

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

ACCORDING TO PLAN



Five principles outlined in Decatur's 2010 Strategic Plan guide decision-making at every level of city government



Brian Smith
DISTRICT 2

Scott Drake
DISTRICT 1

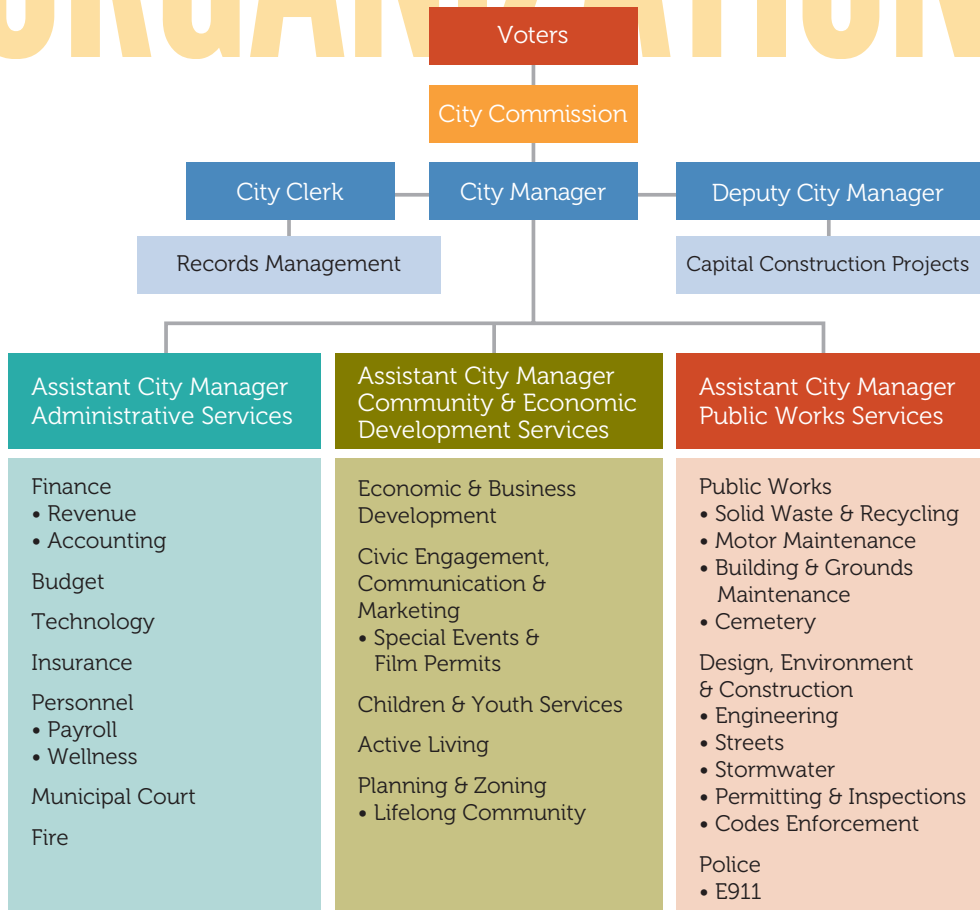
Kelly Walsh
DISTRICT 1

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

Mayor Patti Garrett
DISTRICT 2

DECATUR'S CITY COMMISSION

ORGANIZATION



MAYOR PATTI GARRETT

Our 2010 Strategic Plan has been the anchor and foundation for how the city has made decisions, budgeted, and set goals.

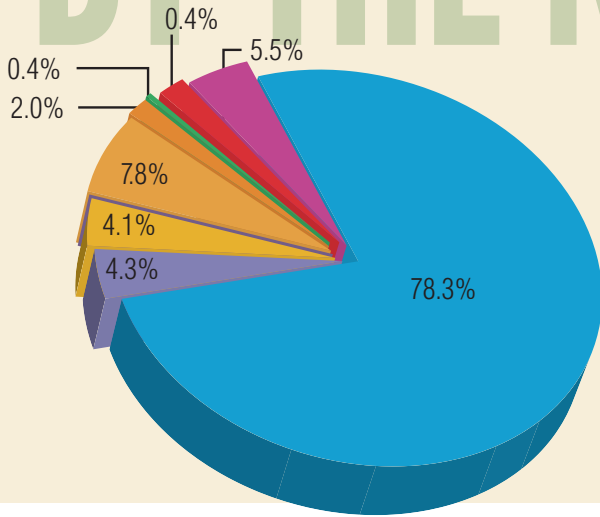
Decatur's Strategic Plans give us guidance, provide collective wisdom, and offer an abundance of perspectives and layers of expertise that, individually, we could never achieve. As I think about our upcoming 2020 Strategic Plan, my hope is that as a community we look toward the future, build on the past, and embrace a vision that the city continues to be a vibrant, alive, welcoming community that offers something for everyone."

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). Each January, Commissioners elect two of their fellow members to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

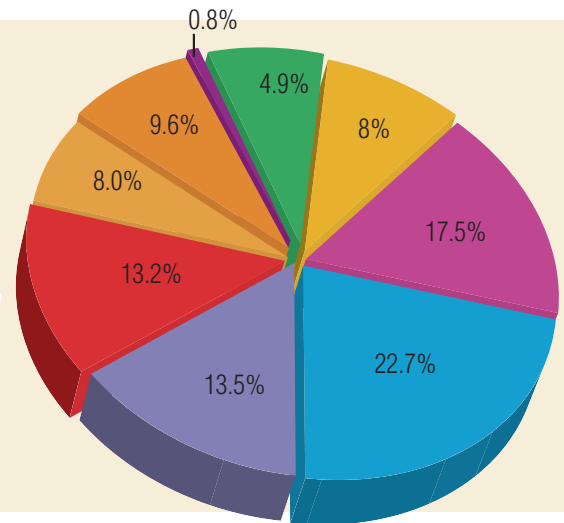
Commissioner Kelly Walsh was elected to the City Commission in November and sworn-in in January. The City Commission elected Commissioner Tony Powers to serve as Mayor pro tem. Powers was elected to the City Commission in 2015.

BY THE NUMBERS



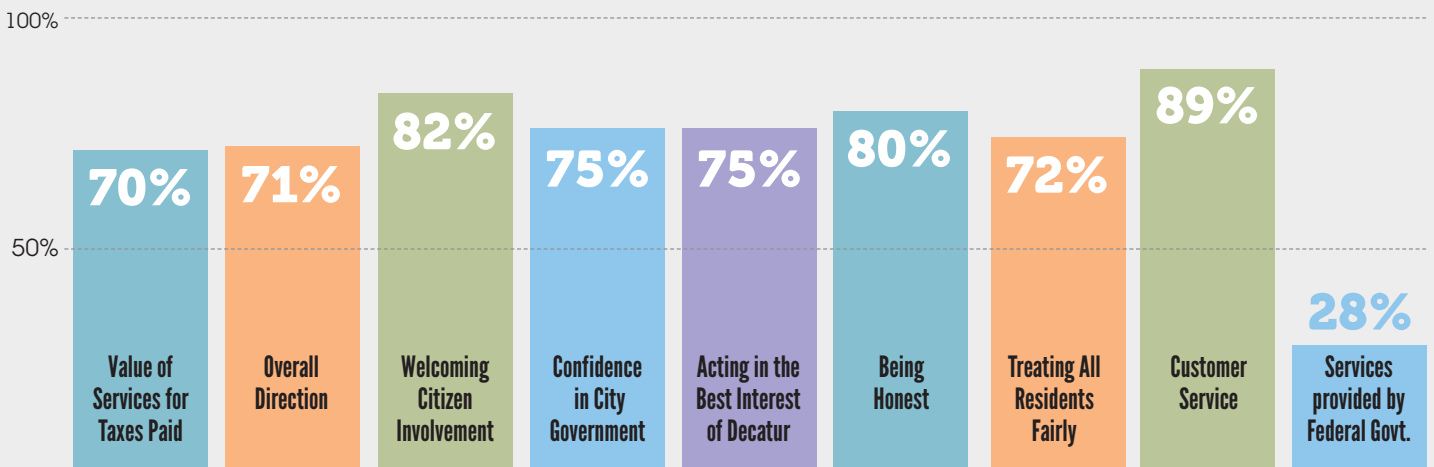
SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Taxes	20,950,000	78.3%
Licenses, Permits & Inspections	1,153,550	4.3%
Penalties, Fines & Forfeitures	1,106,000	4.1%
Interest	2,000	0.0%
Charges for Current Services	2,089,460	7.8%
Intergovernmental Revenues	530,780	2.0%
Miscellaneous Revenue	116,000	0.4%
Operating Transfers	(687,550)	(2.6%)
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	1,481,030	5.5%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$26,751,270	100.0%

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
Police	6,068,990	22.7%
Administrative Services	4,675,070	17.5%
Fire	3,607,330	13.5%
Public Works	3,529,160	13.2%
Community & Economic Development	2,648,490	9.9%
Active Living	2,561,890	9.6%
General Government	1,301,340	4.9%
Design, Environment & Construction	2,147,520	8.0%
Governmental Control	211,480	0.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26,751,270	100%



National Citizen Survey 2018*

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



*Survey results throughout this annual report are from the 2018 National Citizen Survey. The survey is conducted every two years by the National Research Center, Inc., Boulder, Colo., on behalf of the International City/County Management Association

KEEPING IT REAL

PRINCIPLE A: Manage growth while retaining character.

The 2010 strategic plans calls for Decatur to accommodate and manage commercial and residential growth while retaining the city's unique sense of place within a growing urban environment.

77 Acres of Opportunities for Preservation and Development

The acquisition of the former United Methodist Children's Home property on Columbia Drive provided the city with an opportunity to incorporate 77 acres and 22 historic buildings into the community. The city is currently working to develop a community-driven vision for this property that incorporates a wide range of interests – from affordable housing, to greenspace, to creative spaces, to recreational and sports facilities.

During the kick-off workshop in February, more than 400 community members came together to celebrate the purchase and imagine the possibilities for its future. In April, three different master plan concepts were unveiled that took into consideration and found balance among all of the public input to date, including all the ideas from more than 40 Civic Dinners. A final draft concept will be presented in the fall.



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

Staff Liaison: Angela Threadgill

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
Staff Liaisons: John Maximuk and Mark Ethun

Historic Preservation Commission

Ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five local historic districts (McDonough-Adams-Kings Highway, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and Clairemont) are consistent with the character of each neighborhood.

Alan Clark (Chair)
Trent Myers (Vice Chair)
Debbie Fritz
Nick Misner
Lisa Turner
Jessica VanLanduyt
Staff Liaison: Angela Threadgill

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

Staff Liaison: Lyn Menne

... AND KEEPING IT ARTSY

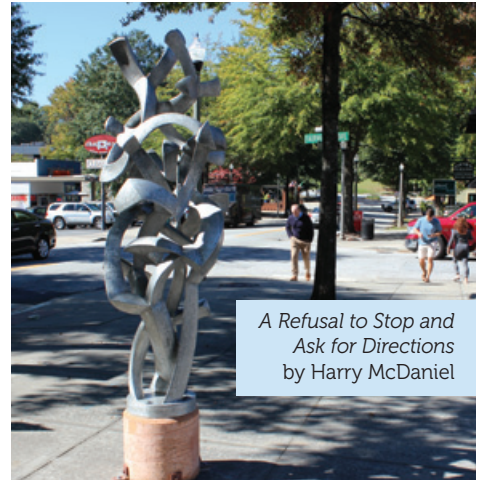
ARTWAY PHASE 3 ALL AROUND DOWNTOWN



Majestic Killer
by Beau Martin



Helping Hands
by Derrick Spivey



A Refusal to Stop and Ask for Directions
by Harry McDaniel



Plenum Orb
by Donald Gialanella



Sisters
by Charlie Newton

Five sculptures selected for Phase 3 of the Decatur Artway Sculpture Gallery have been installed around downtown. 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 at decaturartsalliance.org.

National Citizen Survey 2018

Quality of Economic Development
(rated excellent/good)

74%

Overall Quality of business and service establishments
(rated excellent/good)

87%

Would recommend living here to someone who asks
(reported very likely)

96%

About three-quarters of survey respondents favored permitting construction of two or more single-family cottages on existing residential lots as an alternative to one single-family home per lot.

Decatur residents were asked about affordable housing in Decatur, regarding housing structure type, number of bedrooms and number of bathrooms. Respondents were pretty evenly divided: about one-third each favored apartments or condos, townhomes, or single-family homes. Regarding number of bedrooms needed in affordable dwellings, about half felt that three bedrooms were needed, and about 40 percent felt that two bedrooms were needed. About 80 percent of respondents felt that affordable dwellings needed two bathrooms.



Commissioner Brian Smith: When I see how Decatur has transformed itself over the years, it reminds me of James Cash (J.C.) Penney, who said "growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."

WELCOME, Y'ALL!

PRINCIPLE B: Encourage a diverse and engaged community.

Decatur is committed to ensuring that people of all races, religions, nationalities, genders, sexual preferences, and incomes are welcome here and are encouraged to participate in the community.

Decatur Wins Award for Excellence In Community Engagement

At the 103rd annual ICMA conference in San Antonio, Texas, National Research Center announced Decatur as the winner of the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Community Engagement. This award is given to top-performing jurisdictions that best listen and act for the benefit of their communities. Based on responses from the National Citizen Survey, residents in the Decatur community reported the highest ratings for this category compared with all other participating jurisdictions.



Commissioner Kelly Walsh: "The city really showed its true colors when hundreds of residents showed up to give their input on the vision for the **development of the former United Methodist Children's Home**. Young and old, active, creative, and definitely enthusiastic neighbors came to share their views, hold civic conversation dinners, and exercise their right to engage in constructive dialogue about future utilization of this tremendous community asset."



Better Together Advisory Board

Guides and advises the Commission and the community around issues of equity, inclusion and engagement to ensure that Decatur is a welcoming, inclusive, equitable and compassionate city.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Shadi Abdalla | Ed Lee |
| Jon Abercrombie | David T. Lewicki |
| Christy Amador (Co-chair) | Lauren Sudeall Lucas |
| Haqiaq Bolling | Cindy Popp |
| Erin Braden | Jamilah Rashid |
| Syreeta Campbell | Sara Shay Sullivan (Co-chair) |
| Latesha Chaney | Staff Liaisons: Renae Madison and Linda Harris |
| Paula Collins | |
| Yvonne Drueh Dodd | |

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.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mai Allison | Harriet Mycroft | Alix Wagner (Chair) |
| Nina Bryan | Qiu-ee Neiditz | Sydney Wagner |
| Julia Conley | Sulaiman Rashid | Clara Wheelock |
| Julian Daniel | Fartun Sheikh | Alden Wright |
| Michael Johns | Lauren Smith | Arda Yigitkanli |
| Ellie Munson | Tocups Bailey | Ruiqi Zhang |
| Staff Liaison: Lee Ann Harvey | | |



Decatur co-sponsored a kick-off reception for Welcoming Week with local nonprofit Welcoming America at the Community Bandstand. The party was a part of the "I Am Decatur" photography exhibit around the bandstand in September.

National Citizen Survey 2018

An overwhelming majority of survey respondents gave high marks to the overall sense of community in Decatur, and this rating was higher than ratings in comparison communities. Many other aspects of community engagement received ratings higher than the national benchmark, including social events and activities, neighborliness, openness, and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds, opportunities to participate in community matters, and opportunities to volunteer.

About nine in 10 residents were likely to recommend living in Decatur and planned to remain in Decatur for the next five years. The proportion of residents that would recommend living in Decatur was higher than in comparison communities.

More Decatur residents reported that they had stocked up on supplies for an emergency, attended a city-sponsored event, campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate, and attended a local public meeting than residents in other jurisdictions across the nation.

Sense of Community
(rated excellent/good)

86%

Number of MLK Service Day Volunteers in 2018

930

Dollar value of 2018 MLK Service Day volunteer hours

\$184,731



To help eliminate racial-profiling-related 911 calls, Decatur Police created this brochure, which encourages residents to consider an individual's behavior, actions, and circumstances before calling police.



FOR THE FUTURE

PRINCIPLE C: Serve as good stewards of the environment and community resources.

Sustainability is a big deal in Decatur. The city requires new construction to adhere to its High-Performance Building Standards. All city facilities are LEED certified. Our pay-as-you-throw refuse collection policy is a model for other cities, and so are our curbside recycling and semi-annual electronics recycling efforts.

Decatur's First Pollinator Garden

City arborist Kay Evanovich worked with volunteers from Beecatur, the Agnes Scott College Honey Bee Society, and the surrounding neighborhood to create the city's first pollinator garden, at a reclaimed FEMA floodplain property at 115 Willow Lane. The garden features 75 new native plants preferred by bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.



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)
Juliette Apicella
Lindsay Averett
Mary Jane Leach
Meisa Salcitta
Susan Montgomery
Sam Pugh
Steve Blackburn
Staff Liaison: Courtney Frisch

Decatur and Housing Authority Earn Partner of the Year Award

In October, Southface Energy Institute and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association honored the Decatur Housing Authority (DHA) and the City of Decatur with the 2017 Partner of the Year award at the annual EarthCraft Celebration of Excellence event. The award was given in recognition of DHA's and the city's commitment to a world that is well built for well-being and for continued support of the EarthCraft program.





The new Hampton Inn and Suites, under construction on Clairemont Avenue.

Diversifying Revenue Sources

The special local option sales tax (SPLOST), approved by DeKalb County voters in November 2017, will improve Decatur's ability to service bond debt and provide funding to construct new large-scale capital projects. SPLOST funds will be the primary monetary source for the redesign and construction of an improved Atlanta Avenue, West College and West Howard Avenue intersection.

An increased hotel/motel tax rate will also go into effect during the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This increase will generate additional tax revenue from existing hotels as well as from the new Hampton Inn and Suites under construction (pictured at left) on Clairemont Avenue, which is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2019. This increased revenue will help fund the Decatur Tourism Bureau, provide funding for the maintenance of the Decatur Conference Center, and generate additional revenue for the general fund.



Commissioner Scott Drake: "The city continues to identify greenspaces and preserve them as opportunities arise."

By the Numbers

Tons of paper shredded during Electronics Recycling Events

34.3

New homes constructed using high performance building standards

93

A DECATUR FAMILY GOES SOLAR

The Frost-Boyce family was committed to creating an energy efficient, solar-powered home when they renovated their 1920s Oakhurst home in 2008. As a professional in the energy sector, KC Boyce knew the environmental advantages and the significant cost savings that solar provides. He and his wife completed an EarthCraft certified renovation, but at the time, solar wasn't in the budget.

Fast forward to 2016, when Solarize Decatur DeKalb emerged as a bulk pricing option (see next page), lowering residential solar costs enough for the Frost-Boyce family and 53 other Decatur families to make the move to solar. The combination of a 30 percent federal tax credit and Solarize Decatur-DeKalb's 25 percent savings sealed their commitment. On New Year's Eve 2016, the Frost-Boyces flipped the switch on their system.

When asked what he would recommend to other homeowners considering solar, KC had a couple of suggestions:

Find a qualified installer. The authorized installer for Solarize Decatur DeKalb's residential participants was Creative Solar USA, but Boyce also advises asking neighbors about their experiences, and checking out Georgia Solar Energy Association's list.

Calculate your home's current energy needs before building your system. A home audit or your solar installer can help calculate how much electricity your HVAC, water heater and major appliances use. Do include electric vehicles in the calculation. This will help determine how much solar you need - and how much it will cost. For example, the Frost-Boyce HVAC consumes 4 kW when running, so their 5.6 kW system just covers that load at peak production.

The Frost-Boyce system includes a smartphone app that tracks the system's usage and production on an hour-by-hour basis. This provides data to help fine-tune usage patterns even more, and they plan to add smart thermostats to the mix. These technologies make the system more cost effective.

Though the solar industry is facing challenges with the imposition of a 20 percent tariff on imported solar panels and the solar tax credit expiring in 2020, there are some positive changes happening as well. KC said that the solar industry has planned for these changes so that the cost increase for solar due to the tariffs should only be 1-2 percent. For the homeowner, this is largely offset by a continued 6 percent average annual rate of return from cost savings. And with new technology emerging, renewable energy efficiencies will continue to improve. All of this is to say it is a great time to make a solar investment for your home, and with Georgia in the top 10 of states in the renewables sector, you will definitely be supporting our economy.

For more information, see the Georgia Solar Energy Association's website: gsa.org

SOLAR PANELS are up here!

A monitoring app allows the homeowner to check the performance of their solar system at all times.



High-Performance Building Standards on Display at Agnes Scott

A new geothermal cooling and heating system at Rebekah Hall is helping Agnes Scott College adhere to Decatur's High-Performance Building Standards. It comprises 42 wells, each 500 feet deep, that assist in cooling hot air in the summer and warming cool air in the winter. The college expects to reduce electricity consumption by more than 200,000kWh, and natural gas use by 6,000 therms. And the system will also help to conserve 140,000 gallons of water each year.

Did you see this?

Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board worked with the Public Works to create another edition of its Sustainability Report in 2018, featuring several articles about residential solar power. Find it online at decaturga.com/about/sustainability.

ACTIVE & HEALTHY

PRINCIPLE D: Support a safe, healthy, lifelong community.

Healthy residents go hand-in-hand with a city that's pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. Decatur's Active Living Division is busy throughout the community, encouraging students to walk or ride to school, creating opportunities for seniors to participate in physical activities, and providing year-round engagement.

The Active Living Advisory Board directs hands-on work (like trimming shrubs along sidewalks) that enhances Decatur's walkability,



Walkability = Sustainability

The Active Living Board's Pedestrian committee has been leading walks for the community, highlighting Walk & Roll Stars, volunteering at community events (like Touch-A-Truck, below) and participating in the Community Transportation Plan and the former Children's Home meetings.



Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Assists in expanding and implementing initiatives for helping residents to age in place, and assists 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

Staff Liaison: Lee Ann Harvey

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

Staff Liaison: Cheryl Burnette



Mayor Pro Tem

Tony Powers: "We are committed to offering active living opportunities for all ages, encouraging a variety of housing options, and maintaining safe spaces so that all feel welcome, included and safe throughout their lifetime here in Decatur."

Active and Engaged Seniors Summer

Workshops for adults and seniors in Decatur include Gardening 101, flash writing and mystery field trips to the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Fernbank Museum. Popular adult and senior programs include yoga, flamenco dancing and lunch time board games. Celebration of National Senior Health and Fitness Day, a collaboration between the city and DeKalb County Library, took place in May with more than 100 seniors in attendance.

A Safe Space for Youth

More than 200 registered youth and teens participate in programming at Ebster Recreation Center. Free classes include science for fun, fashion and sewing, healthy cooking classes, arts and crafts and teen mentorship groups. These classes are offered in partnership with the Decatur Housing Authority to provide programs to low-income families in Decatur.



Mayor Patti Garrett at the grand opening of the city's indoor Oakhurst pool, which provides year-round aquatic opportunities.

More Principle D Achievements

- Adult fitness equipment installed at Scott Park.
- Safe Routes to School. Participation in the program increased by 3 percent overall in the current year and is up 77 percent at some schools.
- New bike racks installed on Ponce de Leon Avenue, Trinity Place, and East Howard Avenue.
- Pedestrian hybrid flashing beacons installed on Clairemont Avenue near the Decatur YCMA and on South Candler Street at East Davis Street to designate safer pedestrian crossings.



Decatur Active Living's Picnic in a Park for Seniors attracted a lot of happy and active people to McKoy Park in May.

National Citizen Survey 2018

Ease of walking
(rated excellent/good)

88%

Quality of recreation programs and classes
(rated excellent/good)

89%

Residents identified safety as one of the most important focus areas for the community and the survey results showed that the city is meeting resident expectations. Nearly all Decatur residents felt safe in their neighborhoods and 4 in 5 had a positive overall feeling of safety in the city. Safety-related services also received high marks from a majority of residents.

6 outdoor tornado warning sirens in Decatur

Glennwood Elementary
Westchester Elementary
Oakhurst Elementary
Winnona Park Elementary
Children's Home
Decatur Police Station

23

fire department community education programs

including File of Life, Car Seat Safety and Community CPR

A TEAM OF CHAMPS

PRINCIPLE E: Provide the Necessary Support within City Government to Achieve the Vision and Goals of the Community

A happy, well-trained, and empowered staff is a good staff. Decatur strives to ensure its crew is the best.

Hiring and retaining the best staff possible.

Employees are the most important asset for achieving an organization's goals. The city is working with film producers to create recruitment videos for departments and to produce video clips to give visitors the feel of Decatur and entice them to come visit. The Decatur Fire Department hired part-time employees to fill in on shifts to maintain minimum staffing requirements while fulltime staff are on leave. This has significantly decreased overtime costs. A high point of the mayor's State of the City Address each January is recognition of city staff members who have reached employment milestones (below).



Fire Chief Washington Honored



Decatur Fire and Rescue Chief Toni Washington has been honored as one of Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League. She was recognized at the League's Women of Vision breakfast.



City Manager Peggy Merriss:

"City staff is committed to implementing the strategic plan in our everyday work, both in achieving the tasks that are required on a continuous basis to provide the best possible service at the least possible cost, and to make sure we support the vision of the community by supporting and improving the city through building and sustaining a healthy, active and engaged organization."

NEW IN BLUE

Say Hello to Decatur PD's newest recruits



Chase Watson



Elisha Blue



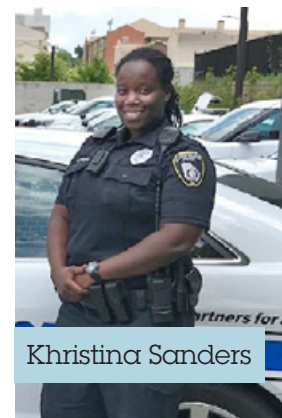
Johnnie Moore



William Vaughn



Michael Karafotias, Joshua Suddith



Khristina Sanders



David Stage

National Citizen Survey 2018

Overall customer service provided by Decatur employees (rated as excellent/good)

91%

Overall impression of interaction with city staff

(rated as excellent/good)

89%

Employee job satisfaction* (rated positively)

84%

City of Decatur is a good employer* (rated positively)

93%

* 2017 National Employee Survey result



Sara Holmes, adult program supervisor at Decatur Active Living, has become a certified park and recreation professional (CPRP). The certification is granted by the National Certification Board and the National Recreation and Park Association to individuals employed in recreation, park services and leisure services professions.

More Principle E Achievements

- Expanded the employee wellness program to include activities to combat obesity and diabetes.
- Purchased a training simulator for Police department.
- Implemented recommendations from cyber security risk assessment.
- Continued staff involvement on interdepartmental teams and committees including the Technology Committee, Performance Management Committee, Complete Streets Team, Wellness Committee and Story Team.

MORE CHAMPS

Decatur city staff contribute immeasurably in making Decatur a great place to live, work, and play.



Decatur Public Works staff teamed up with Winnona Park Elementary students to paint speed humps and crosswalks around the school (using the school colors of purple and gold).



Did you know Decatur Police and Decatur Fire Rescue both have very active Facebook pages? Each department's page is used to keep residents up-to-date on new hires and promotions, to provide important public safety information, and sometimes to give away swag. A recent PD contest provided several bluetooth telephone headsets to highlight the recently enacted "distracted driving" law. And Facebook is how to find out when you can share "coffee with a cop" at Dancing Goats (above), or when school resource officer Dorsey (below) will be reading to a kindergarten class.



Firefighters Crush Push-Up Challenge

Decatur Fire & Rescue wanted to show appreciation for reaching 1,043 likes on their Facebook page with a 1,000 push-up contest. Fire personnel each did 50 sets of 20 push-ups. From left to right, firefighter Justin Tubbs, FAO Javen Dortch, Lieutenant Justin Sardine, Captain Gary Menard, FAO Adam Bostic, Chief Ninetta Violante, and firefighter Kelvonte Byrd.



The Touch-a-Budget expo on the MARTA plaza every March is a great way to meet some of the enthusiastic folks who work for Decatur.



Decatur's E5 Leadership Academy is a nine-month internal leadership development experience developed by employees for employees. Its goal is to reduce barriers between departments and develop employees who are empowered to lead change and think outside the box. Members of the 2017-18 E5 Leadership Academy class are pictured here in blue shirts with City Manager Peggy Merriss (center), Linda Harris (left) and Mark Ethun (right). Members of the E5 planning team are pictured in the gray shirts.

ACCOLADES

We love it
when a plan
comes together

Decatur Is Recognized as a **Live, Work, Play City**

In January, Decatur received a 2018 Live, Work, Play City Award presented by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), in conjunction with Georgia Trend magazine, during GMA's annual Mayors' Day conference in Atlanta. Though each city provides different services, contest judges praised the winning cities for their success in advancing job creation, housing offerings, and recreational amenities.

Judges for the 2018 Live, Work, Play Cities Award represented Georgia Power's office of Community and Economic Impact, the Department of Community Affairs and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. In addition to being recognized during GMA's Mayors' Day, winning cities will be highlighted in the association's monthly newspaper, Georgia's Cities.



Atlanta Magazine 50 Best Restaurants

3. Cakes & Ale
16. Kimball House
20. No. 246
24. Revival
35. Taqueria del Sol
36. Chai Pani

Atlanta Magazine 50 Best Bars

2. Kimball House
3. Brick Store Pub
9. Leon's Full Service
11. S.O.S Tiki Bar
19. Mac McGee
35. Pinewood Tippling Room

Eater.com/Atlanta 38 Essential Restaurants, Fall 2017

23. Cakes & Ale
25. Chai Pani
26. Brush Sushi Izakaya
27. Revival
28. Kimball House

Decatur Earns Esteemed Designation as Top Literary Destination

Travel website Expedia.com released its "20 Must-See Literary Destinations around the World" feature in March, and Decatur made the cut. An Expedia poll found books inspire vacations for 78 percent of Americans so Expedia selected destinations around the globe and rated them on four criteria: quality of bookstores, literary history of the city, literary events and educational opportunities in the literature field. Visit viewfinder.expedia.com/features/20-must-see-literary-destinations-around-world/ for more information.

Decatur Earns 2018 All-America City Award

At press time, City of Decatur had just been named by the National Civic League as one of only 10 All-America Cities for 2018. The award recognizes and celebrates communities that engage residents in innovative, inclusive and effective efforts to tackle critical challenges. All-America Award recipients serve as models in practicing inclusive civic engagement and creating community connections. See the *Focus* to learn more.

And more!

- According to real estate website niche.com, Decatur is number one on the list of Georgia's best suburbs
- Decatur is in the top 1 percent of "Cities with the Least Overleveraged Mortgage Debtors" according to wallethub.com.
- The Thrillist website has identified Decatur as one of "The Country's Best Suburbs for People Who Love Food."