vive Le France!

Bill Crane also serves as a political analyst and commentator for Channel 2's Action News, WSB-AM News/ Talk 750 and now 95.5 FM, as well as a columnist for The Champion, Champion Free Press and Georgia Trend. Crane is a DeKalb native and business owner, living in Scottdale. You can reach him or comment on a column at bill.csicrane@gmail.com.

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#### STATEMENT FROM THE PUBLISHER

**PUBLIDREK** We sincerely appreciate the discussion surrounding this and any issue of interest to DeKalb County. *The Champion* was founded in 1991 expressly to provide a forum for discourse for all community residents on all sides of an issue. We have no desire to make the news only to report news and opinions to effect a more educated citizenry that will ultimately move our community forward. We are happy to present ideas for discussion; however, we make every effort to avoid printing information submitted to us that is known to be false and/or assumptions penned as fact.

Keader response

Dear Ms. Gay,

Thank you for your recent opinion piece. You are not alone. I too am disgusted about the amount of trash strewn around DeKalb County. While walking my dog I often pick up cans and bottles, which may be thrown out by my neighbors, and include them in my household recycling. However, given the widespread corruption I cannot fully trust that these items are really recycled or wind up in a landfill. Perhaps one day our fellow citizens and county officials will do the right thing. Awareness and civic pride must come from the top on down.

Good day, Barry Burnett







## **Avondale Estates**

#### City collects donations for Mayors' Christmas Motorcade

Avondale Estates is collecting items for the annual Georgia Municipal Association's Mayors' Christmas Motorcade. The event provides holiday gifts for patients in hospitals run by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). It also raises awareness for DBHDD programs and patients.

Donations of new and unwrapped gifts will be accepted. Donations of wrapping paper, ribbons and bows also are needed. Cash donations also will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to: GRHA Patient Benefit Fund. Gifts or donations will be accepted at Avondale Estates City Hall until Dec. 1.

# Brookhaven

#### City offers new app for residents

Brookhaven residents can now report public works and code issues via "Brookhaven Connect," a free smart phone app for residents to report non-emergency problems such as potholes, code violations or sidewalk issues. The app is currently available for iPhone and Android phones.

Residents also can report problems via their laptops or desktop computers with the app. "Brookhaven Connect" is not intended for issues that need to be addressed immediately. For downed trees across roads, traffic signals on flash or "dark," or downed stop signs, residents should call the Public Works department's main number at (404) 637-0540 and press "1" to connect to the on-call staff. Residents should call 911 for all public safety emergencies that require police, fire or EMS.

#### Decatur

#### Commissioner to host 17th annual Tree of Love program

DeKalb County District 3 Commissioner **Larry Johnson** will kick off his 17th Annual Tree of Love on Nov. 21.

The Tree of Love is a holiday initiative to assist DeKalb children who, because of their circumstances—foster care, single-parent, lowincome households—may not receive Christmas gifts. Since the beginning of this initiative at South DeKalb Mall in 1999, more than 9,000 children have been "adopted" through the Tree of Love.

The kickoff for the event will be Saturday, Nov. 21, beginning at noon at the Gallery at South DeKalb Mall, 2801 Candler Road, Decatur. The community, business owners, organizations and churches are invited to come out and take a child's name from the Tree of Love. Gifts will be due back by noon on Saturday, Dec. 19, when the annual Tree of Love Christmas program will take place, also at South DeKalb Mall.

Donors can contact the commissioner's office now to adopt a child.

Any individuals and groups interested in showcasing their talents and participating in the Christmas Program at the Tree Of Love Wrap-Up on Dec. 19 can contact Johnson's office at (404) 371-2988 or email ystevenson@dekalbcountyga.gov for more information.

#### Commissioner holds economic development forum

On Nov. 6 DeKalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson sponsored "Renaissance 2.0 Economic Development Forum: Breaking through How We See Our Community" at the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts & Community Center.

The purpose of the forum was to foster a vision of bringing beautification, commercial development and economic empowerment to District 3 through education, economic incentives and coordination among community groups.

At the forum, several developers discussed how to attract new businesses to the community. Additionally, a group of community residents pitched their ideas of what they would like to see in the community and why DeKalb County's District 3 is a place that is ready for an economic emergence.

More than 150 residents who registered for the event had the opportunity to network with business owners, vendors, county officials and potential employers.

#### Third annual turkey giveaway scheduled

The third Annual Turkey Giveaway for needy families in DeKalb County is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Galleria at South DeKalb Mall, located at 2801 Candler Road, Decatur.

This event is sponsored by DeKalb County Commissioner **Larry Johnson** and DeKalb County NAACP Branch/Women in NAACP.

Last year more than 465 turkeys were donated to families in need ranging from young people to senior citizens. The goal this year is to exceed last year's goal and that each family in need receives a free turkey.

For more information, contact Johnson's office at (404) 371-2988.

## Countywide

#### Community organization to host open mic and elect board

The South DeKalb Improvement Association wants to hear from residents and businesses of South DeKalb about local issues, concerns and priorities. That's why the organization is dedicating a portion of its Nov. 21 general meeting for public comments.

The meeting will feature an open forum on code compliance, economic development, education, housing, public safety and other topics that fall under the group's service umbrella. During the meeting, there will be an election for the board of directors.

The meeting is Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Berean Community Center, 2440 Young Road, Stone Mountain. The meeting is free and open to everyone.

The South DeKalb Improvement Association (SDIA) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, 501c3 organization with a mission of giving the residents of South DeKalb a voice and platform in addressing common issues.

For more information about the organization, or to invite SDIA to speak to at a meeting of a homeowners or association, civic organization, church or group, email SDIAinc@gmail.com.

#### County changes deadline for garbage and recycling container collection procedure

The DeKalb County Sanitation Division has extended the compliance deadline for servicing third-party or customer-provided garbage and recycling containers. Effective immediately, all garbage and recycling containers placed at the curb on residents' designated collection day, including customer-provided containers, will be serviced until Dec. 31.

Only county-issued garbage roll carts and recycling containers will be serviced when full implementation of the new procedure takes effect Jan. 1, 2016.

Customer-provided yard trimmings containers are exempt from this new procedure. The use of secure, durable plastic bags for excess garbage disposal is permitted with this procedure.

Residents not in compliance after Dec. 31 will not be serviced, and will be issued a notice advising of the use of an unauthorized garbage or recycling container.

Customers who do not have a county-issued garbage roll cart, or would like to join the recycling program and obtain a county-issued 18-gallon recycling bin should contact the sanitation division's customer service team at (404) 294-2900 or sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov.

Phase II of the sanitation service change program, which will focus on recycling, is expected to begin in late November. Recycling roll carts with a 65-gallon capacity will be available during Phase II for a one-time \$15 fee. More information on Phase II will be provided in the coming weeks.

For program updates or more details about the sanitation service change, including a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions, contact the sanitation division's customer service team at (404) 294-2900 or sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov, or visit the "Rolling Forward to One" program website at www.rollingforwardtoone.com.



An update to the county's clean restroom ordinance gives code enforcement officers the authority to issue warnings or fines. File photo

# **County's clean restroom ordinance gets an update**

by Andrew Cauthen andrew@dekalbchamp.com

A year-old DeKalb County law requiring public restrooms to be kept clean received an update Nov. 10.

The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Nov. 10 in favor of renewing and strengthening its restroom ordinance.

Commissioners Stan Watson and Kathie Gannon worked with a 10-person county task force led by Dale Phillips, director of the county's human development department, to craft a more effective ordinance, which clarifies enforcement provisions relating to restrooms in bad repair.

The stated purpose of the ordinance is to regulate restroom facilities "to prevent the nuisance of public restrooms by prohibiting the existence of such restrooms in a state of bad repair and to promote the maintenance and availability of properly functioning restrooms."

As provided by the update, businesses, stores, offices, DeKalb County buildings and parks are required to keep restrooms in adequate sanitary conditions. Residents may report violations to code enforcement officers who can issue warnings or ultimately fine violators.

The revised ordinance also allows the DeKalb County Board of Health to inspect the restrooms closest to the cafeterias in schools.

"During a review by the Board of Health when they go in for their check of the cafeterias, they will also make a check of restrooms closest to the cafeteria," Phillips said. "And if there is an issue, they will make a note of it and they will report that to an official of the school and work with code enforcement and the school" to address the problem.

For other restrooms in schools, students or other restroom users can report deficiencies to code enforcement.

"We will make a note of it and code enforcement will take action as well," Phillips said.

Dr. **Tom Keating**, founder and coordinator of Project CLEAN–Citizens, Learners and Educators Against Neglect, said he has been working for 21 years on improving school restrooms.

In addition to focusing on restrooms in the DeKalb and Decatur school districts, he has worked with representatives in 20 states, India, Ireland and Germany.

"After 18 years it dawned on me that I should be talking about all kinds of restrooms, because a kid who leaves school goes to a library...a park, a recreation center and a swimming pool and a MARTA station," Keating said.

The DeKalb restroom ordinance is "strengthened and clarified" by the update, Keating said.

"It has clarified the enforcement," he said. "It has built the capability that we now have to have an education and an awareness...here in the county that sanitation is important."

Keating said, "For the last year we have had an ordinance that has helped bring about a better quality of life by decreasing the number of restrooms that have been in bad repair.

"This year we have made some improvements on that ordinance and continue to discuss [the issue]," Keating said.

The ordinance update passed one week before World Toilet Day, a day declared by the United Nations to recognize that approximately 2.4 billion people who still lack access to a toilet.

# Teens indicted for murder

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

Three teenagers arrested in connection with the death of 25-year-old **Shaneku Mc-Curty** have been indicted on murder charges.

DeKalb County District Attorney **Robert James** announced at a Nov. 10 news conference that **Demonte Grant**, 15, **Jermaine Grant**, 16, and **Cameron Williams**, 16, each have been charged with murder and aggravated assault. They will not face the death penalty but each is facing life sentences.

Each suspect is charged with one account of malice murder, two counts of felony murder and two counts of aggravated assault.

According to law enforcement, the three suspects approached McCurty outside the Chevron Food Mart at Redan Road and South Indian Creek Drive on Oct. 23 in an attempt to steal her car. McCurty resisted and was shot.

James said it was not an easy decision.

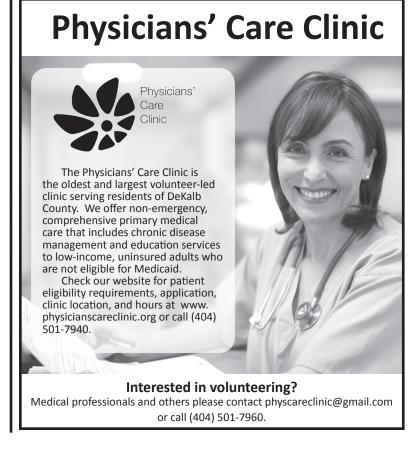
"Our office takes no pleasure in indicting juveniles or children as adults. These are very serious crimes that these young men have been



James

charged with. These are always tough decisions for us but these senseless acts of violence—this tragic loss of life–begs for a response," James said.

He added, "I don't think there are any winners in a case like this. Our hearts go out to Ms. McCurty's family. We will keep them in prayer and seek justice on her behalf."



#### LOCAL

# Judge halts ethics proceedings against commissioner

by Andrew Cauthen Andrew@dekalbchamp.com

A DeKalb County Superior Court judge has put ethics proceedings against DeKalb County Commissioner Sharon Barnes Sutton on hold.

On Nov. 5, Dwight Thomas, Sutton's attorney, filed court document asking the judge to "restrain [the] DeKalb County Board of Ethics from exceeding its jurisdiction and to declare the [section of the county ethics code] to be an unconstitutional delegation of power and to be a nullity pursuant to the repeal by House Bill 597."

House Bill 597, approved by DeKalb voters on Nov. 3, changes how people are chosen to serve on the ethics board. Currently, the makeup of the board is decided by county commissioners and the county CEO.

Under House Bill 597.

ethics board members will be chosen by the DeKalb Bar Association, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, the DeKalb legislative delegation, the judge of the DeKalb Probate Court, Leadership DeKalb, DeKalb colleges and universities, and the chief judge of DeKalb Superior Court.

The bill also took away the ethics board's power to remove elected officials from office.

"Unless restrained the action of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics will chill and impact the constitutionality protected due process rights of the petitioner," states court documents filed by Sutton's attorney.

In her petition, Sutton "seeks an order invalidating Section 22A" of the county's organizational act, the county code of ethics that establishes the ethics board. "The rules of procedure of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics are unlawful."

The court petition asked for "an order restraining" the ethics board from conducting any "purported ethics hearing." Sutton's attorney also asked a judge to declare that the "creation of the DeKalb County Board of Ethics is an unconstitutional delegation of power."

DeKalb County Superior Court Courtney Johnson granted a stay in the case, ordering that the ethics board" shall hold no hearings on any complaint against [Sutton] that was pending before Nov. 3, 2015," pending a further order by a judge.

In September the ethics board found probable cause to have final hearings for the ethics complaints against Sutton and her aide, Judy Brownlee, who are both accused of misusing county funds.

#### **Pay raises for city employees** included in proposed 2016 **Brookhaven budget**

by Carla Parker carla@dekalbchamp.com

Brookhaven city employees could see a 3-percent raise if the proposed 2016 budget is approved.

The 2016 proposed budget includes a cost of living and/or a merit increase of 3 percent of employee com-pensation. The cost to Brookhaven taxpayers \$131,000.

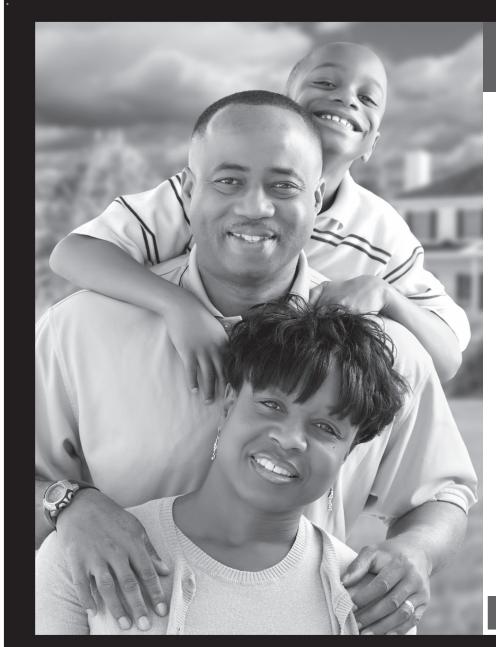
Brookhaven Financial Director Carl Stephens said at a budget public hearing that there is no increase in the cost of city-provided medical and other insurance benefits for city employees. There is also no change in carriers or benefit coverage.

The 2016 proposed budget is \$32.7 million, with a projected general fund of \$20.7 million, a 5.1 percent increase from the \$19.5 million general fund in 2015.

The millage rate for the general fund is projected to remain the same (2.74 mills), which was adopted by the city council in June. Stephens said the general fund property taxes revenues are projected based on a 3 percent growth in the city's tax digest.

"This represents an additional \$193,000 in property tax revenues above 2015," he said. The millage rate for the special tax district is pro-

jected to rise to 6.45 mills, as projected in the initiation of the taxing district due to the annexation of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta property.



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#### SMELL GAS? ACT FAST!

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless fuel, but for safety reasons, a chemical odorant sometimes described as a "rotten egg" smell is added, making the presence of gas detectable.

#### **IF YOU SMELL THIS ODOR:**

- immediately.
- Leave the door open as you exit.
- Alert others and leave the area
   Avoid touching anything that may cause a spark. This includes starting a car engine or using cell phones, lighters, matches, cigarettes, flashlights, light switches or landlines.
  - Go to a phone away from the area and call Atlanta Gas Light or 911.

Natural gas odors should be reported right away. Do not try to locate the source of the smell.

If you smell natural gas, call Atlanta Gas Light at 877.427.4321.



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NATURAL GAS. AMERICAN. ABUNDANT. AFFORDABLE."

# **GRAMMY Camp comes to Callanwolde**

LOCAL

#### by Kathy Mitchell

Soon after becoming Callanwolde Fine Arts Center's executive director **Peggy Johnson** set a goal to bring more music education to the center. Not only has she made scholarships and training available to large numbers of area youth, but this month the GRAMMYs will have a presence at Callanwolde.

The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) of the United States, the organization that presents the GRAMMY Awards, also operates the GRAMMY Foundation, which works year-round to promote and encourage musical achievement among the nation's young people. Among its activities are GRAMMY Camps at which high school students gain exposure to the music business.

Weekend GRAMMY Camp, "a one-day nonresidential music industry experience where a small group of students will gain an introduction to the business of music and how they can become successful in it," according to the GRAMMY Foundation, is coming to Atlanta Nov. 21 and will be hosted by Callanwolde.

"These students are getting a rare and completely free opportunity. We're very excited that it's coming to Callanwolde," Johnson said. She noted that Callanwolde is involved in a \$2.1 million capital campaign, much of which is earmarked for expanding its new Rick Baker School of Music and Music Recording.

"I'm a musician myself," said Johnson, who is NARAS governor on the Atlanta Chapter Board. "We've raised more than \$1 million already and are renovating an area just for use in our new music performance programs. Before I came to Callanwolde I knew it was one of the best fine arts centers in the South, but I saw music education as an area I would like to enhance. The GRAMMY Camp is perfect fit with our current goals."

Johnson said Callanwolde started a program in January in which students work with **Phil Tan**, a three-time Grammy winner, in music engineering. Approximately 50 students have joined the program and eight have received graduation certificates.

More than 32 students from across the metropolitan Atlanta area had signed up for GRAMMY Camp by the first week in November. Johnson said the camp will not be able to accept more than 50. Students do not have to qualify for the camp; acceptance is on a first-come, first- served basis.

David Sears, executive education director for the GRAMMY Foundation, said the foundation has been conducting 10-day residential camps in New York and Los Angeles for 11 years. The program at Callanwolde will be the second one-day, nonresidential camp.

"These provide an opportunity to students interested in a career in music to learn a little more. If they find they are really interested they can apply to the full camp," Sears said. "Most high schools have a music program that teaches performance but includes nothing about how the industry works and how you become part of it. Everybody knows how you become a lawyeryou go to law school; you pass the bar; you join a firm or set up a practice. Very few people know how to launch a career in music."

Johnson said she has invited a panel of professionals in the music industry to speak at lunchtime during Atlanta's GRAMMY Camp. "They will get to hear from people who earn their living in the music business and learn about aspects of the business that they may not have been aware of."

Participants in Atlanta's GRAMMY Camp will hone their skills in three areas. Electronic music production for students who want to learn state-of-the-art methods of programming, editing, sampling and mixing on digital audio work stations; vocal performance for those who want to focus on vocal techniques, background (live and recorded) and lead singing; and audio engineering in which students can receive comprehensive instruction on recording techniques, including mic technique, signal flow and sonic shaping both in studio and live applications.

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center is located at 980 Briarcliff Road, Atlanta. For more information, visit www. callanwolde.org.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Chamblee, Georgia will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Chamblee Civic Center, 3540 Broad Street, Chamblee, GA 30341 at 6:00 p.m. to receive public comments regarding the following matters:

- The City of Chamblee Mayor and Council proposes to amend the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance Chapter 270 by inserting a new Sec. 270-6(a)(6) and amending other related provisions of said Chapter as it pertains to continuance of non-conforming uses and reconstruction of nonconforming structures following their destruction in whole or in part by any means except by willful act or deliberate omission of the owner or tenant of such nonconforming building.
- The City of Chamblee Mayor and Council proposes to amend the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, Section 240-13 by adding a new sub-paragraph (f)(3) regarding Subdivision Recreation Centers (private) and to amend Chapter 250, Article 1 to amend the minimum offstreet parking requirements for Subdivision Recreation Area (private).
- The City of Chamblee Mayor and Council proposes to amend the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, Section 300-68 by adding a new sub-paragraph (c)(1) to provide for Certification language for certain plats that are approved administratively.
- Travis Pruitt & Associates, LLC requests a variance from City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, Section 250-2(a)(4) to
  increase the maximum permitted number of parking spaces from 16 to 28 with respect to property located at 5000 Peachtree Boulevard being DeKalb County
  Tax parcel 18-300-02-001.
- Daniel A. Edwards requests approval of a Planned Unit Development in accordance with City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, Section 280-6 for the purpose of constructing 36 townhomes on 2.8 acres of property located on the following parcels in Chamblee GA: 4041 and 4047 Clairmont Rd.; 1961 Fifth St.; 1938 and 1962 Sixth St., being DeKalb County Tax parcels 18-279-05-001, 18-279-05-002, 18-279-05-003, 18-279-05-010, and 18-279-05-011.
- Matt Wilson of Wilson Development requests variances of the following provisions of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development
  Ordinance with respect to a lot consisting of 0.585 acres zoned Village Commercial located at 5485 Peachtree Boulevard, Chamblee, GA being parcel 18308-15-021:
  - 1. Reduction in the required minimum number of off-street parking places as required in Sec. 250-2(a)
  - 2. Reduction in the required minimum façade height of a building of 24 ft. located on a Storefront Street as required in Sec. 230-5(a);
  - 3. Reduction in the required minimum interior floor-to-ceiling height of 18 ft. for a building located on a Storefront Street as required in Sec. 230-30(b)(1).
  - 4. Relief from Sec. 350-2(c) that requires interparcel access to adjacent commercial, office or multifamily property.
  - 5. Relief from Sec. 230-29(a)(2) that requires a sidewalk from the front of the building to the sidewalk adjacent to the street.
  - 6. Relief from Sec 250-22(2) that requires that dumpsters shall be placed a minimum of 5 ft. from property line.
- Acadia Homes and Neighborhoods requests an amendment to the text of the adopted City of Chamblee Comprehensive Plan with respect to policies of the Future Development Map pertaining to Character Area 10 New Peachtree Road Industrial Area in order to make its proposed rezoning of property from IT to VR for the development of 98 single-family attached dwelling units on 9.239 acres at 4959 New Peachtree Road consistent with the Future Development Map as required in Section 200-6. This action is taken pursuant to the amendment procedures provided in Section 280-10 of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance.
- Acadia Homes and Neighborhoods requests approval of an amendment of the Official Zoning Map of the City of Chamblee pursuant to Section 280-5(a) of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance in order to change the zoning classification of property containing 9.239 acres at 4959 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA being parcel 18-278-03-064 from Industrial Transitional (IT) to Village Residential (VR) for the purpose of developing 98 single-family attached dwelling units.
- Acadia Homes and Neighborhoods requests approval of a Planned Unit Development pursuant to Section 280-6 of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance for the purpose of developing 98 single-family attached dwelling units on property containing 9.239 acres at 4959 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA being parcel 18-278-03-064 proposed to be rezoned from Industrial Transitional (IT) to Village Residential (VR).
- Greg Mitchell requests a stream buffer variance for his property containing 0.65 acres at 2168 Capehart Circle, Chamblee, GA for the purpose of building a
  deck within a stream buffer required in City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, Section 310-19. The property is zoned
  NR-1.
- Bruce Runyan of Helix X Holdings, Inc. requests variances from the following sections of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance to construct hangar buildings on property located at 3415 Hardee Avenue, Chamblee, GA that is zoned Airport (A) and contains 5.8 acres:
  - 1. Section 230-2(a) to reduce the required minimum 10 ft. front yard setback for the purpose of building a delivery ramp in front of a hangar building.
  - 2. Section 230-14 that limits the height of a fence in the front yard to 42" to construct a fence that is 6 ft. in height.
  - 3. Section 250-22(2) that requires that dumpsters be placed in the rear yard in order to place a dumpster in the front yard.
- Ilan Sklar requests a variance from Section 230-2(a) of the City of Chamblee Ordinances, Appendix A, Unified Development Ordinance, to reduce the requirement minimum 25 ft. rear yard setback in the NR-1 zoning district to 7 ft. for an enclosed screen porch and to 5 ft. for an open deck attached to the existing residence at 2098 Jordan Terrace, NE, Chamblee, GA being parcel 18-235-07-002.
- Carl Burnett, agent for Chamblee Center, LLC, requests approval of a major modification to a Planned Unit Development for the Buford Center, 2014PUD-003 pursuant to Section 280-6(c)(7) of the Unified Development Ordinance, Appendix A of the Chamblee Code of Ordinances. The application concerns construction of a proposed commercial and retail development on 3.41 acres of land zoned Corridor Commercial and located at 4900 Buford Highway consisting of the following parcels: 18-281-01-001, 18-281-01-002, 18-281-01-003, 18-281-01-006, 18-281-01-007, 18-281-01-008, 18-281-01-009, and 18-281-01-010.





Incoming Mayor Denis Shortal greets Dunwoody Police Department Lt. Michael Carlson.



Denis Shortal at the Dunwoody Veterans celebration event.

# Dunwoody's new mayor shares vision

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

Former Dunwoody City Councilman **Denis Shortal** claimed the Dunwoody mayor's post on Nov. 3, defeating the incumbent Mayor **Mike Davis**.

On the day of the election Shortal, a retired Marine general said "From here on out it's always going to be about we; it's never going to be about me."

Shortal said his first mis-

sion in office will be to "restore positive leadership for the city council and all the citizens, enhance the attitude that brings a mutual respect amongst all of us."

To achieve this goal Shortal said he will host a town hall meeting in January and get feedback from residents about what need to be addressed.

"You know, it's the same things I've talked about the whole time—open, positive leadership and doing things in front of the citizens, concentrating on the core values when we became a city," Shortal said.

He said he will also focus his term on infrastructure and taking local control of Dunwoody schools.

The mayor-elect equated his job over the next four years to that of an app developer, comparing city government to a widget that needs continual updates.



#### What are Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)?

FOG is composed of the animal and vegetable fats and oils that are used to cook and prepare food.

#### Where does FOG come from?

Baking goods	Food scraps	Dairy products	Butter and margarine
Sauces	•Meat fat	•Lard	Cooking oil
Shortening			

#### What happens when FOG is not properly disposed of?

FOG should be properly disposed of or recycled. It enters the plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and toilets, coats the interior of pipes, and empties into the County's sewer system. Excessive accumulation of FOG in the sewer system will result in sanitary sewer overflows and sewage backup in homes and businesses. Sewage overflow repairs are costly for the County and its citizens, and can result in increased costs for water and sewer services.

#### Here are three simple practices to help keep FOG out of our pipes and sewers:

- POUR cooled fats, oils or grease into a sealable container and throw it in the trash. Do not pour down the sink or toilet.
- SCRAPE plates and cookware before washing. Do not throw scraps of any kind down the sink. Instead, place them in waste containers or garbage bags.
- WIPE excess grease from all plates, pots, pans, utensils and surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Throw the greasy paper towels away.

#### Remember, you can make a difference!



Visit the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management's FOG Program Online! www.dekalbwatershed.com/FOG 1580 Roadhaven Drive • Stone Mountain, GA 30083 (770) 621-7200





# Veterans honored at county event

Those who served the country were honored by Congressman **Hank Johnson** and members of DeKalb County government at the county's annual Veterans Day Program on Nov. 13 in Decatur.

The program, titled "We Are United," was put on by the DeKalb Veterans Affairs Advisory Board.

Interim DeKalb County CEO Lee May said it was not a time to only mourn the brave veterans who lost their lives, but a time to celebrate the living veterans and thank them for their service to protect America's freedoms.

In addition to thanking the veterans in attendance, Johnson thanked their families stating that they too often have to sacrifice family time with their loved ones who are away from home.

Other elected officials joining in the celebration with Johnson and May were DeKalb County commissioners and Navy veterans Jeff Rader and Stan Watson, Commissioners Mereda Davis Johnson, Kathie Gannon and Larry Johnson. other elected officials in attendance included veteran and DeKalb Superior Court Judge J.P. Boulee and DeKalb County Clerk of Superior Court Debra DeBerry.



Several people received awards for their work with veterans.

The keynote speaker, Major Gen. **Brian C. Harris**, spoke about what he and his troops had to do on the battlefield and discussed ways veterans can be of use in the county. Harris also discussed the many needs they have that they could greatly use assistance with.

Harris, who is a product of DeKalb County Schools, also described how American soldiers and weaponry stack up against other armies across the world.

"We are in good hands," Harris stated.



DeKalb's veterans were honored Nov. 13 during the county's annual Veterans Day program. Photos by Joshua Smith



Interim DeKalb County CEO Lee May, center, and Congressman Hank Johnson, right, helped to recognize local veterans.

# Former school superintendent to get another day in court

The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled unanimously Nov. 16 that the DeKalb County Superior Court must determine whether former DeKalb County schools Superintendent **Crawford Lewis** testified truthfully against his two codefendants.

If it is determined that he testified truthfully, Lewis' sentence will be changed from a year in prison to a year on probation, as originally agreed upon by state prosecutors and Lewis' attorneys in a plea arrangement.

Former schools construction chief **Pat Reid**, her ex-husband **Tony Pope**, an architect, along with Lewis were indicted by a grand jury and charged with violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) and felony theft by taking related to some school construction projects.

In a plea agreement with prosecutors, Lewis agreed to

serve as a key witness for the state against Reid and Pope to avoid jail time. As part of the plea agreement, District Attorney Robert James agreed to dismiss the felony charges against Lewis in exchange for his guilty plea to one misdemeanor count of hindering and obstructing a law enforcement officer. In the agreement, prosecutors would recommend a sentence of 12 months' probation, a \$500 fine, and 240 hours of community service.

At Lewis' sentencing hearing, however, former DeKalb County Superior Court Judge **Cynthia Becker**, determining that Lewis did not testify truthfully, rejected the agreement and sentenced Lewis to serve a year behind bars. Lewis immediately was taken into custody and Becker refused to consider bond. He spent three days in jail before being released on bond after his attorney filed an emergency motion in the Court of Appeals.

Writing for the Supreme Court, Chief Justice **Hugh Thompson** stated while Becker "implied that Lewis may have been less than truthful, she made no written findings to that effect, so the case must be remanded."

"Should the trial court find after consideration of the record, the parties' arguments, and the evidence that Lewis did not testify truthfully, Lewis will lose the benefit of the negotiated sentencing agreement and the court will be relieved of its duty to impose the promised probationary sentence," the Supreme Court opinion states. "If, however, the trial court determines on remand that Lewis testified truthfully, the condition precedent to the trial court's obligation to impose the probationary sentence recommended by the State will have been met and the interests of justice and our decision in this appeal

will require the trial court to sentence him according to the negotiated plea agreement."

The Supreme Court's opinion upholds a Georgia Court of Appeals ruling that by accepting the terms of the negotiated plea agreement, Becker had agreed to sentence Lewis to probation instead of to prison. However, the Court of Appeals also concluded that Lewis was entitled to the negotiated sentence only if he testified truthfully at the trial of his codefendants, and that while both the state prosecutors and Lewis' attorneys claimed his testimony had been truthful, the trial judge apparently disagreed.

The Supreme Court concludes "that as a general rule, where a defendant has performed under the terms of a negotiated plea agreement to his or her detriment in reliance on the trial court's acceptance of the plea terms, the trial court, like the prosecution, will be bound by its promises," the opinion states. However, if "the trial court found Lewis materially breached the plea agreement by failing to provide truthful testimony, the court would be relieved of its duty to sentence Lewis according to the State's recommendation, regardless of any consequences Lewis might suffer as a result of his partial performance."

The Supreme Court opined that in imposing a harsher sentence on Lewis than the state recommended, the judge only implied Lewis may have breached the agreement by testifying untruthfully.

"As the trial court made no express finding with respect to this issue, however, we agree that Lewis' sentence must be vacated and the case remanded for a hearing to determine the appropriate sentence," the opinion states.

#### The Champion FREE PRESS, FRIDAY, November 20, 2015 WEEK IN PICTURES

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Congressman Hank Johnson speaks at DeKalb County's annual Veterans Day program. Photos by Joshua Smith



The Veterans Day program was put on by the DeKalb Veterans Affairs Advisory Board.



The theme of the 14th annual Veterans Day observance program was "We are United."

#### Photos brought to you by DCTV



DeKalb County begins one-day-a-week sanitation collection service July 6, 2015

Residential customers will have same-day garbage, recyclable materials and yard trimmings collection

FOLLING FORWARD To Cone

For more info, call or visit: (404) 294-2900 www.rollingforwardtoone.com



PICTURES

A MARTA bus and a car were involved in an accident Nov. 17 on Covington Highway near Redan Road. Photo by Carla Parker



DeKalb County Schools Chief Information Officer Gary Brantley poses with Education Excellence award winner Melanie Mclendon.



Duke University alumni Jason Jones of Dunwoody and Brian Greene recently received the Forever Duke Award, which recognizes alumni for excellent recent volunteer service in support of the Duke Alumni Association. From, pictured at the ceremony are Sterly Wilder, Duke University's executive director of Alumni Affairs, Jones, award recipient Brian Greene and Cynthia Brodhead, wife of Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead. Photo provided

DeKalb County

DCTV

#### The Champion FREE PRESS, FRIDAY, November 20, 2015

#### Page 14A



Home Depot employers gather in the Cross Keys gymnasium for lunch and a group photo.



Employees cleaned the landscape debris and added mulch around the campus of Cross Keys High School.



Volunteers paint the school logo on the walls of the building.



With the state of the state

ing the Cross Keys campus.

Home Depot boosts Cross Keys beautification projects

munity that they occupy.

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

More than 250 Home Depot employers swarmed the Cross Keys High School campus on Nov. 11 to kick off beautification projects for the campus.

The volunteers mulched and planted in raised beds around the entrance of the school; painted several murals, columns and beams in the school colors; built picnic tables; pressure washed breezeway trash cans; and more.

Cross Keys' student support specialist **Jason Randall** said the goal of the partnership is to beautify the campus and "encourage our students to take ownership of their school, inspire the parents to become active participants in our school, and to create a community where there is a shared interest in Cross Keys High School."

The volunteers worked on approximately 14 projects to improve the school's physical appearance.

Cross Keys Principal **Jason Heard** said since starting the rebranding of the high school, he's witnessed more student participation in clubs and an increase in parent involvement.

Home Depot volunteers also took part in a volleyball match against Cross Keys' varsity team and facilitated an professional coaching session for parents and students, giving them clothing tips for job interviews.

"We do things like this

all the time. One of our core values is to give back to the community and we take that very seriously," said **Beatriz Rodriguez**, the Home Depot director of diversity and inclusion.

Rodriguez said the company places a special emphasis on community service during November because of its engagement with the military community, including veterans.

She added, "Today when we partnered with [Cross Keys] we also worked with the [Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps] to work on the projects with us, get community hours and spend time with Home Depot employees. We are also teaching them what to do when they graduate."

#### LOCAL

#### Page 15A



DeKalb residents met in south DeKalb to discuss whether to study the county's form of government. Photos by Andrew Cauthen



From left, DeKalb County Commissioner Kathie Gannon called together residents to form the Blueprints II task force.

#### **BLUEPRINT** Continued From Page 1A

[government leaders] have implemented over the years when it comes down to sidewalks, shrubberies—those are little things that I've noticed from being here so many years."

Another resident said she likes the two-commissioner representation for each voter.

**Ruth Primm**, a 36-year resident of the county who lives in the Briarlake area, said, "I like the fact that we really only have one local government where I live."

Primm said she only has one taxing authority and she hopes it stays that way.

**Barbara Lee**, a retired educator, said she appreciates how the county government invests in its senior population.

Others said they do not like the form of government, the "dueling commissioners," and how individual commissioners have too many constituents.

Resident **Sandy Johnson** said the "challenged with this process at this stage of the game is you can't freeze all that's going on around us."

Johnson said that while the new Blueprints task force studies the form of government, state legislators may file bills and municipalities have annexation plans on the board.

The task force would not have the authority to put anything on hold, Johnson said.

In response, Gannon said the challenge of the task force will be "to be informed...and fluid about what is going" and addresses the issues as needed.

In 2013, Gannon initiated the Blueprint to Redefine DeKalb, a citizen-led effort that resulted in legislation to strengthen the ethics code, create an internal auditor and improve the county's purchasing procedures.

"Back when cities started to emerge, we started hearing then more about problems in DeKalb County," Gannon said. "In about 2013 things started coming to a tipping point and folks recognized that we needed some kind of reform.

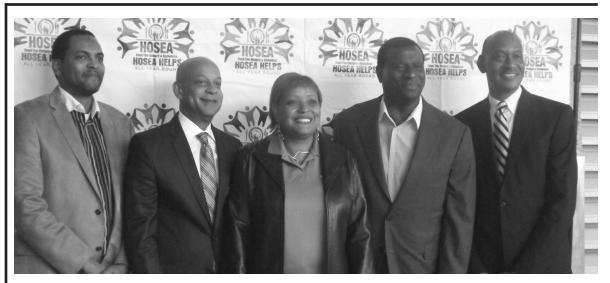
"Blueprint I shows that citizen-driven reform works," Gannon said.

The Blueprints II effort is expected to result in recommendations before the end of the 2016 Georgia legislative session in March.









Hosea Helps COO Afemo Omilami (2nd right) poses with partners for the annual Thanksgiving event, including DeKalb County Sheriff Jeff Mann (2nd left).

HOSEA Continued From Page 1A

[nearly] 20 years," she said. "We are delighted to be a part of this program. We are proud of the work Hosea Helps is doing in the community.

"Helping people who are in need, helping families get back on their feet, not just feeding them on a holiday, but helping them yearround," Reid added, "these are the important things that happen all the time with Hosea."

Omilami said Hosea

Helps still needs donations of men's clothes, baby clothes, rolling suit cases and turkeys.

For more information on how to donate, visit www. hosea.org. 'We are headed in the right direction with improved graduation rates lecause of our laser focus on student achievement.'

- Stephen Green

# r

# **Graduation rates spike in DeKalb**

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

DeKalb County school officials said programs implemented at schools-including one using transition specialists to keep tabs on students at risk of failing-are largely responsible for a graduation rate increase of more than 10 percentage points since 2013.

The Georgia Department of Education reported on Nov. 9 that DeKalb County Schools saw its graduation rate rise 8.3 percentage points from 2014 to 2015, adding to the 2.4 percentage point increase from 2013 to 2014.

"We are headed in the right direction with improved graduation rates because of our laser focus on student achievement," DeKalb County Schools Superintendent **Stephen Green** said. "Much more work needs [to], and will be, done to ensure our students are ready for career and college opportunities."

He added, "Combined with the recent 103-point increase in SAT scores for our college bound students, it is clear that we are on the right path. Our students are taking advantage of the rigorous curriculum and instruction they experience each day in the classroom."

Georgia's 2015 graduation rate grew 6 percentage points from the prior year to 78.8 percent, an all-time high under the most recent way of count-



ing those who earned diplomas.

One factor for the increase is attributed to Gov. **Nathan Deal** signing House Bill 91 into law in March, creating a new code section that stated students are no longer required to earn a passing score on the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) to earn a high school diploma.

"In addition to the elimination of the state graduation test, the primary reasons for these strong improvements include doing a better job of providing accurate data to the Georgia Department of Education and an intentional, comprehensive scope of graduation services," Green said.

According to district reports in July, DeKalb County middle schools narrowed the achievement gap by 6.6, or nearly 44 percent, from 14.9 points in 2013 to 8.3 points in 2014.

Elementary school and high school scores showed gap reductions of 26 percent and 29 percent, respectively, between district and state scores.

Green, hired during the summer, said some things put in place before his arrival also have helped improve the district's graduation rate.

The DeKalb School for the Arts had a 100 percent graduation rate.

DeKalb Early College Academy and Arabia Mountain had graduation rates of more than 90 percent.

Chamblee, Lakeside, Redan and Tucker high schools had graduation rates of more than 80 percent. Redan and Tucker are both Title I schools.

Clarkston, Cross Keys, Destiny Academy, Gateway to College, Miller Grove, Towers and Tucker high schools have reported double-digit increases in graduation rates.

Green said the district has aimed to narrow the achievement gap between district and statewide scores from 2013 to 2014, based on the College & Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).



Thirteen Youth of the Year contestants pose for a group photo prior to the awards ceremony.



Youth of the Year winner Brian Ball with President & CEO Missy Dugan.



Brian Ball wraps himself in cape and after he was announced as the Youth of the Year winner.

Boys & Girls Club President & CEO Missy Dugan announces award recipients for the 2015-2016 year.



Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club member Erika Simmons received the Ada Lee Correll community service award and a \$1,000 scholarship.

# **Teen honored as Youth of the Year**

by Ashley Oglesby ashley@dekalbchamp.com

"Born to Inspire. Live to Inspire."

These are the words **Brian Ball**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's (BGCMA) 2015-2016 Youth of the Year said he lives and breathes by.

Ball said everyone has the power to change the world; each person just needs to believe it.

On Nov. 12 Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta hosted an awards ceremony for 16 Youth of the Year nominees. The event brought more than 700 attendees to the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta Hotel, including community leaders, supporters, staff and families.

Two participants, **Juan Sebastian Rodriguez** and **Sabrina Artemus**, represented DeKalb County clubs.

Attendees heard speeches about how the students got started in their clubs, how their clubs helped shape who they are and what their dreams are for their future.

The Youth of the Year

award is BGCMA's highest honor, recognizing teens from clubs in the metro Atlanta area who demonstrate leadership and hard work.

Brian impressed the judges with his leadership as president of Lawrenceville Boys & Girls Club's Keystone Club, his service and leadership group for teens ages 14-18 and his ability to use his passion for photography, poetry and videography to highlight key social issues facing children today.

To date, Brian has worked on campaigns combatting bullying, preventing teen suicide and promoting the power of positivity. His most recent outreach "Turn it Off" encourages children to connect to each other and their communities on a personal level.

"My Boys & Girls Club has done so much for me and I am honored to represent the organization," Ball said. "I believe my purpose in life is to connect, inspire and awaken my generation to the world around us. If we build each other up, we will all reach new heights."

In addition to driving social change, Brian has also made huge strides in his academic career.

As Youth of the Year, Brian was awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship, and in the spring of 2016, he will represent Metro Atlanta as Youth of the Year at the statewide competition.

Other candidates were **Pherow Drain** from Douglas County Boys & Girls Club who won first runner-up and received a \$1,500 scholarship; **Erika Simmons** of Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club won the **Ada Lee Correll** community service award and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

"I'm so proud of our Youth of the Year candidates," **Missy Dugan**, president & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta said.

"Our Clubs work to show kids that-even though they are young-they have a voice and can help drive positive change. It's amazing to see all the ways these young leaders are giving back and making the world a better place." For more information on how to become involved

with the organization, visit www.bgcma.org/get\_involved.

#### Georgia Piedmont Technical College president awarded

Jabari Simama, president of Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC), was honored by the DeKalb County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on Oct. 24.

The organization bestowed its Narvie J. Harris Education Award upon Simama in recognition of his exceptional leadership abilities. The event was held at Saint Philip AME Church in Atlanta.

"I am truly humbled and grateful to accept, on behalf of the entire college community, this award from the NAACP," Simama said. "I owe much of my success to organizations like the NAACP and to the sacrifices its leaders have made," he said. "No leader better exemplifies this sacrifice than Narvie J. Harris, who began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Georgia and, because of her determination and persistence, went on to achieve greatness throughout her 39-year career working as an educator and an administrator," Simama concluded.

John Evans, president of the NAACP DeKalb Branch, and Teresa Hardy, the Freedom Fund chairwoman of the NAACP DeKalb Branch, presented the award to Simama at the organization's 59th annual awards banquet. The award is presented to an individual who has promoted practical educational ideas, techniques and strategies that have had a positive impact on the DeKalb County community.

#### The Champion FREE PRESS, FRIDAY, November 20, 2015

BUSINESS





BodyWorn equipment records automatically, protecting the police officer and the person with whom he is interacting. Photos provided

Alerts with pictures and texts can be sent to officers from central dispatch.

## State-of-the-art police equipment designed, used in Decatur

#### by Kathy Mitchell

Before choosing body-worn police cameras for its officers, Decatur officials looked at several options then chose a model sold by a Decatur-based company. "We are thrilled," said **Robert McKeeman**, CEO of Utility, the company that created BodyWorn<sup>™</sup> police cameras and Rocket<sup>™</sup> vehicle router technology the Decatur Police Department now uses.

"We're very proud and confident that they will be pleased with our equipment. There is a personal point of pride for me because I grew up in DeKalb County and graduated from Southwest DeKalb High School," McKeeman said, adding that the Clarkston Police Department uses Utility's products as well.

He said the equipment is designed in Decatur and manufactured in Covington. "Everything's right here in Georgia, and that's great for the local economy.

"We applaud Chief [**Mike**] **Booker's** thorough evaluation process, and we are working closely with the Decatur Police Department as they deploy our Generation 2 body-worn camera system," he continued, adding that the department's 47 officers are equipped with BodyWorn police cameras and the Rocket vehicle router has been installed in its 37 patrol cars, giving them secure wireless Internet capabilities for up to 1,500 feet around the vehicle.

McKeeman said that the second-generation equipment is an enhancement of earlier technology and has capabilities that weren't available a year ago. "I attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police annual meeting and trade fair and looked at what's available. I'm convinced that we have the most advanced equipment available." He describes BodyWorn police body cameras as "the only automated, policy-based, body-worn police camera currently available on the market." He explained that the equipment is programmed based on each police department's policy concerning recording cameras.

"Our technology is developed to make capturing police camera video completely seamless and transparent at every step of the process—from recording, to uploading, to storing, to ensuring privacy protection when video is made public. We work with the manufacturers of police uniforms so the cameras stay in place and continue doing their job no matter what's going on," McKeeman said.

"The police officer has a good many things to focus on when dealing with the public. He or she should not also have to be a videographer. The equipment turns on automatically," he noted.

McKeeman said there has been a spike in interest in such equipment in the wake of numerous high-profile cases in which police officers have been accused of acting improperly. "Reliable recording devices enhance transparency and build trust throughout the community. Most police departments are at least looking at adding this type of equipment and many are ready for a full roll out. We're as busy as we can be. We're funded by venture capitalists, and they're delighted at our success."

Citing a recent national poll measuring the American public's perspectives of police body camera capabilities, McKeeman said, "Two capabilities stand out in particular: 94 percent of those polled believe a body-worn camera should have an 'officer down' emergency alert wireless reporting capability that automatically calls for help if the officer is no longer on his or her feet, and 89 percent want central dispatch to be able to send out immediate be-on-the-lookout alerts with pictures and text to all body-worn cameras. These are both features of our equipment."

Utility also offers newly released redaction software, SmartRedaction<sup>™</sup>, which automatically identifies faces, body parts and other identifiable objects in a video and can selectively blur images based on need and specific privacy-policy restrictions as well as local, state and federal laws. This feature minimizes lead-time to publish redacted video taken by a body-worn camera, eliminates added labor costs and maximizes both accountability and transparency of law enforcement, according to McKeeman.

"When this is done manually, it's labor intensive and time consuming. With automatic redaction, video can be made available quickly in response to open records requests, for example, without compromising the privacy of minors or innocent bystanders," he said.

"Automatic recording devices protect both the officer and the public. [Their use] takes away the 'he said-she said.' A camera has no bias. It records what happens," he noted. "Everyone tends to behave better when they know they are being recorded."

BodyWorn offers automated real-time video uploading to a protected cloud-based storage system. "There is no way either the officer or the person with whom he's interacting can limit or change what's recorded. It would be useless for a suspect to grab the equipment and try to destroy it. The information has already been recorded and preserved," McKeeman said.



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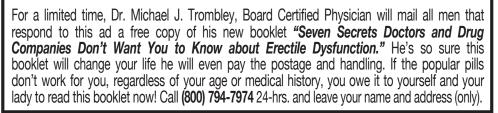
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SPORTS





The Miller Grove boys' basketball program is celebrating its 10 year anniversary. Photos by Travis Hudgons

# **Coach Sharman White reflects on 10 years of success**

by Carla Parker carla@dekalbchamp.com

After accepting the job to become the head coach of Miller Grove High School boys' basketball team in 2004, **Sharman White** established a vision of competing for state titles.

"Coming from a team that I had just taken to the state championship the year prior at Carver-Atlanta, I wanted to engrave that mentality into Miller Grove," White said. "I wanted to compete for state championships as soon as possible. I didn't look at the word 'process,' I didn't look at the word 'time,' even though it took time and it took a process. I didn't pay attention to those words; I kind of blocked them out of sight and out of [my] conscious.

"I wanted us to be a national powerhouse," White added. "These were the things I spoke over the first guys that put on a Miller Grove uniform. I told them they have a chance to be a part of something special. I just felt it."

What White felt came to fruition and then some—six consecutive state titles (a Georgia high school basketball record), national recognition and talented players who have gone on to have successful athletic careers after graduating from Miller Grove.

White and his staff have accom-

plished a lot in a 10-year span. For the coaches and players, all it took was hard work, commitment and a passion for what they believed in.

#### **Humble beginnings**

It started when White took on a challenge that he could not refuse.

"[The Miller Grove job] was a great opportunity to start a program from scratch," he said. "I got to work with one of the best administrators in the entire state in Dr. **Ralph Simpson** and he actively pursued me and explained to me why this would be a great move and a great opportunity, and I believed it."

When White took the job at Carver in 2001, he inherited a program that required a change in the culture. With Miller Grove, he could set a culture of winning from day one.

"It made for a different type of transition that worked out pretty good," White said.

However, it was not an easy transition.

Often when a new school opens in a community, students are redistricted from different schools to the new school. They are forced to leave friends and their extracurricular activities behind to build new friendships and start over with new teams clubs.

It was no different when Miller Grove opened in January 2005. White found himself in a position of convincing players from Redan and Lithonia high schools to build something at Miller Grove.

"That was really tough," White said. "That was probably the hardest part of this job. [Players were redistricted from] Redan, who at the time was a basketball powerhouse. They had some great teams. To actually try to convince kids that we were going to be just as good as Redan one day was hard. They had the option of staying at their school or coming to Miller Grove."

A few players took on the challenge. The Miller Grove Wolverines went 4-7 in that 2005 season, while Redan finished 17-9.

"We didn't have the names, we didn't have the guys that [could] garner us enough wins or enough success early to make us prominent," White said. "But the guys that came were committed and that was the biggest thing. They were committed to being a part of something special and that's what I had to take away from that. I was determined to coach them up until a point where they were going to be just as good or better."

Two years later, Miller Grove

played Redan and pulled out a 55-51 win.

"It really kind of sky-rocketed our program from there," White said.

#### From adversity to the start of a dynasty

The Miller Grove Wolverines had not had a losing season since their inaugural season. They went 19-10 in the 2005-06 season and made their first playoff appearance, advancing to the second round where they lost to Cedar Shoals.

The team went 20-6 the following season with a roster that included current NFL player **Stephen Hill** and former Georgia Tech standout **Mfon Udofia**. However, they were upset in the region playoffs as a top seed. In the 2007-08 season, the team rebounded and went 26-6 and made it to Final Four, but fell short of its championship goal with a loss to Fayette County.

However, within a three-year period, White's vision of competing for state titles was starting to become a reality.

"We saw the championship on the horizon and everything coming together, but we didn't see the multiple championships," White said. "I didn't see six in row, and I'm not saying that not because I didn't believe. SPORTS

# **CROSS COUNTRY**



Marist won its 11th title on program history.





Clarkston won its second consecutive Class AAAAA state title.



Marist girls won their eighth consecutive title.

Dunwoody won its second consecutive title and third in four seasons.

# Four teams claim cross country state titles

by Carla Parker carla@dekalbchamp.com

DeKalb County was dominant again in the state cross country meet as four teams brought home championship trophies Nov. 7.

Clarkston boys and Dunwoody girls are back-to-back Class AAAAA state champions, and Marist made it a sweep in Class AAAA.

The Clarkston Angoras won their second consecutive state title with a 90-128 win over runner-up Forsyth Central. Clarkston made history last year winning its first cross-country title, the fifth state title of any kind for the school. The team made more history by becoming backto-back champions—becoming just the fourth program in DeKalb County history to win back-to-back titles.

"This is not only for the cross-country team, this is for the high school," said Clarkston head coach **Wesley Etienne**. "We all matter. We all help get our school to a higher level."

Junior **Suheib Mohamed** led the way for Clarkston with a fifth-place finish (17:16.43). Junior **Bineyam**  **Tumbo** was 14th (17:48.14) and senior **Paul Nikobiri** was 19th (17:54.94).

The Dunwoody Lady Wildcats picked up their third state title in four seasons with a 70-113 victory over runner-up Creekview. Sophomores Samantha Cameron and Kelly May Sheehan led Dunwoody with a 1-2 finish. Cameron (20:26.01) won the girls' individual title. She became the first girls individual champion from DeKalb since her sister Alex Cameron. who won the title in 2012 for Dunwoody.

Sheehan finished with a time of 20:33.65. Senior **Ansley Heavern** came in the top 10 with a time of 20:52.27 for an eighth-place finish. Senior **Ann-Marie Sills** (21:59.50) was 28th and junior **Alexandra Womble** (22:10.95) was 32nd.

Marist girls won their eighth consecutive title and 16th in program history with a 37-95 win over St. Pius in the Class AAAA meet. Marist had four runners to finish in the top 10, led by sophomore **Josie Wirtz**, who finished second with a time of 21:16.35. Senior **Myriam Alvarez** (21:31.68) and junior **Kend-all Nelson** (21:38.46) came in sixth and seventh place, respectively, and **Kiki Popescu** came in 10th.

Marist boys defeated defending Class AAAA champions St. Pius with a 69-76 victory. It was the program's 11th title.

Senior **Frank Pittman**, who placed second in last year's state meet, won the boys' individual title with a time of 17:08.92. Sophomore **Knox Pittman** (17:44.48) was the only other runner to finish in the top 10.

# **Cedar Grove repeats as Trail to the Title champions**

The Cedar Grove Saints shut out the Tucker Tigers 22-0 to become the first back-to-back Trail to the Title middle school football champions since Stephenson did it in the first two years (2004-05) of the championship series.

Leading 6-0 at the half on an Isaiah Ratcliff touchdown run, the Saints continued to dominate on defense, holding Tucker to -14 yards of offense in the second half.

Tucker opened the second half with the football, but following a sack of 10 yards by Cedar Grove's Alvin Williams, Tucker was forced to punt the ball away from its own 15.

The Tigers got a big break on the Saints first play at the Saints' 36 as Tucker defensive lineman **Promise** Vita recovered a fumble at the Cedar Grove 43.

Cedar Grove's defense took advantage of a bad snap on Tucker's first play and

Williams again made the play recovering the football at the Tigers' 44.

Nicholas Brannon opened the drive with a 13-yard run and Ratcliff followed with runs of 14 and 15 yards as the Saints moved to the Tigers' 3-yard line. An illegal procedure penalty backed the Saints up to the 8, but Ratcliff got the call straight up the middle and into the end zone for the touchdown.

Earl Graham scrambled and found Williams alone on the opposite side of the field for the two-point conversion pass and a 14-0 Saints' lead with 3:08 left in the third quarter.

The Tigers got the ball back and looked to have a drive started with a 14-yard run by Quarius Smith. The drive quickly began to stall as three consecutive penalties and a loss of 7 yards put the Tigers in a third down and 31 situation to start the

Cedar Grove won its second consecutive DeKalb County Trail to the Title middle school football championship. fourth quarter. Tucker went to the air and Brannon picked off the pass at the Tigers' 26-yard line and returned it for a

touchdown. Graham hooked up with Brannon on the two-point conversion pass to make it 22-0 with 7:50 to play in the game. The Saints' defense con-

tinued strong play as Williams got another sack to force a punt and then forced Tucker to turn the ball over

on downs with 1:14 to play.

Tucker's defense kept the score at 22-0 by stopping Cedar Grove at the Tigers' 34 on downs and then recovering a fumble at their own one-yard line before running out the clock.

Ratcliff earned Overall Game Most Valuable Player while Graham was Offensive Player of the Game and Brannon was named Defensive Player of the Game.

Cedar Grove is on an

18-game winning streak with its back-to-back championships (2014, 2015) under Head Coach Rickey Wright. The Saints also became just the third school to win two titles joining Stephenson (2004, 2005, 2009, 2011) and Miller Grove (2006, 2008, 2010). Wright was also named the 2015 Coach of the Year for guiding his team to a second consecutive undefeated season.

#### SHERMAN Continued From Page 20A

I just never looked that far beyond winning [one] championship."

Just as White did not see the multiple championships his program would go on to win, he also did not see the devastating hit his coaching career would take.

Before the start of the 2008-09 season, months before Miller Grove won its first state championship, White was suspended from teaching and coaching for a year on Nov. 4, 2008, by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for lying about a player's eligibility during the 2001-02 school year at Carver.

White always has denied any wrongdoing.

"Personally, that was the most difficult period of my whole tenure at Carver because it was something that was alleged, it was never proven and I had to take a back seat to it," White said. "It hurt me because [coaching] was something I was passionate about, and I wouldn't do anything to jeopardize it."

White was forced to be away from his team as they went on a historic run under then-junior varsity Coach Eddie Johnson.

"I had to live through my players, especially the guys I've been working with, to see this thing through," White said. "Sometimes they say you have to lose to win, and I felt like I lost, but I won. But it was tough. I stayed prayerful and stayed grounded in my faith in God."

Miller Grove finished a countybest 30-3 that season with Hill, Udofia, Donte Williams and freshman phenom Tony Parker. White was in the stands at the Gwinnett Arena when Miller Grove defeated countyrival Tucker 59-31 to claim its first state title in school history. When the final buzzer sounded, the players ran over to White to celebrate with him.

"I was so proud. I was elated to the point where it was overwhelming," White said about that moment. "I never felt anything like that before. I was just so proud of the way they took adversity and turned it into a strength. Every night they played with a chip on their shoulder, and watching it from the stands really made me appreciate working with them."

White returned to teaching and coaching Nov. 4, 2009, and since then, the Miller Grove basketball program has grown to be one of the top programs in the nation. The 2009 state title left a good taste in their mouths, and they were hungry and determined to taste victory over and over again.

"Once we got to that point we got greedy, in a good way," White said. "We decided this is where we belong, this is where we want to be and everybody that walked through that door believed that and worked for that and was committed to that."

After the group that included Hill, Udofia and Williams graduated, Miller Grove continued to build a roster full of talent year after year. Parker, Devon Provost, Tony Evans, Brandon Morris, Justin Colvin,

Christian Houston, Earl Bryant, Kyre Hamer, James Walker, Keith Pinckney and Lamont West; and current players Alterique Gilbert and Raylon Richardson are some of the names that have kept Miller Grove at the top of the mountain the past 10 years.

Most of White's players have gone on to have successful college and professional careers, and they still find time to call White to make sure the program is still running smoothly.

'They're all in touch with the program still to this day," White said. "I get calls from a lot of the guys all the time, especially if we lose a game. They'll call or text me, asking me what's going on and if they need me to come in and talk to [the players]. They're always around, and they provide that service of brotherhood to the guys that they don't even know anything about. It's a true brotherhood."

#### The end of a streak

White got a lot of phone calls from former players after Miller Grove saw its championship streak come to an end. The Wolverines lost on the road to Warner Robins 63-57 in overtime in the Class AAAAA quarterfinals on Feb. 25, 2015.

"They called, but it was all in support," White said. "They weren't upset or anything like that; they called to lend their support. All good things come to an end at some point, and being the mature young men that they are now they were able to call and let me know that it was OK and we played as hard as we could. They also provided motivation—it's a chance to start another streak."

White said the team was disappointed about losing, but also realized that nothing lasts forever.

"It was a balance between the two," he said. "The disappointment took a greater percentage because we felt we were good enough to win it, but we just had a bad night in Warner Robins."

Most people, after accumulating as much success as White has in 10 years, are usually ready to see what is next for them career-wise. White admitted that he is ready to take the next step in his career, but said it is not in his hands.

"I'm ready for it now, but I just have to use God's timing," White said. "I can't rush the process or His work. When the opportunity presents itself it won't be anything that I will have to think about. It will present itself in such a way that it will be for me.

"I don't rush that process at all, and while I'm at Miller Grove I'm going to give Miller Grove everything I got and I'm going to give the kids everything I got," White said. "That's more or less serving a purpose than having a job or being a coach. I don't feel like I'm going to work, I feel like I go to life because I enjoy what I do."



# FOOTBALL Cedar Grove and Tucker continue on with first-round playoff victories

#### by Mark Brock

First-round state playoff wins propel Cedar Grove and Tucker into the Sweet 16 round in respective playoff races.

Junior running back Tre' Shaw ran for 252 yards and three touchdowns to lead the No. 3 ranked Cedar Grove Saints to a 47-0 victory over the Pierce County Bears in Class AAA state playoff action Nov. 14 at Hallford Stadium.

The teams played a scoreless first quarter with both defenses coming up with big stops on fourth down with their opponents threatening to score.

Shaw then ignited the Saints' offense early in the second quarter as he cut through a hole in the front line of the Pierce County defense and raced 41 yards for the opening score of the game. The point after try was no good and Cedar Grove led 6-0 with 11:08 left in the first half.

The second Cedar Grove score of the game was set up by a 47-yard run by Shaw down to the Bears' two-yard line. Quarterback Jelani Woods rolled out to his right on third down and goal and found receiver Elysee Mbem-Bosse in the corner of the end zone for the score with 6:43 left in the first half. Shaw added the two-point conversion with a pass reception for a 14-0 Saints lead.

Shaw increased the lead to 20-0 at the half with a three-yard run with 24 seconds to play in the second quarter.

Čedar Grove opened the second half with the ball and on third down Woods found Jayden Haselwood over the middle for a 60-yard pass play to up the lead to 26-0 with 10:32 left in the third quarter.

The final touchdown of the game for Shaw came with 2:56 remaining in the third quarter as he went 53 yards for the score and added the twopoint conversion on a run for 34-0 lead.

Mbem-Bosse would get his second touchdown of the night with a 27-yard fumble return with seven seconds left in the third quarter to make it 40-0 in favor of the Saints. Woods rounded out the scoring with 1-yard run for the score following a 49-yard run by Zavier Anderson.

The Saints defense had eight tackles for a loss, including three sacks, for a minus-27 yards in the game while recovering two fumbles (1 for TD by Mbem-Bosse) and two interceptions as they shut out the high scoring Bears' offense and quarterback Stetson Bennett (over 3,300 yards of total offense on the season).

Cedar Grove (9-1-1) earned a trip to Watkinsville to take on the Oconee County Warriors (9-2) Nov. 20.

#### **Tucker 38, Langston Hughes 28**

Adam Lippy's 28-yard field goal and an interception by Tucker's Chase Tyson with 30 seconds remaining sealed a 38-28 victory for the Tigers over the Langston Hughes Panthers in Class AAAAAA state playoff Nov. 14 at Hallford Stadium.

Tucker (8-3) was clinging to a 35-28 lead with 7:09 to play in the game following a touchdown by Hughes' Isaiah Green as the Panthers battled back from a 35-14 deficit.

The Tigers put together a 52-yard drive that stalled on an incomplete pass on third down. Lippy trotted onto the field on fourth and goal at the

Panthers' 11-yard line to attempt to put the Tigers ahead by two scores. His 28-yard field goal was good for a 38-28 lead with 2:25 remaining in the game.

Hughes was driving back down the field when Tyson went up with a Panthers' receiver and simultaneously catching a pass and pulling it away for an interception with just 30 seconds remaining in the game.

The Tigers had pulled away from a 14-14 tie in the first quarter to a 35-14 lead behind two touchdown runs (4 and 10 yards) and one touchdown pass reception of 25 yards by Samuel Bryant (15 carries, 93 yards).

Quarterback Garrett Rigby also connected on two touchdown passes to Joshua Vann (27 and 20 yards) in the game before Hughes began to rally.

Green threw for 250 yards and a pair of touchdowns and added the 1-yard rushing touchdown that pulled the Panthers within 35-28.

The Tigers offense rushed for 333 yards against Hughes as Chris Broadwater (12 carries, 100 yards) and Myles Donaldson (5 carries, 131 yards) both broke the century mark in rushing yards.

Tucker moved into the Sweet 16 round and travels to Cumming Nov. 20 to face South Forsyth (10-1).

#### Rome 7, Stephenson 6

The Rome Wolves invaded Hallford Stadium Nov. 13 and went home winners with a 7-6 win over No. 2 ranked Stephenson Jaguars in Class AAAAA state playoffs.

Rome quarterback Knox Kadum's pass as time ran out in the game was caught by Jai Creamer (13 receptions, 149 yards) at the goal line with a Stephenson defender right on him to tie the game at 6-6. The first extra point try was blocked by the Jaguars, but Stephenson was called for unsportsmanlike conduct (jumping over the linemen). Emanuel Gonzalez was good on the second try to give the Wolves the one-point victory.

The Jaguars looked to have sealed a 6-0 victory with under a minute to play as Eugene Brown caught a pass thrown under pressure for an apparent interception. Brown attempted to run and collided with a teammate, which caused him to lose the football, but the Jaguars seemingly recovered and thought they had the football.

A conversation by the referees turned into a reversal of the original call making the pass incomplete and giving Rome the football back with life left to set up the winning play.

The Jaguars had led 6-0 since Nigel Grant recovered a Rome fumble in the end zone with 1:38 left in the first quarter.

Stephenson missed an opportunity to extend its lead with 11:05 left in the game, but a drive stalled at the Rome 4-yard line and a 21-yard field goal attempt was just wide left.

Rome held the potent Jaguar rushing attack to just 77 yards on 33 attempts and to a total of 114 yards of offense on the night.

In other Nov. 13 playoff action, the Lake-side Vikings (4-7) fell 79-20 to Westlake in Class AAAAAA play, while in Class AAAA the Columbia Eagles (5-6) dropped a 42-7 decision to No. 2 ranked Cartersville.

Cedar Grove running back Tre' Shaw ran for 252 yards and three touchdowns. Photos by Travis Hudgons

Cedar Grove's Elysee Mbem-Bosse scored two touchdowns-one on offense and one on defense.







# NEWS BRIEFS

#### DeKalb announces SPLOST Citizen Review Committee

DeKalb County has taken one of the first steps toward a 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum by announcing members of a SPLOST Citizen Review Committee.

Pursuant to HB 215, signed into law by Gov. **Nathan Deal**, DeKalb County has the ability to call for a referendum that would levy a 1 percent sales tax through a SPLOST and apply 100 percent of the Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST) to property tax reduction. The HOST would then apply equally to residents in unincorporated and incorporated municipalities. Both the SPLOST and HOST referendums must be adopted by majority vote for either to apply.

In anticipation of placing the referendum on the November 2016 ballot, DeKalb has created a SPLOST Citizens Review Committee to lead the public input process and develop the list of projects for the referendum.

The SPLOST Citizen Review Committee includes **Robert Miller**, District 1; **Gordon Kenna**, District 2; **Alice Bussey**, District 3; **Terry Brantley**, District 4; **Willie Lewis**, District 5; **John Keys**, District 6; **Bruce McMil**-

# **lan**, District 7; and **Markus Butts** and **Dave Sjoquist**, appointed by interim CEO **Lee May**.

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The responsibility of the committee will include, but will not be limited to, ensuring that SPLOST projects are citizen driven, ensuring that opportunities for public input are created, that there is a sufficient and transparent public input process, and assisting the county in identifying and prioritizing its future infrastructure needs.

#### Man killed in motorcycle accident

On Nov. 12, at midnight, Dunwoody Police officers responded to a motorcycle accident on I-285 westbound between Chamblee Dunwoody and Ashford Dunwoody roads.

According to a preliminary investigation, the operator of the motorcycle, **Robert McCarthy**, was speeding while traveling west on I-285. The motorcycle collided with the rear of a dump truck and motorcycle burst into flames.

McCarthy was pronounced dead at the scene, according to police.

Anyone with information about this motor vehicle accident is asked to contact Officer **Forman** with the Dunwoody Police Department at (678) 382-6900.

# Pet of Week

#### VIVA ID# 30015630

Are you looking for a dog who is super sweet and gentle? Then you must meet our Pet of the Week! Viva is as gentle and sweet as they come. The moment she meets you her eyes light up and her tails starts wagging. Viva is a mild mannered girl who would enjoy a comfy bed and humans to shower with love and affection daily. She is great with other dogs and will do great if she has a canine brother or sister in her new home. Viva is an awesome dog. We know you will fall in love the second you meet her here at Lifeline's DeKalb Animal Services.



Give Viva a reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving and we'll cut your adoption fee in half! During November, all dogs weighing 25 lbs. or more and all cats may be adopted for half off the regular adoption price. Adoption fee includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchip and more! If you would like more information about Viva please email adoption@dekalbanimalservices.com or call (404) 294-2165. All potential adopters will be screened to ensure Viva goes to a good home.

