

NEXT STEPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



As **Decatur** begins developing its strategic plan for 2020-2030, take a look at what has been accomplished during the last fiscal year.

city commission



Brian Smith
DISTRICT 2

Kelly Walsh
DISTRICT 1

Scott Drake
DISTRICT 1

**Mayor Pro Tem
Tony Powers**
AT-LARGE

Mayor Patti Garrett
DISTRICT 2

MAYOR PATTI GARRETT



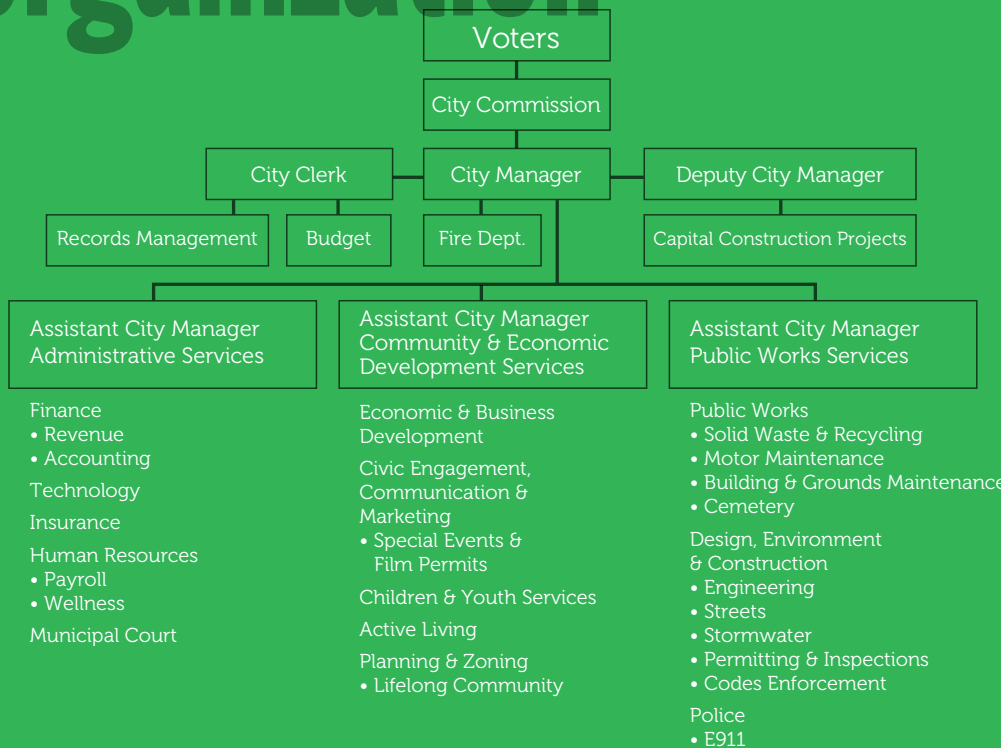
What makes Decatur an All-America city? The people! Our residents, businesses, city staff, teachers, communities of faith, and volunteers alike. By working together, we continue to find ways to make Decatur 'a more welcoming, inclusive and equitable place to live, work, play and visit.'"

CITY COMMISSION

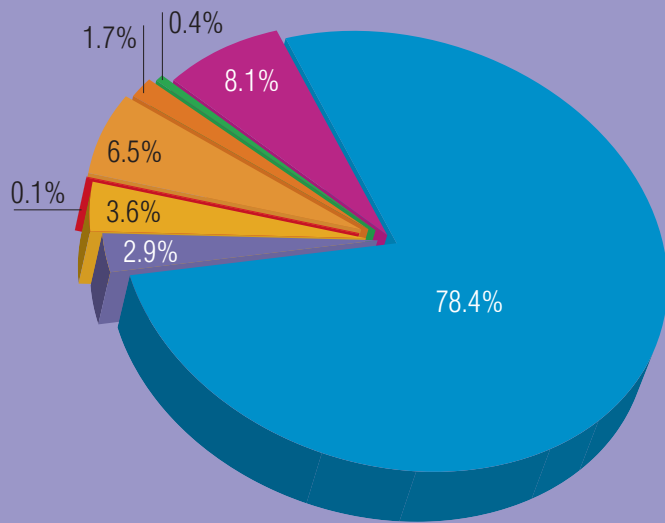
Five City Commissioners are elected in nonpartisan elections for overlapping four-year terms – two from District 1, two from District 2, and one At-Large (citywide). Kelly Walsh is the newest commissioner, elected in November 2017.

Each January, Commissioners elect two of their fellow members to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Since January 2016, they have elected Commissioner Patti Garrett to serve as Mayor, and Commissioner Tony Powers to serve as Mayor pro tem.

organization



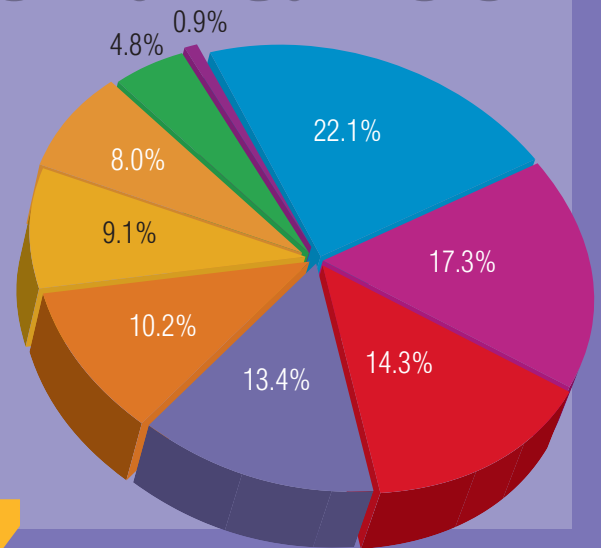
city revenues . . .



SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Taxes	22,518,800	78.4%
Licenses, Permits & Inspections	828,950	2.9%
Penalties, Fines & Forfeitures	1,040,000	3.6%
Interest	20,000	0.1%
Charges for Current Services	1,854,200	6.5%
Intergovernmental Revenues	480,140	1.7%
Miscellaneous Revenue	119,500	0.4%
Sale of Fixed Assets	10,000	0.0%
Operating Transfers	(467,940)	-1.6%
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	2,316,410	8.1%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$28,720,060	100.0%

. . . and expenditures

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
Police	6,339,350	22.1%
Administrative Services	4,955,270	17.3%
Public Works	4,110,910	14.3%
Fire	3,858,530	13.4%
Active Living	2,938,390	10.2%
Community & Economic Development	2,617,170	9.1%
Design, Environment & Construction	2,285,020	8.0%
General Government	1,367,100	4.8%
Governmental Control	248,320	0.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	28,720,060	100%



By the Numbers

6

outdoor tornado warning sirens in Decatur: Glennwood Elementary, Westchester Elementary, Oakhurst Elementary, Winnona Park Elementary, Legacy Park

23

fire department community education programs

including File of Life, Car Seat Safety and Community CPR

Graduates of Decatur Police Department's RAD self-defense program for women

385

2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Decatur will continue its planning efforts with the 2020 Strategic Plan. The entire community can participate in defining a vision and establishing specific and tangible goals and tasks that will shape the city's work program and provide a budget framework for the next 10 years.

Decatur Earns 2018 'All-America City' Honors



The National Civic League named Decatur one of 10 All-America Cities at its 2018 meeting in Denver. Decatur earned the honor for its work toward inclusive civic engagement, addressing critical issues and creating stronger connections between residents, businesses, nonprofits, and government leaders.

Applicant cities submitted their community-wide work on equity and civic engagement and three projects for consideration. Finalist communities presented their projects and their communities to a jury. Decatur's presentation demonstrated the results of the Better Together Community Action Plan, the police department's intentional focus on community engagement and training, and the I Am Decatur photo portraits and stories that represent the diverse backgrounds and lifestyles of community members.

To learn more about these projects visit:

- Better Together: decaturga.com/better-together-community-action-plan
- Community Policing: decaturga.com/pdstrategicplan
- I Am Decatur: iamdecatur.com

To view the presentation visit facebook.com/decaturga.



City Commission Names New City Manager

The Decatur City Commission selected Andrea Arnold, previously the city's assistant city manager, as our new city manager. The commission received more than 100 applications for the city manager position and interviewed candidates in November 2018. Arnold is a resident of the city and served as assistant city manager since 2004. She came to Decatur from the Atlanta Regional Commission and began working with the city in November 1997.

Ms. Arnold is a key member of the management team, with responsibilities for leading the city's internal operations, including the budget process. She is a critical leader in technology, innovation, and in ensuring that the city's residents and businesses receive excellent customer service.



Decatur Welcomes a New Assistant City Manager

In April, Decatur welcomed Teresa Taylor as the new assistant city manager-administrative services. Ms. Taylor previously served as assistant city manager for the city of LaGrange and as assistant to the city manager in Chamblee. She also served as an ICMA Fellow with Decatur in 2012-2014.



Culture of Equity

Decatur is committed to equity and inclusion in the community and within the organization. Two racial equity training workshops were conducted over the past year. With assistance and leadership from the Better Together Advisory Board, the city continues community conversations and introduces monthly book club topics with the help of Little Shop of Stories.

Open Office Hour Program

The City Commission continues to support the Open Office Hour program, which gives each elected official an opportunity to address specific topics and answer questions from the community. The sessions are streamed online on the city's website, making it easy for community members to view and join the conversation. In the upcoming year, Decatur will expand the program to include the chairs of the various resident boards and commissions.

CITY MANAGER ANDREA ARNOLD



Our willingness to tackle real challenges as a community makes us an All-America City. Our community-members care so much about our city that they come together to find solutions to challenges that other communities fail to address. It takes courageous elected officials, dedicated civic leaders and an engaged community to achieve what we have in Decatur."

By the Numbers



Number of staff attending racial equity training

35

1,100

Number of MLK Service Day Volunteers in 2019



Dollar value of 2018 MLK Service Day volunteer hours



\$271,620

Diverse Housing

Decatur hosted its first-ever Affordable Housing Summit in November to develop a shared understanding of Decatur's housing context, define affordability as it relates to Decatur and explore viable approaches and strategies. The summit concluded with ideas for all 100 participants to be a part of local solutions.

Outcomes included developing the Decatur Legacy Park Affordable Housing workshop and an Affordable Housing Task Force that will review the summit's recommendations, complete ongoing research, and present policy and programs to the City Commission.

A Housing Summit 2.0 is planned for the coming year to continue the support of affordable housing policy changes for the community.

FY 2018-2019 Accomplishments

Held the Decatur Housing Summit, continuing the conversation on housing affordability and developing tangible and achievable steps to expand housing options.

Completed the East Lake MARTA Station LCI Study, creating a vision for new, medium-density, mixed-use development on underutilized surface parking lots.

Partnered with the Decatur Housing Authority to provide temporary housing at Legacy Park during Swanton Heights renovations.

Opened 92 mixed-income units for seniors at the Avondale Transit Oriented Development.

Appointed the affordable housing task force.

MAYOR PRO TEM TONY POWERS



The people in our community make Decatur an All-America City. There's an expression here that goes 'we have a festival for that.' It should also say 'we have volunteers for that.' We could not be who we are without our wonderful community-driven residents."

Decatur has a year-round calendar of concerts, festivals, special events and community programming, including **Terrific Thursdays, Decatur Arts Festival, Concerts on the Square, Decatur Book Festival, holiday events** and so much more. This year's festival and event season debuted several new offerings.

Music to My Ears Entertainment and DBA presented **Salsa on the Square**, a free pre-Cinco de Mayo, family-friendly event with salsa lessons provided by Mambo Mario Diaz and music by DJ Jeremy Lane. It was a huge success with passers-by and prom-goers spontaneously joining in the fun.

In October, West Ponce businesses opened their patios and parking lots, transforming them into stages for the **West Ponce Music Stroll**, a day full of free, live music. Decatur residents and visitors enjoyed eight venues, eight bands, at eight different times in one day.

All of Decatur was invited to Ebster Gym for a **Superhero Back-to-School Movie Bash**, with a free showing of Black Panther on the big screen. King T'Challa made an appearance (as Black Panther) and other superheroes attended as well, including Thor, Spiderman, and Captain Marvel.

Decatur merchants teamed up for a first-ever **Mother's Day Pop-Up** event on the square. The day began with yoga and chair massages with local businesses on-site to provide samples, special offers and gift ideas.

A pub crawl with an educational twist, **Buildings, Art & Brew** combined contemporary art, architecture and history, served up with a side of beer. At each pub stop a docent revealed the backstory of its building and offered insights into its past. Murals and sculptures along the crawl were also highlighted.

Decatur participated in **Decatur Streets Alive**, a walk and roll event creating a 10-mile cross-town connection to the downtown Atlanta Streets Alive event. The city closed W. Howard Avenue from N. McDonough Street to the city limits near the East Lake MARTA Station for walkers, strollers and rollers.



Business Is Booming in Downtown Decatur

numerous small businesses have opened in downtown Decatur. Have you dropped by Kelly's Market, 308 E. Howard Ave., to welcome them to the city and pick up some fresh flowers? Tucked away inside is the new location for Splash of Olive where you can still taste the delicious oils and vinegars to help you make your selections. At Brave and Kind Bookshop, 722 W. College Ave., pick up something fun for the young ones in your life. Interested in a saltwater spa treatment? What's that, you ask? Drop in and ask the owners of Float, 111 Clairemont Ave. After that saltwater experience, indulge in some homemade cupcakes at Lenox Cupcakes, 114 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., right next to Wild Oats and Billy Goats.

Decatur and the foodie community are buzzing about the exciting news that Terry Koval and George Frangos opened a new restaurant called The Deer and the Dove in the former Cakes and Ale space. Other restaurants are joining our business community too. Sceptre Brewing Arts recently opened in Oakhurst, and a new tenant (to be announced shortly) has begun buildout in the former Thumbs Up space on West Ponce,

More than 70 percent of our retail and restaurant businesses are locally owned. Let's "Keep it Indie-catur" and support those who invest in our community.

The Deer and the Dove

155 Sycamore St.

UPS Store

235 Ponce De Leon Pl.

Savi Provisions

180 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Kelly's Market

308 E. Howard Ave.

Haven Hygge House

533 W. Howard Ave.

Dog Towne Franks

307-B E. College Ave.

Brave + Kind Bookshop

722 W. College Ave.

Wild Crab Seafood Bar

265 Ponce de Leon Pl.

Lenox Cupcakes

114 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Pho King

180 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

FY 2018-2019 Accomplishments

Hired

a marketing / public relations firm to develop a **marketing strategy** to attract business leaders to our **office space**.

Promoted

street level retail leasing and restaurant vacancies with small, locally owned businesses to retain the **lowest vacancy rate** in metro Atlanta.

Completed

the **Hampton Inn and Suites** on Clairemont Avenue and the **Avondale Transit Oriented Development** to increase the revenue base for the city.

Rezoned

the **Avondale MARTA Station** area from C-3, Heavy Commercial, to MU, Mixed Use, Transit Subarea.

Annexed

11 properties on Grove Street and E. Ponce de Leon Avenue for **future commercial use**. Also annexed **77-acre Legacy Park** and adjacent properties.

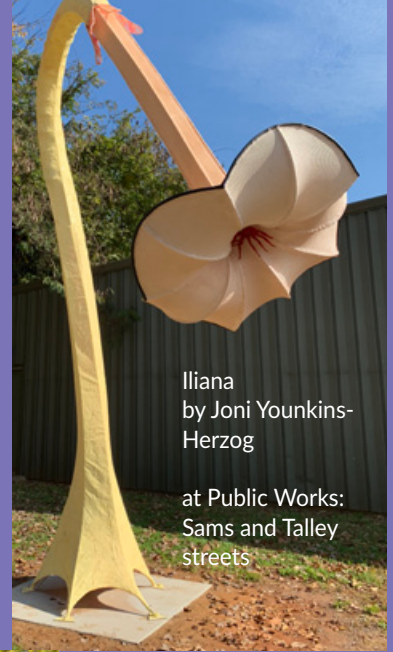
DECATUR BUSINESSES GATHER FOR SEMINAR

More than 30 Decatur business owners gathered with fellow merchants from Avondale Estates to hear Larisa Ortiz of Ortiz Associates from New York. She shared insights on the importance of the right signage, welcoming storefronts, the psychology of shoppers, and more.



Decatur Artway Adds New Sculptures

Six new sculptures for Phase 4 of the Decatur Artway rotating sculpture collection project have been installed around town. Four are in Oakhurst, one is near the Leverett Public Works Building on Talley Street, and one is on the lawn of the High House, at N. Candler and Sycamore streets. The sculptures will be displayed for two years as part of a public arts initiative established by the Decatur Arts Alliance and the City of Decatur. Learn more about each work at decaturartsalliance.org.



Iliana
by Joni Younkins-Herzog

at Public Works:
Sams and Talley
streets



◀ Here
by Willie E. Williams Jr.

at the Old Scottish Rite
Hospital, 321 W. Hill St.



◀ Popsicles
by C. R. Gray

5th Avenue at
Oakview Road

Undulation ▶
by Jordan Fowler

at Fire Station 2
356 W. Hill St.



Stalemate ▶
by Robert Coon

at The Solarium,
321 W. Hill St.



#LookUpDecatur

This citywide installation encourages us to look up from our screens, engage with the world, and find art in unexpected places. Decatur artist Larry Holland (pictured at left) called on his network of like-minded creatives to generate these mini paintings, which are installed high overhead on street poles.



Trees and Greenspace – Looking to the Future

Trees and greenspace are important to quality of life in Decatur. The city's purchase of Decatur Legacy Park (the former United Methodist Children's Home) was a significant decision on the part of the Decatur City Commission and represents a major investment in our future. The addition of 77 acres of land, much of it greenspace, was a big deal for a city that is only 4.4 square miles in size. More than 22 acres of the site have been set aside as a conservation area but much of the remaining 55 acres will remain as open space and support large areas of tree cover.

Decatur Recognized as a 'Tree City USA'

Decatur was one of 20 Georgia cities recognized as a Tree City USA during the state Arbor Day celebration in February. Tree City USA provides the framework for community forestry management in cities and towns nationwide that meet certain requirements, including the establishment of a tree board or department, a community tree ordinance, specific spending levels for urban forestry and planned Arbor Day celebrations.

FY 2018-2019 Accomplishments

Partnered

with Beecatur to conduct the Decatur's first Pollinator Festival, which focused on making the city a welcoming destination for bees, butterflies, and other critters.

Acquired

13 properties between Dearborn Park and Chev-elle Lane to preserve natural open space. (Task 13E)

Approved

the Decatur Legacy Park Master Plan. (Tasks 11A and 11B)

Volunteers plant trees during an Arbor Day work session.



The city hopes to distribute 1,000 trees to residents for planting in time for Decatur's bicentennial in 2023.

COMMISSIONER KELLY WALSH



Decatur is an All-America city because it truly knows how to celebrate. Beyond festivals, parades, and parties, we celebrate diversity and inclusivity, while honoring our nearly 200-year history as a city. It is that rich history of people and experiences that has led us up to this point."

COMMISSIONER BRIAN SMITH



Why is Decatur a wonderful community? Coretta Scott King summed it up beautifully:

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."



City Updates Sidewalk Requirements

In July, the city began requiring that all new structures and substantial improvements provide a sidewalk and landscape buffer. A substantial improvement includes any combination of repairs, reconstruction, alterations or improvements to a building where the cost of the construction exceeds 50 percent of the fair market value of the structure prior to the improvement.

The table below shows the required sidewalk and landscape minimum widths. For streets that are subject to multiple requirements, the wider streetscape applies.

The city can provide an administrative adjustment to one or both of the minimum widths for single family residential, multiple family residential, professional office, or institutional zoning districts under the following conditions:

- 1 When the cost of the sidewalk installation exceeds 25 percent of the total project cost due to project scope as well as site factors, including but not limited to stormwater infrastructure, topography, and existing utilities.
- 2 To provide compatibility with existing conditions on adjacent properties.
- 3 To preserve existing trees and landscape materials in the landscape and sidewalk zone.
- 4 To provide continuity with planned public improvements.

The new sidewalk requirements support Principle D, Task 14 A of the Strategic Plan, which includes the longstanding goal of having at least one sidewalk on every street in Decatur.

Street Type	Zoning District	Landscape Zone (min ft)	Sidewalk Zone (min ft)
Local	Single Family Residential	2	5
Collector/Urban	Multiple Family Residential, Commercial, Professional, Professional Office, Mixed Use, Institutional	6	8
Arterial/Suburban	Downtown Decatur Special Pedestrian Area	6	10

Cycling: on Track

The Commerce Drive Cycle Track began construction in April and will take approximately one year to complete. The completed cycle track will provide a critical link from the N. McDonough Cycle Track to the future Church Street Cycle Track and Streetscape project, currently in the rights of way acquisition phase. This cycle track infrastructure will provide community members, including those who are interested but cautious bicycle riders, with a protected north-south bicycle connection through the city.



COMMISSIONER SCOTT DRAKE

Decatur is an All-America city because of visionary leaders that came before us. That legacy of a strong community vision will carry us forward as we develop our next 10-year strategic plan.

FY 2018-2019 Accomplishments

Continued to maintain and improve streetscapes on E. Howard Avenue and N. McDonough Street.

Partnered with the PATH Foundation to fund and begin construction of the Commerce Drive Cycle Track.

Implemented smart city technology to collect counts of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists in the downtown area.

Implemented Reimagine West Howard improvements.

department highlights



Public Works Takes on Recycling

Effective July 1, 2018, Decatur became its own recycling contractor. The biggest change for residents: recyclable glass must be separated and placed streetside in a dedicated bin. Public Works will provide one if you need it.

After School Ready for Talley Street

Decatur Children and Youth Services will offer after-school care for students of the new Talley Street Upper Elementary School when the 2019-2020 school year begins.

Coffee with a Cop, Cocoa with the Po-Po

Decatur Police had the opportunity to meet residents over hot coffee at Dancing Goats Coffee Bar last year. It was so popular, Decatur PD offered its first "Cocoa with the Po-Po" for middle and high schoolers in January at the Community Bandstand on the square.



Fire Rescue Stops the Bleed

Decatur Fire Rescue is providing a "Stop the Bleed" course on the second Saturday of every month at Fire Station One, 230 E. Trinity Pl. Its goal is to provide basic skills for ending life-threatening blood loss resulting from accidents and natural disasters.

New! Get Your Permits Online

Decatur's Design, Environment and Construction Division implemented E-permitting software for development permits and inspection requests.

Taking Aim with Archery

Decatur Active Living was selected as a recipient of USA Archery's 2018 Explore Archery Grant. City representatives became qualified to teach the Explore Archery program, which includes options for one-day try-archery programs, and multi-week instructional classes and camps.

Website Revamped

A new Decatur website (decaturga.com) has been in the works for several months, and launched in July.

Recruiting the Best

The city has created and posted recruitment videos for the Police and Fire departments and a corporate culture video for the organization. decaturga.com/videos



resident boards & commissions

Members of Decatur's nine resident boards and commissions recently gathered for a group photo. About 80 individuals participate.

Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Assists with expanding and implementing initiatives that help residents age in place, and assists city staff with outreach to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and diverse populations.

MEETINGS: Fourth Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in the City Commission Conference Room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Several committees, chaired by board members, are open to the community, including Transportation, Housing, Taxation and Affordability, Communication, and Decatur Neighbors. For more information contact LeeAnn Harvey, 678-553-6548, leeann.harvey@decaturga.com.

Accomplishments

- Revitalized the Decatur Neighborhood Alliance with quarterly meetings for residents from neighborhoods throughout Decatur. The board is working with the community to change people's definition of a neighborhood. The board has also been working with neighborhoods to encourage them to be inclusive of older neighbors and neighbors who are not digitally connected.
- Began the Age-Friendly City designation process.
- Supported the Affordable Housing Summit by planning, encouraging resident attendance, and actively participating.

Planning Commission

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

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386, Angela.Threadgill@decaturga.com.

Active Living Advisory Board

Serves as advocates and advisors on projects and programs that help citizens safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines. Supports the city's ongoing efforts to improve sidewalks and intersections, calm traffic and expand the network of bike paths and walking trails. It seeks to educate residents about obesity and lifestyle issues and implement programs designed to change behavior and encourage healthier habits.

Contact cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com for more information.

Accomplishments

- The Pedestrian Committee made recommendations to the city about shared mobility devices regulation.
- The Pedestrian Committee began working on plans for refreshing the Walk There! Decatur branding, to encourage people to walk short distances instead of driving.
- The board began researching how Decatur can become a Dementia Friendly City.
- Took steps to create a strategy to eliminate traffic-related fatalities.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

MEETINGS: Second Monday each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Staffed by Mark Ethun, mark.ethun@decaturga.com, and John Maximuk, 678-553-6570, john.maximuk@decaturga.com

Better Together Advisory Board

Guides and advises the City Commission and the community around issues of equity, inclusion and engagement. The board also 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, and to cultivate a just, welcoming, inclusive, equitable and compassionate city.

The Better Together Advisory Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 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.

Accomplishments

- Launched the Community Resources Calendar Initiative, with Little Shop of Stories, recommending books for children, young adults and adults on topics related to diversity and inclusion, published in the Focus.
- Participated in the Housing Summit. Board member Paula Collins served on the planning/steering committee.
- Staff liaisons held a lunch meeting for the Racial Equity Workshop participants and anyone else who was interested in coming together for a conversation about equity, inclusion and engagement. The group decided to meet on a regular basis and continue the dialogue.

Development Authorities

The Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the citywide Decatur Development Authority plan, organize, and finance projects that revitalize and redevelop Decatur's commercial business districts. The Downtown Development Authority focuses on the historic commercial downtown central business district and works to market a positive image for the city.

MEETINGS: Second Friday each month at 8 a.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Staffed by Lyn Menne, 404-371-8386, Lyn.Menne@decaturga.com.

Historic Preservation Commission

Ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five Local Historic Districts (McDonough-Adams-King's Highway District, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and the Clairemont Historic District) are consistent with the neighborhood character.

MEETINGS: Third Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St. (There are no meetings in January or July.)

Staffed by Aileen de la Torre, planner, 404-371-8386, aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com.

continued ►

resident boards & commissions



Decatur Youth Council

The Decatur Youth Council (DYC) is a city-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the city of Decatur and attend public, private, and home-based schools.

DYC meets on the first Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St. For further information on DYC, contact LeeAnn Harvey, 678-553-6548, leeann.harvey@decaturga.com.

Accomplishments

- Planted an orchard at Legacy Park on the former United Methodist Children's Home property in honor of the original residents of the Children's Home.
- Organized a volunteer event where approximately 30 volunteers, including DYC members, high school students, city employees, and others planted 19 pear trees, 14 apple trees, and 25 blackberry bushes. Members held a second volunteer day of maintenance and mulching to prepare the plants for the summer.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

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

The Board meets at 8 a.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St. Participation is open to anyone. For more information contact Courtney Frisch, courtney.frisch@decaturga.com, 678-553-6577.

Accomplishments

- Organized a demonstration of invasive species removal by Deep Forest Field School at Legacy Park.
- Hosted an Earth Month celebration with Park RX Day in collaboration with Active Living, Decatur First United Methodist Church, Southface, and others.
- Provided input on the Tree Ordinance revisions and Stormwater Master Plan.

best

City Recognized for Commitment to Sustainability

The city of Decatur has been recertified as a Green Community at the Platinum Level through the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities certification program. Measures that earned Decatur certification points include:

- **Saving energy in city buildings** by programming occupancy sensors and computers to enter sleep mode when idle. The Public Works building also has sun tubes installed on the roof, reflecting sunlight into top-floor rooms as an alternative to using artificial light.
- **Incentivizing homeowners** to install solar photovoltaic panels via the Solarize Decatur-DeKalb program. As a result, residential solar capacity in DeKalb County increased nearly 600 percent, with half of all residential installations located within the city of Decatur.
- **Being certified as a Bicycle Friendly Community** at the bronze level. This national designation considers a community's bicycle network mileage, community bicycle advocacy groups, city laws and ordinances, and more.
- **Installing two public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.** Also, six private and commercial entities have provided EV charging stations to advance Decatur's mission of being electric-vehicle ready.
- **Topping Fire Station No. 1 with a green roof.** This lowers energy costs, keeps the building cool, and filters and retains storm water.

U.S. News Ranks Agnes Scott College No. 1

Agnes Scott College is ranked No. 1 in the country among liberal arts colleges on the Most Innovative Schools list in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 edition of Best Colleges. The leadership at Agnes Scott attributes this recognition to SUMMIT, an innovative program that reinvents a liberal arts education for the 21st century by preparing every student to be an effective change agent in a global society.

The Most Innovative Schools ranking identifies "schools that the public should be watching because of the cutting-edge changes being made on their campuses." It is based on a peer assessment survey in which college presidents, provosts and admissions deans nominate schools "that are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities."



DECATUR NAMED AMONG BEST SUBURBS FOR FOOD LOVERS

Thrillist, a website covering food, drink, travel and entertainment, has named Decatur as one of the best suburbs in the country for food lovers. The site praises restaurants like **Kimball House**, **Chai Pani**, **No. 246**, **Revival**, **The Pinewood**, **The Iberian Pig**, **Leon's Full Service**, **Brick Store Pub**, **Farm Burger**, **Raging Burrito**, and **Victory Sandwich Bar** for various food offerings. Thrillist points out that these establishments are easily accessible by MARTA.

accolades

Join us in congratulating and celebrating all of the Decatur businesses and individuals recognized by *Creative Loafing*, *Atlanta Magazine* and *Eater Atlanta* as the "Best of Atlanta."

Atlanta Magazine:

Best of Atlanta 2018

New Farm-to-Table: White Bull
Fresh on the Scene: Son of a Bear
Race for Beer: Three Taverns 5K
Spoken Word Venue: Java Monkey
Cafe

Atlanta Magazine:

50 Best Restaurants

12. Kimball House
24. Taqueria Del Sol
26. Chai Pani
30. No. 246

Atlanta Magazine:

75 Best Restaurants – Spring

9. Kimball House
17. D92 Korean BBQ
19. The White Bull
37. No. 246
48. Chai Pani
50. Taqueria del Sol

Atlanta Magazine: 50 Best Bars

1. Kimball House
4. Brick Store Pub
14. Leon's Full Service
16. S.O.S Tiki Bar
19. Victory Sandwich Bar
37. Pinewood Tippling Room
43. Mac McGee

Eater.com: All the 2019 Atlanta Restaurant Openings to Know

Folk Art Restaurant
The Deer and the Dove and B-Side, its coffee and wine bar



Brick Store Pub

Creative Loafing Best of Atlanta 2018

Best Beer Festival, Readers' pick:

Decatur Craft Beer Festival

Best Book Event, Readers' and Critics' pick, Best Literary Event, Readers' & Critics' pick:

Decatur Book Festival

Best Book Store, Readers' pick:

Little Shop of Stories

Best Muralist, Critics' pick:

Sanithna Phansavanh
(Decatur resident)

Best Donuts, Critics' pick:

Revolution

Best Indian, Readers' pick:

Chai Pani

Best New Restaurant, Readers' pick:

White Bull

Best Oysters, Readers' pick, Best Service Restaurant, Readers' pick:

Kimball House

Best Sandwich, Readers' pick:

Victory Sandwich

Best Cheap Eats, Readers' pick:

Fellini's Pizza

Best Coffee House/Coffee Shop, Critics' pick:

Ebrik

Best French Fries, Readers' pick:

Leon's Full Service

Best Ice Cream, Readers' pick:

Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream

Best Spanish/Tapas: Iberian Pig

Best Veggie Burger, Readers' pick:

Grindhouse Killer Burgers

Best Acoustic Music Club/Venue, Readers' and Critics' pick, Best Place to Hear Music, Readers' pick:

Eddie's Attic

Best Jewelry Store, Readers' and Critics' pick:

Worthmore Jewelers

Best Antique Store:

Kudzu

(Owned by Decatur residents)

Best Tiki Bar, Readers' pick:

S.O.S Tiki Bar

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