

COMMUNITY NEWS

Provided by: Tucker Crime Prevention Unit of the DeKalb Police Department

NEWS and MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUCKER PRECINCT COMMAND STAFF CHANGES

Tucker Precinct Commander, Major Yarbrough, has been transferred to Special Operations, as the Commander of this unit. Much of Major Yarbrough's law enforcement career has included various assignments within Special Operations. During his brief stay here at Tucker Precinct, he developed strong ties with many Tucker residents and business owners. Best wishes to you Major, in your new assignment!

Captain Harris remains in place at the precinct and shares precinct command duties at this time with Captain Lane-Woodard. Captain Lane-Woodard has returned to Tucker Precinct after several years' absence being assigned to various units. Captains Harris and Lane-Woodard both possess the experience and familiarity with Tucker Precinct necessary to command DeKalb County's largest police precinct.

CREDIT/BANK CARD SKIMMING

You may have seen the recent news story regarding a skimming device discovered on a local bank's ATM machine. The practice known as "skimming" involves the capturing of credit card or ATM card numbers using a small device that can read and store information from the magnetic stripe on these cards. This information is then duplicated and sold to purchase goods or services illegally. *It's the electronic equivalent of dumpster diving.* Skimming devices are small, so they can be discretely attached to an ATM machine, or hand held devices can be easily used by servers, cashiers, or store clerks in retail or restaurant establishments to obtain your credit card data. If the ATM machine you use looks unusual to you in any way, you should conduct your transaction elsewhere.

PROPERTY TAX APPRAISALS

Excerpts from a News Release received from CEO Ellis' office dated April 23:

Some DeKalb County homeowners received an assessment change notice from the DeKalb Board of Tax Assessors, Property Appraisal Department. This correspondence, dated April 18, was actually *prepared for mailing on April 8th*. On April 14, Georgia's governor signed into law a bill that changed the criteria used in determining fair market value of real property. The new law requires consideration of foreclosure and bank sales in determining fair market value of real property,

criteria; information contrary to what was stated in the letter. *The statements in the April 8th letter, which was composed prior to the new law, comported with the law as it existed at that time.*

According to the News Release, the Board is recalculating real property values to include consideration of foreclosure, bank and other financial institution owned sales, distressed sales or "decreased value of the property based on limitations and restrictions resulting from the property being in a conservation easement." New assessment change notices will be mailed to all affected property owners in May, 2009. For additional information contact: Property Appraisal Department at 404.371.2477 or www.co.dekalb.ga.us/propappr.

CRAIGSLIST

In my last correspondence, I mentioned that Craigslist was sometimes used to entice buyers into a situation where they were targeted for pedestrian robbery. Craigslist made the news again recently, in regard to a suspect who was arrested for robbery and murder incidents, in the Northeastern part of the country. According to DeKalb County's Nicole Marchand, Chief Assistant Solicitor-General, Craigslist has also been used to solicit prostitution. Persons, who commit unlawful acts, will use any means at their disposal to accomplish their goals, including legitimate businesses and services. Always use caution when entering into electronic business transactions.

SUMMER SAFETY

- * Children will be out of school soon and many of them will be outside more often. *Drive slowly through your neighborhoods.* Children are often unsupervised and are very likely to run into the street at any time. There have been 3 incidents reported on the news recently where toddlers were struck and killed by family members as the toddlers ran behind the vehicle and were unseen by the driver. *Use extra caution while backing up;* these little ones are often out of your sight lines.
- * If your community has a clubhouse that it uses/rents out for graduation or other parties, you may want to ensure, before the event, that chaperones and safety measures are in place to avoid unwanted confrontations from uninvited guests.
- * Avoid accidental drowning...make sure you have the required safety measures around pool areas.
- * Warm weather attracts more walkers and joggers. *Be alert for roving aggressive animals.*
- * A couple of years ago, there was a bear spotted in the Smoke Rise area. Bears are more likely to be seen from May-July. Don't tempt them onto your property with uncovered or easy access to your garbage cans; birdfeeders attract them too.
- * Whether on a day trip or a longer vacation, make sure your home is adequately secured. Inform your neighbors when you will be away, so that they can contact 911 if they see any suspicious persons on your property during your absence.
- * Solicitors, panhandlers, vagrants...you will see more of them in warm weather. Call 911 to report them.
- * A recent, local neighborhood alert advised of a situation where a fox gained entry into a home through an open door. No one was harmed in this encounter, but the fox was suspected of being rabid. Many residents keep their garage doors open so children and pets are free to come

and go. Unfortunately, unwanted visitors and/or animals can also gain entry into your home through open or unlocked doors.

STONECREST MALL PIP PROGRAM

Stonecrest Mall has implemented a new program regarding juveniles. On May 1, 2009, the mall initiated the Parental Involvement Program (PIP). Under the PIP program, juveniles under the age of 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (over the age of 21) after 4:00 P.M. on Fridays and Saturdays. One parent or legal guardian will be permitted to escort up to 4 juveniles, at least one of the youths needs to be the child of the parent or legal guardian. Proof of age will be required and according the mall management, "those who cannot produce sufficient identification will be asked to leave the property." The program covers all mall areas including the food court, hallways, stores, plaza, and parking lots. The program was initiated to enhance the customers' shopping experience. Its development was based on "customer and merchant feedback requesting the need for more *specific youth visitor guidelines*."

MEETINGS/EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction: The following Town Hall meeting scheduled for May 28 has been postponed. No new date is available at this time.

Thursday, May 28- 7:00-8:30 P.M. **Town Hall Meeting**, hosted by State Senator Steve Henson and State Representative Kevin Levitas. Location: **Lakeside High School, 3801 Briarcliff Rd.** Topics to be discussed: 2009 session of the General Assembly and Public Safety. Come and meet DeKalb County's new Public Safety Director, "Wiz" Miller. To allow more time for responses, *please E-Mail questions in advance to Ann Abramowitz, from Representative Levitas' office, at aabramo@emory.edu*

Saturday, May 30- Noon-5:00 P.M. **Good Neighbor Day Air Show and Open House** Peachtree-DeKalb Airport. FREE ADMISSION. Family oriented. More information: www.pdkairport.org.

Tuesday, August 4- **National Night Out (NNO)** Various hours between 6:00-Dark (9:00 P.M) The goals of this annual, nationwide event are to provide interaction between communities and police in a social setting and to give crime and drug a going away party.

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