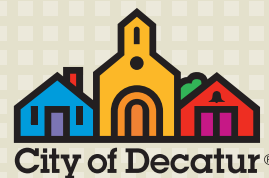
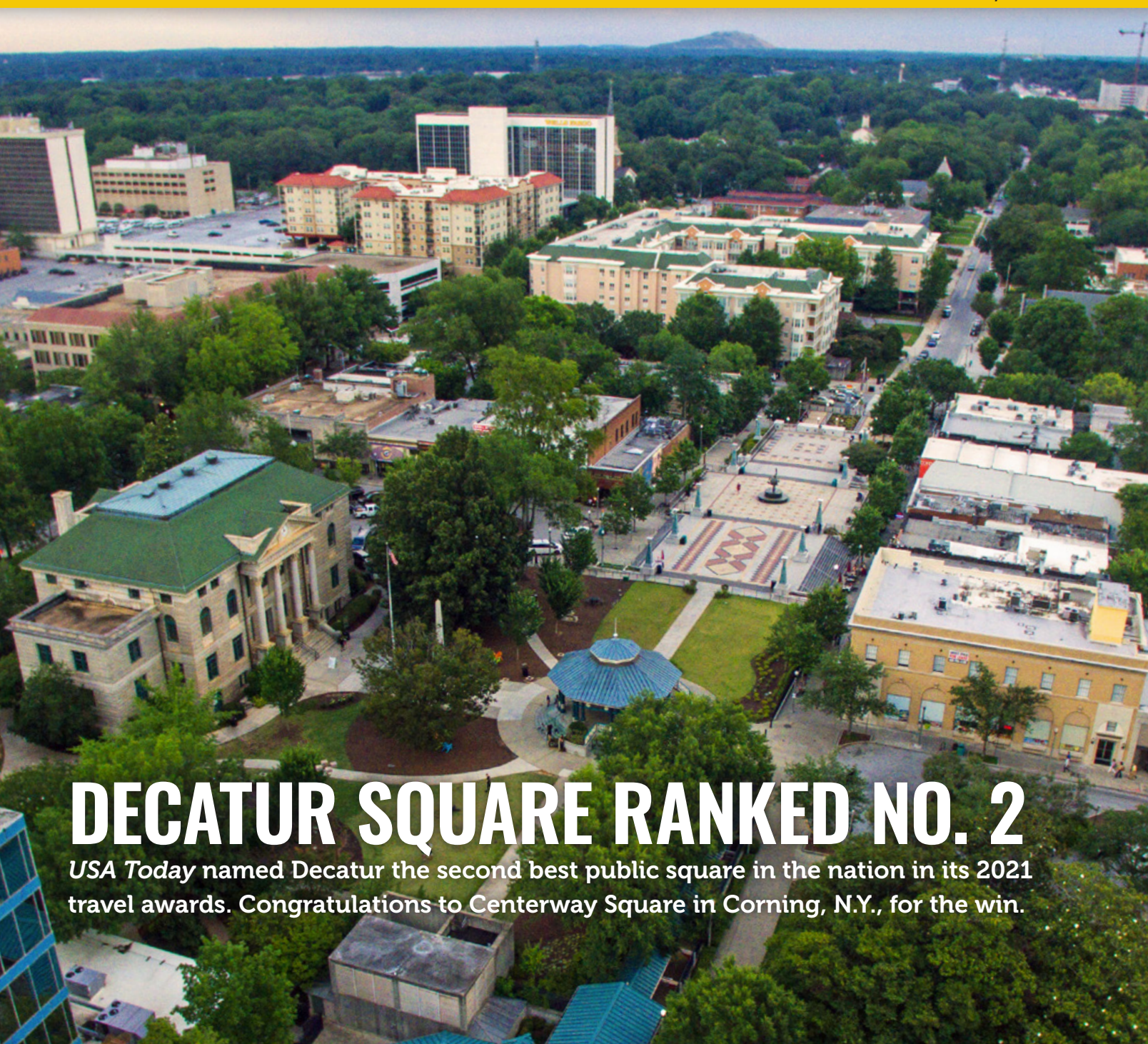


# City of Decatur FOCUS



APRIL 2021  
Volume 31 • Number 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA



## DECATUR SQUARE RANKED NO. 2

*USA Today* named Decatur the second best public square in the nation in its 2021 travel awards. Congratulations to Centerway Square in Corning, N.Y., for the win.

# Responding to Homelessness in Decatur

**T**he City of Decatur is committed to providing compassionate assistance to homeless members of our community. A team of city employees – representing the Economic Development, Fire, Police, and Public Works departments, the Tourism Bureau and the City Manager's Office – has been meeting with nonprofit organizations to determine the best way to provide needed services and to develop a comprehensive response plan.

Last October Decatur engaged the Atlanta Dream Center (now Frontline Response) to assist with helping homeless individuals reunite with their families, access job-training programs, or enter drug and alcohol treatment programs. We knew it would require a process of building relationships over days, weeks and even months, and Frontline Response has the people and resources to do the work.

Currently, Frontline Response visits two-four times per month to continue building relationships with the homeless in our community and to provide necessities such as food and clothing. Since October, eight individuals have been placed in a job program or have reconnected with their families.

The Decatur Police Department has reintroduced the Quality of Life team to the downtown area. This team works in the areas around the square, engaging with shop owners, residents and visitors, and individuals who are homeless. The Quality of Life team also addresses violations of urban camping, smoking, and aggressive panhandling.

Frontline Response has met with members of our in-house team to discuss the challenges of providing assistance to people who are not only struggling with homelessness but are also dealing with serious mental health issues. The city's team is researching the best options for connecting this group of individuals with proper and adequate mental health services.

We want to make sure our residents, businesses and visitors know that we are aware of these issues. We understand that there are no simple solutions and we are committed to working in a compassionate and holistic manner. We do ask that you refrain from giving money or food directly to people experiencing homelessness in our city. Instead, consider donating funds or food items to the organizations that are helping individuals and families daily.

## Organizations Assisting with Homelessness

### Decatur Cooperative Ministry

[decaturcooperativeministry.org/dcm/donate/](http://decaturcooperativeministry.org/dcm/donate/)

### Decatur Presbyterian Church

Threshold Ministry  
[dpchurch.org/threshold/](http://dpchurch.org/threshold/)

### Decatur Area Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM)

[deamdecatur.org](http://deamdecatur.org)

### First Baptist Church Decatur (FBCD) Assistance Ministry

[fbcdecatur.com/in-our-city](http://fbcdecatur.com/in-our-city)

### Frontline Response

[frontlineresponse.org/](http://frontlineresponse.org/)

### A Home for Everyone in DeKalb

[ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org/organization](http://ahomeforeveryoneindekalb.org/organization)

### Frontline Response

City of Decatur Hotline  
678-861-1530

# 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](http://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](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com).



## DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

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Tony Powers.....Mayor Pro Tem  
George Dusenbury.....Commissioner  
Lesa Mayer.....Commissioner  
Kelly Walsh.....Commissioner



Decatur Downtown Development Authority®

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## Decatur Tree Canopy Assessment Presented to City Commission

**T**ony Giarusso, senior research scientist at Georgia Tech, and Mike Edelson, director of operations at Interdev, presented an assessment of Decatur's tree canopy to the Decatur City Commission at their work session in March. To view the video of the presentation, visit [decaturga.com/treecanopyws3121](https://decaturga.com/treecanopyws3121). The slides can be viewed at [decaturga.com/treecanopyassessment](https://decaturga.com/treecanopyassessment).

Giarusso and Edelson studied the city's tree canopy using aerial photography and on-the-ground site visits and determined that the canopy has remained consistent at about 57 percent of Decatur's land cover over the 10-year period between 2009 and 2019. This exceeds the city's most recent tree canopy goal of 50 percent. Tree canopy is more than 70 percent over Decatur's residential neighborhoods and is 42 percent on the city's street rights of way. Downtown Decatur has the least tree canopy coverage.

The research team stated that the study would be useful in educating the community about Decatur's tree canopy and could help inform decision-making, policies and sustainability efforts related to climate change, water and air quality, and tree protection.

The study indicates that canopy values are stable, with canopy losses from development, storms and maintenance generally balanced by gains in young tree canopy growth. Most of the city's trees are located on private single-family residential properties. Much of the canopy loss results from redevelopment of single-family dwellings, suggesting a need to identify ways to preserve existing trees during redevelopment.

The team also found that there is an abundance of older trees and recommended looking for strategies for renewal and replanting, protecting the remaining large tracts of undisturbed woodlands, removing invasive plants that damage trees, and encouraging the use of native and naturalized non-invasive trees to maintain a diverse and sustainable urban tree canopy.

City officials are considering measures to strengthen tree ordinance requirements for single-family dwellings by requiring a tree assessment with the city arborist at the start of the building permit process, requiring protection of additional significant trees during development and more aggressive enforcement.

For more information, contact [kay.evanovich@decaturga.com](mailto:kay.evanovich@decaturga.com).

## Annual Sanitation Events Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Neighborhood Cleanup Days are canceled and the semi-annual Paper Shredding and Styrofoam Recycling event is postponed until further notice. Updates will be provided through the Decatur Focus newsletter and the city's social media channels if and when a new date and time are established.

## Newly Adopted Storm Water Fee Structure

Last December, after two years of community engagement, the City Commission adopted a new Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP). The plan is directed toward mitigating flooding, solving existing drainage problems, improving water quality and the quality of life in Decatur. According to the SWMP, \$38 million is needed to implement high priority capital projects by 2040.

Major storm water infrastructure improvements have been made in downtown Decatur over the past two decades. Infrastructure in most residential neighborhoods is generally more limited, older and not designed to modern standards. Ponding and flooding are observed in many of Decatur's neighborhoods during significant storm events.

At its regular meeting in March, the City Commission approved the following fee structure.

### How Will We Pay for This?

Funding for storm water improvements can be raised equitably with an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) fee system for commercial and non-single family properties and a four-tier fee system for residential properties, based on a property's impervious area, as follows:

#### Commercial and non-single-family rate

1.0 ERU	per 4,000 square feet	\$215 per ERU
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Includes multiple-family dwellings, institutions, public facilities, private drives and streets, other developed properties not classified as single-family dwellings.

#### Single-family residential rate

0.4 ERU	0-2,499 square feet	\$85
0.7 ERU	2,500-3,999 square feet	\$150
1.0 ERU	4,000-4,999 square feet	\$215
1.4 ERU	5,000 square feet or more	\$300

The proposed fee schedule is the SWMP's recommendation to generate funding needed to complete proposed high priority projects over the next 20 years.

The present fee of \$100 per ERU was adopted in 2016 and will not provide the revenues to meet the infrastructure needs of Decatur's aging storm water system.

### What's My New Storm Water Fee?

Property owners can use the search tool at [gis.interdev.com/StormwaterFeeLookup](https://gis.interdev.com/StormwaterFeeLookup) to determine their proposed storm water fee. Credits for reducing run-off and saving tree canopy are available for a portion of the fees.

### When Will I Pay the New Storm Water Fee?

The new fee is due on June 1.

To view the plan visit [decaturnext.com/2020/12/11/storm-water-master-plan-adopted](https://decaturnext.com/2020/12/11/storm-water-master-plan-adopted). For more information, visit [decaturga.com](https://decaturga.com) or email [david.junger@decaturga.com](mailto:david.junger@decaturga.com).

## Community Member Highlight: Meet Louise Jackson

**M**rs. Louise Jackson was instrumental in the founding of the Oakhurst Community Garden more than 15 years ago. It all began when some students from the nearby school carelessly kicked over a number of her fabulous flowers and plants when walking home from school. Mrs. Jackson took the situation and turned it into a positive learning experience for everyone. She went to the principal of the school and discussed the incident, resolving to help nurture the students as opposed to punishing them for their actions.

Mrs. Jackson and the students, over the course of the next year, planted, tended, nurtured and saw plants and flowers grow. The students learned a tremendous lesson about the earth; the ways of growing and cultivating; but also learned the lessons of wisdom and compassion and friendship of a lady whose flowers they had trampled. From that humble beginning, Mrs. Jackson sought out the help of her friend Sally Wylde and together began to cultivate a larger vision for the community — a vision of a small piece of property where children from throughout the community/neighborhood could come and learn to interact with the earth, plants,

and with each other. And so began the long and rich history of what is now the Wylde Center.

From the moment you hear the (infectious) laugh and the full-throated welcome to come in, you know you are truly an honored guest at the home of Mrs. Louise Jackson (on the corner of Oakview and North Fourth) in Oakhurst. Louise Jackson has lived in the southwest side of Decatur over four decades and thus has seen some changes in the neighborhood she loves.

Mrs. Jackson recalls some of her happiest times in Oakhurst revolving around the community she adopted and who adopted



Sally Wylde and Louise Jackson



Louise Jackson and Mary Whitehead serve as Grand Marshals of the Oakhurst Parade.

her. Working with Sally Wylde to establish the garden was one such time. Another was being named a Grand Marshal in the Oakhurst Parade several years ago, along with long-time resident Mary Whitehead. The two rode in an open-top convertible, complete with crown and sash, waving and smiling as they drove through the community. Mrs. Jackson received the Wylde Center's Sally Wylde award in 2014, lauded for her work in the community with both youth and the environment. "Thank you, Louise Jackson, for your courage, wisdom, insight, and willingness to trust in the goodness of youth; and for being a pillar of the community whose legacy continues to this day throughout the neighborhood and the city as a result of that original garden with Sally," reads the nomination form for the 2014 award.

Louise Jackson, a "Grady Baby," was born in 1936 and will be celebrating her 85th birthday this summer. Growing up with a sister in the Old Fourth Ward, she moved east to Oakhurst in 1973.

"I was a real tomboy growing up; my mother was always trying to get me to wear a dress rather than jeans; but I was a real tree-climber AND played lots of marbles with the boys."

more ►

She graduated from the Vocational School of Atlanta. Her daughter Monette graduated from Decatur High School but passed away in 2008. LeeAnn Harvey recalls the love and care with which she took care of her daughter for many years. "I would go to her house and she would always bring me to her daughter's room to say hello."

Louise Jackson is a longtime neighbor and active participant in the neighborhood, in particular through the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association. Nominated by former City Manager Peggy Merriss, Mrs. Jackson was also named a Decatur Hometown Hero in 1998 for her contributions to Oakhurst and the city.

When a tree fell on her house several years ago, she was determined to have her home repaired and, after four months living outside Decatur, Mrs. Jackson returned much to the delight of friends and neighbors.

Lee Ann Harvey also commented on the continued involvement in the community in recent years, even as her health has made it more difficult for her to attend events. "You can see her lovely and loving smile at the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association meetings." And as long as they were held, she was a regular at the ONA annual Thanksgiving celebration where she always appreciated the California Rice dish brought by former member Ron Tuck. She will agree that she loves a good party and also enjoyed the Decatur Education Foundation fundraisers and the New Year's Day gatherings held by Kyle Williams and Larry Kosten for a number of years. In fact, she celebrated her 80th birthday with a party at the Solarium in Oakhurst.

LeeAnn Harvey continues, "The other thing I always think about is how she came to the Oakhurst neighborhood meetings at the Solarium. She has always loved being with people. She liked nothing better than coming to the meetings and seeing old friends and laughing!"

Louise Jackson also makes clear she loves desserts, especially Pineapple Upside Down Cake — no nuts, please — and, weather permitting, you can find her on her front porch, looking out over "Mrs. Jackson's Garden" and seeing children playing outside at school. Louise Jackson, a real treasure in our midst!

## Decatur Waste Characterization Study

During April, the City of Decatur will work with consultant Burns & McDonnell to conduct a waste characterization study of our single-family residential waste streams (pay-as-you-throw trash, commingled recycling, glass, and yard waste). The results of this study will support the city's ongoing commitment to providing sustainable, transparent, and fiscally responsible sanitation services.

### How Will It Work?

Materials from randomly selected households will be collected across the city to give us a representative sample of our waste streams. To ensure privacy, samples will be combined by stream, meaning no identifying information will be connected to which household a sample came from. Professionally trained crews will then sort, measure, and weigh materials according to more than 20 different categories. These categories will include edible and non-edible food waste, plastics #1-7, electronics, textiles, and more. The study is expected to conclude in June.

### What Comes Next?

City staff, the City Commission, the Environmental Sustainability Board, and other stakeholders will review the results and consider actions we can take to improve our waste collection program. We will make sure our decisions fit our local context, address our most pressing needs, and take advantage of the biggest opportunities for improvement.

### What Can I Do To Help?

On your regularly scheduled collection day, make sure everything is at the curb by 7:30 a.m. If you have questions or concerns, contact [david.nifong@decaturga.com](mailto:david.nifong@decaturga.com).

## Decatur Walk & Roll Superstars

**Katherine and John Yntema** — this month's Walk and Roll stars — have been Decatur residents for more than 30 years. They are both retired but stay busy, even during COVID restrictions. They spend time supporting the land at their churches and tend several garden plots.

When they have time to spare on one of their regular walks, Katherine and John also add sparkle to their lives with "walking adventures," where they walk around town just to see what they can discover. The evening of this picture they walked to the high school to see the freshly painted Black Lives Matter street mural.



# Decatur Engineers Pay it Forward

When admiring a new building or park, you probably don't think about the critical logistics and infrastructure supporting it. Whether routing a drive-thru to avoid traffic or placing a parking structure on a corporate campus, the Contineo Group, a civil engineering firm, has been solving these problems for clients around the country for more than a decade.

Founded in 2009 by Bryan Russell, the company set up shop at 755 Commerce Dr. in downtown Decatur, which it continues to call home today. Like most companies based in Decatur, The Contineo Group values the singular culture and accessibility the city provides through its restaurants and community spaces.

"Decatur is a valuable asset to our business because of the talent it allows us to attract," said partner Bryan Russell. "The ability to live and work in such a vibrant community is a determining factor for some, while others take advantage of MARTA to live virtually anywhere in metro Atlanta and have a quick path to work."

Early last year, the Contineo Group was working on a variety of projects around the country when the Coronavirus pandemic brought nearly all development to a screeching halt, leaving its most critical resource – its people – vulnerable.

"We were in a tough position when COVID struck, so when we heard about the emergency loan program initiated by the

City of Decatur and the Decatur Downtown Development Authorities (DDA), it was a critical lifeline," said Russell. "Our business is built to survive leaner times, but we are only as strong as our talent, so the loan meant everything to us."

With a cap of \$25,000 per business, the

loans issued in May 2020 gave companies up to a year to repay the debt at 0 percent interest, but when additional funds became available through the federal government's CARES Act in November, the loans were forgiven and converted to grants.

By late 2020, the Contineo Group was back up and running on a bevy of new industrial projects, as the economic shifts caused by the pandemic created a significant need for logistics management, especially at fulfillment centers and other shipping-focused facilities. Given their success, Russell and his team took the unprecedented step of repaying the full \$25,000 loan, despite having no obligation to do so.

*more ►*



Contineo founder Bryan Russell (center) with partners Eric Garcia (left) and Ron Crump



Boone and West Lake Park, Atlanta



UCHealth, Broomfield Colo.

Thrive Senior Living, Huntsville, Ala.



"We view the Decatur business community as a family, and like any close-knit group, you want to help others when they are down," said Russell. "The city and DDA were there for us when we needed support, so we are more than happy to pay it forward and help our neighbors with this gesture."

The bold action by Russell and his partners, Ron Crump and Erick Garcia Salas, left an impression on many in the local business community, especially at the DDA. "What makes Decatur such a fantastic place for businesses is the bond they share with each other," said Conor McNally, Decatur DDA chair. "Bryan and his team at the Contineo Group have 'put their money where their mouth is' with this selfless act, exemplifying the ethos that lies at the very heart of our community. Their decision to repay the original loan allowed us to support an additional two businesses with grant funding in our second round."



East Cooper Medical Office Facility, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Hattiesburg, Miss., Musculoskeletal Center



# Walk Challenge Bingo



**Complete the game to claim a Walk Decatur bandanna and a light. Please maintain distance and wear your mask!**

TAKE A 20 MINUTE WALK	WALK TO PICK UP DINNER	TAKE A WALK IN NATURE	WALK TO THE STORE	CLIMB 2 FLIGHTS OF STAIRS
WALK WITH A NEIGHBOR	WALK WITH SOMEONE NEW	TAKE A FAMILY WALK	TAKE 4000 STEPS	MAKE TIME FOR REST
WALK TO A FRIEND'S HOME	TAKE 3000 STEPS	<i>Free</i>	WALK TO A DECATUR SHOP	TAKE 5000 STEPS
TAKE A WALK IN THE RAIN	TAKE A 30 MINUTE WALK	WALK ON THE STONE MOUNTAIN PATH	WALK TO A CITY PARK	JOG IN PLACE AT EVERY STOP SIGN
CLIMB 4 FLIGHTS OF STAIRS	WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHES WHILE WALKING TO BE SEEN	TAKE A 45 MINUTE WALK	DO MORE STEPS THAN YESTERDAY	BE POSITIVE ALL DAY



To claim your prize, send to [cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com](mailto:cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com)



## Glennwood Estates Neighbors Work to Improve Nature Preserve

In February, the Glennwood Estates Neighborhood Association coordinated two restoration work days at the Glenn Creek Nature Preserve in honor of Georgia's Arbor Day – and to spruce up the reserve for its dedication to the Old Growth Forest Network.

Directed by leaders John and David McFarland, Cindy Langley and Arborist Neal Norton, the work proved another successful effort toward restoring the preserve. Dozens of volunteers, including high schoolers and Scouts and other neighbors ranging in age from one to 60-plus, shoveled and spread mulch to restore trails and pulled out ivy and other invasive vegetation.

To learn more about the history of the preserve and its relationship to the Glennwood Estates neighborhood, visit [glennwoodestates.org/about/glenn-creek-nature-preserve](http://glennwoodestates.org/about/glenn-creek-nature-preserve).



# FAB First Fridays

April 2, May 7, June 4 • 5-9 p.m.

FAB Fridays is now FAB First Fridays. During the first Friday in April, May and June, shop and dine outside with some of Decatur's favorite independent shops and restaurants at curbside storefronts and parking lot pop-ups around the city and at the open-air market on the MARTA plaza. These photos are from last autumn's FAB Fridays.



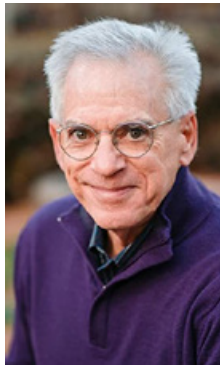
## Decatur Author Releases New Book

Decatur resident and author Richard Stone co-wrote and released a new book, along with Scott Livengood, *Story Intelligence: Master Story, Master Life*. The new release offers a perspective on how people can tap into their true intelligence and start to grow in every field of life.

The duo highlights ways story intersects with and affects every facet of our lives, from discerning how to create a personal story that opens us to our possibilities to the many ways that story can help us to be more effective in our relationships, work settings, and communities. The authors also share how storytelling is almost as innate to human nature as breathing; it's mankind's shared native language. Mastering the art of story is the foundation to success.

*Story Intelligence* introduces readers to the many ways that mastering story can amplify and enhance both their IQ and "story intelligence" or SQ, which is the ability of individuals to more fully understand themselves, others, and life's challenges through the lens of story. The book provides readers the tools to craft an optimum story that helps them communicate better, perform better and enter a conscious state of living where possibilities are endless. This comprehensive new book not only helps people from all across the globe become familiar with the concepts of SQ, but it also helps them enhance their SQ and transform their lives. The book highlights seven main powers of story and how they can lift people up and help them overcome obstacles and unleash their true potential. From using the power of story to communicate with people, to enabling effective learning, to using story as a key to healing and building bridges with those with different world views and ideologies, the book shares and celebrates the frequently overlooked power of story.

As the CEO of StoryWork International, Richard Stone helps people and organizations implement storytelling solutions to address a host of organizational and professional development challenges. His work spans many fields, from business and society to healthcare and education. To learn more about Richard Stone and to purchase the book, visit [amazon.com/Richard-Stone/e/b001khhb1yg](https://amazon.com/Richard-Stone/e/b001khhb1yg).



## Applications for Rotary Club Community Project Grants Now Open

The Rotary Club of Decatur is now accepting applications for community project grants to

**Rotary**  
Club of Decatur



focus on literacy or at-risk youth. Grant applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Program focus:** Applications should seek funding for a community project that focuses on either literacy or at-risk youth.
- **Use of grant money:** Applications should seek funding to be used for a specific program and cannot be used for general operations or overhead.
- **Geographic area:** Community project grants are limited to programs that are based in DeKalb County and that serve DeKalb County residents.
- **Impact that the grant will have on program:** Decatur Rotary seeks to utilize community project grants to leverage funding to realize a large impact on the program regardless of the level of funding.
- **Impact that the grant will have on community at large:** Community project grants should seek to have a significant impact in the DeKalb County community and for DeKalb County residents.
- **Timing of Project:** Grant funds should be used between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.
- **Nonprofit Status:** The community project must be administered by a nonprofit agency currently maintaining a tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The deadline for submission is April 16, 2021. More information and an application form can be found on the rotary website: [decatur-rotary.org/grantapplication](https://decatur-rotary.org/grantapplication).

## Decatur Joins UNICEF USA's Child Friendly Cities Initiative

City of Decatur implements pilot initiative to create safer, more equitable communities and elevate youth voices

The City of Decatur is proud to announce it will embark on its journey toward recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. Through the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), Decatur, in addition to four pilot cities and one county, will implement an ambitious, two-year process toward the child-friendly UNICEF recognition.

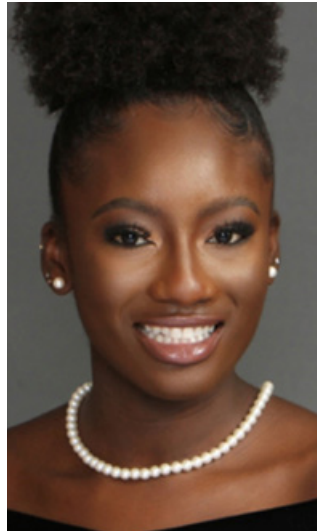
Through the CFCI Framework for Action, Decatur, along with community partners City Schools of Decatur, Decatur Education Foundation, and Decatur Housing Authority, will identify objectives under five goal areas focusing on supporting children and young people, including: safety and inclusion, children's participation, eq-

uitable social services, safe living environments and play and leisure.

For more information or to share any ideas you may have, email [childfriendlydecatur@gmail.com](mailto:childfriendlydecatur@gmail.com). For more information about Child Friendly Cities Initiative in the United States, visit [unicefusa.org/mission/usa/child-friendlycities](https://unicefusa.org/mission/usa/child-friendlycities).

## DBA Black History Month Meeting

During the annual Black History program, Decatur High School students Bethani Payton, Ana Villavasso, and Zuri Hightower (not pictured) presented some of the work they are doing in the community to advance equity and shared their perspectives on movements and moments, the importance of acknowledging history, the role young people play in moving forward, and more.



Bethani Payton



Ana Villavasso

**DBA**  
Decatur Business  
Association

### MEETING PREVIEW

**Tuesday, April 27**  
**Membership Meeting**

5:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom

visit [decaturdba.com](https://decaturdba.com) to register

## What Matters in Our Community Outdoor Concert

**Sunday, April 11 • 3-6 p.m.**

**350 Mead Rd., parking lot of Paolino's, Matador and Wildheart Salon in Oakhurst**

The community is invited to the What Matters in Our Community outdoor concert with Faith Harris, hosted by Paolinos, Matador, and Wildheart Salon. The event will also feature a performance from the Banji School of Music and spoken word from Tasleem Dawud. Food will be available for purchase from Paolino's and Matador.



Faith Harris

Tickets are \$5 and are limited to ensure social distancing. Tickets are available for purchase at [Faithharrismusic.com/events](https://Faithharrismusic.com/events). Each individual in a group must purchase a ticket to attend. To adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are required to bring your personal chairs, to be placed six feet apart from other groups, and masks must be worn – unless you are eating.

For more information, contact [taylor@dealpicklecreative.com](mailto:taylor@dealpicklecreative.com).

## Tenants Wanted

Friends of Decatur Cemetery (FODC) recently installed an owl box in the old section of the cemetery, hoping for a nice screech owl family to move into the cozy accommodations.



## Virtual Series: Joshilyn Jackson Reads

**T**his year, the Decatur Book Festival (DBF) and the Georgia Center for the Book (GCB) are working together again to produce the virtual series Joshilyn Jackson Reads. From May 4 to June 29, Joshilyn and her co-captain, local writer Nicki Salcedo, will moderate nine author panels that span genres and perspectives.



Joshilyn Jackson

The series will include literary fiction, thrillers, beach reads, young adult novels, fantasy, mythology, and romance. The books have been chosen by Joshilyn and Nicki and they will provide readers a spring and summer of stories to get lost in. Watch for announcements on the DBF and GCB social media platforms and websites, or sign up for the DBF newsletter at the bottom of the home page at [decaturbookfestival.com](http://decaturbookfestival.com).

## Clarity Fitness Joins Eating Disorder Fund-Raising Walk

**April 25 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Clarity Fitness is committed to raising \$2,000 for the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) on the NEDA Walk, virtually and in person, socially distanced and masked-up. Virtual participants will join 11-11:15 a.m. for a kick off to start their own walk, or just to pop in to show support.

The National Eating Disorders Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by eating disorders, and serving as a catalyst for prevention, cures, and access to quality care.

To join the Clarity Fitness NEDA Walk team virtually or in person, go to [nedawalk.org/register](http://nedawalk.org/register) and join team "Clarity Fitness."

## Stacey Stevens Named Decatur YMCA Executive Director

Stacey Stevens has been named executive director of the Decatur Family YMCA. She began her YMCA career in 2001 as the director of financial development and community partnerships at the Decatur Family Y, where she served until 2010. She left briefly to serve as director of development at Year Up Atlanta but soon returned to serve as the senior director of philanthropy at the YMCA of Metro Atlanta association office. In 2018, Stevens returned to the Decatur Family Y to serve as the associate executive director.



Stacey Stevens

An Atlanta native, Stacey grew up in Sandy Springs and currently lives in Winnona Park with her husband John and two daughters, Madison and Sydney. She graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and earned her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado.

Stacey is a 2008 graduate of Leadership DeKalb and a member of the Decatur Rotary Club, the Decatur Parent's Network leadership team, and the Decatur Prevention Initiative Community Coalition.

## Estate Planning Wills & Trusts • Probate

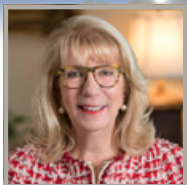
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## The Solarium Extends Closure

Based on current public health guidelines and to ensure the safety of guests, staff, and the community, the Solarium has decided to remain closed to events and rentals through the end of April. In the meantime, check out the new 360 tour and event photos of Solarium space at [thesolarium.com](http://thesolarium.com). Email [contact@thesolarium.com](mailto:contact@thesolarium.com) if you have any questions or concerns.



## Take a Walk! Read a Book!

### Decatur Story Walk set for Friday, May 7

Decatur bookstores Brave and Kind Books, Charis Books & More, and Little Shop of Stories will each feature a different book for this event. Pages from the books will be presented in storefront windows along a Story Walk route through different districts of the city: West Ponce, Oakhurst, and East Decatur Station/Old Depot District. Watch Decatur social media accounts for more information regarding books and routes. The Story Walk coincides with the city's First Friday promotion for May, so shops and restaurants will feature specials and deals, too.

The StoryWalk concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt., and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library





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## Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place

**On view through May 9**  
**Michael C. Carlos Museum**  
**571 S. Kilgo Circle, Atlanta**  
 Decatur resident and Ingram Senior Director of Education Elizabeth Horner invites the community to visit the Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place exhibition. The exhibition contains more than 100 works of art in a variety of media from the 9th century to the present, from throughout the Islamic world. The museum is once again open to the public, with limited capacity and safety restrictions in place. For more information on the exhibition and public programs related to it, visit [carlos.emory.edu/exhibition/wondrous-worlds](http://carlos.emory.edu/exhibition/wondrous-worlds).



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## Agnes Scott Graduate Admission and Application Process Webinar

Wednesday, April 7 • noon

Join Agnes Scott College's graduate admission team for an online information session that includes tips and details about applying to one of ASC's graduate programs. Ask questions and learn more about the application process, requirements, and general questions about applying. To participate, register at [connect.agnesscott.edu/register/?id=71d2da97-4eb2-44cf-8c76-dde1627393ff](https://connect.agnesscott.edu/register/?id=71d2da97-4eb2-44cf-8c76-dde1627393ff).

## ASC Announces Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Speaker

Thursday, April 29 • 1-2 p.m.

Join Agnes Scott College for a conversation with Stephanie Cho, executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ). The conversation will be moderated by student Christina Matu and will focus on the importance of the Asian American vote this past election, their civic engagement, and the work of the AAAJ. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/ascaapikeynote](https://tinyurl.com/ascaapikeynote).

## It's Time To Step Up for Teachers!

Every spring, the Decatur Education Foundation supports City Schools of Decatur teachers and staff by offering the community an opportunity to Step Up for Teachers through online personal tributes. This year, our teachers and CSD staff have been asked to adapt quickly to virtual teaching. During April and May, community members can show their appreciation by honoring a CSD teacher, administrator or school support member with a small donation and a short note of gratitude. DEF then notifies the honored person of their tribute, and posts all of the tributes on the DEF website.

You don't have to be a current student to leave a tribute message. If you graduated from Decatur High School, the teachers love to hear from alumni too! Visit [stepupforteachers.com](https://stepupforteachers.com) to get started. For more information about how DEF helps our students learn and thrive, visit [decatureducation-foundation.org](https://decatureducation-foundation.org).



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