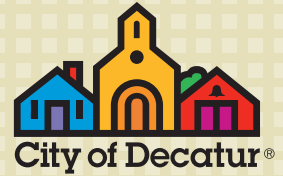


City of Decatur FOCUS



DECEMBER 2019
Volume 30 • Number 5

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA



DESTINATION:

2030

2020 STRATEGIC PLAN | DECATUR, GEORGIA

Decatur's 2020 Strategic Plan Now Underway

For the past 10 years, Decatur's leadership and city staff have been making decisions and setting yearly budgets based on the 2010 Strategic Plan. From the UDO to Better Together, public art to bike lanes, green space acquisition to downtown apartments, some of the decade's most defining initiatives began with hundreds of Decatur neighbors sharing their perspectives in a series of meetings and roundtable discussions.

Now it's time to do it all again.

Welcome to Destination: 2030, Decatur's 2020 Strategic Plan, in which we'll map out a broad task list of citizen ambitions for the next 10 years.

Will your ideas be among them? Our quest for the most representative, inclusive process in Decatur history will only be made stronger with your participation. Learn more and register to participate at decatur2030.com.

ARTWAY PHASE 5



Reach by Gregory Johnson
(West Ponce at West Court Square)

See all the new Artway
sculptures on page 3

3 CITY
NEWS

14 BUSINESS
NEWS

17 DBA
NEWS

18 DECATUR
EVENTS

22 SCHOOL
NEWS

23 AROUND
TOWN

Finding UTILITY in Decatur

As communities across the country call for the use of new technology to ensure accountability for law enforcement and citizens alike, Decatur-born Utility continues answering the bell as the world's second-largest manufacturer and supplier of integrated software and hardware analytics for first responders.

Focus on Downtown Development

With 75 employees and counting, Utility leans on the deep and diverse talent base Decatur provides to continue evolving and growing its capabilities. "Attracting highly qualified and innovative software and hardware engineers is easy with access to one of the smartest talent pools in the country," said CEO Ted Davis. "Keeping these brilliant employees can be attributed in part to Decatur's quality of life. The easy accessibility to the area through multiple forms of transit and the variety of things to do before and after work are difficult to beat."

Utility's technology powers more than 500,000 devices deployed worldwide, including body-worn cameras built into police vests, in-car cameras with license plate recognition, and GPS trackers all tied to a central system and dispatcher. Recently, the team had a significant breakthrough, developing the first device that can automatically identify the origin of a gunshot with 100 percent accuracy and relay crucial information to law enforcement.

As a homegrown Decatur business, Utility has a strong partnership with the local community and particularly with the Decatur Police Department, which beta tests many of Utility's newest technologies and gadgets before they go to market. This provides added value to the city as well, ensuring its citizens are the initial beneficiaries of the technological progress pioneered by its own people.

"Companies like Utility are the perfect fit for Decatur," said Angela Threadgill, manager of Decatur's Downtown Development Authority. "Not only are they highly successful as a business and making a meaningful impact through their work, but being engaged in the community and giving back is also part of their DNA."

So the next time you see law enforcement utilizing the latest technology to keep our communities safe and secure, know that it likely came from Decatur's own Utility.

With 75 employees and counting, Utility leans on the deep and diverse talent base Decatur provides to continue evolving and growing its capabilities.

"Attracting highly qualified and innovative software and hardware



Utility CEO Ted Davis



Decatur Police Officer Anthony Robinson outfitted with a Utility bodycam.

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



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

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



Decatur Downtown
Development Authority®

BOARD

Chris Sciarra, Chair
Linda Curry • John Drake
Scott Kentner • Tony Leung
Conor McNally • Fisher Paty



DECATUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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

Design and layout: Lampe-Farley.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.

Decatur Artway Adds New Sculptures around Downtown

Five sculptures selected for Phase 5 of the Decatur Artway have been installed around downtown and will be displayed for two years. Five sculptures were installed around Oakhurst in 2018 during Phase 4.

The Decatur Artway is a public arts initiative established by the Decatur Arts Alliance and the City of Decatur. For a personal tour of the pieces, with narration provided by the artists, download the free Otocast app from iTunes or Google Play. Learn more about each work at decaturartsalliance.org.



Coral Stardust by Elizabeth Akamatsu
(at Taqueria del Sol)



Tidal Reach by Robert Donovan
(in the Old Depot District)



Shifting Patterns by Ed Pennebaker
(at D92 Korean Barbecue)



Papillon by David Landis
(on Church Street at the MARTA station)

Boards and Commissions Monthly Meeting Schedule

Many residents of the City of Decatur serve on volunteer boards, commissions, and task forces. These volunteer groups are appointed by the City Commission and staffed by City of Decatur employees. If you are a Decatur resident interested in serving on a board or commission, we invite you to submit a Statement of Interest form. The City Commission conducts interviews on a rolling basis for open positions before their meetings on the first or third Monday of the month.

To apply, go to decaturga.com, download and fill out the Statement of Interest form, and return it to andrea.arnold@decaturga.com or mail it to City Manager Andrea Arnold, Decatur City Hall, P.O. Box 220 Decatur, GA 30031.

Unless noted otherwise, boards and commissions meet in the City Commission Meeting Room at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

City Commission

First and third Monday of each month
7:30 p.m.

The City Commission meets in open session and includes time for citizens' comments or questions in each meeting agenda. Any issue relating to city government may be raised for discussion. The agenda is generally posted online and at City Hall on the Friday before the Monday meeting but no later than 24 hours before each meeting.

Planning Commission

Second Tuesday of each month
7 p.m.

The Planning Commission conducts public hearings on land use and zoning changes, proposed subdivisions of property and proposed planned unit developments, and recommends actions for consideration by the City Commissioners. It also reviews and recommends changes in zoning regulations and future land-use plans.

The Planning Commission is staffed by Ryan Sellers, 404-371-8386, ryan.sellers@decaturga.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Second Monday of each month
7:30 p.m.

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

The board is staffed by Mark Ethun, mark.ethun@decaturga.com, and John Maximuk, 678-553-6570, john.maximuk@decaturga.com.

Decatur Youth Council

First Wednesday of each month
4-5:30 p.m.

Decatur City Hall
509 N. McDonough St.

The Decatur Youth Council (DYC) is a city-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the city and attend public, private, and home-based schools. Members of the DYC can develop into young leaders through structured monthly educational programs and team-building activities.

For more information contact LeeAnn Harvey, 678-553-6548 or leeann.harvey@decaturga.com.

Historic Preservation Commission

Third Tuesday of each month
6:30 p.m.

(No meetings in January and July)
The Historic Preservation Commission ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five local Historic Districts are consistent with the character of the neighborhoods. The five districts are McDonough-Adams-King's Highway, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and Clairemont.

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

The Historic Preservation Commission is staffed by Aileen de la Torre, 404-371-8386, aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com.

Environmental Sustainability Board

Third Friday of each month
8 a.m.

Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore St.

The Environmental Sustainability Board provides recommendations to the City Commission on environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives. The board also helps implement city projects that impact the natural environment, to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners. This board has assumed the duties of the Waste Management Advisory Board and the Greenspace Commission.

Participation on the committees is open to anyone who is interested. For more information contact Courtney Frisch, courtney.frisch@decaturga.com, 678-553-6577.

Decatur Downtown Development Authority/Decatur Development Authority

Second Friday of each month
8 a.m.

The Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the citywide Decatur Development Authority were established by special state legislation. They are independent authorities established for the purpose of planning, organizing, and financing projects that will revitalize and redevelop Decatur's commercial business districts.

The Downtown Development Authority focuses on the commercial downtown central business district and works to market a positive image for the city. The citywide Development Authority builds on the success of the Downtown Development Authority and works with neighborhood business districts and other commercial districts in the city.

The Development Authorities are staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386, angela.threadgill@decaturga.com.

Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Fourth Monday of each month
6:30 p.m.

The Lifelong Community Advisory Board assists with the expansion and implementation of Decatur's Lifelong Community initiatives, including those in the 2010 Strategic Plan. One component of a Lifelong Community is the ability to age in place. For more information contact LeeAnn Harvey, 678-553-6548, leeann.harvey@decaturga.com.

Active Living Board

First Tuesday of each month
8 a.m.

Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore St.

Active Living Advisory Board members are appointed by the Decatur City Commission to serve as advocates and advisors to the Active Living Division on projects and programs that help citizens safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines. For more information contact Cheryl Burnette, cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com.

Better Together Advisory Board

First Tuesday of each month
6:30-8 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room
Decatur City Hall

The Better Together Advisory Board guides and advises the City Commission and the community on issues of equity, inclusion and engagement. The board also serves as advocate and advisor in implementing the recommendations of the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Engagement. The plan contains specific action items for individuals, organizations and local government to undertake to cultivate a just, welcoming, inclusive, equitable and compassionate city.

For more information contact Linda Harris, 678-553-6512, linda.harris@decaturga.com, or Renae Madison, 678-553-6561, renae.madison@decaturga.com.

Sign Up To Receive eNotifications

Sign up for eNotices to receive emails that notify you when new board and commission meetings and agendas have been posted to the city's online calendar. Here are the steps for signing up.

- Visit decaturga.com and select the "how do I?" menu at the top right of the page.
- On the next screen, select the "sign up for email alerts" option.
- Then select the newsletters you wish to subscribe to and enter your email address.
- Click subscribe and you should receive a confirmation email.



Members of Decatur volunteer boards and commissions gathered for a photo last May.



DECEMBER UPDATE RECYCLING

YES! RECYCLE THESE

PAPER | Magazines • Catalogs • Junk mail • Tetra Pak cartons
Newspapers and inserts • Paper (white and color)
Empty pizza boxes • Milk and juice cartons
Receipts • Envelopes • Cardboard
To-go coffee lid and sleeve

PLASTICS | Clean bottles and
containers • Plastic flower pots

METAL | Soda cans • Food cans
TIRES | Up to 4



SEPARATE YOUR GLASS!

Use your red Decatur glass recycling bin.

Don't have one? Contact Public
Works and ask for a red glass
bin of your own.

*All colors accepted. No ceramics,
lightbulbs, mirrors, or broken glass*



NOPE! DECATUR DOESN'T RECYCLE THESE

Straws • Batteries* • To-go coffee cups
Clothes hangers • Paper Towels • Shoes
Clothes • Baby food squeezey pouches
Napkins • Tissues • Compostable plastic
Plastic utensils • Sticky notes • Wine corks • Aerosol cans
Blister packs • Soiled pizza boxes • Bubble-pack envelopes
Plastic bags, wrap, and film (recycle at grocery store)
Light bulbs (recycle at home improvement stores)
Plastic toys • Shredded paper* • Styrofoam*

* recycle these at Decatur's semi-annual recycling events



BINS! Residents have access to one free 18-gal. recycling
bin and a red glass recycling bin from Decatur Public
Works, 404-377-5571. Residents may use their own
recycling bin/cart for comingled recycling.

Affordable Housing Task Force Update

Since the creation of Decatur's Affordable Housing Task Force in July, the 26-member group has logged many hours compiling methods, strategies and best practices in making diverse affordable housing options a sustainable reality in our city. Meeting as both a full team and in subject-specific subcommittees, the Task Force has developed recommendations the city will need to take to develop and preserve a significant quantity of economically accessible units.

The seven subcommittees are:

Defining Affordability & Prioritizing Needs is using local and regional data to define what the term "affordable" really means in the city of Decatur. In addition, they have begun to tabulate what number of units are needed in Decatur now and prioritize its affordable housing activity and investments.

Land is researching how the city can maximize access to available land and innovative approaches to locating developable land.

Revenue Production is pinpointing government and non-government funding sources that should be pursued that span from housing bonds to trust funds.

Policy & Codes is identifying policy barriers and incentives that can be modified to more effectively encourage affordable housing.

People & Programs is considering what barriers most strongly impact current and/or future low- and moderate-income residents' ability to live in Decatur, as well as what programs would help that same group stay in their homes.

Preserving Units is acknowledging all types of naturally occurring housing that can be protected in Decatur, as well as potential strategies and incentives that can be deployed to encourage the preservation of these units.

Community Education is exploring the common myths and arguments against diverse housing options and ways to counter them. In addition, this group is charged with how to raise awareness and knowledge on various types of affordable housing.

The Task Force will present its recommendations to the Decatur City Commission at a work session on Monday, Dec. 16, before the regular City Commission meeting. The meeting is open to the community and those who are interested are welcome to attend the meeting although work sessions do not include public comment. Public input sessions are planned for housing components of the 2020 Strategic Plan update.

Learn more about 2020 Strategic Plan public forums at decatur2030.com.

decaturga.com/recycling

Historic Preservation Commission Seeks Board Members

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

About the Historic Preservation Commission

The commission was established by local ordinance to ensure that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five local Historic Districts are consistent with the character of the neighborhood. The five districts are Clairemont Avenue Corridor, McDonough-Adams-Kings Highway, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and Ponce de Leon Court. There are also two locally designated historic sites – Old DeKalb County Courthouse and Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children.

The Commission must approve exterior work to homes in these districts by issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness before a building permit can be issued. Some projects may be administratively approved through the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption. The Historic Preservation Commission is staffed by Aileen de la Torre, planner.

The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in the City Commission meeting room, Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Reading Suggestions from the Better Together Advisory Board

In December, many of our celebrations are inspired by religious and spiritual holidays occurring near the end of the year. Christmas (Christian), Hanukkah (Judaism), Mawlid el-Nabi (Islam), Solstice (Wicca), Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) and other religious holidays during this festive season provide opportunities for togetherness and interfaith engagement, genuine compassion and harmony, and transformative moments of reflection.

This December, we hope you will find ways to engage with the rich and illuminating spiritual beliefs of others while you find peace and love in a deeper connection with your own culture and traditions.

In partnership with Little Shop of Stories, the Better Together Advisory Board offers the following recommendations. You can find these books and many others at Little Shop of Stories, 133 E. Court Square, or online at littleshopofstories.com/shop-online.

Happy Holidays! from the Better Together Advisory Board and Little Shop of Stories.



Festival of Colors

by Kabir and Surishtha Shegal

Local author Surishtha Sehgal and her son Kabir have written several picture books for kids, all celebrating various Hindu holidays. *Festival of Colors* presents the beautiful message of Holi, the Hindu spring festival, with beautiful and vibrant illustrations.

Two by Two

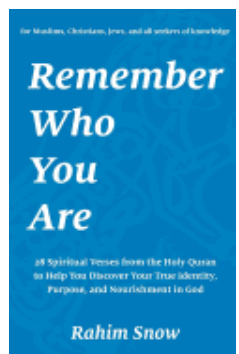
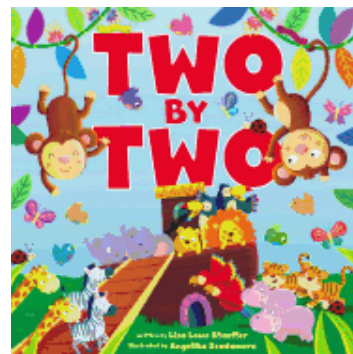
by Lisa Lowe Stauffer

A super-fun rhyming board book, this sweet take on the animals in the Noah story imagines the monkeys as bored troublemakers freeing all the animals in the ark for a ship-wide dance. Atlanta-area author Lisa Lowe Stauffer has crafted a joyful catalog of animals using the tale of Noah and the ark.

Remember Who You Are

by Rahim Snow

Decatur resident Rahim Snow has written an inspiring and spiritually uplifting book about our collective humanity. In this thoughtful collection of insights into the Quran, Snow unpacks core ideas within the religion with affirming and universal mindfulness.



Public Meeting Signs Get a New Look

Have you noticed black-and-white public meeting signs on lawns and lots around town? These signs alert neighbors to upcoming zoning changes, variance requests, or historic district certificates of appropriateness.

The Design Environment & Construction Division and the Planning & Zoning Division have made changes to the appearance of these signs. They are now easier to identify, more informative, and easier to reuse. The new design includes different color designations for the Planning Commission (blue), Historic Preservation Commission (purple) and the Zoning Board of Appeals (orange).

Contact john.maximuk@decaturga.com, if you have questions or comments.



DEC Congratulates Deborah and Dale

Did you know that the City of Decatur works directly with SAFEbuilt, Inc., to provide plan review and inspections services? Company personnel work both full- and part-time positions within the Design, Environment & Construction (DEC) Division in the Leveritt Public Works Building.

DEC is pleased to share a couple of the SAFEBuilt, Inc., team's recent accomplishments:

Deborah Nichols has been promoted to plans examiner and has achieved certifications as a commercial building inspector, a building plans examiner, and a residential plans examiner.

Dale Bryan has achieved certifications in commercial building, commercial plumbing inspector, commercial mechanical inspector, and building plans examiner. Dale has also finished all residential inspector certifications. All certifications are maintained by the International Code Council, iccsafe.org, and are professional certifications.



This year's Commissioner's Cauldron Cup winners are C. Combs and J. Trasmonte, 841 East Lake Dr. As noted by the judges, "the scene includes an eerie graveyard chock-full of skeletons and zombies. The front yard is haunted with black cats, ghosts and owls. The heads swiveling on spikes are spine-chilling. The strange girl in the window is disturbing, and that's what put this spooktacular house over the top for the judges. The bright orange, purple and green lights make this Halloween decor fearful, yet fun!"



The outstanding runners-up include 307 S. McDonough St., 511 Glendale Ave., and 447 E. Pharr Rd.

Thanks to everyone who decorated, submitted entries and made a showing for Halloween. See all of the entries on the Decorate Decatur Facebook page.

Holiday Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Christmas Holiday, Wed., Dec. 25, and Thurs., Dec. 26
Regular services for both days will be on Friday, Dec. 27

New Year's Holiday, Wednesday, Jan. 1
No Change

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 20
Regular services for Monday, Jan. 20, will be on Tues., Jan. 21; regular services for Tuesday will be on Wednesday, Jan. 22

The full schedule is online and in the November Focus.



Decatur Walking Superstar

December's Walk and Roll Star is Charles Cope, a lifelong Decatur resident who works in Oakhurst. You may have seen his shoe and apparel store, One Step At A Time, adjacent to Harmony Park.

The store opened 19 years ago after Charles retired from a career as a math teacher. He lives three miles away from it and walks or bikes to work every day, either in good shoes or on an old bike with new components added by a customer. He also walks or bikes to run errands.

Remembering Henry Oliver Friends of Decatur Cemetery Dedicate New Marker



In October, the Friends of Decatur Cemetery remembered the life of Decatur pioneer and entrepreneur Henry Oliver (1826-1904) during a ceremony for the newly purchased gravestone.

Focus Combined for January and February

The January/February issue of the Focus is a combined one and will come out the second week of January instead of the first week. The deadline for submission of information for both January and February is Dec. 10. Send information to decaturfocus@decaturga.com.

JANUARY 18-20

Volunteer for the MLK Jr. Service Project

You can still sign up to volunteer for Decatur's 18th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project. This annual event brings together more than 1,000 volunteers each year who do house repairs and maintenance, weatherization, and yard repairs to help Decatur's long-time homeowners live safely, comfortably, and affordably in their homes.

Anyone can serve (age 12 or older, unless participating with a Scout troop). There are jobs for every skill level, including distributing sandwiches, cookies and brownies for hungry volunteers. To volunteer or for more information, Call 678-553-6548, email leeann.harvey@decaturga.com or visit mlkserviceproject.com.



See a problem?



Let the city know!

**SEE
CLICK
FIX!**

Search your app store for **mydecaturga**

Seen at Decatur Rotary



The Rotary Club of Decatur welcomed Jim Squire, Rotary District 6900 Governor for 2019-2020, to its weekly Friday noon meeting in September. Pictured from left: Art Rosser, Lisa Lee, Brian Deutsch; past club President Dan DeWoskin; District Governor Jim Squire; club President John Bennett; President-Elect Ash Gupta, board members Harl Pike and Alan Yorker.

terrific THURS DAYS

in decatur

DECEMBER 5•12•19

Deals + Discounts

Enjoy standout shopping at 24 participating stores.

Holiday Events

Dec. 5 • Tree Lighting • *free!*

Enjoy **holiday carols**, **warm cookies**, **hot cocoa** and **"snow"** on the square. At 7 p.m. sharp, Santa himself flips the switch to light the tree above the east entrance of the Decatur MARTA station.

Dec. 12 • Bonfire and Marshmallow Roast • *free!*

Roast a **marshmallow** (or two) around a roaring bonfire, 7-8 p.m. Register at freshtix.com so we have plenty of marshmallows for all! Hosted by the Decatur Business Association and supervised by the Decatur Fire Department.

extra special sunday

Dec. 29 • Grand Menorah Lighting • *free!*

Join in the Chanukah celebration on the square 3-6 p.m. Enjoy hot drinks, latkes, music, and photos with Mr. Dreidel! Chabadintown.org.

\$10 Off* Your Lyft on Us

to Decatur every Terrific Thursday!
Get each week's promo code at decaturga.com/lyft.

*Limitations apply. Full details online.



SHOP SMALL
INDIE-CATUR
SPEND YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR ♥ LIVES

terrific THURS DAYS in decatur

Shopping



On **Thursdays** in **December** enjoy seasonal **shopopportunities**, deals, discounts, drinks and snacks, special in-store events, and **extended hours** at these 24 shops.

WOMEN'S FASHION

Bleu Hanger
303 E. College Ave.
bleuhanger.com
bleuhanger
Search Bleu Hanger

Boutique Karma
145 Sycamore St.
boutique-karma.com
shopboutiquekarma

Squash Blossom
113 E. Court Square
squashblossomboutique.com
squashblossomboutique

Trés Jolie
427 Church St.
TresJolie30030

OUTDOOR WEAR + GEAR

Mountain High Outfitters
114 E. Trinity Pl.
mountainhighoutfitters.com
mhoutfitters

FINE JEWELRY + WATCHES

Aimée Jewelry and Fine Art Gallery
335 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
aimeejewelryandgallery.com
aimeejewelryandfineartgallery

Kismet Fine Jewelry
414 Church St.
kismetfinejewelry.com
Search Kismet Fine Jewelry Art

Worthmore Jewelers
117 E. Court Square
worthmorejewelers.com
worthmorejewelers

visitdecaturga

decaturtourism

visitdecaturga

decaturga.com/terrific-thursdays

DEALS + DISCOUNTS + UPDATES

Stay tuned in to Visit Decatur on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for the latest on Terrific Thursdays updates, specials, and more.



Squash Blossom

Kelly's Market

Mountain High Outfitters

Worthmore

TA-DA! THE 2019 CITY OF DECATUR ORNAMENTS ARE HERE!

There are six styles, created by artist Rhonda Gilley; each is uniquely hand-painted. Buy them now (\$18 each) at most of our participating Terrific Thursday shops.

BOOKS + TOYS FOR KIDDOS

Brave and Kind Books

722 W. College Ave.
braveandkindbooks.com
f braveandkindbooks

Charis Books

184 S. Candler St.
charisbooksandmore.com
i charisbooksandmore
f CharisBooks

Little Shop of Stories

133 E. Court Square
littleshopofstories.com
i littleshopofstories
f LittleShopofStoriesGA

Treehouse Kid & Craft

533 W. Howard Ave.
treehousekidandcraft.com
i treehousekidandcraft
f treehousekidandcraftatlanta

QUIRKY FINDS

Sq/Ft

149 Sycamore St.
sqftdecat.com
i sqft_decat f Search Sq/ft

FOODIE FAVES + SWEETS

Greene's Fine Foods

141 E. Trinity Pl.
greenesfinefoods.com
f i greenesfinefoods

Kelly's Market

308 E. Howard Ave.
kellysmarketdecat.com
f i kellysmarketdecat

Splash of Olive

Inside Kelly's Market
308 E. Howard Ave.
splashofolive.com
f i splashofolive

CHIC DECOR + HOSTESS GIFTS

Found Co. Decatur

335 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
foundcodecat.com
f i foundcodecat

Trinity Mercantile and Design

116 E. Trinity Pl.
trinity-decat.com
i trinitydecat
f TrinityMercantileandDesign

Vivid Boutique

308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
vividdecat.com
i vividboutiquedecatur
f VividBoutique

HANDCRAFTED GOODS + LOCAL ART

HomeGrown

412 Church St.
homegrowndecatur.com
i homegrowndecatur
f homegrowndecaturga

Wild Oats & Billy Goats

112 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.
wildoatsandbillygoats.com
i wildoatsandbillygoats
f WildOatsBillyGoats

BODY AND MIND + SKINCARE + WELLNESS

Antlers & Wings

245 E. Trinity Pl.
antlersnwings.com
i antlersnwings
f AntlersandWings

Olive Branch Wellness

shoptheolive.com
f i olivebranchgreenbeauty

Float Atlanta

111 Clairemont Ave.
floatatlanta.com
i floatatlanta

Writers Studio Enriching Literary Life in Decatur

If you're looking for input from seasoned writers or are a writer searching for a literary community, the Decatur Writers Studio (DWS) is the place for you. "We welcome writers and readers of all ethnic and racial backgrounds, gender identity, and physical ability. It's our mission to welcome everyone into the wonderful, wacky, often frustrating but always spirit-rewarding world of writing," said Zoe Fishman Shacham, executive director of DWS.



Shacham is the author of five novels (under her maiden name of Fishman) and teaches creative writing at Emory Continuing Education and at DWS. Before relocating from Brooklyn, she presented at the Decatur Book Festival. "I was so impressed not only with the festival itself, but with the city of Decatur. I was determined to settle in Decatur because of the people, and its emphasis on education and the arts," she said.

DWS is under the Decatur Book Festival umbrella. It offers classes from acclaimed writers and industry professionals year-round out of the Decatur Co-Works Building on Church Street. DWS offers six-week night classes, three-hour Crash Courses and six-hour workshops on Saturdays covering a variety of writing topics. Visit decaturwritersstudio.com for upcoming classes and join in for the holiday party, which is open to the community.

Splash of Olive Expands

Splash of Olive is expanding inside Kelly's Market, 308 E. Howard Ave., occupying more space, enabling them to offer cooking classes and olive oil tastings in conjunction with the many special events (wine and beer tastings) that the market currently offers. A wide range of holiday gift baskets and other specials are available for all budgets. Free parking is also available behind the store.

Revival Reaches Beyond Restaurant Doors

Decatur's Revival restaurant chef and owner Kevin Gillespie and Chef Allen Casey's home-style cuisine can be found outside the restaurant's doors within the Decatur community. Much like the custom of a Sunday supper shared with friends and relations, Revival's staff donates meals to players on the Decatur High School football team each week.

Coach Cody Corey and members of the coaching team collaborated with restaurant staff to produce meals for the 65 players and coaches for all games (home and away) and to have the meals delivered to their facilities each Friday afternoon.

Revival's local outreach does not stop after the Friday night lights dim. The restaurant team donates auction items exclusively to school fundraisers in the 30030 zip code, making sure that their efforts stay close to home. This summer, they were happy to close their doors to host one of the 100 Decatur Dinners, which brought the community together for conversations about race and equity over a meal.

The restaurant also sponsored the performance of "The Little Mermaid" at Decatur High School, participated in the Wylde Center's Beer Garden fundraiser in Oakhurst, and helped sponsor UGA's Mock Trial Tournament at the Decatur Courthouse in October.

With the team of Gillespie, Casey, manager Joe Callaway, pastry chef Danielle Cuff, and vice president of Red Beard Restaurants Marco Shaw, Revival will continue to spread its love past the restaurant doors and into the community. Early next year, Revival will participate in the Mead Road Mardi Gras parade on Feb. 8, to help fund music and arts in Decatur City Schools.

Revival is a nod to Gillespie's formative years, offering a proper version of the traditional Sunday dinner served family style and executed with his precise techniques. With an allegiance to Southern cuisine, the dining destination focuses on an experience that reflects similar customs and meals that he would find at his grandmother's house. Experience Revival for yourself with sumptuous supper choices including cider-braised pork shank with KG Masterpiece BBQ sauce, trimmings such as sweet potato casserole and tomato-braised collard greens, and desserts of lemon icebox pie and warm cinnamon roll bread pudding. Guests are invited to join the Revival family for Sunday brunch, too, when the "Closed on Sunday" chicken sandwich makes its appearance.

Revival is at 129 Church St. in Decatur. View the menu or make a reservation by visiting revivaldecatur.com.



L'Arche Creates a Place to Belong

On any given evening in Oakhurst, you can find the residents of the L'Arche house gathering around a table, eating dinner, praying together, and sharing their lives. Sometimes what they share is lighthearted – reenactments of movie scenes or banter about professional wrestling – and sometimes they share deeper hopes and heartaches.

Some of the residents have intellectual disabilities, some do not; they may be joined by local friends who are drawn to this table week after week. Through these small habits of care, trust, and friendship, L'Arche's residents become ambassadors of a different way of imagining community.

L'Arche (it rhymes with marsh) is French for “the Ark,” a place of safety and refuge. L'Arche Atlanta is part of an international federation of 154 communities globally, 17 of these in the United States. The first L'Arche Atlanta home opened in Oakhurst in 2012.

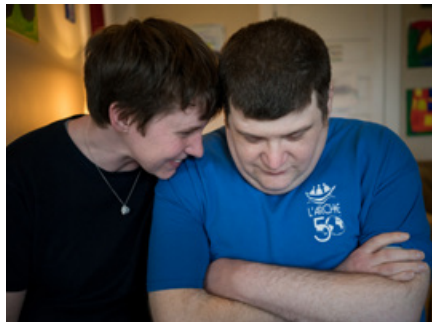
In this home adults with and without disabilities live together in community. No person is viewed as a client, patient, or recipient of services; those who live in the house do so as a family. This attitude permeates everything L'Arche does, from hosting community events for families of adults with disabilities to state-level advocacy work.

With support from the Decatur community and beyond, L'Arche Atlanta's impact is growing. L'Arche has partnered with Woodlands Garden to purchase a home at the corner of Clairmont Avenue and Scott Boulevard.

To purchase and renovate the home to be fully accessible, L'Arche Atlanta has launched the Home for Life capital campaign. This project will transform the lives of four individuals with disabilities by providing long-term housing, transportation, daily life supports, and a place of belonging, with access to meaningful friendships and social activities for life.

L'Arche Atlanta has received funding from these Decatur institutions: St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Chalice Thrift Store at the First Christian Church of Decatur, and the Decatur Craft Beer Festival.

To donate to the Home for Life campaign, visit larcheatlanta.org/homeforlife. To learn more about L'Arche Atlanta, visit larcheatlanta.org or email Megan Denton at megan@larcheatlanta.org.



Through a partnership with Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, L'Arche Atlanta has recently produced the Hidden Voices podcast, telling the stories of people with disabilities across Georgia. Download it wherever you listen to podcasts.



Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Sponsors Theater Trip

In October, members of Decatur High School's Black Student Union visited Atlanta Symphony Hall to experience the stage adaptation of *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The trip was sponsored and supported by the Beacon Hill Black alliance for Human Rights.

The stage adaptation was co-commissioned by the Apollo Theater and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The book is a letter written to the author's then-15-year-old son after no indictment was issued for the officer who killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The book explores race and violence in America.

The Black Man Lab and Davis Bozeman Law helped raise the money for 500 Atlanta area college and high school students to attend the performance and receive copies of the book.



the 2020 model is in!



come see our new space!
210 Dekalb Industrial Way, Decatur, GA 30030

REVOLUTION
Mercedes-Benz Specialists

(404) 292-2683 www.revolutionbenz.com

Mercedes Benz and Sprinter Van Service & Repair

**WT WILLIAMS
TEUSINK**

REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS ATTORNEYS



DECATUR'S HOMETOWN LAW FIRM

WILLIAMS TEUSINK, LLC
THE HIGH HOUSE
309 SYCAMORE STREET
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30030

WILLIAMSTEUSINK.COM | 404-373-9590



Give a Gift that Supports Pollinators in Decatur

This holiday season, Bee City USA-Decatur, GA (“Beecatur”) encourages residents to give gifts that help keep Decatur buzzing. Through Beecatur’s “Gifts That Grow!” donation program, residents can have a pollinator-friendly native plant, shrub or tree installed in one of the city’s dedicated pollinator habitats.

In recognition of the gift, the recipient’s name will be posted at the habitat site and online. On planting day, they’ll even receive a photo of their plant being installed.

New this year, Beecatur is also selling handmade wooden mason bee houses. Hang one in your backyard to provide crucial nesting habitat for these important early spring pollinators. The bee houses come with information about mason bees and are ready for giving in a gift bag. Help nourish and support Decatur’s vital pollinator species without spending a lot of green. To learn more, or to purchase a gift, visit beecaturga.com.



3d Psychotherapy Receives Best of Decatur Award

3d Psychotherapy, LLC, has been selected for the 2019 Best of Decatur Award in the Psychotherapist category by the Decatur Award Program. Each year, the program identifies companies that have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community. *Note: the Decatur Award Program is not a City of Decatur-sponsored program.*

DBA
Decatur Business
Association

Holiday Meeting

Tuesday, December 3

Join us as we salute Decatur’s **Hometown Heroes** for 2019, share proceeds from the 2019 **Decatur Craft Beer Festival**, recognize **Welcoming Businesses**, and elect **DBA officers** for 2020.

5:15 pm • Networking reception

6 pm • Program begins

**Courtyard by Marriott
Decatur Conference Center**

130 Clairemont Ave.

Park in the Conference Center parking deck.

Sponsored by Keep it Indie-atur and the Decatur Courtyard by Marriott

Events at Little Shop of Stories

Christmas Story Time with Jennifer L. Meyer

Sunday, Dec. 8 • 2 p.m.

Come and enjoy some favorite books for the season and special guest illustrator Jennifer L. Meyer. This event is free and open to all. Purchase a copy of *If I Could Give You Christmas* to earn a place in the signing line.

Gingerbread Storytime and Decorating

Saturday, Dec. 14 • 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Children of all ages are welcome to a story time featuring gingerbread stories and cookie decorating. Fee is \$5 per child. Space is limited. Call to reserve a spot.

Hanukkah Storytime

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 2 p.m.

Elizabeth Lenhard will be guest reader for this year’s Hanukkah storytime. Whether you celebrate the holiday yourself or just want to learn more, this is a story time designed for all children. The event is free; but space is limited. Call to reserve a spot.

Polar Express Storytime

Saturday, Dec. 21 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join Little Shop of Stories for hot chocolate and a reading of *The Polar Express*. There may also be a special visitor. Fee is \$5 per child. Space is limited. Call to reserve a spot.

Little Shop of Stories is at 133 E. Court Square, Call 404-377-6300 for more information and to reserve a spot for special events.

Christmas on Clairemont Concert

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Decatur • 308 Clairemont Ave.

The fourth annual Christmas on Clairemont benefit concert will include a festival choir of 100 local voices, a professional orchestra, and a cast of featured performers. It is free of charge and open to the community, but an offering to benefit Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM), an organization that operates group homes for developmentally disabled adults, is encouraged.



The artists include:

- Vic Robertson, Broadway lead in *Phantom of the Opera*
 - Jessi Kirtley, 2019 Shuler Awards Best Leading Actress winner
 - Vinny Montague, boy soprano and rising star
 - OurSong, an award-winning LGBT chorus with a traditional choral sound
 - John Tibbets, 2018 Lotte Lenya Competition baritone finalist
 - Tiffany Uzoije, operatic soprano and rising star
 - Sherri Seiden, six-time John Rutter soprano soloist
- For more details, visit christmasonclairemont.com.

Decatur Library Musical Bookings

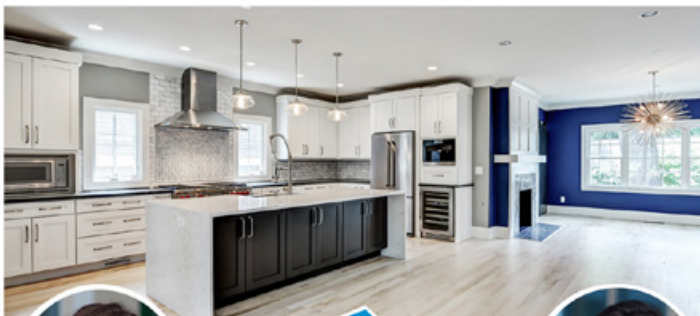
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7-8 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Musical Bookings at Decatur Library with the Silver Leaf Baptist Choir. Join a celebration of the African/African American gospel journey of cultural expression. Funding is provided by the Friends of the Decatur Library.

Breakfast with Santa in Oakhurst

Saturday, Dec. 21 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Solarium at Historic Scottish Rite • 321 W. Hill St. Children and their families are invited to a light breakfast, crafts and a photo-op with Santa, sponsored by the board of the Community Center of South Decatur (CCSD). This event is free to the community. RSVP to contact@thesolarium.com. CCSD thanks business sponsors Griffin & Company Insurance, Scout, and MOCK the Agency.



As a wife, mom, entrepreneur, and volunteer...
Chrissie Kallio understands that life can get complicated.

Real estate doesn't have to be. > >



< < < < < < < < < <
chrissie kallio > Real Estate > simplified.

404.295.2068 | 404.668.6621 | chrissie.kallio@compass.com | chrissiekallio.com

Chrissie Kallio is a real estate licensee affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and abides by equal housing opportunity laws.

COMPASS



LEVEL CRAFT
CONSTRUCT | RENOVATE | REVIVE
404.704.7350
levelcraftatlanta.com



Advent/Christmas at Decatur Presbyterian

205 Sycamore St. • 404-378-1777 • dpchurch.org

Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec 1 • 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, Dec. 4 • 6:15 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Dec. 8 • 8:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 8 • 10:30 a.m.

Intergenerational Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 8 • 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, Dec. 11 • 6:15 p.m.

Intergenerational Game/Trivia Night

Visitors and New Member

Christmas Coffee

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 10:30 a.m.

Club 45 Party

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 3 p.m.

Youth Christmas Parties

Sunday, Dec. 15 • 5:30 p.m.

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, Dec. 18 • 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, Dec. 18 • 6:15 p.m.

Slack Fellowship Hall

Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 22 • 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service for Young Families

Tuesday, Dec. 24 • 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, Dec. 24 • 5:30 p.m.

Communion, Child-led, Children's Choirs Sing

Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, Dec. 24 • 10:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

Atlanta Fine
Homes

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



*Giving you
the time and
attention you
deserve*

LISA CRONIN, REALTOR®

lisacronic@atlantafinehomes.com
678.641.4325

Decatur Resident for Over 20 Years

AtlantaFineHomes.com | 404.874.0300

© MMXIV Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.



Everyone's
Favorite Holiday
Gift Headquarters

WORTHMORE
jewelers

117 East Court Square . Decatur . 404/370-3979
500 L-3 Amsterdam Ave . Atlanta . 404/892-8294
www.worthmorejewelers.com



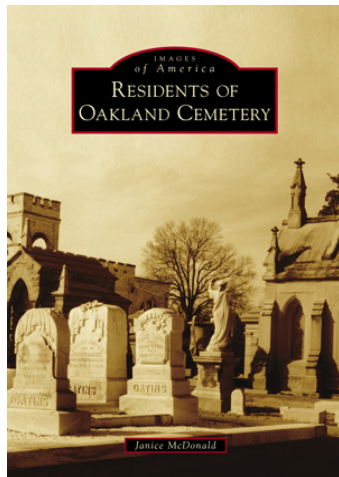
AMERICAN GEM
SOCIETY
Consumer Protection Since 1934®

Hops at the History Center: *Residents of Oakland Cemetery*

Tuesday, Dec. 10 • 5:30-7 p.m.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse
101 E. Court Square, second floor

Meet some of Oakland Cemetery's most notable residents through author Janice McDonald's new book, *Residents of Oakland Cemetery*. Since 1850, Atlanta has been laying residents to rest in a 48-acre piece of land now known as the historic Oakland Cemetery. Among the 70,000 people buried there are individuals from all walks of life, including soldiers, politicians, activists, and authors. Some of the well-known residents include Margaret Mitchell, Bobby Jones, and Bishop Wesley John Gaines. In *Residents of Oakland Cemetery*, the author includes less-recognized people residing in the cemetery who, like those already mentioned, left a lasting impact on the city of Atlanta and beyond.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event begins at 6 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$5 for DeKalb History Center members, and \$10 for non-members. One drink ticket is included. Purchase tickets via the dekalb-history-center.square.site. Contact Marissa Howard, 404-373-1088 ext. 20, for more information.



Run with the Dogs 5K

Saturday, Jan. 25 • 9 a.m.

The Decatur Bulldog Boosters invite the Decatur dog-loving and running communities to participate in the 16th annual Decatur Bulldog Boosters Run with the Dogs 5K. The event will include a one-mile Pup Trot at 8:30 a.m. for those who want a shorter distance or warm-up.

The run/walk event will begin on Commerce Drive by the Decatur High School football stadium and take a scenic, if challenging, course through the neighborhoods. It will again feature a 5K and 1 mile where runners and dog-owners can run/walk with (or without) their dogs. T-shirts, awards, and treats will be available to participants.

All proceeds from the event go to funding the uniforms, equipment, and awards for student-athletes at the middle and high schools. Register online at RWTD5k.com.

Follow RWTD5k on Facebook at facebook.com/RWTD5k or Instagram @RWTD5K. Send questions to Kristine Sandage at rwtd5k@decaturbulldogboosters.org.





**WELLSPRING
CHIROPRACTIC
&
WELLNESS**

"I am a practicing Chiropractic Physician. For the past 20 years I've been passionate about healthy living. The prevention of pain and chronic diseases are the focuses of my practice. I manage these conditions through Chiropractic Care, Functional Medicine and Nutrition."

235 E. Ponce De Leon Ave.
Suite 109
Decatur, GA 30030
OFFICE - 404.377.7263
WELLSPRINGDECATUR@GMAIL.COM
WELLSPRINGINDECATUR.COM

PAM HUGHES

40 years of finding homes for wonderful people... like YOU!

Experience is not Expensive... It's Priceless!

Personalized Service and an Exceptional Experience



**HARRY
NORMAN**
REALTORS

PAM HUGHES, REALTOR®

Cell: 404-626-3604
Office: 404-897-5558
Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com
Pam.Hughes.HarryNorman.com



The Intown Office | 1518 Monroe Dr NE • Suite E | Atlanta, GA 30324 | HarryNorman.com

Dance Hall Decatur – New Year's Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 31 • 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square

The DeKalb History Center invites the community to travel back in time to 1920 during their annual holiday extravaganza. Guests are encouraged to dress up in their best 1920s garb and dance their way into 2020. Admission includes hors d'oeuvres from Gotta Have It Catering, two drink tickets, a dance floor with DJ, and a champagne toast at midnight. Guests may purchase additional drink tickets.



Tickets are available at the DeKalb History Center offices or online at dekalbhistory.org. Tickets are \$45 per member adult and \$60 for nonmember adults. Tickets are \$15 for guests under 21 only. All proceeds benefit the DeKalb History Center.

History Center Lunch & Learn

Refuge or Refusal, A Conversation

Wednesday, Dec. 4 • noon-1 p.m.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse
101 E. Court Square, second floor
Free! Bring your lunch

The DeKalb History Center's December Lunch & Learn will be presented by representatives from Kennesaw State University and Civic Georgia. Immigration has always been a part of the history of the United States, and five dates in particular are recorded as turning points within the U.S. immigration policy: 1790, 1882, 1924, 1948, and 1965.

A temporary exhibit developed by KSU will be placed in the lobby prior to the program, which will be followed by a panel discussion. The exhibit and discussion will explore what these turning points were and their impact on the United States and around the globe.



GILL

TREE CARE

404-937-6800
www.gilltreecare.com

**TREE PRUNING, SOIL ENHANCEMENT,
PLANTING, AND REMOVAL
CALL FOR FREE WOOD CHIPS!**




625 Dekalb Industrial Way
Decatur, GA 30033
404-924-2000
www.SFVS.com

Internal Medicine | Medical Oncology | Orthopedic & Soft Tissue Surgery | 24/7 Emergency Service

**DEDICATED.
EXPERIENCED.
RESPECTED.**

Expert, uncompromising
legal representation
when you need it most.



CHAMBERS & AHOLT

— TRIAL ATTORNEYS —

• Personal Injury and Wrongful Death •

150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 260 • Downtown Decatur
404-253-7860 • doug@carllp.com • www.carllp.com

Commissioners Haunt Haints & Saints Parade



Commissioner Kelly Walsh, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers, and Mayor Patti Garrett were spotted at the Haints and Saints Parade, along with the Beecatur group.

#haintsandsaints #masquerade #beecatur

#decaturga

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

Decatur Fire Rescue



Firefighter Bryan Diamond, Inspector Garrett Range, Captain Gary Menard, and Sergeant Bernard Tarplin shared fire prevention education with preschoolers at Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool.

#littlefirefighters #firesafety #fieldtripfun

The Law Visits the Library



School resource officers Damico (pictured) and Robinson were happy to serve as guest readers for the 2019 Glennwood Elementary Read-a-Thon.

#glennwood reads #decaturpdlovesbooks



Estate Planning Wills & Trusts Probate

As your family grows, or you prepare for retirement, it's important to have a plan.



Mackintosh
LAW, LLC

246 Sycamore Street, Suite 150, Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 793-2510 Brooks@Mackintosh.law
www.mackintosh.law

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 199
Decatur, GA 30031



Decatur
Focus

P.O. Box 220
Decatur, GA 30031-220

Printed on Recycled Paper
DATED MATERIAL DECEMBER 2019

SPLASH OF OLIVE
TASTING ROOM

404-600-2414

located inside

DECATUR, GEORGIA

**KELLY'S
MARKET**

FRESH · LOCAL · FUN

308 E HOWARD AVE DECATUR, GA 30030

Purveyor of fine
Extra Virgin Olive Oils &
Balsamic Vinagers from
around the world

**PLEASE ASK
ABOUT OUR
FREE GIFT
WITH PURCHASE**

FREE PARKING

**Please ask about our recycling program!*

**You make six figures,
but where does
it all go?**

*Josh can help you
enjoy today
while
planning for
tomorrow.*



PHOTO CREDIT: CATHY DAVIS

CALL JOSH TODAY
678-938-0372



Chamberlain
FINANCIAL ADVISORS

ChamberlainFA.com