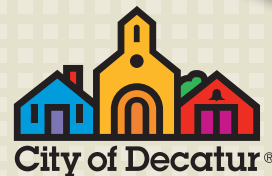


# City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE **KIDS**  
ACTIVITY  
BOOK



APRIL 2022  
Volume 32 • Number 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA



From left: Commissioner Lesa Mayer, Mayor Patti Garrett, Ed Lee, LaToya Tucciarone, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH DBA PROGRAM

The Decatur Business Association's annual Black History Month program featured a chat between Decatur neighbors and entrepreneurs LaToya Tucciarone and Ed Lee. During the conversation, Ed and LaToya discussed entrepreneurship, economic justice, and shared perspectives on obstacles Black entrepreneurs face.

## Decatur Communications Manager Recognized by PRSA Georgia

In March, Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Georgia Chapter named Renae Madison Chapter Champion for her work with the organization's DEI Committee. Renae's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion focuses on helping members feel welcomed, engaged, and valued for their contributions to the organization. Through events like the Diverse Voices Roundtable, Renae collects feedback from members to help inform leadership and provide a forum for those not in the majority to be better represented.

Renae brings this same dedication to her role as communications manager/public information officer for City of Decatur. She also serves on the planning team for the Employee Leadership Academy and co-chairs the City's Employee Equity Team. As a staff liaison to the Better Together Advisory Board, Renae engages the community on Decatur's DEI initiatives, so programs are more collaborative and inclusive.

Thank you, Renae, for going the extra mile for PRSA and Decatur.



Renae Madison

## Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week • April 25-29

The last week in April, let's recognize and appreciate the afterschool professionals who make a difference in the lives of young people in our community. These skilled individuals work with children and youth in diverse school and community-based settings to provide a wide variety of positive developmental relationships and experiences during out-of-school hours. The week will be marked by celebrations, public relations, and advocacy efforts to encourage people to thank and provide ongoing support to these youth leaders.

## Have a Story You Would Like to Share?

Contributions to the *Decatur Focus* are encouraged and can be submitted by using the newly implemented submission form on Decatur's official website, [decaturga.com/focus](http://decaturga.com/focus). Content is due by the first of the month prior to the month of publication (i.e., information that appears in the April issue should be submitted by March 1). Letters to the editor, editorials, or other opinion pieces are not published.

The *Decatur Focus* is the official newsletter of the City of Decatur. Supported by the City of Decatur, the Decatur Business Association and the Decatur Downtown Development Authority, it is published 10 times per year and mailed to every household, business, and professional license-holder in the city. January/February and July/August are combined issues.

The *Focus* publishes announcements and information about the city, including city services, downtown development, school news, business news, and news about individual residents and neighborhood associations. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners, and the school system.

All press releases, announcements, and other information received for publication are subject to editing. The *Decatur Focus* also accepts advertising. For information about ad rates call 404-371-8386 or email [tammy.washington@decaturga.com](mailto:tammy.washington@decaturga.com).

Information found in the *Focus* is also posted on the website. 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; phone 404-371-8386; email [decaturfocus@decaturga.com](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com).

**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](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com), or by using the submission form found at [decaturga.com/focus](http://decaturga.com/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



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## SIDEWALKS: Keeping Them Clear, Safe and Clean Is a Responsibility We Share

**D**ecatur residents invest millions of tax dollars on the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, but often pedestrians find themselves in situations where residential landscaping has grown over the sidewalk or slippery leaves and landscape debris make the passage unsafe.

Per city code, residents are responsible for the upkeep and de-littering of their property all the way to the curb. Prune all plants so they are behind the edge of the sidewalk and make sure there is at least seven feet of clearance above the sidewalk so that pedestrians are not impeded by bushes or low branches as they walk. ([decaturga.com/publicworks/page/sidewalks](http://decaturga.com/publicworks/page/sidewalks))

Please keep the sidewalk in front of your home clear of debris and vegetation in every season. Your neighbors depend on you to help keep the neighborhood safe for pedestrians and other vulnerable users. Questions? Contact Assistant City Manager David Junger, 404-377-5571.



## CYS Welcomes New Hire

Decatur's Children and Youth Services (CYS) welcomes Kiara Weems as the new Whiz Kids site director at Talley Street. Kiara joined CYs in 2017, working part time as an afterschool counselor with Animal Crackers at the Decatur Recreation Center. When Talley Street Upper Elementary opened in 2019, Kiara moved to the Whiz Kids Program at that location.

Kiara is one of seven afterschool professionals who work in the City of Decatur as site directors, with an additional group of talented and committed afterschool counselors who serve more than 600 children each day. CYs is committed to providing quality out-of-school time programming that empowers children to become healthy, engaged members of the community. As an alum of Glennwood Elementary, who participated in the Animal Crackers Afterschool Program, Kiara knows firsthand the positive impact that these youth leaders can have on our community.



Kiara Weems

## Downtown Program Manager Participates in Economic Development Program



In March, the Georgia Academy for Economic Development hosted The Essentials program in Atlanta. Decatur's Downtown Program Manager Shirley Baylis joined fellow community and economic development professionals, elected officials, public servants, business leaders, educators, and engaged citizens from across Georgia to participate in the program. In addition to presenting education and information, the forum offered Baylis and her colleagues the opportunity to collaborate and discuss the complexities of economic and community development on the local, regional, and state levels.

Sponsored by Georgia EMC, Georgia Power, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Essentials program invites experts to present research-based curriculum and provide resources to help educate and inform participants on how to build and support a vibrant economy.

For more information on the Georgia Academy for Economic Development and its program, The Essentials, visit [georgiaacademy.org](http://georgiaacademy.org).

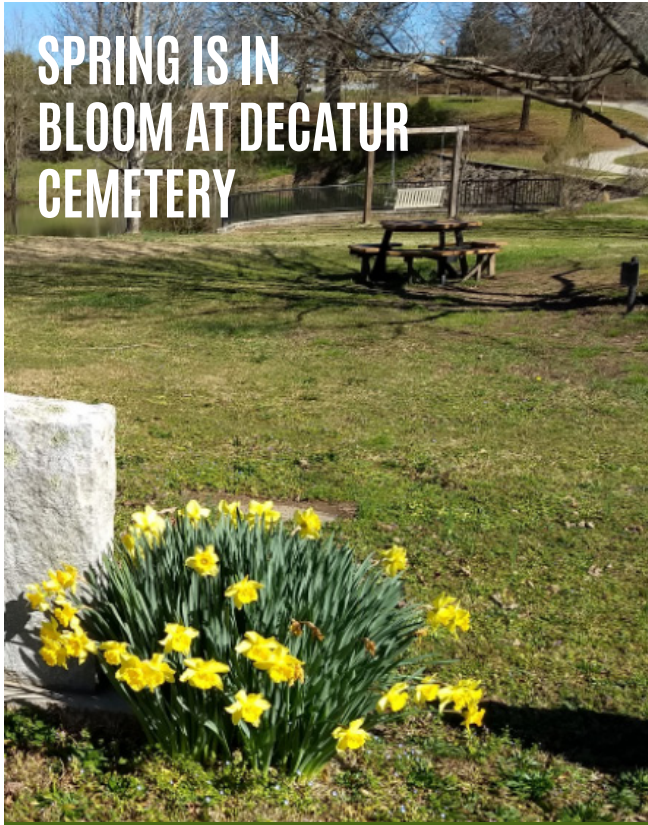
## What's Up in Decatur?

### Visitors Center website has all the event details

You can now see what's happening in Decatur and submit your events all on the same page. Go to [visitdecaturga.com](http://visitdecaturga.com), click on "Events" at the top of the page, and find a listing of upcoming events in Decatur. Submitted an event for the calendar? Event submissions will go live once approved. Email [sherry.jackman@decaturga.com](mailto:sherry.jackman@decaturga.com) with questions.



## SPRING IS IN BLOOM AT DECATUR CEMETERY



Come and experience all the sights and sounds of Decatur's urban greenspace. Friends of Decatur Cemetery have been working over the winter, and volunteers are available to offer tours, gardening tips, and information about the cemetery. Each season presents a reason to explore. For information contact [friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com).

## Decatur Land Trust Seeks Applicants for Advisory Board

The Board of Directors of the Decatur Land Trust (DLT) is seeking applicants for appointment to an advisory board that will assist in fully implementing its mission through community outreach, funding opportunities, and establishing the DLT in Decatur. The DLT is a new non-profit entity whose mission is to contribute to the building and preservation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents within the city of Decatur. The DLT is committed to establishing programs that minimize displacement of existing residents and preserve the quality and affordability of housing for future generations. To apply, visit [decaturlandtrust.org](http://decaturlandtrust.org), complete a statement of interest form, and email the completed application to [decaturlandtrust@decaturga.com](mailto:decaturlandtrust@decaturga.com).



## Apply To Own a Decatur Land Trust Home!

The Decatur Land Trust will have its first homes for sale in late 2022 and 2023. Interested applicants who work for the City of Decatur, City Schools of Decatur, or for the Decatur Housing Authority are invited to attend one of two information sessions in April to learn more about the Decatur Land Trust and the homebuying process.

Attending an information session is the first step and also a requirement for all potential homebuyers of DLT homes. DLT information sessions are held at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Drive. The first session will be held on Saturday, April 23, 11a.m.-noon, in the auditorium at Legacy Park. The second session will be held on Thursday, April 28, 5-6 p.m., in the dining hall. Visit [decaturlandtrust.org](http://decaturlandtrust.org) to sign up online and to receive further details about in-person sessions, as well as links to zoom versions of each session.

## WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR

Meet Andrew Taft, this month's Walk and Roll Star. Also known as "Camera Andy" to many of the people who see him walking around his Chelsea Heights neighborhood, he loves taking pictures of Decatur architecture, so he usually carries his camera with him as he walks. During the pandemic, Andy began walking short distances three times daily, and now he walks up to 5-8 miles most days for the purpose of transportation, fitness, and photography. Andy has made many friends during his walks in Decatur – both 2-legged and 4. If you see Camera Andy, be sure to smile and say "Hi!"



# A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME

## Commissioner Kelly Walsh interviews YMCA Executive Director

City Commissioner Kelly Walsh serves on the Community Engagement Board of the Decatur DeKalb YMCA. Recently, she sat down with the YMCA's new executive director, Stacey Stevens, to learn more about her career journey and the goals she has for the organization.

**Tell me a little bit about yourself. How long have you lived in Decatur and where? When did you join the YMCA and become its executive director?**

My husband John and I have lived in Winona Park since 2013, along with our two daughters, Madison and Sydney. Prior to moving to Decatur, we lived in Kirkwood for 17 years. I began my YMCA career in 2001, serving in various roles at the Decatur Family Y and YMCA of Metro Atlanta Association Office. I was named the executive director at the Decatur Family Y in November 2020.

**What are a couple of your favorite things about working for a nonprofit like the YMCA?**

What energizes me most about working for the Y is that we are a nonprofit organization uniquely positioned to meet unmet community needs. We are so much more than a "gym and swim." Each Y organically develops programs specific to each local community. With our proximity to Clarkston, the Decatur Y was able to create programs to meet specific needs of children from refugee and newcomer communities.

The Decatur Y Motel Program began in the summer of 2019 with the goal of providing daily food, summer day camp activities, and essential resources for children living in motels. As the pandemic emerged in the winter of 2020, the Y quickly pivoted to provide additional resources to families living in extended stay motels. Now, thanks to many partnerships, we are on a mission to provide critical needs for families with children living in hotels to build trust, improve educational outcomes, and break the cycle of

poverty. People are our why – inclusion and equity are at the heart of everything we do.

**What have been some of your biggest challenges in leading the Decatur Family YMCA through the pandemic?**

Our priority is always to put the safety of our staff, members, and the community first. The pandemic presented many challenges that required constant vigilance to be sure we were making the best decisions possible for our team and audience. It's not always easy to please everyone in an environment where there are so many differing opinions, but as long as we lead with safety first, we know we are remaining true to our mission and focused on the health and wellness of our community.

**What's different about the Y over the last few years and how it relates to the community at large?**

While these past two years brought a lot of new challenges and uncertainty, it also presented the opportunity to serve our community in profound and selfless ways. At the outset of the pandemic, many childcare centers, afterschool programs, and schools closed their doors. Ys across Atlanta opened their doors to care for the children of front-line workers, including healthcare professionals, first responders, and grocery and warehouse employees. In the fall of 2020, when schools shifted to virtual learning, we developed Y Campus Connection to support children through online learning while their parents continued to work.

Despite extraordinary circumstances that have continued throughout the pandemic, we are strengthened by those who have championed our mission through tangible resources, committed partnerships, time volunteered, and words of encouragement.

**What are some ways that the Decatur DeKalb YMCA and the City of Decatur partner to serve the local community? Are there things you'd like to see happening in the**



Stacey Stevens (left) and Kelly Walsh.

**future with regard to programming, outreach or anything else to meet the needs of the community?**

The Decatur Family Y was built in 1960, and we've enjoyed a strong partnership with the City of Decatur. We've partnered with Decatur Parks and Recreation to provide youth sports programming, safety around water classes and previously, afterschool care for children attending City Schools of Decatur. We've also collaborated with Decatur Active Living to provide meals to adults and families in transition. Leading with equity at the heart of everything we do, we look forward to working with the City of Decatur to address health disparities across race and socio-economic conditions, lead with education, and provide connections to health services and resources.

**Would you say there's a place for anyone and everyone at the Y?**

Everyone has a home at the Y. In a world of divisions, the Y remains a place where everyone is welcome. It is a safe space, where children, teens and adults can receive the support they need to achieve their fullest potential. Our 62-year history of the Decatur Family YMCA is a testament to people doing remarkable things together. We want to create spaces and experiences that foster equity and inclusion, promote a deeper understanding of people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, and be an organization that is open and welcoming to all.



## Invasive Plants Highlight

## Callery Pear Trees

**B**eware the Trojan Horse that is the Callery pear tree! While often thought of as a beautiful harbinger of spring, these ornamental flowering trees are becoming as prevalent and problematic as kudzu and Chinese privet when growing in the wild.

Native to Korea and China, Callery pear trees were introduced in the United States in the early 1900s. In the 1960s, the Bradford pear cultivars (the variety seen most often in northern Georgia) became immensely popular because they were developed as “sterile” plants that could not reproduce on their own. However, cross-pollination has resulted in a more aggressive tree (more like the original species) with thorns that grow up to 4-inches long and are strong enough to puncture a car tire.

Because these trees flower in early March, weeks before native flowering trees, they tend to suppress the growth rate of native saplings. They also block out the sun needed for wildflowers, which reduces available nectar for bees and other pollinators.

Another problem is the structure of the trees. The brittle quality of the wood and the steep “v” of the branches cause large limbs to crack and fall, particularly during storms. These traits contribute to a relatively short tree life (10-15 years), and the inherent weaknesses make the trees troublesome for homeowners. According to the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia, corrective pruning may help delay the limbs from breaking but does not prevent it.

The spread of Callery pears is primarily attributed to birds and small animals picking fruit from the trees and dispersing seeds, but a shallow root system also allows new shoots to grow. Without control, a single tree can quickly result in a dense thicket. The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health recommends pulling seedlings and shallow-rooted plants; soil should be moist. Larger plants require careful application of herbicides.

Basal bark treatments (generally for trees less than 6 inches in diameter) are consid-



ered one of the easier control methods, as they can be applied year-long and without cutting. Late winter/early spring generally is the most effective time to undertake this process because of the least amount of vegetation at the tree's base. The herbicide mixture is applied through a sprayer in a 12-inch-wide band around the tree base, making sure to cover the entire surface.

Other methods include foliar treatments, where herbicide is applied directly to leaves. This process is effective for small, dense patches and larger infestations where other trees are not at risk, but more herbicide is required. “Hack-and-squirt” treatments, using a hand ax to make an angled cut into the tree trunk and then injecting herbicide into the cut, are considered most effective in areas where desirable trees are located near the invasive trees. Fully cutting down trees is the most labor intensive...



and potentially most hazardous to people. It also is least effective in killing the root system. Treatment of the stump is recommended immediately after cutting down the tree. (For more about control methods, visit [invasive.org](http://invasive.org).)

When looking to replace flowering trees, native alternatives include Eastern redbud, yellowwood and flowering dogwood.



## MEETING PREVIEW

**Tuesday, April 26 • 5:30 p.m.**

### On the Square in Downtown Decatur

The DBA will host an in-person meeting. Visit [decaturdba.com](http://decaturdba.com) for more details.

# EASTER EGG HUNT

Decatur First Baptist Church, 308 Clairemont Ave.

**Saturday, April 9 • 11 a.m. • FREE!**

Bring your basket and join the Easter Bunny in the hunt for candy eggs on the front lawn of Decatur First Baptist Church. Easter Bunny arrives at 10:30 a.m. Hunt by ages: 2 and under, preschool, kindergarten, 1st-5th grades. Sponsored by Decatur Business Association and local businesses, the event is free. Visit [decaturdba.com](http://decaturdba.com) for more information.





## Alair Homes Decatur Wins Regional Contractor of the Year Awards

**A**lair Homes Decatur has been awarded three Regional CotY (Contractor of the Year) awards by NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry, [nari.org](http://nari.org)). The winning projects were selected from more than 400 entries and judged against projects throughout the Southeast. Now, these projects will be entered into the national CotY Awards competition.

All three winning entries were from the renovation of a beautiful 100+-year-old house in Atlanta's historic Midtown neighborhood. Built in 1910, the home lacked a true primary suite, and the kitchen and bathrooms were outdated. The Alair project team took a potential teardown and transformed it into a neighborhood gem. The award-winning project was recognized with these awards:

Award for Residential Interior \$250,001 to \$500,000. Alair Decatur honored the home's historic beauty by refurbishing the original door hardware, front door, staircase, three fireplaces and layout (with some modifications). New materials for the bathrooms and kitchen seamlessly complement the home's historic charm, as well as an updated laundry room and new guest suite.

Award for Residential Exterior \$50,000 to \$100,000. At the front of the house, the team designed a historically appropriate covered second-story porch, which enhances the curb appeal, and adds much-needed space for the family to enjoy.

Award for Residential Interior Element under \$30,000. The new butler's pantry is a show stopper, with deep blue cabinetry, antiqued mirror tile, and a stained-glass window that was relocated from one of the home's former bathrooms. Open shelving stores and displays crystal barware, while cabinets and drawers provide additional storage, including a glass-front wine cabinet.

For more information, visit [alairhomes.com/decatur](http://alairhomes.com/decatur).



### Lunch & Learn

## RESTORATION OF THE SMITH-BENNING HOUSE

Tuesday, April 26 • Noon-1 p.m.

Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 2nd floor  
101 E. Court Square, **FREE**



Join author and Georgia Tech Professor Emeritus Robert M. Craig as he discusses the restoration of the Smith-Benning House and the competing preservation philosophies that dictate the “proper” way to restore a historic home.

The presentation will include before and after pictures of the Smith-Benning House restoration, along with details of the influences that informed new construction, particularly the new kitchen, located at the rear of the house.

Professor Craig will address questions about the restoration process, including: When is it preferable to introduce non-historic elements or install similar historic elements to preserve visual compatibility? How can we preserve the context and compatibility of a historic place without “faking” history?

Craig is the author of “Georgia Tech, Campus Architecture” and taught the history of architecture at Georgia Tech’s Architecture School from 1973 to 2011. Interested parties can attend in person — bring your own lunch — or view a recording of the program on the DeKalb History Center YouTube channel.



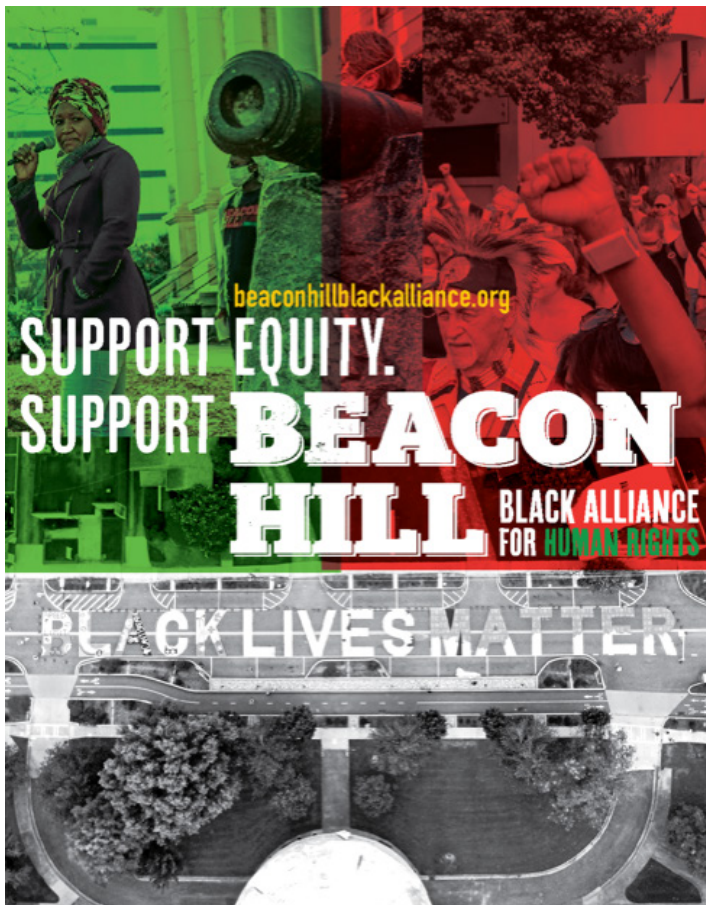
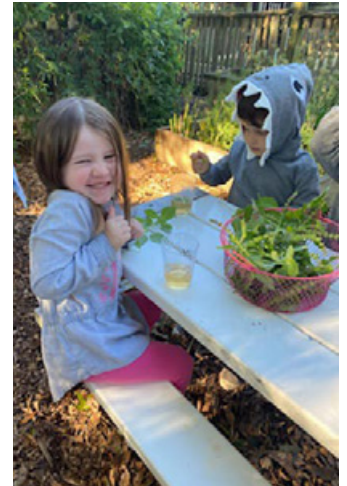
## Spring Into Song!

Spring has sprung, and you are invited to sing, dance, and jam with your baby, toddler, or preschooler — inside or outside — in a Music Together of Decatur class. Learn more and register at [musictogetherofdecatur.com](http://musictogetherofdecatur.com); email [info@musictogetherofdecatur.com](mailto:info@musictogetherofdecatur.com); or call/text 678-466-0737.



## Registration Open Now for Holy Trinity Preschool

Holy Trinity has a few spots open for their fall program. Located in downtown Decatur, the small preschool offers classes for children aged 16 months to five years. Call 404-371-1310 or visit [holytrinitypreschool.org](http://holytrinitypreschool.org) to set up a private tour of the school, which offers a garden, outdoor classroom, and music room.



## RETIREMENT PLANNING FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND

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## A Talk from Decatur Parents Network

# “Where is Your Family Going?”

At the Decatur Parents Network Speaker Series event in February, parent coach Susan Morley, CLPC, CARES (CPS-AD), presented information and tools for families to create their own mission and vision statements.

Morley discussed how these two tools can offer families a guiding light to run more smoothly, reduce confusion and tensions, and become a better functioning unit. When decisions or issues come up, the family can look to their mission as a guide towards resolution. It is a method by which parents and children can check themselves and maintain stable expectations. To be successful, everyone should have a stake in the family's success. If done half-heartedly, conflicts and misunderstandings will continue. Susan recommends that families follow three pillars, *purpose, values, and practice makes imperfect*, to develop and

adhere to their commitments.

According to the Search Institute, a family mission statement also supports the 40 developmental assets that have a proven positive impact on young people. Children and teens who demonstrate these assets participate in fewer risky behaviors and exhibit positive values, such as leadership, good health, diversity, and success in school. The categories of developmental assets that benefit most from a family mission statement are:

- **Support:** Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.
- **Empowerment:** Young people need to feel valued and valuable, and this happens when youth feel safe and respected.
- **Boundaries and Expectations:** Young

people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking the rules, and encouragement to do their best.

- **Positive Values:** Young people need to develop strong guiding values to help them make healthy life choices.
- **Social Competencies:** Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, make difficult decisions, and cope with new situations.
- **Positive Identity:** Young people need to believe in their self-worth and feel they control what happens to them.

After decades of research, world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D., discovered the power of mindset. In her book “Mindset: The New



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**EASTER SUNDAY**  
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Psychology of Success,” Dweck explores how success in school, work, sports, the arts, and nearly every area of human endeavor can be dramatically influenced by how we think about our talents and abilities.

For more information on setting a family mission statement, parents can watch “Where is Your Family Going?” on the Decatur Parents Network YouTube channel. For a list of the 40 developmental assets from the Search Institute, visit the resources section of the DPN website.

Do you want to talk to other parents? Check out DPN’s monthly parent chats and/or consider joining as a member at [decaturparents.net/join-us/membership](http://decaturparents.net/join-us/membership). Not ready to be a member? Consider subscribing to the Decatur Parents Network at [decaturparents.net/subscribe](http://decaturparents.net/subscribe) to find latest updates, events, and opportunities to volunteer.

Also, check out DPN’s archive of other parenting resources and previous parenting presentations.

## Painting in the Park with L’Arche Atlanta

**Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr., FREE (Registration required)**

Join your neighbors and L’Arche Atlanta for a morning of painting in the park. Artists of all levels are welcome — no artistic experience required. The event is free but limited to 70 participants, so invite a friend and register by April 18 at [larcheatlanta.org/community-events](http://larcheatlanta.org/community-events). Each participant will receive a canvas, brushes, and paint. If you are interested in volunteering to help with set-up and clean-up, email [becca@larcheatlanta.org](mailto:becca@larcheatlanta.org).

## Chamber Ensembles Concert

**Wednesday, April 20, 5-6:30 p.m.**

**Agnes Scott College, Presser Hall PR-Maclean Auditorium, 141 E. College Ave.**

Agnes Scott is pleased to present a special Chamber Ensembles Concert, performed by students at Presser Hall. Traditionally, chamber music is composed for a small group of instruments, a group that could fit in a palace chamber or a large room. For more than 100 years, chamber music was played primarily by amateur musicians in their homes, which has led some to describe it as “the music of friends.” Join our ASC community as they enjoy this intimate ensemble. Off campus guests 13+ must provide proof of vaccination + booster upon arrival. Masks are mandatory indoors at all times; KN95 or N95 masks strongly recommended. For more information on this and other ASC events, visit [calendar.agnesscott.edu/event/chamber\\_ensembles\\_concert](http://calendar.agnesscott.edu/event/chamber_ensembles_concert).



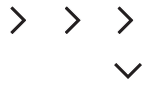
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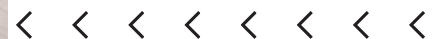
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## Wylde Center Decatur Farm to School Spring Dine Out!

**Save the Date: Wednesday, April 20**

Decatur Farm to School (DF2S) announces its annual Spring Dine Out. Support the Wylde Center while enjoying local restaurants; dine-in or order takeout from one of the many participating restaurants, and a portion of total sales will go to DF2S. Partners include Wahoo! Grill, Farm Burger Decatur, Oakhurst Market, The Marlay House, My Parents' Basement, and many more. All proceeds support farm to school activities, including Decatur High School summer internships, school grants, conference scholarships, and taste tests. For more information and a full list of participating restaurants visit [wyldecenter.org/decatur-farm-to-school-2](http://wyldecenter.org/decatur-farm-to-school-2).



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## DECATUR ARTS FESTIVAL MOVING TO MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

Fri., May 6-Sun., May 8 • Decatur Square  
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Mark your calendar for the Decatur Arts Festival, happening over Mother's Day weekend. Festivities kick-off Friday night, 6-10 p.m., with this year's ArtWalk. Enjoy music on the square while you stroll between local businesses hosting free art receptions with light refreshments.

The main festival takes place on Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Find the perfect gift for mom at the Artists' Market, which showcases more than 140 artists of diverse media. Grab a drink and vibe at the music stage or laugh along with the comedy and theatre performances. Don't miss the dance presentations and chalk art and the Kids' Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The Decatur Arts Festival is free to attend, so come and enjoy the weather while you celebrate the arts and support our city's arts community. For more information, visit [decaturartsfestival.com](http://decaturartsfestival.com).





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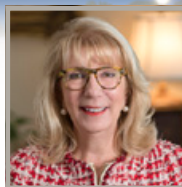
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## DEF Celebrates 20 Years of Scholarships

Established by a group of residents who believed that, collectively, the community could help Decatur students achieve their full potential, the Decatur Education Foundation team has grown from one employee to six, and currently invests more than half a million dollars annually to create and support programs that serve Decatur's kids.

While DEF focuses primarily on supporting all City Schools of Decatur students, the nonprofit also awards annual college scholarships to Decatur High School seniors. Over the past 20 years, DEF has helped families establish scholarships to honor Decatur students whose lives were cut short but who left their mark on our community. Other scholarships represent groups who want to support ambitious DHS students in achieving their post-secondary goals. Today, DEF awards 20 scholarships annually.

In 2002, DEF awarded its first college scholarship: The Sarah Lynn Woolf Memo-

rial Scholarship was awarded to DHS senior Gillian Connolly. The scholarship was established by Bill and Donna Woolf to honor the life of their daughter Sarah, a DHS student who passed away from bone cancer in 2002.

Recently, DEF caught up with Gillian to learn how the scholarship has helped her achieve her goals. After graduating from Earlham College, with a degree in Biology, Gillian went on to work in community health in Boston. She then attended Emory University as a Fuld Fellow to become a family nurse practitioner. After completing the program, she returned to community health, serving a mostly Spanish-speaking community in Chicago. Today, Gillian is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Vanderbilt Univer-



Sarah Woolf (left) and sister Shannon

sity and working remotely to support an NP Fellowship Program that she helped to found.

For 20 years, the Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship has helped keep her memory alive for the Woolf family, while also serving fellow DHS seniors. Adding to the fund each year, Bill and Donna Woolf have increased the scholarship from a one-time annual award to

a renewable four-year scholarship valued at \$25,000. Like most of the awards administered by DEF, the Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship is awarded via teacher nominations. DEF also has several annual scholarships for which students can apply. Visit [decatureducationfoundation.org/scholarships](http://decatureducationfoundation.org/scholarships) for more information.



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## Collaboration and Ingenuity Thrive at Academe of The Oaks' New Investment Class

Through a dedicated J-term Investment class, science and mathematics teacher Alejandro A. Rovira is working with students to cultivate their interest in stocks, investing, and trading. Using an online platform called MarketWatch, students create a virtual stock exchange where they actively manage their portfolios each day, researching and discovering rates, cryptocurrency, and new investments.

While learning the mechanics of investing, budgeting, and managing a portfolio, students also develop an understanding of their individual relationship and behavior with money. And while they compete for financial performance, this opportunity to invest is helping students develop better financial and money management skills, which will serve them beyond their academic careers.

J-term offers a variety of electives for students and teachers to expand and develop their interests. Through these experiential learning opportunities, Academe students get out into the community and learn new skills, a core value of the school's curriculum. For more information, visit [academeatlanta.org](http://academeatlanta.org).



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A person is shown floating face-up in a pool of water, with only their head and shoulders visible above the surface. The water is dark blue, and the person's face is relaxed.

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A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue button-down shirt, is smiling at the camera.

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A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white lab coat over a yellow top and a yellow necklace, is smiling at the camera.

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