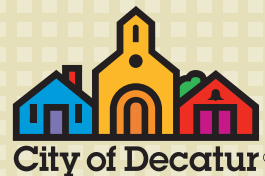


City of Decatur FOCUS

PLAYBOOK
INSIDE



January-February 2019
Volume 29 • Number 6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

City Commission Names New City Manager

The Decatur City Commission has selected Andrea Arnold, the city's current assistant city manager, as our next city manager. The commission received more than 100 applications for the city manager position and interviewed candidates in November. Ms. Arnold is a resident of the city and has served as its 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 has oversight responsibilities for Municipal Court and the Fire Department. She is a critical leader in technology, innovation, and in ensuring that the city's residents and businesses receive excellent customer service.

Ms. Arnold has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/Urban Studies from Furman University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Georgia. She is a credentialed manager with the International City and County Management Association and is active in numerous professional associations. She has also served on the Decatur Education Foundation Board. She is a graduate of Leadership DeKalb and a 2018 graduate of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute.



Longtime City Manager Peggy Merriss retired at the end of December, and the city said "farewell" in grand style. See page 10.

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Fire-Damaged Businesses Reopen and New Business Come to Decatur

After a fire destroyed Java Monkey in early November, several of the businesses impacted have reopened. Tres Jolie was cleared to open in early December and will offer limited merchandise until the spring season clothing begins to arrive. Noodle and Fresh to Order are finalizing their repairs and should be cleared to reopen in early January. Java Monkey, the source of the fire, was extensively damaged but is moving forward to rebuild and reopen. The fire was determined to be arson and an arrest warrant was issued for a former employee. We look forward to seeing these local businesses open and flourishing again very soon.

Make plans to start your New Year by visiting these new local retail and restaurant operations and welcoming them to Decatur:

Dog Towne Franks • 307-B College Ave. (next to Piece of Cake)
European style hotdogs, fries and tots and a variety of pierogis. Small dine-in area or get yours to go.

Brave + Kind Bookshop • 722 W. College Ave.
We love our books in Decatur. Check out this new children's book shop in the Oakhurst village area.

Sceptre Brewing Arts • 630 East Lake Dr.
The folks behind Argosy in East Atlanta bought the former Oak Brew Pub with plans to open a new brew pub early this year.

Leases are currently being finalized for the Cakes & Ale space on the square, and the Thumbs Up and Taziki's spaces on West Ponce de Leon Avenue.



Workers clear Java Monkey of debris so that rebuilding can begin.

Information for the FOCUS should be submitted by mail to Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031, or by email to decaturfocus@decaturga.com.

City of Decatur Focus

The Decatur Focus is a joint publication of the City of Decatur, the Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the Decatur Business Association. It is a newsletter intended to provide announcements and information related to events, activities, and businesses in the city of Decatur. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners and the school system. Letters to the editor, editorials or other opinion pieces are not published. All press releases, announcements and other information received for publication are subject to editing. Information found in the Focus is also posted on Decatur's official website at decaturga.com. The deadline for submitting articles, announcements or advertising is the first day of the month preceding publication. Contact: Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031, 404-371-8386; fax 404-371-1593; email: decaturfocus@decaturga.com.



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Scott Drake.....	Commissioner
Patti Garrett.....	Commissioner
Tony Powers.....	Commissioner
Brian Smith.....	Commissioner
Kelly Walsh.....	Commissioner

The new city commission elected a mayor and mayor pro tem in early January, but that information was not available at press time.



DECATUR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board

Chris Sciarrone, Chair
Linda Curry • John Drake
Bill Floyd • Scott Kentner
Tony Leung • Fisher Paty



DECATUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Susan Sparks.....	President
Daryl Funn.....	President-Elect
Jill Joplin.....	Treasurer
Emily Holden.....	Secretary
Kyle Williams.....	Past President

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Decatur Salutes Hometown Heroes

Decatur honored 15 Hometown Heroes in 2018 for contributions made to the city: Mike Barcik, Emily Berg, Beth Byrnes, Anne Clarke, Joyce Cohrs, Kristin Ebersold, Quonisha Jackson, Linda Lael, Tim Martin, Ellyn Mathys, Amina Mohamad, Beate Sass, Sara Shay Sullivan, Christy Amador, and Anna Summerlin.

The city began its Hometown Heroes program in 1996 at the close of the Hometown to the World Festival held during the Olympics. The 14-day festival was a success because of the hundreds of volunteers who helped. At the close of the festival, the City Commission honored the volunteers. Since then the Hometown Hero awards have been presented annually.

With the 2018 presentation, Decatur has designated 325 Hometown Heroes. For detailed information about the Hometown Heroes and their contributions to the Decatur community, visit decaturga.com. A plaque with the photo and names of 2018's Hometown Heroes will join the "Wall of Heroes" outside the City Commission meeting room in City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.



Mike Barcik with Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers



Mayor Patti Garrett with Christy Amador



Amina Mohamad with Commissioner Scott Drake



Kristin Ebersold with Commissioner Kelly Walsh

City Commission Meeting January-February Schedule

City Commission meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month unless there is a Monday holiday. The January and February meetings are affected by the MLK holiday and Presidents Day, and will be held:

Monday, Jan. 7	Monday, Feb. 4
Tuesday, Jan. 22	Monday, Feb. 25

Holiday Solid Waste and Recycling Schedule

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, Monday, Jan. 21

Monday services will be on Tues., Jan. 22

Tuesday services will be on Wed., Jan. 23

Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 18

Monday services will be on Tues., Feb. 19

Tuesday services will be on Wed., Feb. 20

Boards and Commissions Openings

The Decatur City Commission is accepting statements of interest from residents for volunteer service on the Environmental Sustainability Board, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Descriptions of the board responsibilities and access to the Statement of Interest form can be found at decaturga.com/resident-boards-commissions. You can return the form via email to City Manager Andrea Arnold, Andrea.Arnold@decaturga.com or mail it to her attention at City of Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur GA 30031.

About the Boards

Environmental Sustainability Board

The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) provides recommendations to the City Commission regarding the city's environmental regulations, plans and initiatives. The ESB also assists with implementation of city projects that affect the natural environment, to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners.

Four active committees are responsible for researching specific issues and making recommendations to the board: Natural Systems, Resource Conservation, Energy and Transportation, and Education and Outreach. Upcoming projects for the ESB include the Green Restaurant Recognition program, festival waste management, the Decatur Focus Green Insert, and serving as liaisons for the Stormwater Master Plan.

The board meets on the third Friday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Decatur Recreation Center.

Historic Preservation Commission

The HPC was established by local ordinance to ensure that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five Local Historic Districts are consistent with the character of the neighborhoods. The five districts are McDonough-Adams-King's Highway, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and the Clairemont Historic District.

The Commission must approve exterior projects for homes located within these districts by issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness before a building permit can be issued. Some projects may be administratively approved through the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption.

The commission meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in the City Commission meeting room at Decatur City Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals, established by local ordinance, conducts public hearings on appeals from decisions of the zoning administrator and of the UDO administrator, and considers requests for variances from zoning requirements.

The board meets on the second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., in the City Commission meeting room at Decatur City Hall.

Come, learn, share | January 23, 6-8pm



How is residential stormwater managed? How might those requirements improve?

Join us as we explore Decatur's existing policies and programs for managing residential stormwater, discuss what is and isn't working well, and consider examples of innovation from other communities. Everyone's welcome.

Wednesday, January 23, 6-8pm

Decatur Recreation Center (231 Sycamore Street)

Project information: www.decaturnext.com/stormwater



Homestead Exemptions Reduce Taxes

General homestead exemption: Homeowners who reside in their home are eligible to apply online or in person. In 2018, this exemption reduced property taxes for eligible homeowners by \$272.

GS-1 exemption: The GS-1 saved most eligible homeowners \$1,478 in 2018. You qualify to apply if you're at least 62 as of Jan. 1 and your total household income does not exceed \$25,000.

S-1 exemption: The S-1 saved most eligible homeowners \$186 in 2018. You qualify to apply if you are 62 or older as of Jan. 1 and the household income of you and your spouse does not exceed \$10,000, excluding retirement income. Pensions and Social Security income do not count toward income for this exemption, but income such as salary, wages, rental income, interest and dividends are included.

GH-2/S-4 exemption: Regardless of income, owners who are 65 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to apply for the GH-2 and S-4. The S-4 exempts owners from school taxes. This

If you live at the property you own, you may qualify for one or more homestead exemptions or assistance programs for city taxes in 2019.

exemption will expire in 2021 unless it is renewed. S-4 savings vary based on the value of the home. The GH-2 saves homeowners about \$109 a year.

S-2 and S-3 school exemptions: Owners who are 70 may file for the S-3 regardless of income. Owners over 80 with income under \$40,000 may apply for the S-2 exemption. These exemptions do not reduce taxes while the S-4 is in effect. However, the city encourages homeowners to apply for these exemptions in case the S-4 is not renewed.

Disabled veterans can qualify for an exemption saving up to \$2,617 if they reside at the property and have a 100 percent disability per the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tax deferral allows owners 62 and above to defer taxes on the first \$100,000 of assessed value of their home, payable with interest upon the sale or transfer of the property, allowing a deferral of up to \$3,228 annually. Additional conditions apply.

Year's support provides an exemption of taxes for one year upon the death of a spouse if approved by the DeKalb County probate court.

Un-remarried surviving spouses of U.S. service members, peace officers, or firefighters killed in the line of duty may qualify for additional exemptions.

Rehabilitated historic properties may qualify for preferential tax assessments.

Your potential tax savings for each exemption will vary in 2019 depending on millage rates.

Once you have applied for an exemption, you do not need to re-apply. But you'll need to apply if you qualify for a new exemption based on age, income, if you are a new owner, or if you have moved within town. If you have only applied with the county, you must also apply with the city.

The city can accept homestead exemption applications for 2019 anytime between now and April 1. However, homeowners are encouraged to apply for any new exemptions by March 15 so that they will appear on the first installment of your 2019 property tax bill.

For details on how homestead exemptions are calculated or to apply for the general homestead exemption online, visit decaturga.com/homestead. Applicants for all other exemptions can apply in person at City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Keeping Decatur Green

In November, Decatur teamed up with Trees Atlanta volunteers to plant 44 trees along Sycamore Drive, thanks to a grant from the National Football League.

Also in November the "Effects of humans on our natural habitat" educational class with Oakhurst Elementary third graders was concluded by planting two trees at Mead Road Park. Four classes participated in planting the trees.

In December, the city partnered with Bartlett trees to collect toys for Toys for Tots. Participants received White Oak seedlings for their donations. One hundred seedlings were given away during the event.



Beer Festival Gives Back

Over the last 20 years, the Decatur Craft Beer Festival has given more than \$1.35 million dollars to nonprofit groups and to a variety of projects in Decatur. Checks were given to the 2018 grant recipients at the Decatur Business Association's annual holiday meeting in December. The 2018 recipients were:



Amplify My Community, Inc.

To host a community-based concert series on the Decatur square to engage the community and raise funds and awareness for Decatur Cooperative Ministry's work to alleviate homelessness in the city of Decatur and DeKalb County.

Decatur Arts Alliance

To establish an art-based business group whose goal would focus on the sustainability of art-based businesses in the city of Decatur, which includes a monthly Gallery Night.

Decatur Cooperative Ministry

To help support the family transitional housing program.

Decatur Education Foundation

To support the development of a community

event to raise awareness about mental illness and the struggles that students are facing, and connect parents with resources that will help them and their children.

Decatur Makers

To purchase laptops loaded with the appropriate software to make available to makers who do not have laptops and relevant software for classes and projects.

Decatur MLK, Jr., Service Project

To help support the annual project, which assists low-income senior Decatur homeowners with house maintenance and repairs, and provides it free of charge to the community.

DeKalb History Center

For the purchase of 15 new dress forms and

mannequins for proper display of historic clothing.

DeKalb Library Foundation

To support the creation of "Sewing at Decatur," a free sewing class to be offered to teens and adults. Funds will be used to purchase sewing machines.

DeKalb Rape Crisis Center

To pay for six months of the costs to operate one 24-Hour Crisis Line answering service to ensure that every survivor, family member or community person who contacts the hotline can speak with a real person on the phone who can connect them with the on-call advocate for the center.

Friends of Decatur Cemetery

To purchase a gravestone to mark the grave of Henry Oliver, Decatur's first African-American business owner.

Friends of L'Arche Atlanta

To support their "Home of Life" campaign, to open a second home through a special partnership with Woodlands Garden, which will be a permanent home for four adults with intellectual disabilities, and to promote fellowship with local residents.



Global Growers Network, Inc.

Funds will be used to maintain and care for more than 70 fruit trees and bushes in the Decatur Kitchen Garden. Tools, soil amendments, organic fertilizers, organic pest control, and harvest equipment will be purchased.

Haints & Saints Parade

Funds will be used for marketing, event insurance and entertainment for the free community parade, which attracts visitors to Decatur, builds community, and promotes local business.

Housing Authority of the City of Decatur

To support the STAR Afterschool College Tour program, which supports educational development and encourages students to take ownership of their academic careers. The program exposes students to higher education and inspires them to develop a personal vision that includes attending a secondary educational institution.

ICare, Inc.

To support providing transportation for senior citizens to doctor appointments in Decatur-DeKalb County.

Mead Road Mardi Gras

To cover expenses for police presence during the annual parade and festival. The event raises funds to support CSD music and arts programs.

Our House

To purchase curriculum supplies and materials to be used in the Early Childhood Education program for 2019.

Trees Atlanta

To purchase plants, wildflowers and grass seed for the meadow in Decatur Cemetery.

Woodlands Garden of Decatur

Funds will be used for the landscape design planting, plant materials, and installation of a new native pollinator plant garden at the corner of Scott Boulevard and Clairemont Avenue.

Wylde Center

To repair the Cob House and garden, and to rebuild the children's area at the Wylde Center.

2019 Decatur Calendars

The New Year is here and so are the 2019 Decatur calendars. They include all things Decatur, from community photos to scheduled events. Visit the Decatur Visitors Center, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., to purchase your copy. The cost is \$5 per calendar.

Calendar of Events

Have an event you would like to share with the community? To get it on the Tourism calendar contact sherry.jackman@decaturga.com or renae.madison@decaturga.com.



Volunteering – a Decatur Tradition

Volunteering and caring for the community have long been important to the residents of Decatur. Volunteer! Decatur continues this tradition of community involvement. Sign up by visiting volunteerdecatur.com to complete a volunteer profile in our secure online system, which you can access any time you sign up for an event.

Your volunteer hours and events can be tracked through your profile. The new system also allows you to receive email alerts and messages, check schedules and request the shifts you prefer.

If you have questions or need help navigating through the system, email sherry.jackman@decaturga.com.

FAR Making Decatur Accessible for the Visually Impaired

In 2017, Decatur teamed up with Foresight Augmented Reality (FAR) to establish FAR-accessibility for several locations throughout the city: Decatur City Hall, the Decatur Police Department, Decatur Recreation Center, Ebster Recreation Center, Decatur Visitors Center, the Community Bandstand and the Decatur MARTA Plaza. These locations have been made “visually-impaired friendly” with the installation of Bluetooth beacons that, when paired with the FAR Vision mobile app, provide users with descriptive information such as entrances and exits, restrooms, hazard warnings and more.

Several local businesses are FAR-accessible as well. Through the mobile app, the visually impaired can hear descriptive details about the businesses as well as listen to the menu at restaurant locations.

Foresight Augmented Reality was founded in 2016 in Atlanta with the goal of creating smarter communities. FAR's beacons provide compliance beyond ADA requirements for businesses looking to support those with vision-related disabilities. For more information, visit foresightar.com and download the FAR Vision mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android devices.

Celebrate Black History Month

Black History Month, observed each year in February, presents an opportunity to acknowledge important people and events throughout the African diaspora. In the United States, we celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans and the central role they have played throughout U.S. history.

Black History Month traces its roots back to 1926 when the organization now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) established "Negro History Week." The month of February was selected to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Black History Month was officially recognized in 1976 by President Gerald Ford and has since spread to several other countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom.

The Better Together Advisory Board works with the community to make Decatur a more inclusive, compassionate and equitable city, where all feel welcome. Better Together and Little Shop of Stories offer the following selections for young and not-so-young readers to explore the achievements, struggles, and stories of our shared history.



Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Charmingly illustrated and chock-full of facts, the book provides a survey of trailblazing black women who have or are currently making American history. Short bios and engaging pictures invite sharing and are certain to foster conversation with young readers and future leaders.

Young, Gifted, and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present by Jamia Wilson, illustrated by Andrea Pippins

This book is a quintessential Who's Who in Black History for readers age 9 and up. It features an impressively wide range of figures, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Nina Simone, W.E.B. Dubois, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. It celebrates the depth and breadth of black excellence throughout history, as well as present day.

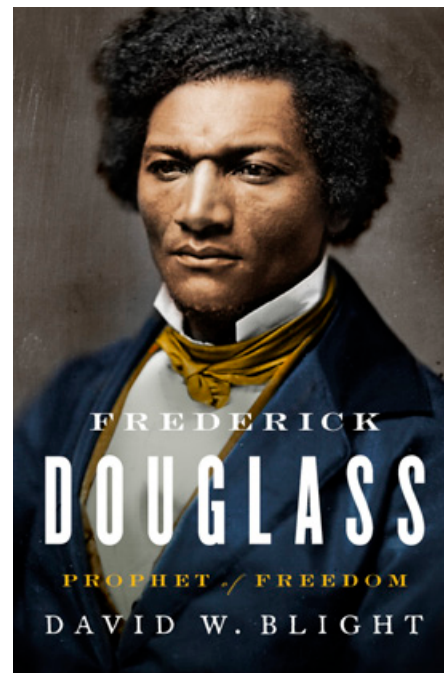
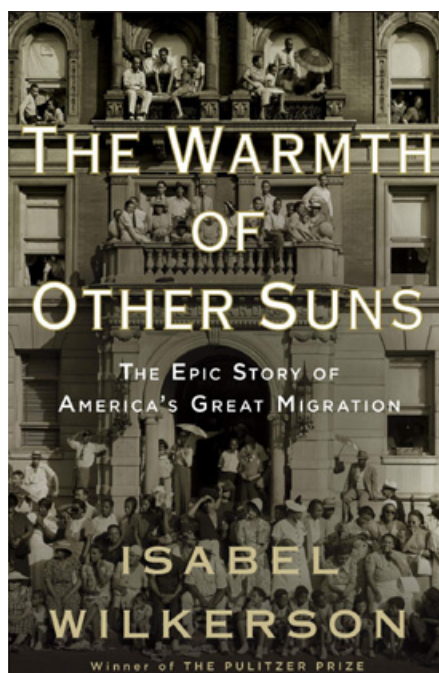
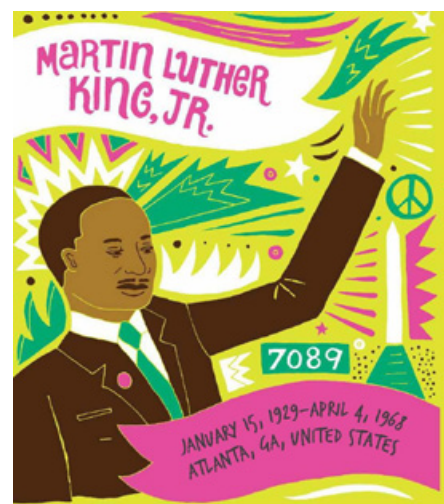
Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight

The first major biography of Douglass in half a century, this powerful tome reveals new insights into one of our nation's most revered orators and writers. An absolute must-read for any history buff, especially those interested in the great abolitionist and his times.

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

This may well be Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson's crowning achievement, a luminous, imminently readable history of the massive migration of African Americans from the American south westward and northward over the course of the first half of the twentieth century.

These books and many other titles are available at Little Shop of Stories, 133 E. Court Square, or online at littleshopofstories.com/shop-online.

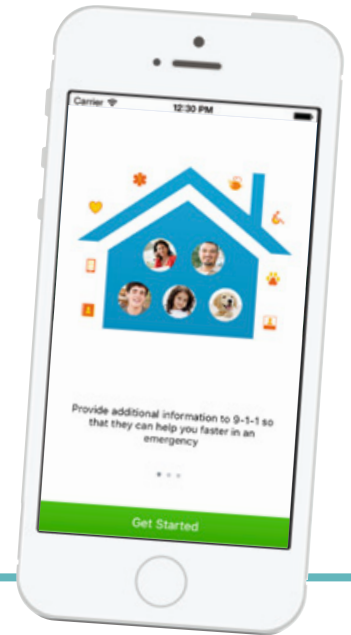


Register for Smart911 and Download the App

Smart911 now has an app. Be better prepared for any emergency with Smart911. By signing up, you can share lifesaving information about your household and receive targeted emergency alerts.

When you call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile displays on the 9-1-1 screen. The call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like. This additional information enables responders to know about someone who is unconscious, what the triggers are for someone with special needs, what the patient is allergic to, and more.

Smart911 can also keep you informed on weather, traffic, and other emergencies by sending emergency alerts from the National Weather Service and local public safety agencies. You can select the types of notifications you want and how you want to be notified.



Can You Help Decatur's Earn-A-Bike Program?

The Decatur Earn-A-Bike program is in need of bicycles. The four-week program for kids 7-12 teaches bike safety, rules of the road, and bike maintenance. Participants will earn

a bike at the completion of the program.

Sizes needed are 20-inch, 24-inch and 26-inch. New or used bikes in working condition are greatly appreciated. Bikes may be

dropped off at Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Ave. Contact Portia Langley, 678-553-6563, for pick up, if needed.



Rohmo Dagane, Christian Capers, Michael Cook, and Khyree Johnson all earned bikes in last year's program. They are pictured here with Sara Wolfe (left) and Portia Langley (right) of Decatur Active Living, and Nedra Deadwyler of Georgia Bikes.

celebrate

Decatur Salutes Peggy Merriss

Longtime City Manager Earns Thomas O. Davis Public Servant Award

The Decatur Business Association threw a farewell gala – “Peggypalooza” – for retiring Decatur City Manager Peggy Merriss at its December meeting at the Decatur Courtyard Marriott hotel. Merriss was also named the 2018 recipient of the city’s Thomas O. Davis Public Servant Award, an annual recognition of a public employee who helps strengthen the bond between government and the community and serves as a role model for others in public service. Merriss instituted the award in 2002 to commemorate her mentor, longtime city attorney Thomas O. Davis.

Following the presentation of the award and Merriss’s acceptance remarks, a parade of current and former city employees, colleagues from other cities, friends and family marched into the auditorium for a surprise party for Merriss.



Rate

Sculpture Commissioned in Tribute to Peggy Merriss

START WHERE YOU ARE



The Decatur Arts Alliance in cooperation with the Decatur City Commission is spearheading a community fund-raising effort to purchase a piece of public art to honor Peggy Merriss upon her retirement from the City of Decatur.

The Arts Alliance has commissioned Corrina Sephora to create a sculpture to be placed at Decatur Legacy Park in Peggy's honor. It is to be the first piece of what is anticipated to become Decatur's sculpture garden there.

The name of the piece, "Start Where You Are," references advice that Peggy often gave to other cities interested in starting public art programs. This simple message encouraged communities to start small, and to not be deterred by a lack of funding.

Peggy served as city manager of Decatur for 25 years and worked for Decatur for 35 years. Her ongoing commitment to public art is one of the many hallmarks of her career. Your generous gift in any amount will help make this a meaningful tribute to Peggy's service to the city and contribute to public art for all.

If you'd like to contribute to Peggy Public Art Fund, visit decaturartsalliance.org/peggypalooza. Be sure to include "Peggy Public Art Fund" in the note section of the online form.



Spring QuickBooks Classes

Kristin Driver, QuickBooks ProAdvisor and professional organizer, will offer QuickBooks classes, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the following Thursdays: Jan. 17, Feb. 28 (online), March 21, April 18 (online), and May 16.

If you find QuickBooks difficult and frustrating, this basics class teaches the foundation and offers tips and timesaving tricks. More experienced users can also benefit. The class includes a comprehensive screenshot manual, snacks, lunch, and a face-to-face half-hour on-site visit after class. The cost for the class is \$147.

For more information or to register, visit systemhappy.com, email kristin@systemhappy.com, or call 404-402-1701.

DFUMC Children's Morning Out Program

Registration Open for 2019-2020

Decatur First Methodist Weekday Children's Ministries includes a Children's Morning Out (CMO) program at 300 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. Children six months-two years old may attend the half-day program, 9:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, starting in early August through June. Children two and under may attend one or two days a week. Once children turn two, they may attend one to four days a week.

CMO strives to create a loving Christian atmosphere in which children can begin their first experience of group play, while giving parents a block of free time. Every week the teachers focus play and story time around the program's monthly themes, using stories, puzzles, science experiments, sensory activities, reading, art projects and music.

Each class has a daily schedule involving free play, clean up time, wash time, snack, music class, outside play, circle time, story time, art and lunch. There is also storytelling from KidsGoWild once a month and active fall, winter and spring gardening.

Attend an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 17, or Monday, Jan. 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome by appointment to tour the program prior to the Open House dates. For more information, call Michelle Marshall, 404-378-4541 ext. 111; email CMO@decaturfirst.org; or visit decaturfirst.org. Register online at decaturfirst.org/childrens-morning-out.

Decatur First Methodist Preschool and Kindergarten

Registration for 2019-2020

Decatur First Methodist Weekday Children's Ministries includes a preschool and kindergarten program at 312 Sycamore St. Children ages three (by Sept. 1) to six may attend the half-day program, 9 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday, mid-August through mid-May. Optional 12-1 enrichment classes are also available.

Classes offer opportunities to play and learn while developing readiness for learning academic skills. The program features:

- A Christian environment
- Low child-teacher ratio
- Large classrooms, outdoor playground, and rainy day indoor playroom
- Music every day for every class
- A weekly chapel service for the 4s and 5s led by the ministers of the church
- Teachers who attend at least four preschool workshop classes each year and are CPR/First Aid trained. All have completed a nationwide background check
- Special programs: storytellers, musicians, puppet shows, science, Fun Fitness on Fridays
- Field trips to the Decatur fire station, Stone Mountain, Georgia Aquarium, Oakhurst Community Garden and others
- Handwriting Without Tears curriculum
- Option of extended day from noon until 1 p.m.
- Classes in Spanish, art, Letter Bugs, Junior Scientist and yoga
- Vegetable garden planted and maintained by the kindergarten class
- An active parent group with volunteer activities
- Summer Smiles weekly summer camps, all weeks in June.



Attend an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 17, or Monday, Jan. 28, 9:15-10:30 a.m. Visitors, by appointment, are always welcome to visit classes prior to the Open House dates. For more information, call Beth Buyert, 404-377-5784, email preschool@decaturfirst.org, or visit decaturfirst.org. Register online at decaturfirst.org/pre-school-kindergarten.

Junior Youth Group Offers Activities for Teens

Decatur teens are invited to join a junior youth group started here in the community. The educational program engages older youth as mentors of younger peers to help them develop their powers of expression, capacities for moral reasoning, and an ethic of service to others, including younger children. The program combines study, mentorship, and social action.

The group meets every week and is intended for young people of all backgrounds, races, and religions between the ages of 12 and 15. Participants engage in activities such as artistic expression, discussion, drama, cooperative games, study of literature, storytelling, and acts of community service. The program is Baha'i-inspired.

Members have planned and participated in multiple service projects in and around the city. For more information about the group or to join, contact Linda Ahdieh Grant at lahdieh@gmail.com.

New DPCC School Schedule

Registration Begins in January

Decatur Presbyterian Children's Community (DPCC) is introducing a longer daily schedule, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., five days a week. The two add-on hours include lunch, providing cost savings when compared with paying for the extra hour separately.



Schedule:

Optional Precare: 8-9 a.m. (an hour to eat home-packed breakfast in fellowship hall and/or play on playground before school)

DPCC School Day: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (now includes "Lunch Bunch," when kids eat their home-packed lunches and play together for the last hour)

Optional Postcare Enrichment: 1-2 p.m. (an hour to attend a class, which may include ballet, phonics, science, gymnastics). Note: these sessions are not led by DPCC, but by associated vendors (teachers and trusted partners).

Sunshine Summer 2019

DPCC now offers summer programming for five days a week, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (bring lunch), with themes, for nursery (9 mo.-23 mo.), 2s, 3s, 4s, to rising Ks/1st graders.

Registration is \$200 per week for two year olds to rising Kindergarten/first graders, and \$300 per week for nursery.

June 17-21: Fairy Long Tales

June 24-28: Wild Water

July 8-12: Princesses vs. Dinosaurs

July 15-19: Weird Science

Visit dpccschool.org for more information and to register, or call 404-378-1770.

Woodlands Garden Thanks Volunteers

Woodlands Garden would like to thank the many community volunteers who helped make 2018 an exciting year. They helped the garden's plant collections thrive, installed new natives at Morse Creek, made the annual plant sale the most successful to date, and welcomed visitors young and old to "Fairies in the Garden."



Thank you for sharing your energy and enthusiasm to help Woodlands advance its mission to preserve a woodland garden as an urban sanctuary to educate and engage the community in the natural world.

To learn about volunteering opportunities at Woodlands Garden visit woodlandsgarden.org.



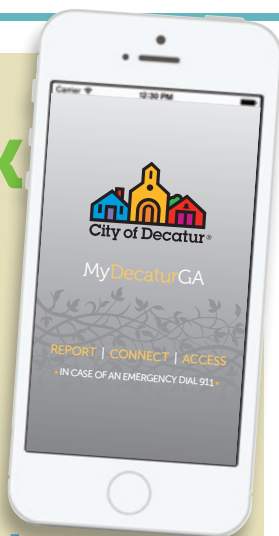
Woodlands volunteers gather for an "end-of-year" potluck.

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National recognition!

Taiyo Ramen was recently recognized by the Food Network as one of the 28 Top Spots for Ramen in the nation. Taiyo serves dishes inspired by Asian street food, made with local and seasonal ingredients. Their version is made with roasted pork from Heritage Farms, noodles from the Sun Noodle factory, a poached egg and an "overnight broth" spiced up with kimchi and poached garlic. Other craveable dishes include pork and shrimp wontons, steamed buns filled with pork belly or Korean fried chicken, and Korean fusion tacos.



Taiyo Ramen is at 130 Clairemont Ave. (in the Courtyard by Marriott hotel). For information, call 404-996-6504 or visit korean-wives.com/taiyo-ramen.



New DBA President Susan Sparks presents outgoing President Kyle Williams with a commemorative street sign. Kyle served two one-year terms as DBA president.



Seen at the DBA HOLIDAY PARTY

Along with distributing Decatur Craft Beer Festival proceeds, recognizing Decatur Hometown Heroes, saying "farewell" to City Manager Peggy Merriss, and inaugurating the Decatur Arts Alliance Peggy Public Art Fund, the Decatur Business Association also elected new leadership at the Decatur Courtyard Marriott.

New Officers for 2019



Immediate
Past-President
Kyle Williams

President
Susan Sparks

President-Elect
Daryl Funn

Treasurer
Jill Joplin

Not pictured:
Secretary
Emily Holden



Meeting Reminders

Tuesday, January 29

State of the City Address

Decatur Courtyard by Marriott,
130 Clairmont Ave.

5:15 p.m.

Networking Reception

6 p.m.

Program.

Decatur's mayor delivers the State of the City Address; meet DBA's officers for 2019.

February 26

Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson presents

Black History Month Meeting

Location TBA

5:15 p.m.

Networking Reception

6 p.m.

Program

Check for details and updates at
decaturdba.com

Neighborhood Grocery Store Coming Soon

Decatur residents Sean Crotty and Tauna Jecmen will open their new grocery store, Kelly's Market, 308 E. Howard Ave., in January. The store, located in Decatur's Old Depot district, will carry a full assortment of grocery essentials as well as produce, meat and local baked goods. It will also feature a broad selection of wine and craft beer and a deli with breakfast, lunch and take-home dinner options.

Visit kellysmarketdecatur to sign up for email updates, and follow the store's progress on Facebook and Instagram (@kellysmarketdecatur).



Celebrating Black History Month

Francine Reed to Perform at Eddie's Attic



Francine Reed returns to Eddie's Attic for Decatur's annual Black History Month concert on Sunday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.). Tickets are on sale now and they'll go quickly. Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson hosts this annual concert and Francine has performed since its inception in 1995. Tickets are available at eddiesattic.com.

Say YES to Tour deCatur and YES to Decatur's Kids

The 17th annual Tour deCatur 5K race will take place on March 9. Register now at tourdecatur.com – early bird pricing and a guaranteed event T-shirt are available for those who register before Feb. 25.

The event, sponsored by the Decatur Education Foundation, also features a one-mile

Fun Run and Tot Trot for the four-and-under crowd. With more than 3,000 participants, it's Decatur's biggest 5K – and now it's also a certified qualifying race for the AJC Peachtree Road Race.

Your family's participation in this community event not only promotes a healthy lifestyle, it also helps the Decatur Education

Foundation address some of the big issues kids in our community are facing, including racial inequity, the opportunity gap, student mental health, and food insecurity. Visit decatureducationfoundation.org for more information about all of DEF's programs and their impact.



Runners prepare for the start of the 2018 race.

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Expanding Civil Rights Exhibit: Women of the Movement

Mike “Stinger” Glenn is a former NBA player and currently an analyst for Hawks LIVE pre- and post-game shows on FOX Sports Southeast. He is also a collector of rare books, newspapers and magazines that document African-American history and culture. His exhibit, *Expanding Civil Rights with a Focus on Women of the Movement*, is on display at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St., during January.

The exhibit highlights women’s roles in the movement and celebrates the 50-year anniversary of Shirley Chisholm’s historic election to the United States Congress. Mr. Glenn aims to shed light on the significant contributions that women of color made to pave the way for President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and many others. Items in the exhibit include original obituaries, magazine articles, art work, photographs and first edition books.

The exhibit is sponsored in part by the DeKalb Library Foundation, the City of Decatur and Friends of the Decatur Library. It will run through Thursday, Jan. 24, during library hours.



Art in the Schools

Wild Oats and Billy Goats, in partnership with the Decatur Arts Alliance, will host art exhibits for the schools listed below. Each school will have an opening reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, the first day of the exhibit. Everyone is welcome. The artwork will be provided by the school’s art teacher and will be on display through the following Saturday.

Jan. 20-26 – Renfroe Middle, Chris Kanne’s students

Jan. 27-Feb. 1 – Renfroe, Kristie O’Neal’s students

Feb. 10-16 – Westchester Elementary

March 3-9 – Fifth Avenue Academy

March 10-16 – Glenwood Elementary



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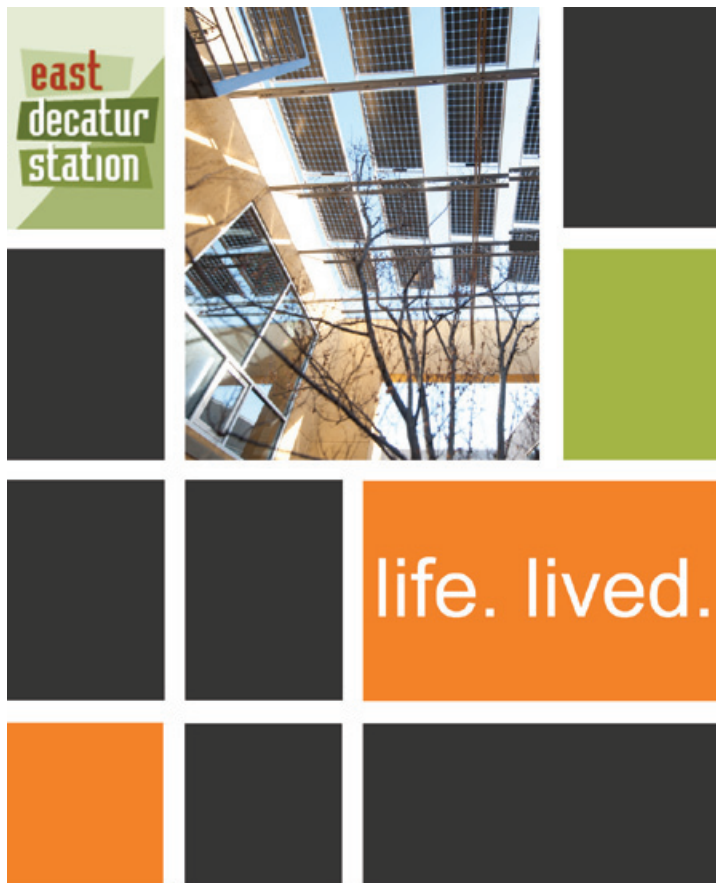
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Atlanta Musicians' Orchestra Presents A Winter Concert

Sunday, Jan. 27 • 3 p.m.
First Christian Church of Decatur
601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

The Atlanta Musicians' Orchestra is a community group with members ranging from amateurs to professionals. The Winter Concert, conducted by Music Director Dahlan Robert Foah, will feature Dvořák's Symphony Number 8 and Glinka's Waltz Fantasie.

The orchestra is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. For additional information about the concert, making a donation, or joining the orchestra visit amorch.com or contact Joy Keltner, n.joy.keltner@gmail.com.



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CORE DANCE PRESENTS:

American Playground and The Third Dance

Jan. 31-Feb. 3 • 7:30 p.m.

Core Dance – continuing its collaboration with international dance-makers Niv Sheinfeld and Oren Laor – will present two works by the acclaimed Israeli choreographers at 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. NE, Atlanta: American Playground, a humorous, high-intensity homage to American culture, performed by Core Dance; and the U.S. premiere of The Third Dance, performed and choreographed by Niv Sheinfeld and Oren Laor, which explores, through dance, the evolution of a relationship over time.

Audience members can also attend a conversation with choreographers Sheinfeld and Laor on Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m. The conversation, called “Body as Resistance: Fueling the Spectator with Power and Motivation,” is facilitated by Heidi Howard, artistic director of 7 Stages, and investigates the potential of art to trigger and inspire activism in the audience. It is free and open to the community. For more information on these collaborations and performances, visit coredance.org.

Lunchtime in the Studio

Feb. 21, April 25 • noon-1 p.m. • Core Studios • 139 Sycamore St.



Lunchtime in the Studio is an opportunity for community members to actively participate in the stimulating environment of Core Dance. A complimentary lunch will be served. Core Dance uses dance to connect us through artistic risk taking, invention, community participation, led collaboration, knowledge sharing and enquiry. Visit coredance.org/lunchtime-in-the-studio.html to register.

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Friends of the Decatur Library

Winter Book Sale

Saturday, Feb. 9 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Friends of the Decatur Library will host a book sale on the lower level of the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as CDs and DVDs, will be available for purchase. Only cash or checks will be accepted. Dealers must scan at tables. All proceeds benefit the programs and collections of the Decatur Library. Admission is free. Donations of gently used books are always welcome at the library's front desks.

**FRIENDS OF THE
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LIBRARY**

Oakhurst Wine Crawl

Save The Date: Saturday, Feb. 23

Now in its 18th year, the Oakhurst Wine crawl offers residents and local businesses an opportunity to connect. Taste dozens of wines from all over the world while strolling through Decatur's Oakhurst village.



Public Restrooms in Downtown Decatur

Decatur City Hall

509 N. McDonough St.
8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Mon-Fri

Decatur Recreation Center

231 Sycamore St.
8 a.m.-8 p.m. • Mon-Thu
8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. • Fri
9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Sat

Ebster Recreation Center

105 Electric Ave.
11 a.m.-6 p.m. • Mon-Fri
9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Sat

Decatur Police Department

420 W. Trinity Place
8 a.m.-7 p.m. • Mon-Sat

Old DeKalb Courthouse

101 East Court Square
9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Mon-Fri

Decatur Branch, DeKalb Library

215 Sycamore St.
9 a.m.-9 p.m. • Mon-Fri
9 a.m.-6 p.m. • Thu-Sat
1 p.m.-6 p.m. • Sun

DeKalb County Courthouse

556 N. McDonough St.
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. • Mon-Fri

Maloof Building- DeKalb County

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New Talley Street School Principal Announced

Mr. Billy Heaton has been selected as principal of the new Talley Street Upper Elementary School (grades 3-5) currently under construction, adjacent to the city's Public Works building. The school (pictured below) is slated to open for the 2019-2020 school year.

Heaton has been the principal at Clairemont Elementary since 2016. Before joining the Clairemont crew, he served as a middle school and elementary school principal in Oconee County and Madison County.

Mr. Heaton began his career as an upper elementary teacher and recognizes the importance of developing upper elementary learners so that they have a solid foundation on which to build ongoing success. He is passionate about working with the students and families at Clairemont and is excited to transition with his students to the new school.




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Mead Road Mardi Gras Parade Marches into March

Break out your Mardi Gras masks and noise makers and join the annual Mead Road Mardi Gras Parade, which marches through Oakhurst on Saturday, March 2. Whether you spectate or participate, you won't want to miss this festive community event full of bright costumes and live music, benefiting the Decatur Education Foundation.

The parade steps off from 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue at 1 p.m. and ends at The Imperial restaurant where the party will continue until sundown. Parade-goers can enjoy Cajun food and beverages while listening to live music performed by CSD students. Last year, performances included FAVE's West African Drummers and DHS's Musical Theatre Group.

Every school is invited to march in the parade, and awards are given for best school participation. The parade is a community event that invites everyone to participate. Do you and your friends want to join the fun? Groups interested in marching as a parade "krewe" can sign up at meadrdmardigras.org, where food and beverage tickets will also be sold in advance.

Proceeds from the event are donated to the Decatur Education Foundation and are used to fund music and arts grants for City Schools of Decatur. To date, the Mead Road Mardi Gras has donated \$24,000, which has been used to purchase euphoniums, bass clarinets, and tubas for the middle school and high school bands, as well as ukuleles, West African drums, guitars and an outdoor piano for the elementary schools.

Get ready to "Laissez les bons temps rouler" and enjoy a day of music, food and community.



**PARADE
START**
Saturday,
March 2
1 p.m.

**4/5 Academy
at 5th Avenue**



#decaturga

Show off your Decatur on social media and share it with your neighbors. Email your news and photos to renae.madison@decaturga.com.

Making Fairy Doors at Woodlands



Little Forest preschool visited the Woodlands Garden fairy house exhibit. After their visit, they worked with local artist Sabrina to make their own fairy doors – one for the school and one for Woodlands Garden.

#fairydoors #artwithsabrina #woodlandsgarden

Big Fan of Decatur FD



Liam enjoys watching the firefighters train.

#hecangrowintoit #decaturfd #allthegear

Boyett Enjoys Sendoff from Decatur Colleagues



Police Captain Kris Boyett retired from Decatur PD in December, and enjoyed a rousing and emotional sendoff from city staff and Public Safety colleagues. Best of luck, Captain.

#decaturpd #fondfarewells #dontbeastranger

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