

DeCordova parades Olympic swimmer

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Rick Mauch

Golf carts traveling throughout the community of DeCordova is nothing new. But Thursday, nearly 100 carts made their way to the community clubhouse to honor one of their own citizens, Olympic gold medalist Dana Vollmer.

Vollmer herself joined DeCordova mayor Dick Pruitt at the front of a parade to celebrate her accomplishment in Athens, Greece this summer. They were in a cart resembling a 1957 Chevrolet.

"This just seems like something they'd do in DeCordova," said Vollmer, whose family moved to DeCordova in 1993. "That's really cool."

The evening included Dana receiving a key to the city.

Also, Thane Baker, an Olympic silver medalist in track in 1956 and DeCordova resident, gave a stirring speech during a reception inside the clubhouse.

"Four years, six years, nine years in my case, I dreamed about it," Baker told the crowd. "Can you imagine what it's like when they hand you that medal? You can't imagine, can you Dana?"

Phil and Marcia Deluccia's cart was one of many decorated by residents in honor of Vollmer. On their cart was a sign listing the number of days before the next Summer Olympics in Beijing, China (1,414).

"The countdown has already begun," Marcia said.

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