

Decatur to appoint infill task force

By Erin Greer

DeKalb Neighbor Staff Writer

Like its predecessors in Atlanta and DeKalb, the city of Decatur will appoint a task force to address issues related to infill housing before the end of the month.

According to Deputy City Manager Hugh Saxon, Decatur will appoint 17 delegates to the new infill task force at the City Commission Meeting Jan. 17. The delegates, once announced, will have nine months to gather information before presenting their findings and recommendations to the commission.

"The purpose of the task force is to resolve a lot of the substantial concern in the Decatur community about infill housing and its impact on the city and its development," Saxon said.

The task force will be selected from the Decatur Planning Commission, the Decatur Board of Appeals, the Historic Preservation Committee, the Decatur Business Association, the Greenspace Commission, the Decatur Neighborhood Alliance and the city commissioners.

Saxon said the task force will meet with community members and contractors and draw from neighboring infill ordinances including those in Atlanta and DeKalb to compile infill recommendations for the city. The task force will present its findings in September.

Saxon said the task force is necessary because infill has become more prevalent in the city.

"Based on [the task force's] findings, we can determine what actions should be taken. We can determine whether to make changes to the city's zoning regulations or whether the Historic Preservation Ordinance should be extended to cover more of the city," he said.

Decatur Contractor Robert Soens of Pinnacle Custom Builders said infill is a prevalent practice because the city's homes, built primarily between 1910 and 1950, have less square footage than the national demand.

"It's a tug of war," Soens said. "People do want larger homes these days, but one of the things that the city of Decatur is looking at is how do we maximize the square footage of the house while at the same time minimizing the

mass of the house as it appears from the street," he said.

According to Saxon, the city now uses regulations which limit infill development to 35 feet in height, allowing for only single level and two story homes. In addition, regulations stipulate building development may not exceed 40 percent of the lot's square footage.

Saxon said the city plans to draft an ordinance based on task force recommendations by the end of the year.

In addition to the Decatur decision, DeKalb County will host a community forum this evening to discuss the merits and drawbacks of infill housing county-wide. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Malloof Auditorium, 1300 Commerce Drive in Decatur.

County Commissioners are

expected to vote on the DeKalb ordinance before the end of the month.

Presented by
First Multiple Listing Service

FMLS

**GEORGIA
OPEN
HOUSES.com**

*Where Georgia
Finds Open Houses*

www.georgiaopenhouses.com

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

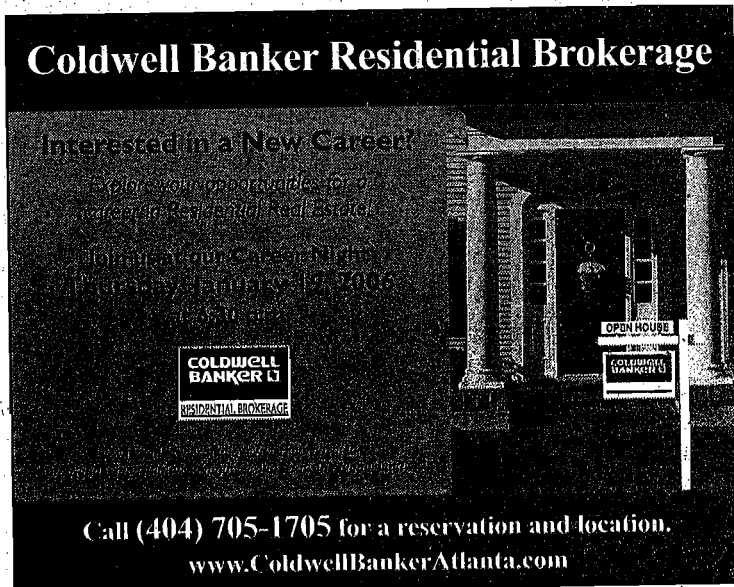
Interested in a New Career?

Are you an experienced real estate professional looking for a new challenge?

Join our team and enjoy the benefits of a new career opportunity.

Call (404) 705-1705 for a reservation and location.

www.ColdwellBankerAtlanta.com



OUR 31st YEAR

**Atlanta
Campers &
RV Show**

Jan. 19-20-21-22

ATLANTA EXPOSITION CENTER SOUTH
1-285 EXIT 85 • JONESBORO RD.

Our Biggest RV Show

RVs BOOTHS PRIZES

HOURS:
Thurs. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fri. 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ADMISSION
• Adults \$10
• Over 55 \$5
• 6 and 6 \$3
• Under 6 FREE

**FREE
PARKING**

For RV Show info, call 770-447-3334
E-mail: info@atlantarvshow.com • www.atlantarvshow.com

Sponsored by the Metro Atlanta RV Dealers Association • Produced by Hartsman Productions

