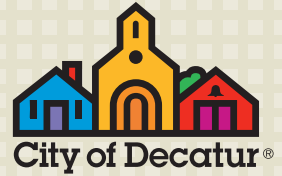


City of Decatur FOCUS

DECATUR
ACTIVE LIVING
PLAYBOOK
INSIDE



MAY 2022
Volume 32 • Number 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

JohnBoy & Surround Sound Kick Off Beacon Hill Concert Series

The Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights held its inaugural concert event on March 27 with a performance by JohnBoy & Surround Sound that energized the crowd and brought many attendees to their feet. The concerts, which feature live music by Black

and indigenous artists, are inspired by Beacon Hill elders as a forum for sharing memories, celebrating the historic Beacon Hill neighborhood, and bringing together the community. Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson opened the event by recognizing Beacon Hill elders, several of whom shared personal

stories and memories of their time growing up in Beacon Hill.

The concert series is a collaboration between the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights and the City of Decatur. The next concert is slated for this summer at Ebster Recreation Center.



Commissioner Lesa Mayer, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers and Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Co-Chair Fonta High



Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Reparations Committee Co-Chair Mawuli Davis, Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson, and JohnBoy



Mayor Patti Garrett and Gary Garrett



JohnBoy & Surround Sound

Join the Conversation Housing Affordability

Decatur is embarking on the second phase of public engagement for its Affordable Housing Policy by soliciting input from the community. Visit decaturga.com/affordablehousing, May 1-July 31, to learn more about initiatives and to submit questions online.

In addition, Decatur is hosting two pop-ups this month to encourage public engagement, answer questions, discuss policy recommendations, and collect community input. The first pop-up is at Legacy Park's Truckin' Tuesday event on May 3, 5-6 p.m. Then on Saturday, May 7, visit the Decatur Planning tent at the Decatur Arts Festival in downtown Decatur.

The City's affordable housing fellow Kristin Allin is available to speak to neighborhood groups and organizations who want to learn more in a smaller, in-person setting. Questions from the community will be compiled for discussion by a panel at the Affordable Housing Forum on Aug. 17. These questions and input will help finalize the recommendations to the Decatur City Commission as they consider housing policy changes to the Unified Development Ordinance. Look for a postcard reminder to arrive in the mail and join the conversation.

Since hosting the Affordable Housing Summit in 2018, Decatur has been working to collect public input and develop programs to address the lack of housing diversity in Decatur. In 2019, the City assembled the Affordable Housing Task Force, comprised of community members, to present recommendations that were incorporated into the 2020 Decatur Strategic Plan.

As the City moves forward with these initiatives, the next step is housing policy reform to re-introduce the "missing middle" housing types once so prevalent in Decatur's neighborhoods. The first phase of this housing policy initiative included three virtual community-focused conversations, an online survey, storymap, video, postcards, and a hotline to call to ask questions and provide input.



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.



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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, or by using the submission form found at decaturga.com/focus.



City Budget Process: Dates to Remember

Decatur's fiscal year 2022-2023 budget process is underway. If you want to get involved in the process, you can participate on these important dates (subject to City Commission approval):

- **May 16:** Formal presentation of the budget to the City Commission and adoption of tentative 2022 millage rates.
- **June 6:** Extended work session and public hearing on proposed FY 2022-2023 budget and revised 2021-2022 budget and 2022 millage rates.
- **June 8:** Extended work session on proposed FY 2022-2023 budget and revised 2021-2022 budget (alternate date).
- **June 13:** Public hearing on proposed FY 2022-2023 budget and revised 2021-2022 budget (if needed).
- **June 21:** Public hearing and scheduled adoption of proposed FY 2022-2023 budget and revised 2021-2022 budget and 2022 millage rates.

All public hearings on the budget will be held in-person as well as via Zoom. Access information and meeting times will be published on the City's website at decaturga.com/budget. Copies of the FY 2022-2023 budget and revised 2021-2022 budget will be posted online beginning Wednesday, May 18. Hard copies will be available at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., and at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St. If you have questions or need more information, contact Meredith Roark, city clerk and budget director, 404-370-4102, or meredith.roark@decaturga.com.

Celebrate National Shop Small Business Week

Support local retail during the week of May 1-7 and earn rewards. Spend \$200 at City of Decatur shops, provide your receipts via email, and Decatur Visitors Center will send you a \$20 gift card (limit 3 per customer) for a local retail shop. And remember to cast a vote for your favorite shop by sending an email with your top choice to decatur.sbs@decaturga.com.



The top three City of Decatur retail shops will be announced in the June issue of the Decatur Focus. For more information and a list of all Decatur businesses, go to visitdecaturgeorgia.com/visit. Click the icon links at the top of the page to follow us on social media.

Brought to you by the Downtown Development Authority, Visit Decatur, and the Decatur Business Association.

Glenlake Overflow Parking

Can't find parking at Glenlake Park? Scan the QR Code for directions to additional parking in the Decatur Cemetery. It's a short walk from there to Glenlake facilities, including tennis, dog park, sports fields, and swimming pool. Visit decaturga.com/glenlakeparking for more information.



Volunteer at Legacy Park

Legacy Decatur is seeking volunteers to staff the front desk at the Administration Building. This role presents an opportunity to be part of the ever-evolving Legacy Park by offering guidance and direction to park visitors and assisting other campus nonprofits. Legacy Decatur also seeks volunteers to help with outdoor opportunities to beautify the grounds, install and maintain plantings, restore the forest, and more.

These roles and shifts can be tailored to accommodate your availability. For more information and to volunteer, contact Madeleine Henner at madeleine.henner@legacydecatur.org or 678-529-9280. Learn more online at decaturlegacypark.com/support-legacy-park.

Truckin' Tuesdays Return to Legacy Park

**Tuesday, May 3, 5-6 p.m.,
Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.**

Legacy Park's Truckin' Tuesdays are back, starting May 3 and continuing every Tuesday in May (10, 17, 24, and 31). This year, the events will feature international flavors that organizers are calling the "World Tour." Come enjoy tastes from around the globe – from Central and South America to the Mediterranean, North Africa to the Far East.



The events offer food, music, and plenty of room to spread out with your friends and family. Bring blankets, chairs, and your appetite, and discover new flavors. Proceeds help fund ongoing operations at Legacy Park. For more information and updates, check in with the Legacy Park Facebook page, which will post any changes or cancellations.

Come and Celebrate Global Food and Farming

Saturday, May 21, 3-5 p.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

Global Growers is hosting Culture in Ag, a celebration of the diverse cultures that make up Atlanta's local food system. This family-friendly event offers an opportunity to experience diverse foods, agricultural practices and music, and to explore Decatur's Kitchen Garden. Ticketed guests will enjoy a global street food sampler, two beverage tickets, cooking demonstrations, hands-on gardening activities, a self-guided tour of the garden, and more. Funds raised through the event help to equip families with land and resources for growing fresh food. Visit globalgrowers.org/events for more information.



WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR

Gael Doyle is a walker, biker, and train rider. She embraces alternative transportation as a means of avoiding traffic, and she strives to live close to where she works.

Gael and her wife moved to

Decatur in 2017. She was excited to join the City of Decatur's Active Living Department in 2021 as the Adult Program Leader. She enjoys walking to work, exploring the Great Lakes and Ponce Place neighborhoods with her dog, and riding her bike out to Stone Mountain.

In her role with Active Living, Gael helps organize Wednesday Walks and Trails & Ales to help our community connect with our neighborhoods and each other. Gael affectionately refers to Decatur as a "grown-up college town," a place with lots of energy and a close-knit community without the student turnover. Congratulations to Gael for earning this month's Walk and Roll Star!



New Judges Appointed to Municipal Court Bench



The City Commission has appointed Denise VanLanduyt to serve as a part-time judge and Cinque Axam, Tom Stubbs, and Tyler Edgerton to serve as substitute judges for the Municipal Court.

From left: Judge Cinque Axam, Judge Denise VanLanduyt, Chief Judge Rhathelia Stroud, Judge Tom Stubbs and Judge Tyler Edgerton

Find a place for
yourself in Decatur

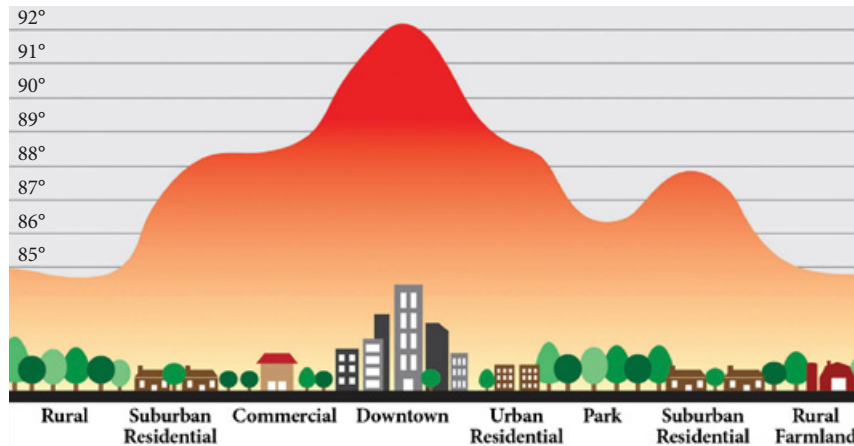
Work for City of Decatur

The City of Decatur is looking to fill several open positions, including police officers, firefighters, after-school counselors, school crossing guards, summer day camp counselors, and various positions in the Public Works Department. Visit decaturga.com/jobs to register and apply today. To learn more about available positions, call 678-553-6584 or email hr@decaturga.com.

decaturga.com/jobs

Mapping Decatur's Urban Heat Island

This month, the City of Decatur will begin installing a network of temperature and humidity sensors to help study and better understand the local urban heat island effect. The sensors will be located near parks, schools, and along pedestrian and cyclist routes, and will measure the increase in evening temperatures caused by the accumulation of heat-trapping materials like asphalt. The City will use the data to develop plans for minimizing urban heat islands across the city and creating a cooler, more comfortable Decatur. For more information or to report a damaged sensor, contact the Public Works Department, 404-377-5571.



DBA
Decatur Business
Association

MEETING REMINDER

**Tuesday, May 24
5:30 p.m.**

Visit decaturdba.com
for more details.

RECREATUR

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HELP CO-CREATE THE DECATUR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

RECREATUR is Decatur's new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan is a citywide effort to create a vision for Decatur's parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. Collaborative public input is a critical component of the plan, and we need your thoughts and feedback on questions like:

- **Where do we need more parks, playgrounds, and other facilities?**
- **What recreation programs do you want?**
- **How can parks and recreation help address the complex challenges facing our community?**



WHAT: Public Kickoff Meeting
for **RECREATUR:** Decatur's
new Parks and Recreation
Master Plan

WHO: All Decatur residents
and users of Decatur parks

WHEN: Wed, May 11 @ 6:30pm

WHERE: Ebster Recreation
Center Gym - 105 Electric Ave,
Decatur, GA 30030

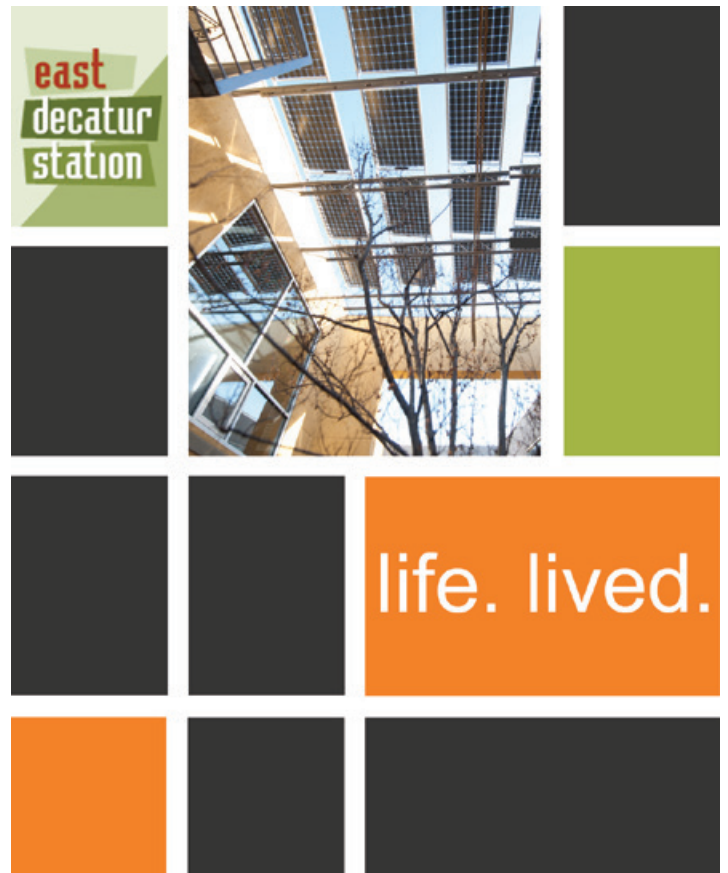
If you're unable to attend the
meeting in person, please visit
DecaturRecreatur.com
for more information on how
to participate.

The Decatur High School Baseball team celebrated World Down Syndrome Day, March 21, by inviting one of their most loyal fans, Gavin Violante, to throw out the first pitch at their home game. March 21 acknowledges people who have an extra copy — three instead of two — of the 21st chromosome, the predominant factor in identifying Down Syndrome (thus, 3/21). Gavin took the field in stride and burned one over the plate to kick off the game. Way to go, Gavin!

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Sing! Dance! Play! Learn!

This Mother's Day, give Mom a summer full of music with baby, toddler, and preschooler classes. Registration is open for Music Together of Decatur. Visit MusicTogetherOfDecatur.com, email Wendy@MusicTogetherOfDecatur.com, or call/text 678-466-0737 to learn more and register for summer classes.

Summer of Wonder with Paint Love

Register your child for Paint Love's Summer of Wonder art series at Legacy Park. The first of five camps runs June 6-10 and is open to kids aged 8-12. Each week-long camp provides extraordinary arts programming to empower youth and

strengthen communities. Led by professional teaching artists, the programs encourage kids to get messy, explore different art mediums, practice social-emotional skill-building, and engage in intentional community building. Visit paintlove.org/summer for additional camp dates and to sign up today.



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In September of 2018, DeKalb Medical became part of Emory Healthcare. Since then, we've invested more than \$114 million to upgrade equipment and facilities while expanding services and access to providers. These hospitals, now called Emory Decatur Hospital and Emory Hillandale Hospital, have served this community for more than 60 years – and as part of Emory Healthcare, they're now even better equipped to give you the exceptional care you need, right here in your neighborhood. And, it's just beginning.

Find out what's new at
emoryhealthcare.org/healthyyou.

Trees Atlanta Continues Work at Legacy Park

Trees Atlanta's Forest Restoration Department has been removing and mitigating the invasive plant species throughout Decatur's Legacy Park. The forests and fields of the park contain a variety of non-native and invasive species such as kudzu, English ivy, Bradford pear, and wisteria, which threaten to dominate the forest and outcompete the species that create a native forest canopy and a sustainable home for wildlife.

Since October, crews have been making their way through the park, clearing invasive vines off native trees, removing invasive brush and trees, and chipping debris into mulch to be used to improve trails in the park. Last month, work commenced to replant native trees to replace any lost habitat. Over the next five years, Trees Atlanta will continue their extensive work and lead volunteer projects throughout the property.

Typically, volunteer projects take place the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-noon. This month's project is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. If you are interested in volunteering, visit the calendar page at treesatlanta.org. Come make your mark at Legacy Park. Scan the QR code to subscribe.



BEFORE



AFTER

Garden Programs are Back in Bloom at Woodlands Garden

Visit Woodlands Garden to enjoy musical performances, volunteer with greenspace maintenance, and explore educational offerings for all ages.

Make memories with your young naturalist on an expert-led Tyke Hike, offering crafts and storytelling as you explore the outdoors. Connect with nature for a Forest Bathing Walk, Shinrin-Yoku, embracing the calm of the garden's canopy. Visit woodlandsgarden.org for registration links and more details.

- **Sunday, May 1**
Music in the Garden
- **Saturday, May 7**
Tyke Hike "Make it Rain!"
- **Saturday, May 7**
Forest Bathing Walk
"Commune with Nature"
- **Friday, May 13**
Garden Volunteer Project
- **Saturday, May 14**
Garden Volunteer Project
- **Sunday, May 15**
Music in the Garden
- **Tuesday, May 24**
Tyke Hike
"Spring Showers Bring Rainbow Flowers!"



Second Sunday Strolls Are Back at Decatur Cemetery

Sunday, May 8 • 2:30 p.m.

**Decatur Cemetery
Gazebo, Commerce
Drive**

Join Friends of Decatur Cemetery for a 90-minute walking tour of the historic section of the Decatur Cemetery to learn interesting facts about our city's people and history. Bring a water bottle and sunscreen, and wear sturdy shoes. A suggested donation of \$5 helps to support Friends of Decatur Cemetery programs. For more information contact friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com.



Decatur Parents Network Hosts Addiction Webinar

On Tuesday, May 3, Dr. Merrill Norton, professor emeritus in pharmacology from the University of Georgia and an addiction specialist, will present and discuss drugs and their impact on teens' developing brains. Visit decaturparents.net/ then click on Events, Speaker Series to access a link to the webinar.

The rate of marijuana use is highest among teens in Georgia. Similarly, fentanyl overdoses in Georgia have increased more than 106 percent, with DeKalb having the third-highest number of overdoses in the state. This number does not include non-fatal overdose incidents, often underreported and whose toxicology reports are rarely available.

The Decatur Parents Network supports parents and caregivers by offering insight on the latest trends and providing information and tools to help. DPN also seeks to be a thought leader on burgeoning issues that may not be on a caregiver's radar but are beginning to impact youth. Do you want to talk to other parents? Visit decaturparents.net for the latest events, to become a member, volunteer, or subscribe to future emails. Check out DPN's monthly parent chats; the next one is Monday, May 9.

JOIN US!



Decatur
Parents Network

WWW.DECATURPARENTS.NET



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Children's Book Week at Little Shop of Stories

Celebrate Children's Book Week all month long with several in-person and virtual events hosted by Little Shop of Stories to commemorate this nationwide celebration of literature for children and teens. Visit littleshopofstories.com/event for more information.



Sunday, May 1, 5 p.m.

Laurel Snyder and Dan Santat (*Endlessly Ever After*) @Little Shop

Tuesday, May 3, 5 p.m.

Chris Van Dusen (*Big Truck Little Island*) on Facebook live

Tuesday, May 3, 5 p.m.

Lev Grossman (*The Golden Swift*) @Little Shop

Thursday, May 5, 5 p.m.

Nina Lacour (*Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle*) on Facebook live

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Daniel Jose Older (*Rick Riordan Presents: Ballad and Dagger*) @Little Shop

Friday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Samira Ahmed (*Hollow Fires*) @Little Shop

REEL Art Streaming at Decatur Square

Filmmaker Douglas Rosenberg will be exhibiting his work "Monumental Gestures," nightly from dusk until midnight in the windows of Core Dance Studio through May 22. The site-specific project contemplates the concept of "heroes," by illuminating the caregivers, advocates, activists, teachers and others who have supported our community.



Douglas Rosenberg

Stop by the studio at 133 Sycamore St. to view the work as it is projected on the windows. For more information on this and other projects visit coredance.org/reel-art.



2022 summer program

May 31 - July 29

art camps and classes for children ages 5 to 12



scan and register: colorwheelstudio.com

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MESA Spring Festival

Saturday, May 7 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Avenue

Bring a picnic blanket and come out to enjoy City Schools of Decatur PTA's Middle Eastern and South Asian Spring Festival. Hosted by the lower elementary Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees, visitors will experience performances, food, and educational/cultural booths, highlighting diverse crafts and holidays such as Navruz, Eid, Hiddrellez, and Holi. Family tickets are \$10 in advance and available at the event. CSD teachers and elementary school families are invited to register for free at eventbrite.com/e/310310104877.



Core Dance Offers Summer Program for Decatur Teens

This June, Core Dance is offering two weeks of summer programs, focusing on giving voice and taking action. Teens Activate is designed for youth aged 13-18 to recognize the power of their voices and demonstrate how spoken word can combine with movement to create performative expression and action.



Two sessions will be led by spoken word and movement artists Juana Fardan, Chris James, Marcus Montgomery and Amanda Sierradzki. Teens are invited to attend one or both sessions (June 13-17 and June 20-24), in-person and virtual options are available. Visit coredance.org/teens-activate for more information and to register.

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Decatur Artist Exhibits Indigo Prayers

Emory's Michael C. Carlos Museum presents a stunning new exhibition by Decatur artist Charmaine Minniefield and curated by Decatur resident Andi McKenzie. "Indigo Prayers: A Creation Story" is a series of paintings inspired by the artist's time in The Gambia, West Africa, searching for her grandmother's ancestral lines.

Minniefield's work explores indigenous pigments like indigo, crushed oyster shells, and mahogany bark as evidence of cultural preservation through time and across the Middle Passage. The resulting body of work builds on an ongoing exploration of the Ring Shout, an African American practice of resistance whose West African origins predate enslavement.

The exhibition is being presented in conjunction with Minniefield's Praise Houses, which recreate the small, single-room structures in which enslaved people gathered to worship. The exhibit is open now through Sept. 11. For more information, visit carlos.emory.edu. For a full lineup of upcoming events, visit carlos.emory.edu/calendar.



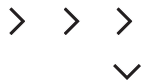
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It's Time to Step Up for Teachers!

Let's show CSD teachers and staff how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication. Now through May 31, honor a CSD teacher, administrator, or school support member at stepupforteachers.com.

With a small donation, you can write a note of gratitude, and DEF will notify the honoree of their tribute. All tributes will be posted to the DEF website and yard signs will be delivered to donors. For those unable to make a donation, send tributes to drew@decatureducationfoundation.org to be posted online.

Anyone can make a donation or leave a tribute, and every year teachers express to DEF how meaningful the tributes are to them. Funds raised through the Step Up campaign are used to support Teacher Innovation Grants awarded every fall. For more information about how DEF supports teachers, schools, and students, visit decatureducationfoundation.org.



Decatur High Student Receives PAGE STAR Recognition

Congratulations to DHS senior Lydia Witter and her teacher Shelby Coffin for being recognized by the PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Witter received an additional cash prize courtesy of Decatur Rotary and Georgia United Credit Union as well as a Chick-fil-A gift card. The announcement was made by Tim Martin of the Decatur Rotary Club, the local sponsor of the DeKalb County STAR program.

Twenty-seven students from high schools in DeKalb County were recognized and the ceremony included attendees from across the county as well as CSD Superintendent Dr. Maggie Fehrman and Decatur High Principal Rochelle Loftstrand. A special guest appearance by local Decaturite Eve Shulmister, whose grandfather A.L. Feldman, CEO of Puritan Chemical Co, founded the STAR program, was also included.

STAR is sponsored, administered, and promoted by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) and the PAGE Foundation. Since its inception, the STAR program has honored more than 28,000 students and the teachers that have had the most influence on their academic achievements. To obtain the STAR nomination, graduating high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the three-part SAT and be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class based on grade point average.



Lydia Witter



Shelby Coffin

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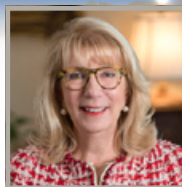
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Agnes Scott Announces Two New Appointments

VP for Academic Affairs

Agnes Scott College has named Dr. Rachel A. Bowser vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, effective in July. She will succeed Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College and Charles A. Dana Professor of English Christine S. Cozzens, who is retiring at the end of the academic year after 40 years at the college.

Bowser comes to Agnes Scott after a decade at Georgia Gwinnett College, where she serves as associate provost for strategic initiatives and professor of English. Her proven track record supporting faculty and staff has been instrumental in closing equity gaps and leading retention initiatives. She has coordinated initiatives focused on integrated coursework in learning communities, credit recovery for students set back by pandemic exigencies, effective frameworks for advising and mentoring and career readiness as a curriculum component.

Bowser holds a PhD from Emory University and a MA from West Virginia University, both in English. As chief academic officer at Agnes Scott, Bowser will be a crucial partner in providing vision, leadership, and direction to maintain the quality and vitality of the academic program while serving a growing student population.

Sustainability Center Executive Director

Agnes Scott College has named Kimberly J. Reeves '12 executive director of the Center for Sustainability, effective July 1. The position is a homecoming for Reeves who began her work at the Center as the first student employee during her undergraduate studies, and then serving as a sustainability fellow before earning a master's degree in environmental planning and design from The University of Georgia.

After graduating from Agnes Scott, Reeves continued her work in sustainability with positions at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Georgia Recycling Coalition, Fernbank Museum, Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division, and University of Georgia's Office of Sustainability and Center for Community Design and Preservation. For the past eight years, Reeves has worked at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, where she's led the Office of Sustainability for the past two years.

Agnes Scott is recognized among the Top 20 Green Colleges in America by The Princeton Review. Reeves's passion and experience will continue to elevate Agnes Scott as a leader and innovator in the field of sustainability, climate action, and justice.

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