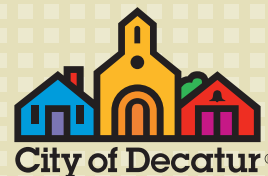


# City of Decatur FOCUS

**NEXT STEPS**  
DECATUR ANNUAL REPORT 2019



JULY-AUGUST 2019  
Volume 30 • Number 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

## New Living Walls Mural on North Candler Street

**I**n June Living Walls unveiled its newest mural, titled *Monuments: Our Immigrant Mothers*, by artist Yehimi Cambron. The mural is at 302 E. Howard Ave. at the corner of N. Candler and E. Howard. The project is a part of Living Walls' annual Laura Patria Calle Grant, which supports public art projects on the topics of social equality, immigrants' rights, feminism, LGBTQ rights and cultural diversity.

*Monuments: Our Immigrant Mothers* aims to bring representation to the mothers who crossed borders to give their immigrant children a better life. The mural's message seeks to inspire a conversation about immigrant rights in our country.

The artist, Yehimi Cambron, said the project is a culmination of her personal experience as an undocumented immigrant with DACA, of being the daughter of undocumented parents, and of the countless migration stories her students have shared with her in the classroom through their projects.

The mural depicts three portraits of immigrant mothers surrounded by the imagery of desert plants and their colorful flowers, to represent the contrast of her strength and vulnerability and how they inform one another. The imagery also alludes to her family's migration journey in an effort to shift an often-criminalized narrative into one of empowerment. The monarch butterflies surrounding each mother represent their children. The monarch butterfly is a reflection of the migration journey and a symbol of the resilience of their community.

Yehimi is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and is in her second year of teaching art at her high school alma mater Cross Keys.



**3** CITY  
NEWS

**8** BUSINESS  
NEWS

**12** DBA  
NEWS

**13** DECATUR  
EVENTS

**20** SCHOOL  
NEWS

**23** AROUND  
TOWN



# Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the DDA

**W**hen the Decatur Downtown Development Authority Board (DDA) was created in 1982, it was charged with the implementation of the Town Center Plan. This plan was more than just a blueprint for physical development. It also addressed the need to re-establish downtown as the center of the community. The DDA relied on the Main Street model developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which spelled out the necessary ingredients for a successful downtown redevelopment program.

## Focus on Downtown Development

Known as the Four Points of Main Street, they were and continue to be:

**Organization** – having supportive organizations in place working together;

**Promotions** – implementing festivals, events and advertising to create a positive image of downtown and generate customers and clients for existing businesses;

**Design** – advocacy and support for quality design to achieve a plan's vision; and

**Economic Vitality** – encouraging investment, development and recruiting new businesses.

In fact, a city that gets the first three points working well usually finds the economic vitality piece comes easily.

In the early days of the DDA, staff focused most of their attention on the first two points, organization and promotions. Did you know that the DDA was the catalyst behind the creation of the Decatur Business Association (DBA) and organized and staffed the first Decatur Beach Parties? The DBA replaced a struggling merchants association that wasn't open to professional business owners located in downtown office buildings or to residents who wanted to be supportive. The new DBA was open to all businesses and residents and provided an opportunity for the community to get involved and support downtown redevelopment efforts.

The DDA also initiated the creation of the Decatur Arts Alliance by inviting members of the arts community to come together to organize and fund the first Decatur Arts Festival, which is still going strong more than 32 years later. The city wanted to be seen as creative and progressive and creating a nonprofit organization and a festival that focused on artists was the most effective way to promote that image.

The Decatur Business Association and the Decatur Arts Alliance have grown into successful organizations with independent boards and expanded programs. The city's economic development program continues to work closely with and support their activities along with supporting the Decatur Book Festival, the Decatur Tourism Bureau and the Decatur Education Foundation.

All of these groups are essential partners in the creation of a supportive network to build a strong sense of place and to encourage an engaged community that results in a place that is attractive to economic investment. They all play a role in the economic development of our city.

The DDA program has also grown and evolved, expanding into a citywide Economic Development department of the City of Decatur to reflect work being done beyond downtown in the Oakhurst business district and the East Decatur district. The DDA board still exists and members volunteer their time to serve as advocates and advisors for quality growth and development in Decatur's commercial districts.

Economic Development staff members support the DDA's work but also spend time work-

See **Focus on Downtown Development** on page 8

**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).

# 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  
Scott Drake.....Commissioner  
Brian Smith.....Commissioner  
Kelly Walsh.....Commissioner



## DECATUR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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



## DECATUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Susan Sparks.....President  
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## Downtown Development Authority Reveals New Logo and Campaign Identity

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has adopted a new logo to complement its upcoming campaign to attract companies to new and existing office space. As described in last month's Focus newsletter, the DDA, which has historically concentrated its investments on retail, restaurants, and multi-family residential development, is expanding its focus to promote the city to businesses drawn to Decatur's values and purpose-inspired business leaders. The goal of the campaign is to bring more jobs, drive already low vacancy rates even lower, add to Decatur's tax base, and maintain a healthy live-work-play balance in the city's commercial districts.

The campaign will tout Decatur's competitive advantages as a walkable, transit-friendly community with a distinct local flare and access to a highly educated workforce. The campaign will also reveal the vitality of the people, workspaces, businesses, and culture in the existing Decatur business environment to inspire and attract the next generation of Decatur businesses.

The campaign messaging will reinforce why Decatur is ideally suited for businesses seeking new office space. The new messaging – to be seen on banners and other public spaces – includes "A Great Place to Grow Your Business," "Let's Get Down to Business," and "Business is Greater in Decatur."

The DDA's new logo leverages the familiarity of the city's long-time logo – a house, a place of worship, and a school in primary colors – and extends the meaning of Decatur to include business. This new logo provides the foundation for the look and feel of the campaign.

Stay tuned this fall for the full rollout of the campaign.



## Qualifying Dates for Nov. 5 Election

In January, the Decatur City Commission officially announced the call for the city's General Election to be held on Nov. 5, 2019, for two Decatur Board of Education members for four-year terms of office, and three City of Decatur Commissioners for four-year terms, such terms to begin at the organizational meeting in January 2020.

One City Commissioner from Election District 1, Post B  
One City Commissioner from Election District 2, Post B  
One City Commissioner from Election District at large

One Decatur Board of Education member from Election District 1, Post B  
One Decatur Board of Education member from Election District 2, Post B

If you are interested in running for any of these offices, you will need to qualify with City Clerk Meredith Roark. The dates for qualifying are Monday, Aug. 19, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and continuing until Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 4:30 p.m. The qualifying fee for City Commission office is \$360 and the qualifying fee for Board of Education members is \$35.

Each candidate must file notice of his or her candidacy and the appropriate affidavit in the office of the Election Superintendent/City Clerk at City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., Decatur, Georgia. The City Clerk's Office is located on the second floor in the City Manager's office. Additional information about elections and qualifying may be found at [decaturga.com/elections-and-voting](http://decaturga.com/elections-and-voting).

Save the Date:

**Sept. 6**

### Back to School Movie Bash

The Back to School Movie Bash will return to the Beacon Municipal Center lawn, Friday, Sept. 6, 6:30-9 p.m. Stay tuned to the September Focus and the city's official social media sites for movie title and additional details.

## Deadline Extended to Apply for Decatur Youth Council

There is still time for rising 9th through 12th grade students to apply for the 2019-2020 Decatur Youth Council (DYC) leadership program. The deadline to apply has been extended to Monday, July 29.



The program is open to students who live within the city limits of Decatur and attend public, private, and home-based schools. DYC members volunteer, plan projects and events, and serve as an advisory board for local government. This year, DYC members planned and carried out the planting of a new orchard at Legacy Park.

The Application of Interest is available at [decaturga.com/dyc](http://decaturga.com/dyc). For more information contact staff liaison Lee Ann Harvey, 678-553-6548, or [leeann.harvey@decaturga.com](mailto:leeann.harvey@decaturga.com).

## Holiday Solid Waste and Recycling Services

### Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2

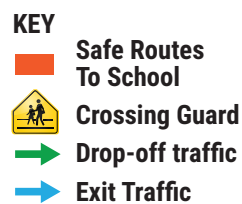
Monday trash and recycling pickup will be on Tuesday, Sept. 3.  
Tuesday trash and recycling pickup will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

## Walking and Driving to Talley Street Upper Elementary School

This map indicates (in orange) the approved Safe Routes to School as determined by City Schools of Decatur and the Active Living and Public Safety departments. These routes minimize exposure to heavy traffic and take advantage of wide, walkable sidewalks where possible. Crossing guards are stationed at critical intersections along these routes.

For parents driving their children to the school, you must enter Talley Street from South Columbia Drive. Traffic coming from Sams Street cannot stop in front of the school, and left turns will not be permitted.

The intersection of Talley Street and South Columbia Drive is now an all-way stop. A traffic light will be installed in the near future.



## AVOID TRAFFIC. RIDE THE BUS!

### Questions?

**Courtney Burnett** at City Schools of Decatur:  
404-371-3601 x1033 / cburnett@csdecatur.net

**Cheryl Burnette** at Decatur Active Living  
678-553-6541 / cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com

## Decatur Walking Superstar for July

This month's walk star is Bob Watkins, aka the Guy with the Hat. Bob is retired and his new boss is his body as he works to keep it healthy. He walks about six miles a day, and feels better for it.

Bob usually walks shortly after rolling out of bed and then again during the day as his mood dictates. He believes that walking is good for the emotions. He counts his steps and uses phone apps to help him vary his pace and route. He can describe the difference between a power walker and a race walker and claims to be more of a power walker, although he tries to be smooth.



## Free Yoga around Decatur

In June, Decatur hosted free yoga on the square. Additional sessions will be offered around town every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. during the summer.

- July: Yoga on the Green at First Christian Church, 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
- August: Yoga in Harmony Park in Oakhurst





## From Decatur's DEC Division:

# Tips for Home Improvement Projects

Careful planning and preparation are necessary when making improvements to your home. Consider these tips from the city's Design Environment and Construction Division (DEC) before you plan your next project.

### Start with the Basics

To know what you will be able to do with your home or yard, you'll need to gather some basic information. Creating a floor plan or site plan of your home and the surrounding lot is a helpful way to find out what can and cannot be done on your property. Decatur has many properties that are at or near the maximum limitations for home size, lot impervious coverage and other similar development requirements, so having accurate and up-to-date site plans and building plans is very important.

**Tip:** Go through your paperwork and see if you can locate a land survey or site plan from a previous project. These can be a good starting point. Design Environment and Construction keeps site plans for many addresses in the city of Decatur. Give them a call, they may have something on file. If you can't find a survey, you will need to have one drawn for most exterior projects such as new buildings and additions, site work, decks or patios.

### Be Efficient about Energy Efficient Upgrades

Not all energy upgrades for the home are the most efficient way to lower your utility bills. A home energy audit is recommended to understand the most efficient way to save on utility bills and minimize improvement costs. A home energy audit is an assessment of your home that takes a look at current energy consumption and then identifies measures to make your home perform more efficiently. An energy auditor will visit your home and assess how you are losing the most energy, and will propose behavioral or infrastructure improvements to help save energy – and reduce your utility bills.

**Tips:** Before you plan a project to add insulation, a new thermostat or replace those

leaky windows, consult with a home energy auditor to see what upgrades will not only reduce your utility bills but will ensure your home is a high performance building.

### Covering your Bases with Landscaping Projects

Every lot in the city has a maximum amount of development coverage that can be applied to the ground and still comply with regulations. Lot or development coverage is essentially anything that is NOT grass landscaping or mulch. In order to make sure your lot stays compliant with regulations, most all site and landscaping work will require review by DEC. In addition to making sure your lot is not over covered, staff will check to make sure that your trees are not damaged, the retaining walls and patios meet building codes and that the storm water runoff does not affect you or your neighbor's yard.

**Tips:** Getting a land survey that provides the total existing lot coverage is the best way to know where you stand. In Decatur, the smaller your lot the more lot coverage you have to work with! This allows property owners with a small yard to make similar improvements to their neighbors with bigger yards. If you install an irrigation system, make sure your plumber obtains a permit to install a backflow preventer. A backflow preventer installed with an irrigation system ensures that fertilizer in the ground or other contaminants do not get pulled back into the drinking water supply.

### Need a Little Extra Space? Consider an Accessory Structure

Many residential lots in the city make adding onto your existing home difficult and expensive. Accessory structures can be an alternative and give your backyard a new look. Accessory structures can range from

as little as 100 square feet up to 1,000 square feet, depending on your lot restrictions, and can be either one story or two. Accessory structures can also serve as rental property if finished out as an apartment, also known as an Accessory Dwelling Unit or ADU. ADU's can range in size from 300 square feet to 800 square feet and may be rented year round so long as the owner lives on the property.

**Tip:** A one-story accessory structure requires only a three-foot setback on the sides and back, which is much less restrictive than the regulations for a house addition. This allows you to preserve your back yard nearest the house while adding an extra room or two to the property. DEC recommends hiring an architect or home designer to develop plans for these buildings, because even though they are small, they contain many of the same challenges as a full-sized home and require careful design.

### Find the Right Person to Do the Job

Before you undertake a large and potentially expensive project to your home, you want to make sure that you've chosen a contractor that is a right fit for your needs. You want to check references of a potential contractor as well as ask for a list of similar projects that they have completed in the past.

DEC strongly recommends agreeing to a written proposal in advance as well as seeking more than one estimate before deciding on a contractor. Sometimes the biggest challenge to a home improvement project is finding someone to do the work, but making sure they are qualified to do the work is equally daunting. The State of Georgia requires all contractors performing construction to have a state license and carry insurance. In addition, specialty contractors such as landscaping companies who work in the city of Decatur are required to hold a business license.

**Tip:** To find a contractor who has worked in the city before, DEC suggests asking friends

See **DEC Division Tips** on page 6

# Celebrate Americans with Disabilities in July

**O**n July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, to provide people living with disabilities with the same rights and opportunities accorded to all. The ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all arenas of public life, including employment, schools, housing, and transportation. It extends to people with disabilities civil rights protections similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, almost 57 million Americans, or 19 percent of the population, had a disability, and that percentage has remained fairly consistent over time. More than half of those individuals reported their disability as severe. Studies indicate that nearly 25 percent of today's 20 year olds will experience disability in their lifetime.

While the ADA is an important step toward guaranteeing equal access and opportunity for individuals with disabilities, many people living with disabilities are still striving to meet that goal. For example, individuals

with disabilities are employed at a rate half that of the general population. Among people age 15 to 64 with severe disabilities, almost 11 percent experience persistent poverty. Much remains to be done to protect and support people living with disabilities.

As we work to ensure equal access and opportunity for all, these book selections from Little Shop of Stories open up new perspectives on how we engage with the world.

**The Black Book of Colors** by Menena Cottin, Rosana Faria, and Elisa Amado



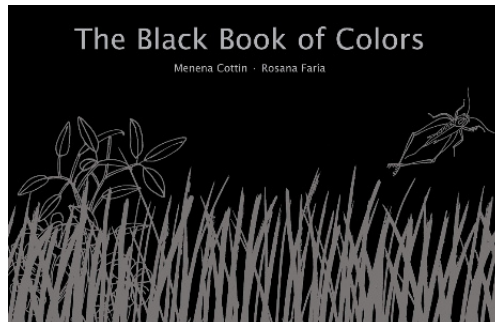
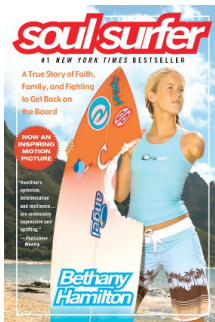
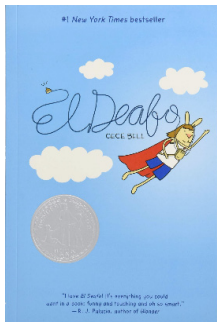
This book takes one of the most basic picture book formats, the book of colors, and turns it on its head. All the colors in this book are described using senses other than sight, and all the images are gray on black. The authors and illustrator have created a picture book intended to be experienced in ways other than visual, thereby inviting young readers to dip their toes into the world of the visually impaired. There's even a guide to the Braille alphabet inside.

**El Deafo** by Cece Bell

As a young child, author/illustrator Cece Bell lost her hearing due to spinal meningitis. *El Deafo* is her journey to use The Phonic Ear, a bulky and conspicuous hearing aid, and navigate a new school where she's sure that she's too different to make friends. Cece discovers that The Phonic Ear is powerful enough that she can hear her teacher anywhere in the school – even the bathroom. With this superpower, Cece is on her way to becoming *El Deafo*, Listener for All! But can Cece channel her powers into finding the one thing she wants most – a true friend? A funny, poignant graphic memoir for middle ages.

**Soul Surfer** by Bethany Hamilton

Bethany Hamilton is a professional surfer who survived a shark attack when she was young. Despite losing her left arm, she continued to surf and has been competing at the highest levels of her sport. *Soul Surfer* is her teen memoir, a story of struggle and inspiration about how she has overcome setback to continue to do the thing she feels called to do – be one of the best surfers on the planet.



## DEC Division Tips

continued from page 5

and neighbors. If there is a recently finished project that you like and you know the address, you can call Design Environment and Construction, 404-370-4104, and staff will be able to tell you who the contractor was. Before your contractor starts work on a project, always make sure you ask to see:

1. The contractor's state issued license

2. A business license issued from the city or county in which they operate
3. The building permit issued by the City of Decatur.

## Do I Need a Building Permit?

A building permit is required for any improvements to your home exceeding \$1,000 of value and includes projects such as landscaping, fencing, roofing, or structural work. Stop work orders are issued when a project has begun without a permit and inspectors

observe work going on at a property.

Stop Work Orders are expensive (your permit fees double in price), time consuming, and generally a hassle to you and your contractor. So if you are unsure if your project needs a permit, please contact DEC before you start.

If you have any questions or want to meet with staff in person to discuss your project, contact Mark Ethun, Decatur building official, [mark.ethun@decaturga.com](mailto:mark.ethun@decaturga.com).



## E-Scooter Safety Class

Thursday, July 11  
5:30-6:30 p.m.



Decatur Active Living is teaming up with Lime to host an e-scooter class at the Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St. Learn how to ride a Lime scooter safely. Helmets will be provided.

## Decatur Craft Beer Festival Call for Proposals

The Decatur Craft Beer Festival committee is now accepting proposals from Decatur-based nonprofit organizations to be considered for funding from proceeds of the October 2019 festival. Each year, the committee donates a portion of festival profits to designated projects.

The committee is interested in projects that contribute to the quality of life in Decatur and do not have ongoing fundraising associated with them. The committee prefers to use its funds to jump-start a project and provide seed capital to get a focused activity off the ground.

Organizations must be based within the city to be considered. The grant application for 2019 may be found at [decaturbeerfestival.com](http://decaturbeerfestival.com). Applications must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 30, in the Community and Economic Development department, on the second floor of Decatur City Hall.

## From the Environmental Sustainability Board

Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) is beginning the process of gathering public input about the use of plastic in the city and investigating legislative action we can take to cut back. The ESB is encouraging the community to be mindful of plastic consumption and to work together to change plastic habits. The board is also suggesting that you skip a straw next time you eat out, carry a refillable water bottle, and buy snacks with minimal packaging. Stay tuned for additional information and steps that the ESB is taking concerning this issue.

## Pedestrian Committee Seeks Members

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the Active Living Board is accepting new members. The group meets the second Friday of each month, 8 a.m., at the Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St. To get involved in making it safer for pedestrians in the city, contact [cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com](mailto:cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com).

## City Seeks Help on Stormwater Prioritization

Join us for our next Stormwater Master Planning meeting, Tuesday, July 30, 6-8 p.m., at the Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St. The completed long-range plan – part of a year-long effort – identifies the infrastructure and related initiatives necessary to successfully manage the city's stormwater needs through the coming decades.

What needs to happen first? At the July meeting, the project team and city staff will identify and rank the criteria necessary for prioritization. We'll also review our working stormwater model and seek input on how it matches what you have seen on your streets.

Find additional information at [decaturnext.com/stormwater](http://decaturnext.com/stormwater).

Please join us for this public meeting.

*Help us set our  
stormwater priorities.*

You've helped us identify what's needed.  
**Now how do we decide what to do first?**

With your help, we've identified a host of stormwater projects to benefit the city. But which to do first? Or last? Here's your chance to reality-check our working model and help us determine how to prioritize our long-term action list. Everyone's welcome.

**Tuesday, July 30, 6-8pm**

**Decatur Recreation Center (231 Sycamore Street)**

**Project information: [www.decaturnext.com/stormwater](http://www.decaturnext.com/stormwater)**



MASTER PLAN | DECATUR, GEORGIA

## Focus on Downtown Development

*continued from page 2*

ing with retail and restaurant committees, retail and restaurant recruitment, managing filming in the city and organizing and staffing promotional events like Sidewalk Saturdays, Small Business Saturday, Terrific Thursdays, Yoga Around Town and the Mother's Day Pop Up on the square.

The DDA provides funding support for special projects like the #lookupdecatur program, the Signal Box Project and the sidewalk busker project. Recently the DDA and the Economic Development staff brought in a consultant to meet with retail and restaurant owners to talk about new trends in brick-and-mortar businesses. We also invited business owners from Avondale Estates to attend.

The West Ponce Music Stroll and West Ponce banner program were projects managed by Economic Development staff. The new Old Depot District (ODD) now has new banners courtesy of the ED staff. Staff members are working closely with new and existing businesses to brand and market this area of downtown.

Stay tuned for The ODD Ball, just one of several new, fun events coming to this quirky, emerging part of downtown Decatur. Oakhurst is also getting a new set of banners to celebrate their unique identity and the great business options available in the city's southwest quadrant, including the newly opened Scepter Brewing Arts in the heart of Oakhurst village.

The DDA and the city's economic development efforts are an integral part of the successful city we know today. From starting the Decatur Focus newsletter almost 30 years ago, taking over responsibility for the July 4th celebration and the Concerts on the Square series from community organizers, to producing and funding the creation of more than 50,000 Shopping, Dining and Services Guides each year to promote our local retail and restaurant businesses, the efforts of the DDA and the city's Economic Development department complement the hard work of our long-standing partners to create a healthy, vibrant community that serves as a model for cities throughout metro Atlanta.

We often talk about our 30-year overnight success story. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither was Decatur. Our businesses and our residents played an important role in our community's success and the spirit of volunteerism and personal investment in building a great place are essential ingredients in Decatur's secret sauce. Here's to another successful 30 years of community building as we celebrate partners and work together to bring new programs, ideas and opportunities to continue to support the unique, progressive place we call the city of Decatur.

## TORAG Celebrates Second Anniversary Advocacy Group for Seniors Tackles Key Issues

**T**he Oaks Resident Advocacy Group (TORAG) celebrates its second anniversary this month. The very active, non-partisan, grass roots effort was formed by a group of Decatur seniors to offer older adults a voice at all levels of government. They focus on healthcare, Social Security, affordable housing, and transportation for seniors.

In the last two years, the group – now more than 500 members strong – has sent petitions, postcards and emails, made phone calls, and met with state and federal legislators. Last year the Georgia Council on Aging supported their efforts to gain more healthcare coverage for Georgia's low-income seniors. Any resident age 65 or older is welcome to join.

For more information, contact [torag2017@gmail.com](mailto:torag2017@gmail.com) and follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/TORAG2017](https://facebook.com/groups/TORAG2017).



## Reagin Optometric Group Welcomes New Owner

Reagin Optometric Group, 216 Church St., has a new owner, Dr. Lindsay Marshburn. Dr. Marshburn has practiced at Reagin Optometric for five years and lives in Decatur with her husband, Patrick, and their two daughters, Elliana and Olivia. She attended the University of Georgia before receiving her doctorate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

The previous owner, Dr. Thomas Reagin, has retired from the group after 39 years of practice in Decatur.

Reagin Optometric recently relocated to 216 Church St. The new office has more exam rooms and a modern and stylish optical department. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [reagineyes.com](http://reagineyes.com) or call 404-378-3694.





## Decatur Scouts Make Eagle Scout

**M**ark Bramblett, Scott Janssen, Nick Cribb, Henry DeLisle, Sam DeLisle and Davis Knabe, members of Boy Scout Troop 134 and residents of Decatur, have earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts offers. Only three to four percent of Boy Scout members ever attain this honor.

The Decatur High School students all achieved the 21 merit badges required to receive the Eagle Scout award. All projects served nonprofits in the Decatur area and took place over the course of 12 months. The work included stream restoration, rescue dog playgrounds and furniture building. The joint ceremony honoring the scouts took place in April at Decatur Presbyterian Church.



From left: Mark Bramblett, Nick Cribb, Henry DeLisle, Sam DeLisle and Davis Knabe. Inset: Scott Janssen.

## Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Seeks New Members

Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights invites all members of the community to become members. The organization's mission is to empower, advocate, educate and organize people of African descent affected by systemic racism and oppression on issues of equity in education, housing and the legal system. The organization meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Ave. For more information or to become a member, visit [facebook.com/beaconhillblackalliance/](https://facebook.com/beaconhillblackalliance/) or email [beaconhillnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:beaconhillnaacp@gmail.com).



## Oakhurst Preschoolers Learn about Recycling

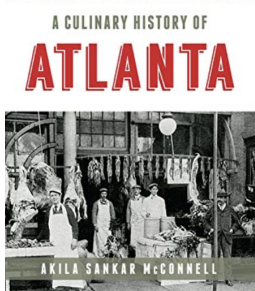
Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool children ages two, three, and four are learning first-hand about the benefits of recycling – while keeping thousands of children's garments out of landfills. At the school's recent clothing swap, families donated unwanted children's clothing of all types and sizes, before coming together to snag new clothes – for free. All the remaining garments were donated to H&M's clothing recycling program, for reuse or material recovery.

## Decatur Resident Celebrates Culinary History

Decatur resident Akila Sankar McConnell's book *A Culinary History of Atlanta* (Arcadia Publishing) just hit bookstores. The book tracks the story of how Atlanta is a city built on food. From its Native American agricultural roots to the South's first international culinary scene, food has shaped this city, often in unexpected ways. Trace the evolution of iconic dishes like Brunswick stew, hoecakes, and peach pie, while celebrating Atlanta's noted foodies, including Henry Grady, Nathalie Dupree, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Be transported to the beginnings of notable restaurants and markets, including Mary Mac's Tearoom, Waffle House, and the Municipal Market. And enjoy Decatur establishments featured in the book, such as Revolution Doughnuts, Your DeKalb Farmer's Market, and the Kimball House.

McConnell has been sharing stories of Atlanta's food and history for more than a decade, writing for numerous publications, including *Conde Nast Traveler* and *About.com*. In 2015, she launched Unexpected Atlanta Walking Tours, which offers Atlanta Food Walks and Atlanta History Tours, and was named by *National Geographic* as the top tour to experience the city. She has numerous speaking events this summer at local area bookstores, but you're also likely to run into her at a farmers market hunting for the sweetest corn and peaches.



## Summer Reading + Special Events at Little Shop of Stories

Sign up for the Little Shop of Stories summer reading program and earn treats from local Decatur businesses like Revolution Doughnuts, Greene's, and Butter and Cream. In addition to the reading program, the shop will host these events:

### Scholastic Summer Read-a-Palooza

July 4 • 2-4 p.m.

Scholastic is launching a nationwide movement to keep every child reading this summer, and Little Shop is excited to join the cause. Coming to the July 4 fireworks on the square? Come early to meet Dog Man and Clifford the Big Red Dog, engage in book-themed activities, and participate in a book drive for local kids.

### Myths, Magic, and Mayhem: A #DemigodGoals Event

July 20 • 3-5 p.m.

Whether you are a fan of mythology or not, you won't want to miss this afternoon filled with All Things Greek, including a scavenger hunt, creating your own Riptide sword, and a chance to win prizes by spinning the Wheel of Destiny.

### Moon Landing 50th Anniversary Celebration

July 21 • 2 p.m.

Together with the Atlanta Science Festival, experience an out-of-this-world celebration of the landing on the moon with activities, snacks (did someone say Moon Pies?), and a visit with author Kristy Dempsey, whose newest picture book *Papa Put A Man On The Moon* tells the story of a young girl's admiration for her father and his role in helping to make history.

### Folk Musician, Storyteller and Author John McCutcheon to Perform

Saturday, Sept. 7 • 3 p.m. • Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Dr.

See details for this performance on page 18.

Little Shop of Stories is at 133 E. Court Square. Contact the store at 404-373-6300 or visit [littleshopofstories.com](http://littleshopofstories.com).



## A New 'Spot' in Town!

Spot for Dogs-Decatur will open its doors at 320 E. Howard Ave. in July, offering a unique brand of doggy daycare, overnight "slumber-party" boarding, and dog baths. Spot will be open seven days a week, with 24-hour on-site supervision. Spot for Dogs partners with Frogs to Dogs, founded by Andrew Zbeeb, who specializes in dog training and pet sitting. Frogs to Dogs will serve the neighborhood from the secondary storefront of the renovated space (318 E. Howard Ave.), as well as provide training classes.

Neighbors and friends are encouraged to share stories, memories, and photographs of 320 E. Howard Ave., as it was "back then." To share, or simply follow along with the renovation progress, visit Spot for Dogs on Instagram and Facebook: @spotfordogsdecatur.





## Decatur Attorney Receives Public Service Award

In April, Decatur resident Mawuli Davis of the Davis Bozeman Law Firm was honored as the 2019 recipient of the Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award. The award is the highest extended by Georgia State's College of Law. It is presented each year to a living Georgia attorney whose overall accomplishments reflect the high tradition of public service that founding dean Ben F. Johnson Jr. exemplified during his life.

Attorney Mawuli Davis practices civil rights and personal injury law at the Davis Bozeman Law Firm with his law partners Robert Bozeman and Harold Spence.



## ASC Workday at Decatur Cemetery

Approximately 17 Agnes Scott College faculty and staff visited Decatur cemetery in May for their annual Community Day. Two groups spent the morning pulling invasive plants and working on lost drainage in the lower sections of the Old Cemetery.

A surprise visit by President Lee Zak offered an opportunity to visit the grave of George Washington Scott, founder of the College.



## DPCC Celebrates 70th Anniversary

In 1949, Decatur Presbyterian began the first kindergarten in the city and one of the very first in all of metro Atlanta. Founded as Decatur Presbyterian Play School, it was guided for a quarter century by Mary Sledd. Under her stewardship, lifelong friendships were forged. At the kindergarten today, Shannon Putman and Cristin Davis foster that same culture of play, camaraderie, and exploratory learning.

Select spots are still available for the 2019-20 school year. Register at [dpcc-school.org](http://dpcc-school.org) or call 404-378-1770 for more information.



## DECATUR BEACH PARTY

Thousands of residents, neighbors and friends visited downtown Decatur on Friday evening, June 21, for the annual Decatur Business Association fundraiser. The Ponce de Leon Avenue beach was bigger this year (80 tons of sand) and the party was free to all. The Old 4th Ward Boogie Band provided the music.



**DBA**  
Decatur Business  
Association

**Meeting Reminders**  
**JULY 23**  
**AUGUST 27**

Locations and sponsors to be announced

5:15 p.m. Networking Reception

6 p.m. Program

Check for details and updates at [decaturdba.com](http://decaturdba.com)



# AJC Decatur Book Festival

## Aug. 30-Sept. 1

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Decatur Book Festival presented by Emory University (DBF) continues its tradition of hosting conversations for intellectually curious attendees of all ages with a keynote, an interactive kidnote, and author events at the end.

### PEN America Immigration Keynote and Track

In partnership with PEN America, DBF has dedicated its Friday night keynote and an entire track of author programs to the topic of immigration. Richard Blanco, the fifth person in U.S. history selected to write and deliver an inaugural poem, will be joined by Rigoberto González, author of 17 books of poetry and prose, and Gabriela Ventura Baeza, executive editor of Arte Publico Press. The panel will discuss Latinx writing and immigration, the power of literature to effect change, who gets to call a country home, and the value of providing opportunities for uncensored expression.

Richard Blanco read his poem “One Today” at the inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 21, 2013. He was born to Cuban parents in exile and grew up in Miami. Blanco returns to DBF with a new collection of poems, *How to Love a Country*. The collection explores immigration, gun violence, racism, LGBTQ issues, and more, in accessible and emotional verses.

Rigoberto Gonzalez’s latest book is the memoir *What Drowns Flowers in Your Mouth*. The son and grandson of migrant farm workers, Gonzalez is a multiple award-winning author and poet, a critic-at-large for the *Los Angeles Times*, a professor of English at Rutgers-Newark, and a champion of Latinx writers in the U.S.

Gabriela Ventura Baeza represents Arte Publico Press, the oldest publisher of contemporary and recovered Latinx writing in the U.S. Earlier this year, the press was awarded the prestigious Ivan Dandorf Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) for its work as a “literary beacon against anti-immigrant sentiment.”

The DBF-PEN America Keynote panel discussion will take place on Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m. at Emory’s Schwartz Center for Performing Arts. Mariela Romero, an Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist from Univision Atlanta, will moderate the discussion. Immigration track sessions will happen on Saturday and Sunday of the festival. Free tickets to the Keynote panel discussion will be distributed at a later date.

### GraphicCon Kidnote

On Friday, Aug. 30, the Decatur Recreation Center will host its own version of a graphic novel convention. This special DBF kidnote program will feature activity stations where kids can draw and storyboard their own graphic novels. Featured author-presenters for the Kidnote GraphicCon are Kristen Gudsruk, Matt Holm, Tui Sutherland, and Ru Xu. Details on free kidnote tickets will be available at a later date.



Blanco



Gonzalez

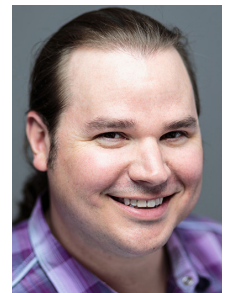


Kristen Gudsruk is a comics writer and illustrator. She got her start with the webcomic “Henchgirl,” which Scout Comics later published in a single issue and Dark Horse Comics released as a collection. Her newest works include the middle grade graphic novel *Making Friends* from Scholastic Books, and *Modern Fantasy*, a miniseries from Dark Horse (written by Rafer Roberts). Gudsruk also illustrated the “VIP” series by Jen Calonita.



Gudsruk

Matthew Holm was born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia and has been drawing comics since he was in middle school. He has collaborated with his sister, Jennifer L. Holm, on three graphic novel series: *Babymouse*, *Squish*, and *Sunny*. Their latest collaboration in the Sunny series is *Swing It, Sunny*.



Holm

Tui T. Sutherland is author of the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling *Wings of Fire* series, including the graphic novel adaptations, the *Menagerie* trilogy, and the

more ►

*Pet Trouble* series. She is also a contributing author to the bestselling *Spirit Animals* and *Seekers* series of books (as part of the Erin Hunter team).

Ru Xu earned a degree in Sequential Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design and is the creator of the popular web comic "Saint for Rent." *NewsPrints* is her first graphic novel series.

Children's programming will culminate in a special event on Sunday, Sept. 1, with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at Agnes Scott College's Gaines Chapel at Presser Hall. Justice Sotomayor, who in 2009 became the first Latina to hold the position

of associate justice of the Supreme Court, will share her new children's picture book, *Just Ask*, a collaboration with award-winning illustrator and artist Rafael López. In *Just Ask*, Justice Sotomayor shares her experience as a child who, after being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, felt different from other kids. She encourages readers to "just ask" when they encounter someone who seems different from themselves.

There is no cost to attend the book event. Tickets are required and will be available at a later date. Those wishing to enter the book signing line after the event must have a copy of *Just Ask*.

## Wrapping up

For adults, DBF welcomes Philippa Gregory, the No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The Last Tudor*. A recognized authority on women's history, Gregory will discuss her latest work of historical fiction, *Tidelands*. Set in England in 1648, when England is in the grip of a civil war between a renegade king and a rebellious parliament, *Tidelands* tells the story of an ordinary woman, Alinor, who is suspected of possessing dark powers. This is a ticketed event that includes the cost of the book signed by Gregory. The *Tidelands* event will conclude the festival at First Baptist Decatur.

## More Decatur Book Festival Highlights

The 2019 AJC Decatur Book Festival presented by Emory University (DBF) will host more than 250 authors from across the U.S. whose books represent a broad range of topics and genres. Visit [decaturbookfestival.com](http://decaturbookfestival.com) for complete and current information

### ADULT NONFICTION

Stacey Abrams, 2018 Democratic gubernatorial nominee and former Georgia House Democratic Leader, will discuss her *New York Times* bestselling book, *Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change* (previously published as *Minority Leader*).

Princeton University professors Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer co-wrote *Fault Lines* based on their research and a hugely popular course they taught, titled "The United States Since 1974." The book attempts to answer the questions, How and when did the United States become so divided?

Harper Lee, the reclusive author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, devoted many years to a non-fiction book that was never published. She

wanted to expose a rural preacher acquitted of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. Author Casey Cep unravels the mystery and Lee's obsession with the case in *Furious Hours*.

In another instance of the truth often being stranger than fiction, *The Ghosts of Eden Park* introduces readers to George Remus. During Prohibition, Remus was one of America's biggest bootleggers and served as real-life inspiration for the character of Jay Gatsby. Sizzle historian and bestselling author Karen Abbott returns to her former home of Atlanta for this festival appearance.

*New York Times* opinion writer Margaret Renkl will discuss her first collection of essays, *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*. Renkl explores the natural world, suburbia, and family in these brief essays illustrated by her brother.

### ADULT FICTION

Serbian-American novelist Téa Obreht celebrates the release of her new book *Inland*.

This book is the highly anticipated follow-up to Obreht's 2011 National Book Award finalist, *The Tiger's Wife*.

The *New York Times* called *Disappearing Earth* a superb debut, and *Entertainment Weekly* named it one of the best books of 2019 so far. Author and Fulbright fellow Julia Phillips will talk about her literary thriller, set on the Kamchatka peninsula at the northeastern edge of Russia.

Nigerian-American writer and Morehouse alum Tope Folarin debuts his first novel. *A Particular Kind of Black Man*, which tells the story of a Nigerian family trying to adapt to American life in Utah, is one of *Time* magazine's 32 Books You Need to Read This Summer.

### MAILCHIMP TRACK

For the sixth year, MailChimp has designated a well-read writer and tastemaker to curate a DBF track. This year's curator is Jenna Wortham, an award-winning staff writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and



Sutherland



Sotomayor



Gregory



Abrams



Cep



Folarin



co-host of the Still Processing podcast. Other featured author-presenters on the MailChimp track include Jacob Tobia (*Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story*), Fariha Roisin (*How to Cure a Ghost*), Marlee Grace (*How to Not Always Be Working*), Mecca Jamilah Sullivan (*Blue Talk & Love*), Meredith Talusan (*Fairest*), Mira Jacob (*Good Talk*), Ocean Vuong (*On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*), Ross Gay (*The Book of Delights: Essays*), Safiya Nobel (*Algorithms of Oppression*), and Tommy Pico (*Feed*).

## YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Scott Westerfeld, the No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Uglies* and *Leviathan* series, presents *Shatter City*, a sequel to his bestselling book *Impostors*.

Ibi Zoboi, a Haitian-American author whose YA novel *American Street* was a National Book Award finalist, will lead a panel with Lamar Giles, Atlanta's Nic Stone, and Tracey Baptiste. All the authors on the panel contributed to a new story compilation titled *Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America*.

Kimberly Jones, former manager of the Decatur bookstore Little Shop of Stories, and Gilly Segal, an Atlanta advertising lawyer, will celebrate the release of their first YA novel, *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight*.

## CHILDREN'S FICTION

Saturday's parade-goers are invited to bring their favorite teddy bears to join Ryan T. Higgins, *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator of the *Mother Bruce* series, in the march to the Children's Stage. Higgins will present his newest book, *Bruce's Big Storm*.

Pete the Cat and his creator James Dean will lead the Sunday children's parade. In the thirteenth Pete the Cat picture book, *Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party*, the famous

blue feline learns a thing or two about compromise when he plans a pizza party.

From the creators of the *New York Times* bestseller *Dragons Love Tacos* comes *High Five*. Author Adam Rubin talks about this rollicking and rhyme-tastic new picture book about a high-five competition.

Derrick Barnes, the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, introduces us to a confident little boy who takes pride in his first day of school in *The King of Kindergarten*.

A mischievous rabbit, a cranky old lady, and a lovable dog star in *Hi, Jack*. *New York Times* bestselling author Mac Barnett and Geisel Award-winning illustrator Greg Pizoli present the first in their new Jack series, designed to bridge the gap between picture books and chapter books for kids.

Author, teacher, and mom Kelly Barnhill brings her Newbery Medal-winning book *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* to this year's festival. Voted one of the best middle grade books in recent years, *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* tells the story of a young girl on a magical quest of self-discovery.

Laurel Snyder, author of picture books and novels for children, including the National Book Award nominee *Orphan Island*, debuts *My Jasper June*, a new middle grade book set in Atlanta.

Katherine Arden, author of the *New York Times* bestselling adult novel *The Bear and the Nightingale*, debuts her creepy, spine-tingling follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Small Spaces*. In the middle grade novel *Dead Voices*, characters Ollie, Coco, and Brian try to make the most of being snowed in with ghosts at the Mount Hemlock Resort.

Inspired by Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, middle grade book *More to the Story* features four sisters from a modern American Muslim family living in Georgia. Author

Hena Khan is a Pakistani-American Muslim, born and raised in Maryland, who enjoys writing about her culture and religion.

## POETRY

Chelsea Rathburn, Georgia's newly appointed Poet Laureate, will read from her most recent poetry collection, *Still Life with Mother and Knife*. Rathburn begins a new job as assistant professor of English and creative writing at Mercer University in August.

The director of Emory University's creative writing program, Jericho Brown, will share his astonishing new poetry collection at the festival. *The Tradition* details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. Brown's first book, *Please* (2008), won the American Book Award.

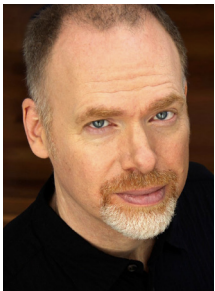
Internationally renowned poet Ilya Kaminsky will read from his 2019 poetry collection *Deaf Republic*, which opens in an occupied country where soldiers breaking up a protest kill a deaf boy. Kaminsky was appointed poetry chair at Georgia Tech last year.

## CULINARY

Jim Auchmuty, a Decatur native and former writer and editor at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, argues that barbecue—not apple pie—is our true national food. His new book *Smokelore* explores the delicious and contentious history of barbecue in America. Auchmuty, a founding member of the Southern Foodways Alliance and food writer whose work has been recognized by the James Beard Foundation, was a guest curator for the Atlanta History Center's Barbecue Nation exhibition, which inspired *Smokelore*.

North Carolina native Elizabeth Karmel, aka *Grill Girl*, is an authority on grilling, barbecue, and Southern food. Her new book *Steak and Cake* offers more than a hundred recipes for choosing and cooking steaks and baking cakes.

Readers and foodies will be in good spirits with *The Cocktail Codex* session. Alex Day and David Kaplan, co-owners of the Death & Company speakeasies in NYC and Denver and the Los Angeles-based hospitality company Proprietors, reveal simple ways to master classic cocktails in this James Beard Award-winning book.



Westerfeld



Zoboi



Higgins



Rathburn

## Decatur Dinners, Aug. 25



**T**he community is invited to participate in Decatur Dinners, Sunday, August 25. The event will include 100 dinners in one night, and is an opportunity to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds to listen, and not just to talk, about race. One hundred stakeholders came together to begin the conversation in April. Groups of 10-12 will gather in homes, community centers, and places of worship around Decatur to break bread together. Participants will listen and learn about what divides us and talk about what can unite us as a community.

**100 Dinners,  
One Night,  
Courageous  
Conversations  
about Race**

You are invited to sign up for a dinner as a guest or host. Experienced facilitators and actors are welcome. Advance training and support will be provided. The short live performance piece was created by Out of Hand Theater especially for Decatur Dinners, and will start off each dinner party to spark conversation. RSVP and find more information about all of these opportunities at [decaturdinners.com](http://decaturdinners.com).

Sponsors include: Better Together Advisory Board, City Schools of Decatur, Decatur Housing Authority, Decatur Education Foundation, One Small Change, Both and Partners, and Out of Hand Theater. Sponsorship opportunities are available; just click the sponsor link on the website. Many thanks to printing sponsor SprintPrint.

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## Decatur Library Book Sale

**Saturday, Aug. 31 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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

## A Novel Affair: Tapas+Trivia Returns

A Novel Affair • 9.19.19

**TAPAS + TRIVIA**

PRESENTED BY LENZ

Join the DeKalb Library Foundation to test your wits while supporting the library. A Novel Affair: Tapas + Trivia will be held on Sept. 19, 7 p.m., at the Decatur Marriott. Visit [dekalblibraryfoundation.org](http://dekalblibraryfoundation.org) for more information and to purchase tickets. Funds raised at the event support family literacy programs such as PRIMETIME Preschool.



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## Global Growers' Dinner Party Relocates to Legacy Park

Saturday, Sept. 21 • 6-10 p.m. | Legacy Park • 500 S. Columbia Dr.

Global Growers Network and the City of Decatur present the Global Growers Dinner Party. This highly-anticipated annual fundraiser brings together partners from all of Decatur's vibrant food community – from the multicultural growers who produce fresh, healthy food to the extraordinary chefs who serve Decatur families delicious food day after day.

This year, the event will take place at Decatur's Legacy Park, the city's largest greenspace. Guests and community leaders will dine family-style on a multi-course meal featuring locally grown produce prepared by some of Decatur's favorite chefs. Other highlights include craft cocktails, local beers, a superb wine selection, and silent and live auctions with one-of-a-kind products and experiences.

Tickets start at \$185 and go on sale July 22. Get yours quick – they'll go fast! For more information, sponsorship opportunities and to buy tickets, visit [globalgrowers.org](http://globalgrowers.org).



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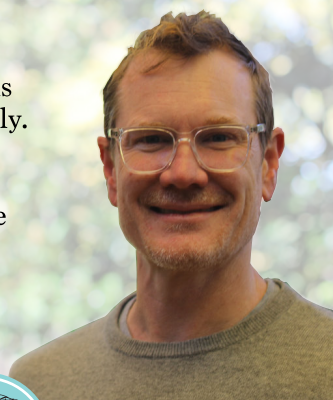
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## Save the Date

## Welcoming Week Kick-Off Event Sept. 13

Decatur and Welcoming America will kick off Welcoming Week with a reception on the bandstand. This event will be free and open to the community. Save the date, and look for more details on the event at the [decaturnminute.com](http://decaturnminute.com), in social media, and in the September Focus.

In 2015, Decatur signed a resolution to become one of Welcoming America's Welcoming Cities. This year's Welcoming Week theme is "Build Common Ground in Your Community." During this annual series of events, communities bring together immigrants and those born within their countries in a spirit of unity to build strong connections across their communities and affirm the benefits of welcoming everyone.

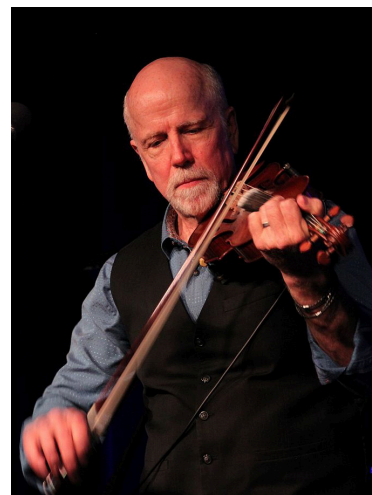


## Folk Musician, Storyteller and Author John McCutcheon to Perform

Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John McCutcheon will perform a family-friendly concert at Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Dr., to raise money for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), an Atlanta-based non-profit.

The performance will be at 3 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 7. Tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/2Wha2hu> and special family pricing is available.

KIND strives to provide children who are alone in this country with free lawyers so they can go to immigration courts with advocates by their side. KIND recruits, trains and mentors pro bono attorneys to take on these cases.



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## New Venue for BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival

**Saturday, Aug. 10 • 1-9 p.m.**

**Decatur Legacy Park • 500 S. Columbia Dr.**

Decatur's 19th annual BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival is relocating from Oakhurst to Decatur's largest greenspace: Legacy Park. This year's festival is presented by Moore Team of Fairway Independent Mortgage, and features a musical lineup featuring something for everyone.

Pre-event tickets are \$15 and are now on sale at [freshstix.com](http://freshstix.com) and [ticket.alternative.com](http://ticket.alternative.com). Day of festival tickets will be \$20.

Kids 12 and under are free. Visit [decaturbbqfestival.com](http://decaturbbqfestival.com) for more information or call 678-778-2000.

Decatur's BBQ, Blues, & Bluegrass Festival is brought to you by the Community Center of South Decatur, [thesolarium.com](http://thesolarium.com), and managed by Synertia Partners, [synertiapartners.com](http://synertiapartners.com).

### Performance Schedule

2-2:45 p.m.	Honey wood
3-3:45 p.m.	Campbell Station
4-4:45 p.m.	Roxie Watson
5-5:45 p.m.	Grizzly Goat
6-7:15 p.m.	Sandra Hall
7:30-9 p.m.	Randall Bramblett



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## ASC to Pilot Applied Machine Learning Course

**A**gnes Scott College has been chosen by Google as one of only three colleges across the United States to pilot a brand new Applied Machine Learning Intensive course this summer. The course is designed to equip more liberal arts students with the skills to succeed in the field post-graduation.

The 10-week course will give approximately 20 students, including two Agnes Scott students, a strong computer science foundation to work with large datasets and solve real-world problems. The selected students are housed on the Agnes Scott campus.

In this course, for college credit, students

are learning how to:

- Investigate, clean, analyze, and visualize data.
- Understand different machine learning models and diagnose modeling issues so that they can adjust input data accordingly.
- Discern when machine learning is the “right” solution for a given data or business problem.
- Deepen their coding skills in SQL and Python.
- Understand the ethical use of AI and how to identify bias.

The students were selected from across the

country to participate in the course. Agnes Scott’s professor of mathematics Dr. Rachel Rossetti, is one of two professors teaching the course, and rising senior Eudige Kay-igirwa ’20 is one of two teaching assistants. Amirah Clarke ’21 is the resident assistant. Students will receive nine Agnes Scott credits for participating. Google is funding the entire initiative, and is sending Googlers to assist as program managers and technical instructors.

For more information about the Applied Machine Learning Intensive visit the Google For Education page.

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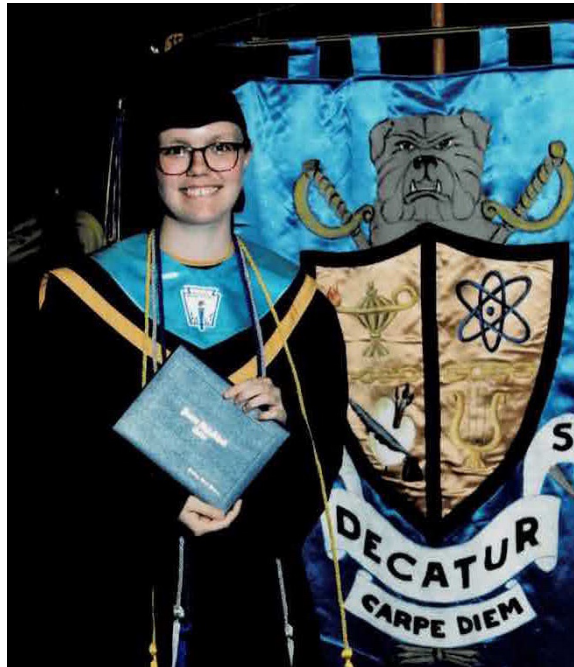




## DHS Student to Study Mandarin in Taiwan

Decatur High School student, Brianna Hunter, will study Chinese (Mandarin) in Taiwan for the summer through a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship. NSLI-Y is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Brianna, competitively selected out of more than 3,300 applications from across the United States, is one of approximately 660 students who will study Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian, Russian, or Turkish overseas this coming year. While in Taiwan, Brianna will receive formal language instruction, live with a host family, and experience the local culture as part of an immersion environment.



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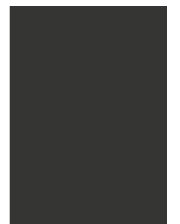
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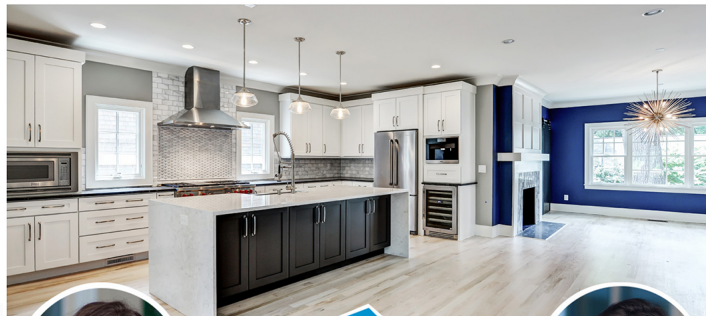


## Got Books? DEF Needs Them!

**T**he Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) is currently accepting book donations. Every year, DEF raises funds for its literacy initiatives through its Reader-to-Reader Book Sale, which takes place every Labor Day weekend at the AJC Decatur Book Festival. In previous years, DEF has focused solely on children's books, but this year the organization is expanding their sale to include adult books as well.

Residents can drop off their gently used books at Little Shop of Stories or at DEF's office at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. (the former UMCH location). Once school starts in August, there will also be collection bins in each school. Please only donate books that are free of rips and substantial markings.

While you're enjoying the book festival, make sure to visit the DEF booth (located on Clairemont Road in front of the Visitor's Center) for deals that support a cause.



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