



# Decatur Rotary Club

## SPOKE 'N WHEEL

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September 22, 2010

**Welcome Fall!!!!** Today (September 22) marks the first day of Fall. Decatur has a lot of great festivals and activities planned such as The Decatur Garden Tour (September 25-26), The Oakhurst Arts & Music Festival (October 9), The Decatur Beer Festival (October 16) and more!

The Decatur Garden Tour will be held this weekend on Saturday September 25 and Sunday September 26. Step into autumn and explore 16 gardens (both private and public) across our charmingly eclectic community. More information can be found by visiting [www.decaturgardentour.com](http://www.decaturgardentour.com).

Also, please remember to visit our website at [www.decatur-rotary.org](http://www.decatur-rotary.org) where you can update your contact information, view videos from past Rotary meetings and find out who our upcoming speakers are. Don't forget to join our [LinkedIn Group](#) and [Facebook Page](#) as well!

Elliott Augustine & Andrea Greengard

### The Four-Way Test:

In everything that we think, say or do:

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

### President's Corner



**President C. J. Becker** called the meeting to order

### Announcements:

The Rotary board meeting will be next week on September 24.

Thursday November 6: Park Clean Up Day



When: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm (Registration: 8:00 to 8:30 am)  
Where: Dearborn Park, Decatur (Deerwood Drive at Midway Road)  
Food and live entertainment will follow the work session. For more info call 404-371-2540 or visit [www.ParkRenewalDay.com](http://www.ParkRenewalDay.com). You can also watch a short video about the event [here](#).

## Announcements

A new Decatur Rotary directory is in the works. Has your contact information changed? If you have NOT sent in your updated information, we need it now. Email your changes to **Vee Nelson** at [vee@vnelson.com](mailto:vee@vnelson.com).

### Rotary Networking Resources

District 6900 has created this resource to help Rotarians in our district find employment. To find out more visit the district web site [www.rotarydistrict6900.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6900.org) and look for Career Networking.

Decatur Rotary is now on Facebook. Check out the page for updates and become a fan. [Decatur Rotary Facebook Page](#)

Decatur Rotary is now on LinkedIn. Check our page for updates and to join our group. [Decatur Rotary LinkedIn Group](#)

**NEW!! Link to the most recent District 6900 Newsletter:**  
[District Newsletter](#)

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## Book Of The Week

## Police Chief John F. King

**J. Tom Morgan** introduced Chief King, citing his high ethical and moral standards as well as his diligent and honorable service to our nation.



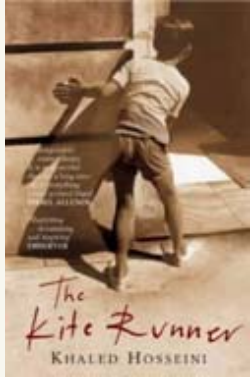
Police Chief John F. King began his employment with the City of Doraville in 1993 as a Detective. Prior to that, he was an Atlanta police officer who began his career there in 1985 as a police recruit. While at the Atlanta Police Department, Chief King worked assignments including Red Dog and Organized Crime/Intelligence. His career also includes assignments to both the FBI and DEA as a Task Force Agent. In 1987, while at the Atlanta Police Department, Chief King received the Chief's Blue Star for being injured in the line of duty as a result of criminal attack with a firearm.

Chief King admitted that this was his first Rotary speech and commented that he was accustomed to more hostile environments, whether from his military tours of service or the Doraville Commissioners at budget time. Chief King says that he is always asked about Afghanistan: "How are we doing? Are we winning?" Chief King says "Absolutely yes, though it is difficult to tell sometimes". The U.S. military faces great challenges in Afghanistan, including determined enemies, rampant corruption, staggeringly high illiteracy and unemployment rates, and unforgiveable terrain (the city of Kabul lies at over 6000 feet above sea level!). We are trying to "work ourselves out of a job", he claims, by training their army and national police and by seeking to fight Al Qaeda at every turn. The goal is 114,000 trained; we are now at 97,000.

One of the biggest differences between the U.S. and Iraq is the 70% illiteracy rate among adults. It is difficult to train policemen who cannot read or write. They may be incredibly smart and able to read people well, but many are virtually uneducated.

Corruption may be the most frustrating challenge. If the U.S.

## "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini



### Book Description:

The Kite Runner tells the story of Amir, a young boy from the Wazir Akbar Khan district of Kabul, who befriends Hassan, the son of his father's Hazara servant. The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy through the Soviet invasion, the mass exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the rise of the Taliban regime.

Book Selected By  
**Frank Matthews**

## Guests & Visitors

**Todd Speed** gave the invocation.

### Our Guests included:

Joseph Camacho:  
guest of **Linda Morris**

John Shaffer:  
guest of **John Bennett**

Carol Morgan:  
guest of **J. Tom Morgan**

does not deal with corruption, then we will become part of the problem. Chief King told us that corruption is like a cancer that continues to grow throughout Afghanistan. Lest we too quickly judge our global neighbors, Chief King reminded us that there was much corruption in the U.S. in the past, particularly in places like Chicago or New Orleans.

Where we value individualism in the U.S., this is a foreign concept to the Afghans. Individuals simply don't survive, so decisions are based on family and tribe mentalities. The survival of the tribe and family is most important, so community leaders tightly arrange marriages, flocks, fuels, and security. Though 7-10 recruits are killed each day, brave young men and women continue to sign up in order to help bring stability to their families and tribes.

The recurring key to success in Afghanistan, in addition to the bravery of young Afghans, is the capacity of the young women and men of the U.S. military to do their jobs well, to adapt, to lead, and to relate well with the local people. These impressive young people are fit, drug-free, able to overcome obstacles, and need little guidance, so King encourages employers to take advantage of the availability of those who are returning home.

The ongoing mission is simple, claims Chief King, to fight and capture the Taliban and Al Qaeda and to bide time until the Afghan government is ready to take over. The majority of the Afghan people want what we want - stable communities for their families and the ability to earn a living.



Photo: Police Chief John F. King

In honor of Chief King's visit, The Decatur Rotary Club donated the book, "*Beat Cop to Top Cop*" written by John F. Timoney, to The DeKalb County Library.

Carol Decker:  
guest of **Jeremy Warner**

Michael Overstreet:  
guest of Club  
[Our Visiting  
Rotarians included:](#)

Larry Lovvorn from New  
Bern, NC Breakfast Club

The meeting was then adjourned.

*Reported by Todd Speed*

*Photography by Mark Hastings*

## Speakers At A Glance

September 24, 2010:  
Dwight P. Lawson

October 1, 2010:  
Charles S. Bullock

October 8, 2010:  
TBA

## Officers of the Decatur Rotary Club:

President:  
C.J. Becker

President-Elect:  
Jason Conn

Past President:  
Bryan Downs

Secretary:  
Betty Spiker

Treasurer:  
John Bennett

Sergeant-at-Arms:  
Doug Torbush

District Governor:  
Casey Farmer

## 'Round the Room...



**J. Tom Morgan** along with our speaker, **Police Chief King**  
& **President C.J. Becker**.



**John Adams, Jr.** & **Past President Fred Turner** pose for a picture.

## Birthdays!



September 2:  
Alton Dowd

September 6:  
Robert Lanier

September 8:  
Jason Conn

September 8:  
Jimmy Smith III

September 11:  
Brad Bryant

September 17:  
Scott Thompson

September 18:  
John Hegman  
Vee Nelson

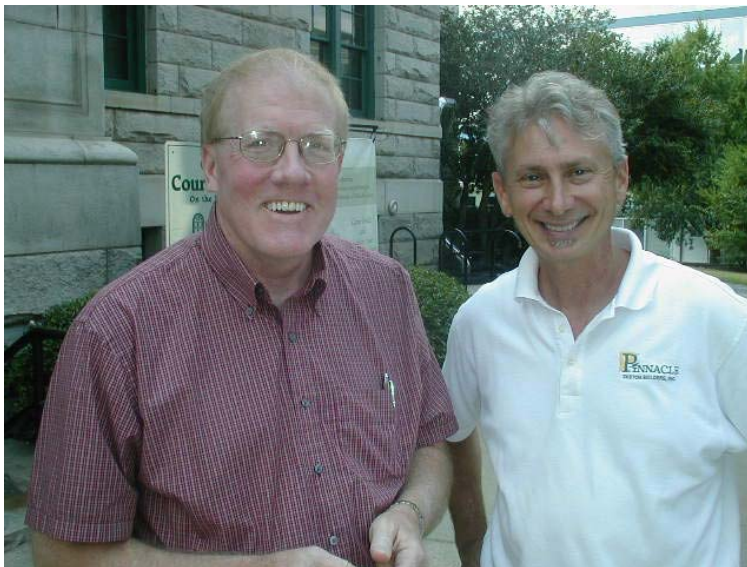
September 19:  
Kirby Thompson

September 20:  
Mark Burnette

September 20:  
H G Pattillo  
Kyle Williams

September 22:  
Eric Lucas

September 24:  
George Carley



**Dr Doug Torbush** with **Robert Soens** outside the Courthouse.



**Dr. Doug Torbush** announcing guests present at the meeting.



Guest of the Club Michael Overstreet who is looking into the possibility of a Group Study Exchange to Australia.

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**Sincerely,**

The Rotary Bulletin Committee  
Decatur Rotary Club

**Directions:** [Old Courthouse on the Square](#)