



COURAGE CREATIVITY COMMITMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

COURAGE

A HE-RO & A SHE-RO

Myles Baker is one of Decatur's youngest Hometown Heroes. Here's why: when he noticed that a neighbor's South McDonough Street home was on fire he alerted the occupants and persisted in urging them to safety. Bravo!



SHE'S A LIFESAVER!

The City of Decatur Fire and Rescue Dept. presented **Calysia Nails**, an after-school counselor with the Children and Youth Services Division, with a Life Saver Award for giving CPR to a child who was choking. Bravo!



BREAKING EGGS, MAKING OMELETS

When DeKalb County decided to move operations out of the Callaway Building on West Trinity Place, the Decatur Development Authority saw an excellent opportunity for a new mixed-use development including shopping, apartments, and office space, all contributing to the tax digest. After much discussion and review with the developer, the city approved the plans and demolition began.





E.Co. Is Coming to East College Avenue

Decatur and DeKalb County elected officials, members of the Decatur Development Authority, along with representatives of MARTA and developer Columbia Ventures, turned a few shovels recently for the ceremonial groundbreaking of “E. Co.,” a new 7.7-acre transit-oriented development at the Avondale MARTA station parking lot on the south side of East College Avenue.

Plans include affordable, independent living for seniors and more than 370 market-rate apartments. Columbia Residential

and Cortland Partners are teaming up to develop the site, which will include retail and restaurant space. The development will serve as a catalyst for continued growth at this highly visible east Decatur gateway.

Pictured above (from left) are Decatur Development Authority board members Bill Floyd and Linda Curry, Assistant City Manager Lyn Menne, Commissioners Tony Powers and Brian Smith, Mayor Patti Garrett, Commissioner Scott Drake, and Mayor Pro Tem Fred Boykin.

Safe Places in Decatur Firestations #1 and #2, Decatur Recreation Center, and Ebster Recreation Center

Decatur Fire/Rescue Stations 1 and 2, and the Decatur and Ebster Recreation Centers have joined Safe Place, a national program for young people in need of immediate help and safety. Businesses and organizations designated as Safe Place locations make help readily available to youth in communities across the country. Decatur Fire/Rescue stations and recreation centers are each registered as a “Safe Place” for young people.

Serious problems in a young life like abuse, neglect, family troubles, dangerous dating situations, bullying, homelessness, and drug abuse can lead to difficult, and sometimes dangerous, decisions in an effort to escape. Safe Place provides young people places to go for immediate help. Youth can also text SAFE, with current location (city, state, address) to 69866, and receive a message showing the nearest Safe Place location and a contact number for a local youth shelter.



CREATIVITY



A Bridge Too Art ...

A grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission and a spirit of cooperation between City of Decatur, Task Force for Global Health, Decatur Arts Alliance, Decatur Housing Authority, City Schools of Decatur, and MARTA led to the new

overpass mural on West Trinity Place. Community involvement was a critical aspect of the project, and the Milagros Collective (far right), Joey Filastre and Felici Aseinza, happily met with stakeholders to determine what form their work should

take. Active Living got in on the Milagros action as well, thanks to a KABOOM! grant. The Milagros-designed playground under the north end of the bridge includes chimes, a Twister game, hop scotch and a bench painted in the same motif as the mural.



Oakhurst Gets Five Artway Sculptures

Decatur Public Works installed five new sculptures in Oakhurst in early 2017. The new works will be displayed for two years as Phase 2 of the Decatur Artway, a public arts initiative established by the Decatur Arts Alliance and the City of Decatur. Learn more at decaturartsalliance.org.



*Shelter II (basics),
Matthias Neumann
THE WYLDE CENTER*



JOEY FILASTRE

FELICI ASTEINZA

So. Very. Cool.

No doubt you have noticed the wildly painted traffic signal boxes all over town? You have the Decatur Arts Alliance and Decatur's gentle art provocateur Larry Holland to thank. Stroll around the city to see them all, and let decaturartsalliance.org/decatur-box-project be your guide. Rumor has it that a populous burgh to the west is considering a similar arts initiative.



FLOWERS, CHICKENS AND SPORKS, OH MY!

Early in 2017 Decatur Public Works oversaw installation of eight colorful crosswalks along Ponce de Leon Avenue and one on E. Trinity Place. The project included installation of traffic-calming speed tables at the Ponce/Clairemont intersection and the 200 block of E. Ponce de Leon Avenue.



Welcome Back to Old Friends

Two-and-a-half years after demolition of their original Dairy Queen location, one of the first steps in redevelopment of the “Trinity Triangle,” the Momin family reopened the business at nearly the same spot. Now on the ground floor of the Arlo Apartment building at 245 E. Trinity Pl., the new restaurant is a little smaller than the old free-standing building, but has seating for 47 – nine more than before. Mayor Patti Garrett, Commis-

sioner Brian Smith, city staff, and friends gathered last fall to cut the ceremonial red ribbon to welcome the Momins back to the community.

It was the Decatur Development Authority’s goal to ensure that space would remain available for the Momins, who are long-time supporters of the community.

COMMITTED TO Getting the Word Out

Decatur’s Fire and Rescue, Police, and Human Resources departments have embraced social media, notably Facebook, to share information about new staff, interesting developments, and safety tips, too.

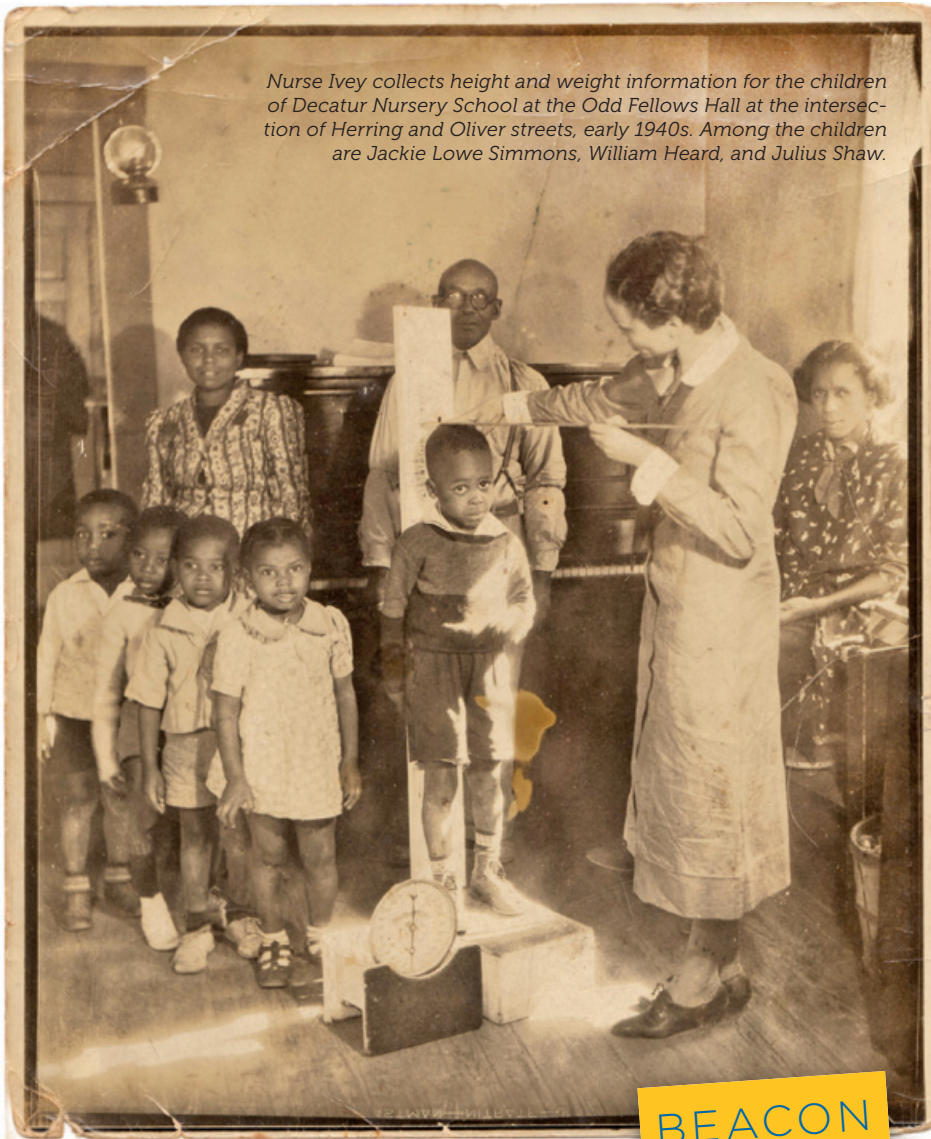
And because of ongoing construction, streetscape improvements, county stormwater projects in Decatur, and CSX rail crossing projects, the city launched decaturmakeover.com to keep residents abreast of construction-related inconveniences.



COMMITTED TO Community

As daily visitors to the Oakhurst Dog Park, Richard Blackwell (left) and Lee Goldsmith are community champions who have set the standard for commitment and dedication to this community asset. Lee was instrumental in getting the dog park certified as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Atlanta Audubon Society.





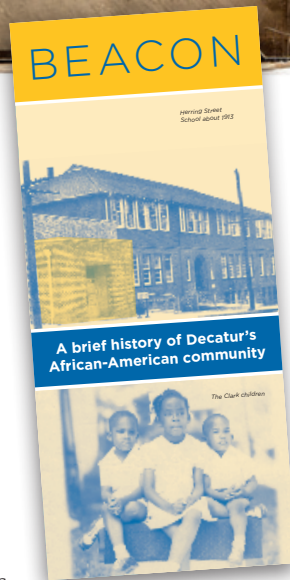
Nurse Ivey collects height and weight information for the children of Decatur Nursery School at the Odd Fellows Hall at the intersection of Herring and Oliver streets, early 1940s. Among the children are Jackie Lowe Simmons, William Heard, and Julius Shaw.

COMMEMORATING the Beacon Hill Community

Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson, who raised her family in Decatur's African-American Beacon Hill Community, has dedicated years to ensuring that the history of that community is forever remembered. Some of the information and memories she has collected can be found in Decatur's Beacon brochure, a companion piece to the exhibits on permanent display at the Beacon Municipal Center, 105 Electric Ave.

Established by formerly enslaved people after the Civil War, the close-knit Beacon community covered the area north of the railroad, between McDonough and Adair streets and was subsequently lost to urban renewal projects in the '40s, '50s and '60s. But the legacy endures in the accomplishments and contributions of these Decatur residents who include a judge, attorneys, athletes, teachers and community leaders.

Pick up a copy of the brochure at the Beacon Municipal Center or at the Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairemont Ave. Or visit decaturga.com/beacon.



By the Numbers

MLK Service
Day Volunteers 2017

1,330

Value of MLK Service
Day volunteer hours

\$258,100

Community Policing 2.0

The Decatur Police Department has long embraced community policing but recognized that there was room for improvement. Collaborating with community stakeholders, the department adopted a three-year strategic plan in 2016 with a mission to be open and responsive to the needs of the entire community, solving problems through community relationships, innovative technology and exceptional service. The first action step was for all police officers and command staff to complete the Fair and Impartial Policing program. All participants agreed that it was a powerful and productive experience.



COMMITMENT



Georgia Forestry Commission Director Robert Farris, Mayor Patti Garrett, and Landscape Infrastructure Coordinator Kay Evanovich.

Decatur Launches Transparency Portal

The City of Decatur recently partnered with ClearGov, a municipal transparency and benchmarking platform, to launch a fiscal transparency portal. The new tool enables taxpayers to clearly see how Decatur is funded and how this funding is allocated to provide services to residents.

Decatur is the first Georgia municipality to offer more timely and detailed information to its residents using ClearGov. The platform provides public access to financials and a centralized source of financial data to help city officials make more informed policy and budgetary decisions.

See it all at decaturga.com/cleargov.

TREE-TASTIC

Decatur was among 19 Georgia cities honored during the 2017 Arbor Day celebration at Trees Atlanta, for being one of Georgia's Tree City USA communities. The city was recognized for its commitment to caring for and managing public trees.

COMMITTED to workforce and middle-class housing development

The city's cottage court pilot project began with a three-day design charrette, where residents met architect Bruce Tolar and collaborated with the architect, city staff, and neighbors to develop a site plan appealing to all stakeholders. The project will create an affordable small-scale, neighborhood-friendly alternative to large format, single-family infill housing. Being located in the Old Decatur Local Historic District, the project will balance the old and new and blend seamlessly with some of the city's oldest architecture.

PROJECT GOALS

- ▶ Create a viable, replicable small-house model in which the relative risks and returns to developers are comparable to the prevailing large-house model
- ▶ Institute a sustainable funding mechanism for a community land trust for future land acquisitions
- ▶ Provide housing affordable to the "workforce middle class" – teachers, firefighters, police, etc.



Pedestrian access to

National Accreditation for Decatur After-School Programs

In February, Decatur's Children and Youth Services Division accomplished the milestone achievement of eight of eight accredited programs through the Council on Accreditation (COA). This was the first time in the history of the city's after-school programs that 100 percent of after-school sites were accredited.



The accreditation process involves many hours of preparation and effort on the part of the city's program and administrative staff, followed by a visit from an endorser from COA who reviews every aspect of the programs' operations, including programming, administration, and human resources.



COMMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Beginning July, 2016, Decatur residents began segregating glass from other recyclable materials, even though the cost of the revised recycling rules hit them in the pocketbook. Recycling facilities dictated that glass be collected separately from other recyclables to ensure that it's a profitable pursuit. Decatur residents therefore need two bins – one bin for glass only, and one for paper, plastics and metal.

Although many communities have eliminated glass entirely from their recycling programs, Decatur has traditionally set a higher standard for environmental sustainability. An online survey developed with the assistance of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board collected more than 630 responses on this issue. More than 90 percent of respondents indicated they were willing to pay an additional \$25 to \$35 per year to continue curbside glass recycling services. And more than 78 percent of the respondents were willing to provide their own bins for separating glass to be recycled.

Interestingly, in the early days of Decatur's recycling program, residents were expected to separate glass from other recyclables and place it curbside in its own bin, just as now. So wouldn't it be less costly to forego glass recycling entirely? Not necessarily. According to research conducted by Decatur's Public Works Department, the increased cost of recycling is about equal to the cost of sending glass waste to the landfill. Approximately 20 percent of Decatur's recycling stream is glass. Adding glass into the waste stream would increase landfill disposal fees and other costs associated with refuse collection.

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Scott Drake

“Whatever you do, you need **courage**. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right.” – *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Boykin

“**Commitment** is the willingness to give your time and energy to something you believe in.”

Thanks, Fred!

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Boykin has decided not to seek re-election in November. Thanks to you, Fred, for 16 years of service to the commission.



Commissioners meet with Oakhurst Elementary first graders.





City Manager Peggy Merriss

"The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer."

– Fridtjof Nansen, 1922 Noble Peace Prize recipient



Commissioner Brian Smith

"Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way." – Edward de Bono

Commissioner Tony Powers

"He who is not **courageous** enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." – Muhammad Ali



Mayor Patti Garrett

"One of our greatest strengths is the ability to look at opportunities through a **creative** lens and take small steps to achieve amazing results."

Brian, Fred, Tony and Patti kickoff the 4th of July Concert.



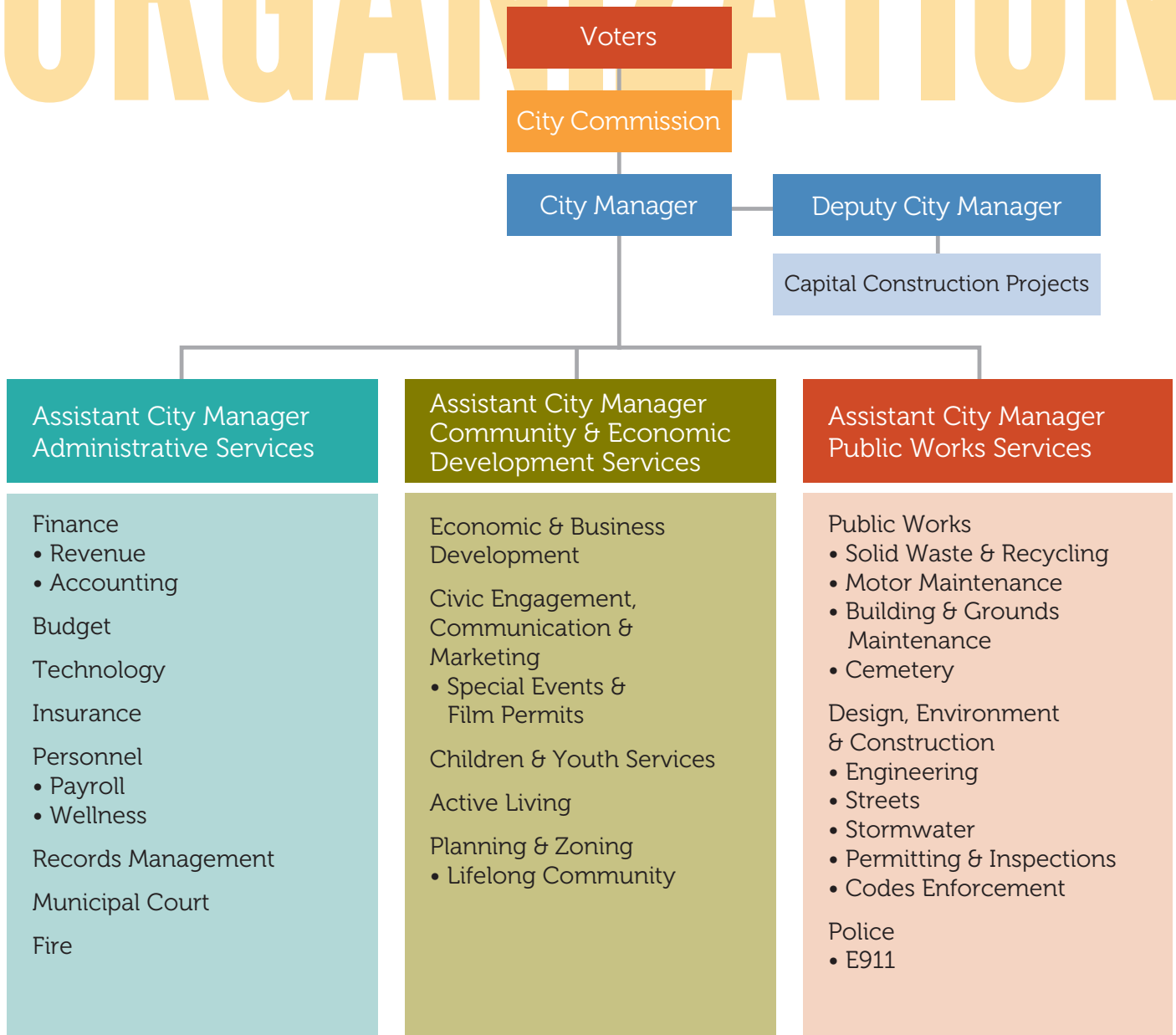
Scott presents Little Shop of Stories owner Diane Capriola with a Hometown Hero award.



Brian meets with the Decatur Youth Council.



ORGANIZATION



Decatur Data Points (FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017)

106

trees planted in public areas and rights-of-way

18.1

tons of paper shredded during electronics recycling events

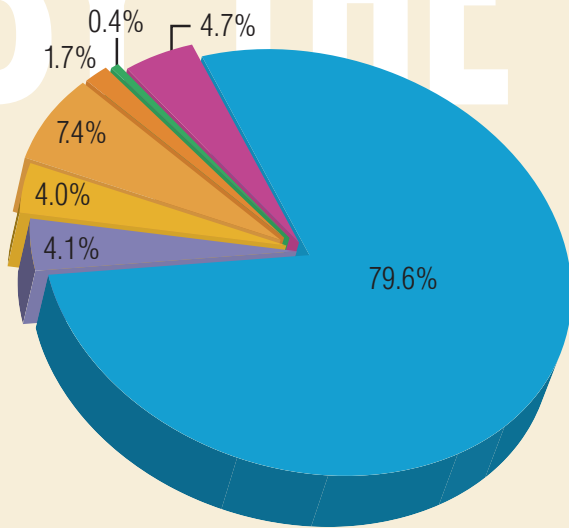
42

new homes built using high-performance building standards

1,291

issues reported using the MyDecaturGA app August 2016-April 2017

BY THE NUMBERS



General Fund Revenues

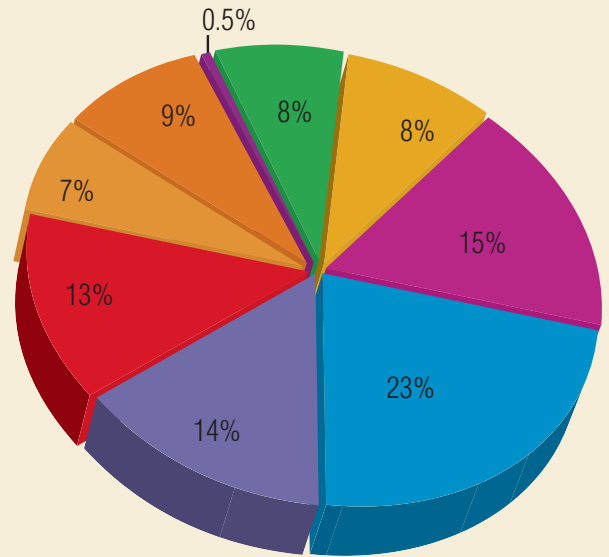
FY 17-18 Adopted Budget
Where the money comes from

SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Taxes	20,079,310	79.7%
Charges for Current Services	1,856,660	7.4%
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	1,180,030	4.7%
Licenses, Permits & Inspections	1,035,400	4.1%
Penalties, Fines & Forfeitures	1,020,000	4.0%
Intergovernmental Revenues	428,800	1.7%
Miscellaneous Revenue	107,500	0.4%
Sale of Fixed Assets	10,000	0.0%
Operating Transfers	(521,110)	-2.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$25,196,590	100.0%

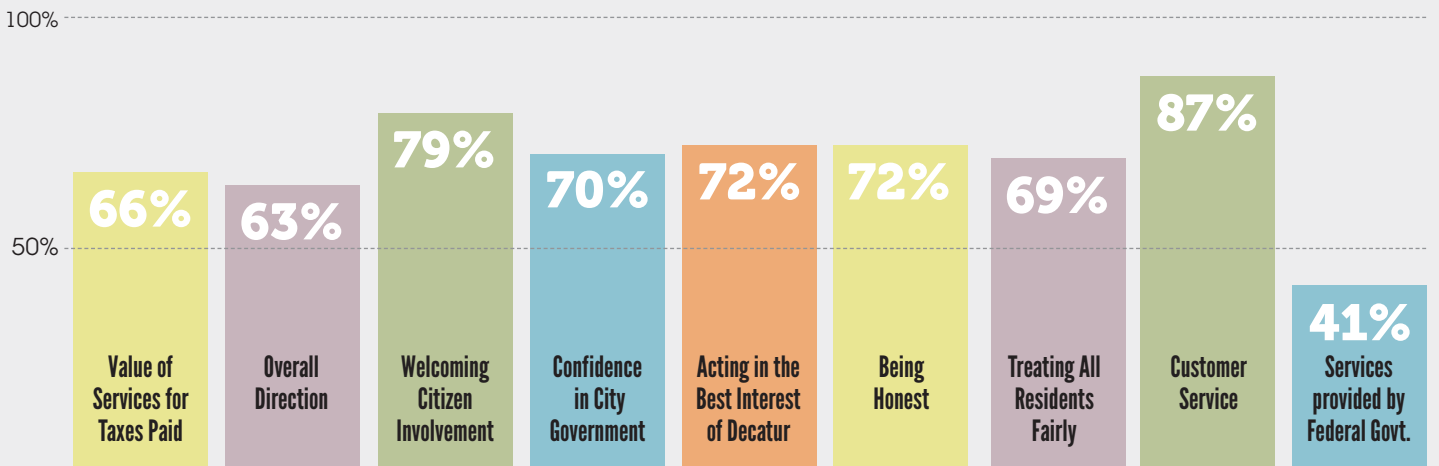
Departmental Expenditures

FY 17-18 Adopted Budget
Where the money goes

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
POLICE	5,801,080	23.0%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	4,107,210	16.3%
FIRE	3,538,840	14.0%
PUBLIC WORKS	3,304,470	13.1%
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2,275,640	9.0%
ACTIVE LIVING	2,234,520	8.9%
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,931,690	7.7%
DESIGN, ENVIRONMENT & CONSTRUCTION	1,815,790	7.2%
GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL	187,350	0.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	25,196,590	100%



Government Scorecard: How Are We Doing? (percent responding excellent or good)



VOLUNTEER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City of Decatur relies on its volunteer boards and commissions to lead and guide the community. Board/Commission members are appointed by the City Commission. To apply for a particular board or commission submit a Statement of Interest form to the City Manager's office. The Commission interviews potential board members and makes appointments to fill vacancies.

Learn more decaturga.com/city-government/resident-boards-commissions.

Planning Commission

Conducts public hearings on land use and zoning changes, subdivisions of property and planned unit developments, and recommends actions for consideration by the City Commission. Reviews and recommends changes in zoning regulations and future land-use plans

Mark Burnette (Chair)
Harold Buckley, Jr. (Vice Chair)
Scott Doyon
Lori Leland-Kirk
Melissa Manrow
Todd Ohlandt
Mike Travis

Historic Preservation Commission

Ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five local historic districts are consistent with the character of each neighborhood.

Alan Clark (Chair)
Trent Myers (Vice Chair)
Debbie Fritz
Nick Misner
Lisa Turner
Jessica VanLanduyt

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Provides recommendations to the City Commission on the city's environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives. Assists with implementation of city projects that affect the natural environment, to protect and improve the quality of life for Decatur citizens and property owners

Michael Black (Chair)
Brendan Gardes (Vice Chair)
Lindsay Averett
Juliette Apicella
Steve Blackburn
Mary Jane Leach
Susan Montgomery
Sam Pugh
Meisa Salaita

Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Assists in expanding and implementing initiatives for helping residents to age in place, and assist city staff in outreach to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and diverse populations.

Linda Ellis (Chair)
Terri Kruzan (Vice Chair)
Elizabeth Burbridge
Debra Furtado
Peg Geronimo
Donald Horace
Fleming James
Joann Majercsik
Anne Morris
Maria Pinkelton
Rich Wilinski

Development Authorities

The Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the citywide Decatur Development Authority are charged with planning, organizing, and financing projects that will revitalize and redevelop Decatur's commercial business districts, and to market a positive image for the city.

Chris Sciarone (Chair)
John Drake (Vice Chair)
Fisher Paty (Sec.-Treasurer)
Linda Curry
Bill Floyd
Scott Kentner
Tony Leung

Active Living Advisory Board

Serves as advocates and advisors on projects and programs that help citizens incorporate physical activity into their daily routines and make Decatur a model healthy community.

Clay Scarborough (Chair)
Bill Adams
Wendy Childers
Pete Duitsman
Michael Harbin
Shelly Head
Jack Kittle
Adam Pinsley
Brooke Schembri
Kelly Walsh

Zoning Board of Appeals

Conducts public hearings on appeals from decisions of the zoning administrator and considers requests for variances from zoning requirements.

Michael Leavey (Chair)
Erik Pawloski
Lindsay Reese
Seegar Swanson
Phillip Wiedower

NEW! Better Together Advisory Board

- Established in 2016 to guide and advise the commission and the community on issues of equity, inclusion and engagement.



- Serves as advocate and advisor in implementing the recommendations of the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Engagement. The plan contains specific action items for individuals, organizations and local government to undertake to cultivate a just, welcoming, inclusive, equitable and compassionate city.
- Meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m., in the City Commission conference room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- For more information contact Linda Harris, 678-553-6512, linda.harris@decaturga.com, or Renae Madison, 678-553-6561, renae.madison@decaturga.com.



From left, front row: liaisons Lartasha Chaney, Renae Madison, and Linda Harris. Second row, Syreeta Campbell, Jamilah Rashid, Yvonne Druyeh Dodd, Shadi Abdalla, Sara Shay Sullivan (co-chair). Third Row, Paula Collins, Haqiqa Bolling, Cindy Popp, Shenandra Usher, Christy Amador (co-chair). Fourth row, David T. Lewicki, Lauren Sudeall Lucas, Erin Braden, Jon Abercombie. Not pictured, Ed Lee.

NEW! Decatur Youth Council

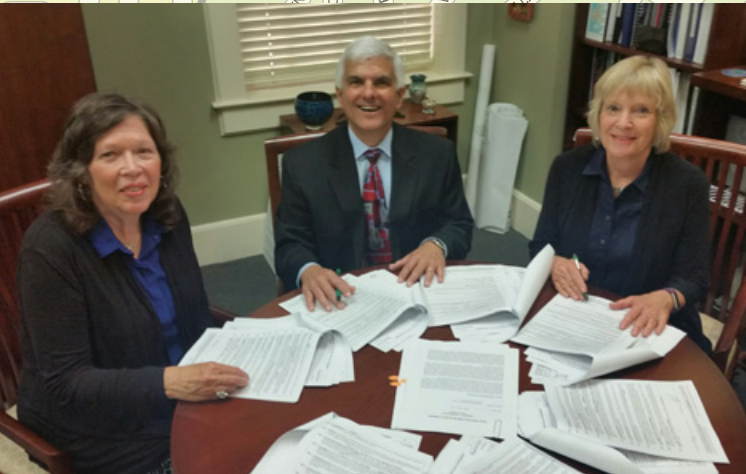
- City-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the city limits and attend public, private, and home-based schools.
- Members can develop into young leaders through structured monthly educational programs and team-building activities.
- Meets on the first Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., in Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- For more information, contact Olivia Burrell-Jackson, 678-553-6540, olivia.jackson@decaturga.com, or Courtney Frisch, 678-553-6577, courtney.frisch@decaturga.com.



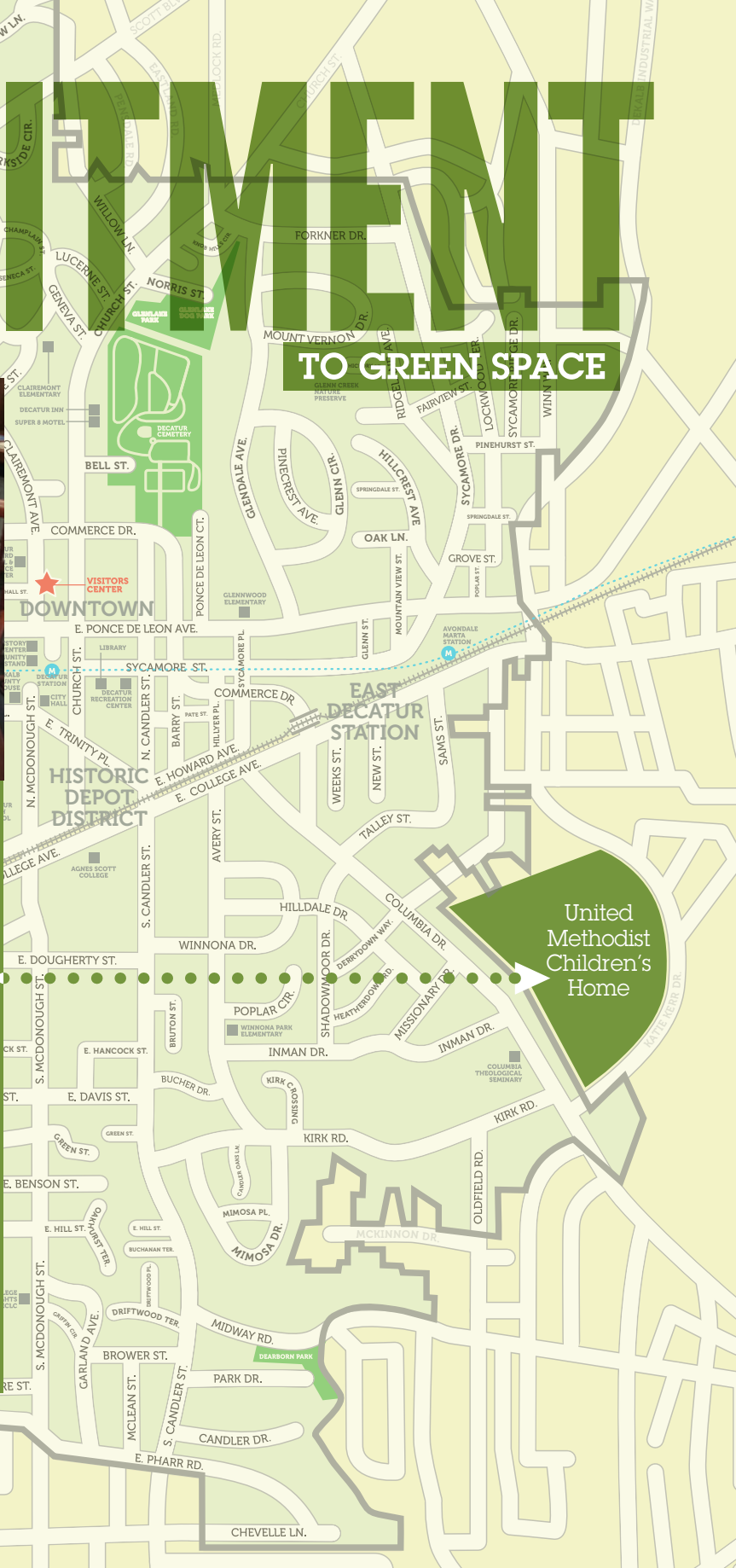
From left: Julia Conley, Qiu-ee Neiditz, Alix Wagner, Ben Snedden, Eriana Ellis, Shadi Abdalla (in back), Mason Koski and Harriet Mycroft. Not pictured: Bailey Tocups

COMMITMENT

TO GREEN SPACE

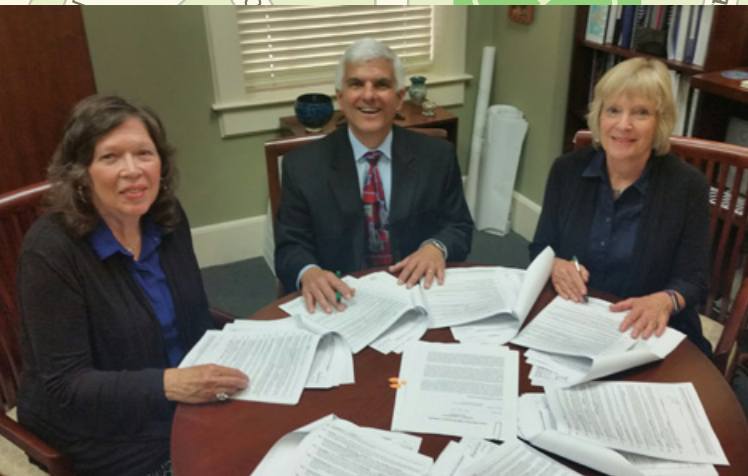


In April 2017 Mayor Patti Garrett, United Methodist Children's Home President and CEO Rev. Hal Jones, and Debby Stikes chair of the UMCH board of trustees, met to sign the sale agreement for the \$40 million purchase of the approximately 77-acre UMCH property adjacent to the southeastern city limits of Decatur. It is anticipated that UMCH will vacate the property by late summer or early fall, 2017. Once the city takes possession of the property, it will annex the acreage and begin a community-based master planning effort engaging nearby neighborhoods, UMCH alumni, and other stakeholders to help determine a vision and plan for future use.



COMMITMENT

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