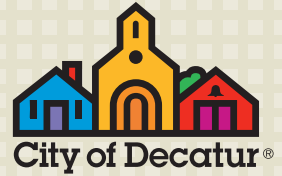


City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:
2022
DECATUR
ANNUAL REPORT



JULY-AUGUST 2022
Volume 33 • Number 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

Betty Blondeau Remembered at Legacy Park

Decatur native and long-time resident Betty Blondeau was honored by friends and associates with the dedication of a white oak tree (planted by Trees Atlanta) and memorial plaque installed at Legacy Park on June 11. City Commissioner George Dusenbury made the dedication on behalf of the City, highlighting Betty's years of engagement in Decatur's business and government affairs.

Betty's dear friend Mary Hinkel followed with memories of when the two were engaged in greater Atlanta's performing arts community where Betty served as director of development for the Alliance Theater and later True Colors Theater. Hinkel also touched on Betty's work in recent years as a key participant in the DeKalb Citizens Advocacy Council and its push for a strong board of ethics and transparency in county government.

Next, Kathie Gannon, chair of Decatur's Downtown Neighbors and former county commissioner spoke about Betty's involvement in Decatur's growing downtown community and DeKalb County government affairs as well as Betty's advocacy on behalf of the county each winter at the Georgia General Assembly.

Lastly, Winnona Park resident Lynne Rosner discussed Betty's involvement with Save Decatur's Trees and its work to reform the City's tree ordinance. Followed by Mayor Patti Garrett's reflections on Betty's presence as a citizen lobbyist on behalf of Decatur and DeKalb County issues as well as on matters that came before the Decatur City Commission.

The gathering concluded with heartfelt remembrances from two of Betty's three children, Laura Blondeau Robinson and Robert Blondeau.



The event included music by Betty's friends and neighbors Ann and Alan Abramowitz. Afterwards, the family shared mementos from Betty's life, including a photo album from her years at Clairmont Elementary (during WWII) and photos of Betty as a proud Decatur High School cheerleader in the early 1950s. Guests enjoyed refreshments prepared by Betty's family, including chocolate chip cookies and brownies using Betty's recipes and family favorite venison sausage meatballs prepared by her beloved son-in-law Joe Robinson. Betty passed away on October 2, 2021, after a sudden illness.

Progress Report: UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities

The City of Decatur is one of only six local governments in the United States partnering with UNICEF to achieve recognition



as a Child Friendly City. The distinction is reserved for communities that elevate the needs of children in the following areas; safety and inclusion, participation, equitable social services, safe living environments, and play and leisure. In partnership with the Decatur Housing Authority, Decatur Education Foundation, City Schools of Decatur, the Decatur Youth Council, community members, and children and youth, City of Decatur wants to assure that all stakeholders contribute to the effort.

The City has achieved several milestones that will culminate in a final application in 2023:

- January 2020 – MOU with UNICEF approved by city commission
- July 2021-January 2022 – Government assessment – data analysis of measures associated with child well-being
- September 2021 – Decatur Youth Council members developed survey for assessments of youth/children aged; 6-8, 9-12 and 13-18
- April 2022 – Surveys administered with coordination by Student Center Coordinators, Sabrena Shields (RMS) and Dianne Andree (DHS); interactive surveys administered at City of Decatur and Decatur Housing Authority afterschool programs for K-5th graders
- April/May 2022 – Focus groups with middle and high school students to tally and analyze survey results and set priorities

Over the summer, the Youth Action Team developed a community engagement project to address the established priorities. The project is scheduled to begin in September, and by December the team will develop a local action plan. In Spring 2023, the City will submit the final application to UNICEF to become a Child Friendly City. For more information on the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), visit childfriendlycities.org. To connect with the City's CFCI project, visit decaturga.com/cfci.

Decatur Library Offers Care Kits

Librarians at DeKalb County Public Library (DCPL) are spearheading care kits to distribute to members of the community who are unhoused or experiencing other life challenges. The kits include hygiene and toiletry items such as wipes, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as socks and a washcloth. More than 350 care kits, funded by the DeKalb Library Foundation, will be given out in waterproof backpacks across DCPL's 23 library locations including Decatur Library.

Each year, librarians at DCPL work together to create an impactful group project. This project addresses the tie between personal hygiene and one's sense of self by providing community members with tools to maintain health and self-esteem.

SOLID WASTE AND HOLIDAY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

LABOR DAY • MONDAY, SEPT. 5

Regular service for Monday will be on Tuesday, Sept. 6.
Regular service for Tuesday will be on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

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



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Information for the FOCUS should be submitted by mail to Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031, or by email to decaturfocus@decaturga.com, or by using the submission form found at decaturga.com/focus.

Collecting Clamshells – A Recycling Dilemma

Summer is here, and while many may head to the beach to collect shells, the City of Decatur reminds residents that the plastic, hinged “clamshells” that are often used for take-out meals and delicate fruits/vegetables are not worth collecting.

Clamshells fall into the category of hard-to-recycle materials that cannot be recycled curbside. While often made of recyclable material – polyethylene terephthalate (PET), or plastic #1 – these flimsy and lightweight containers are difficult to mechanically sort from the mixed recycling stream at the regional recycling facility.

For this reason, City of Decatur does not accept clamshells in curbside co-mingled bins. Instead, clamshells are often sent to landfill or burned to produce energy along with other recycling contaminants. These items should be disposed of with household trash or dropped in the designated bin for plastic #1 at Your DeKalb Farmer’s Market or the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (charm.org) in Atlanta. Both options are free.

And as a friendly reminder, please do not bag your curbside recycling; bags make the contents difficult to sort and damage equipment at our recycling facility. For more information about this topic and other tips from Decatur’s Environmental Sustainability Board, visit decaturga.com/bc-esb.



High School Students Wanted

Apply for the Decatur Youth Council

There is still time for rising 9th through 12th grade students to apply for the 2022-2023 Decatur Youth Council (DYC) leadership program, which 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. The application of interest is available at decaturga.com/bc-dyc and the deadline to apply is Friday, August 5. For more information contact staff liaison Meredith Roark, meredith.roark@decaturga.com.



CITY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The regular City Commission meetings for September will be held Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Monday, Sept. 26. Meetings are held in the City Commission Room in Decatur City Hall. Meetings are also streamed live on the website at decaturga.com/streamingvideo.



Fall Prevention Initiative Kicks Off in Decatur

The Decatur Active Living Senior Program and Fire Captain Gary Menard partnered with Emory University’s Community Learning and Social Medicine initiative (CLSM) to develop a fall prevention presentation for Decatur seniors. On Friday, June 10, Emory medical students Anisa Iqbal, Julia Ding, Morgan Bade, Nikhil Vettikattu, and Nithya Shanmugam presented to a group at the Phillips Tower independent living facility. The presentation ended with a Tai Chi demonstration by long-time Decatur instructor Neil Norton.

Fall prevention information is critical for older adults across the country. The CDC reports that more than one in four adults (28 percent), age 65 and older, report falling each year in the U.S. Decatur looks forward to working with the CLSM program and Emory students to make fall prevention part of the ongoing education for seniors in the Decatur community.

City Unveils New Composter at Scott Park Garden

Decatur Active Living and the Scott Park Community Garden held a compost ceremony on Thursday, June 2 to celebrate the installation of a new three-bin composting system. In November, Decatur Active Living applied for a grant from Food Well Alliance to fix and update the garden's existing system, which was in desperate need of repair. In January, DAL learned that they had been awarded a \$1,500 grant to update the existing system with a new rodent-proof "Compost Knox" composting system. DAL's Adult Program Leader Gael Doyle facilitated the grant opportunity, working closely with Jim Dillon, Murray Browne and Mike Pastirik — community garden members who volunteered more than 50 hours to build the composting system.

Scott Park Community Garden brings many benefits to the Decatur community. Established in 1992, the garden is tucked away in the "backyard" of the Decatur Recreation Center, beautifying the grounds and generating community pride and involvement. The organic community garden brings residents together, keeping them active while providing urban greenspace therapy. A dedi-



Front row (from left): Bobby Farmer (Food Well Alliance), Mayor Patti Garrett, Gael Doyle (DAL), City Manager Andrea Arnold. Back row: Fred Conrad (Food Well Alliance), Jim Dillon (gardener, builder), Murray Browne (gardener, builder), Mike Pastirik (gardener, builder)

cated plot provides healthy fresh food donations to DEAM (Decatur-area Emergency Assistance Ministry), a program supported primarily by 22 area churches who seek to meet the emergency needs of those less for-

tunate in the community. The garden club is a close-knit group that gardens annually from January to December. For more information, visit decaturga.com/activeliving/page/scott-park.



WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR

Sam McKeever likes birds, her dog Lucy, Little Free Libraries, and moving under her own power — whether walking or biking. She finds all those things in Decatur, confirming the feeling she had when she first visited. Sam has worked in 14 countries and now happily calls Decatur her home. Sam McKeever is this month's Walk and Roll Star.

COD Internship Sparks Joy for DHS Student

Salmoncain Smith-Shomade is a 2022 graduate of Decatur High School, and among only 50 of 400 graduating seniors who earned an International Baccalaureate Career (IB Career) diploma. At DHS, the IB Career Diploma requires completion of a chosen career pathway and internship at a pathway-related workplace. When his career mentors suggested an internship with the City of Decatur Public Works Department, Smith-Shomade applied, and the opportunity proved to be more than a career path; it became a joyous and uplifting experience.

Decatur Public Works is unique in that it consists of three divisions; Cemetery Operations, Design, Environment and Construction (DEC), and Sanitation. Other city

governments may split these areas apart, but DPW fosters inter-departmental connectivity. While each division maintains its separate responsibilities, the staff's daily interactions create a sense of community.

During his interview, Smith-Shomade noted that DPW staff smiled, laughed, and talked to each other, even greeting him as one of the team. A few weeks after his interview, he was invited to join the DEC division as an intern, and he felt welcome immediately. Shadowing different members of the DEC team, Smith-Shomade served in a variety of fields, including permitting, code compliance, company management, planning, arboriculture, and civil engineering. He toured construction sites and surveyed Decatur



through a public works eye. Whether learning a new concept or attending a meeting, Smith-Shomade felt that his input and contributions were welcome.

When asked to reflect on his work with Decatur DPW, Smith-Shomade uses words like unique, inspiring, joyous, sincere, supportive to describe the "best internship." He also offers gratitude for inspiring him to look towards a future career where he can experience the same joy.

Decatur Fire Celebrates Wellness in May

This past May, Decatur Fire participated in the inaugural Motivational Month of May Wellness Challenge where competitors battled to earn the title of "2022 Wellness Champion." Three shifts completed physical challenges including a 5k run, dragging a weighted training dummy around the station ten times, and climbing the training tower ten times while wearing an air-pack. The competition was close, with A-Shift finishing on top with 65 points, followed by B-Shift with 62.

Decatur Fire highlights wellness for three reasons: First, the job is physically demanding, and the firefighter is the most important piece of equipment at the fire department. Second, cardiac arrest is the number one cause of death for firefighters. Third, most emergency responses are for emergency medical incidents, many of which are preventable.

Leading health issues like cardiac disease and Type 2 diabetes can be reduced through exercise and a healthy diet. By celebrating wellness, Decatur Fire aims to motivate others to embrace regular exercise, hydration, proper nutrition, and healthy recovery breaks. To schedule a mini-firefighter workout for your kids, email Decatur Fire Captain Gary Menard, gary.menard@decaturga.com.



Dialing 911 in Decatur

The Decatur Police Department's 911 Center is responsible for all emergency and non-emergency calls within the city limits of Decatur for police, fire, and ambulance responses. Occasionally, calls received from cell phones on the borders of the city get routed to other call centers, which can be problematic during an emergency. If you use a cell phone to call 911, and you fail to reach the Decatur dispatch, hang up and call the non-emergency number at 404-373-6551. Decatur emergency operators are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so if you dial 911 and reach a recording then you have probably been routed to Atlanta or DeKalb. If you have any questions, please contact 911 Director, Police Lieutenant Barry Woodward at 404-373-6551.

Decatur Fire recommends that residents consider programming the non-emergency number into their cell phones to help ensure that COD first responders can be alerted and dispatched to your home without delay.

Decatur Kicks Off Summer with Adult Field Day

Decatur celebrated its inaugural adult field day on Saturday, May 14 at Legacy Park. Organized by Active Living, the day provided adults the opportunity to engage in fun yard games and activities, including horseshoes, cornhole, giant Jenga, giant Connect 4 and a Zumba dance party led by instructor Tani Gordon. The day's activities culminated in a fierce kickball tournament with four teams; Bat Intentions, The Winnona Park Riders, Children and Youth Services, and Decatur Fire — who took the championship. This is the first of a new annual kick off to summer tradition. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year.



Honoring a Founding Friend



In June, Friends of Decatur Cemetery (FODC) recognized Jim Toney, founder of the Gardening Among the Graves group that maintains the historic section of Decatur Cemetery. This dedicated group meets on Tuesdays to pull weeds, clear walkways, and maintain gravestones to beautify Decatur's largest downtown greenspace for the community to enjoy. Cathy Vogel, FODC chair and David Crenshaw, FODC treasurer joined Jim as he was recognized with the planting of an American beech tree and plaque installation to honor his contributions.

FODC leads Second Sunday Strolls, a 90-minute educational walking tour held monthly May-October at 2:30 p.m. To join the tour, meet at the gazebo near the Commerce Drive pedestrian entrance July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9. For volunteer opportunities, email friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com.



MEETING PREVIEW

Tuesday, Aug. 23
5:30 p.m.

AYA Medical Spa

431 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

AYA Medical Spa is hosting the August DBA meeting at its location in downtown Decatur, and the City will perform a ribbon-cutting to commemorate the grand opening. For more information, visit ayaskincare.com/decatur-location.

Brave Nu adVentures in Decatur

Brave Nu Ventures is launching “adult gap year” programs in Decatur this fall for people who want to experience adventures in Art & Social Change and Urban Agriculture. Offered August 28 through September 25, each four-week course presents a learning adventure that pairs expert seminars with a weekly lab. Participants choose a focus, Art & Social Change or Urban Agriculture, to gain an enhanced understanding of working with a non-profit.

Art & Social Change will work with Out of Hand Theater on an Equitable Dinner. Seminars will be presented by Museum of Design Atlanta and include a Decatur architecture tour that features the work of Leila Ross Wilburn, one of Atlanta’s first female architects who designed several homes in the historic MAK district (McDonough-Adams-Kings Highway) of Decatur.

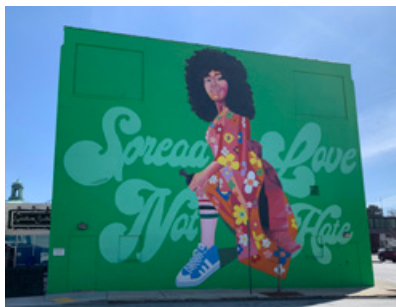
Urban Agriculture participants will work in a community garden with Food Well Alliance. Seminars will take place at Wylde Center in Oakhurst and include a farm-to-table session. Wylde Center Executive Director Stephanie Van Parys will discuss farm-to-school initiatives and lead a garden-based demonstration.

As the home base neighborhood, Decatur will host out-of-town participants, with special rates at downtown hotels. In addition to the courses, participants can access weekly offerings featuring inspiring people and places, many of which are in the city:

- **Maker Workshops:** hands-on experiences like Design Thinking 101 at Decatur Makers
- **Trailblazer Tours:** outings to explore history and culture, including a civil rights walking tour
- **Brave Nu Events:** weekly lunches at independent Decatur restaurants – Chai Pani, Folk Art, D92 Korean BBQ and Universal Joint

Programs are designed for remote workers or those with flexible schedules, who can dedicate 7-10 hours per week. Book online at bravenu.travel. Decatur residents receive a 20 percent discount with the code NU22.

Additionally, Brave Nu is offering a Decatur residency program. Two community members will be chosen to receive free access to one week of Brave Nu programming. To apply, send an email by July 22 to hello@bravenu.travel with a 150-word statement on what it means to build a life of exploration. A Brave Nu selection committee will review applications and notify winners by August 1. Applicants must be able to attend one full week of programming and share a reflection on your experience. Open to Decatur residents, 21 and older. One entry per person.



Chai Pani Named 2022 Outstanding Restaurant by the James Beard Foundation

The Outstanding Restaurant Award goes to “a restaurant that demonstrates consistent excellence in food, atmosphere, hospitality, and operations while contributing positively to its broader community.”

At the James Beard Foundation Award ceremony in Chicago this past June, Chai Pani’s flagship location in Asheville was honored with this prestigious award. After navigating the last two years, Owner/Chef Meherwan Irani and Co-Owner Molly Irani were overwhelmed by the recognition, acknowledging their Decatur team, guests, and the entire Chai Pani Restaurant Group family. Culinary director Daniel Peach, who has been with Chai Pani from the start and is based in Decatur, was there to celebrate the award.

Fellow nominees included Brennan’s (New Orleans), Butcher & Bee (Charleston, S.C.), Parachute (Chicago), and The Walrus and the Carpenter (Seattle). Chai Pani Decatur is at 406 W. Ponce De Leon Ave. Visit chaipanidecatur.com for more information.



Moonrise School/Daycare Accommodates Hybrid Schedules

Moonrise, which opened downtown at 116 E. Trinity Place earlier this year, operates like a gym membership offering unlimited visits for a monthly fee. Providing on-demand school/daycare/camp anytime between 9 a.m. and

9 p.m., including weekends and summers, parents can use Moonrise to homeschool, unschool, replace school, or to enrich school. At Moonrise, parents can plan ahead or manage the unexpected; daycare, moms-day-out, date night, or when a work meeting gets scheduled at an inconvenient time.

Moonrise presents opportunities for kids to explore new interests like virtual reality or podcasting. Register for the monthly open house to meet staff and families who are current members or schedule a private tour at moonrise.com.



All-girl Boy Scout Troop Welcomes New Members

Wed., Aug. 17, 7:15 p.m.

Scout Hut at Decatur First Baptist Church

Decatur's only all-girl Boy Scout Troop 4475 invites girls age 11-17 and their parents to attend an informational meet and greet. Troop 4475 was chartered last fall and is a partner with all-boy Troop 134. Around the country, all-girl troops share space and equipment with a boys troop and proceed through all the levels of scouting, up to and including the rank of Eagle.

Having separate all-girl troops helps empower girls as they learn to assume leadership roles, says Scoutmaster and Decatur resident Carroll McKoy Knabe who participated in Boy Scouts with her two sons; Davis, 20, an Eagle Scout and Griffin, 17, who holds the rank of Life and is working toward Eagle. Knabe believes that the structure of the program, which teaches leadership through the patrol method and camping, is fundamental to teaching girls how to become leaders.

Boy Scouts of America opened membership to girls in October 2017, and in 2018 parents of the boys in Pack 134, who also have daughters, wanted to include girls in scouting. In the winter of 2019, Decatur First Baptist Church approved the charter for P4475 for girls from K-5th grade. For more information, contact Carroll McKoy Knabe, carrollmknabe@gmail.com or 404-213-8371.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Go to VisitDecaturGa.com for community events

* For Decatur board and commission meetings visit decaturga.com/calendar

JULY

18 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.*

29 NY Handbell Concert, 7 p.m., Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, 118 2nd Ave. (page 9)

30 Decatur Fire Blood Drive, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Station 1, 230 Trinity Pl. (page 9)

AUGUST

1 & 15 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.*

5 Decatur Youth Council application deadline (page 3)

17 Missing Middle Housing Forum, 6 p.m., Zoom, tinyurl.com/bdf8vbet (page 10)

17 All-girl Boy Scout Troop Meet and Greet, 7:15 p.m., Scout Hut, Decatur First Baptist Church, 308 Clairmont Ave. (page 8)

20 Pan African Festival, 4-10 p.m., Decatur square (page 11)

22 Dementia Friends Training, 6:30 p.m., Decatur Rec, 231 Sycamore St. (page 10)

23 DBA Meeting, 5:30 p.m., AYA Medical Spa, 431 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. (page 6)

27 DEF Summer in the City event, 6-10 p.m., 42West, 1088 Huff Rd. NW., Atlanta (page 14)

SEPTEMBER

5 Labor Day – City offices are closed. Visit decaturga.com/sanitation for holiday sanitation schedule

6 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.*

6, 13, 20, 27 Truckin' Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

8, 15, 22, 29 Oakhurst Jazz Nights, 7-9 p.m., Solarium, 321 W. Hill St.

PLACITA LATINA

17 Salsa on the Square, 6-8 p.m., Decatur square (page 12)

17 La Choluteca, 8-10 p.m., Decatur square (page 12)

19 Latinx Artist Showcase, 6-8 p.m., Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairmont Ave. (page 12)

24 West Ponce Music Stroll, 1-9 p.m., West Ponce de Leon Ave.

26 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.*

Decatur Fire Now Hosting Blood Drives

Sat., July 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Station One, 230 Trinity Pl.

Decatur Fire is partnering with LifeSouth to host a blood drive every two months in front of Station One. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, and a car accident victim can require up to 100 units. While nearly 40 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood, less than 10 percent are donors. And in Georgia, more blood is used than donated. By offering a local donation site, Decatur Fire aims to increase blood donations locally. For more information about future blood drive dates and times, visit decaturga.com/fire/page/services-we-offer. Become a blood donor hero and help make sure that the blood supply is there for those who need it.



Music Together Fall Enrollment Now Open

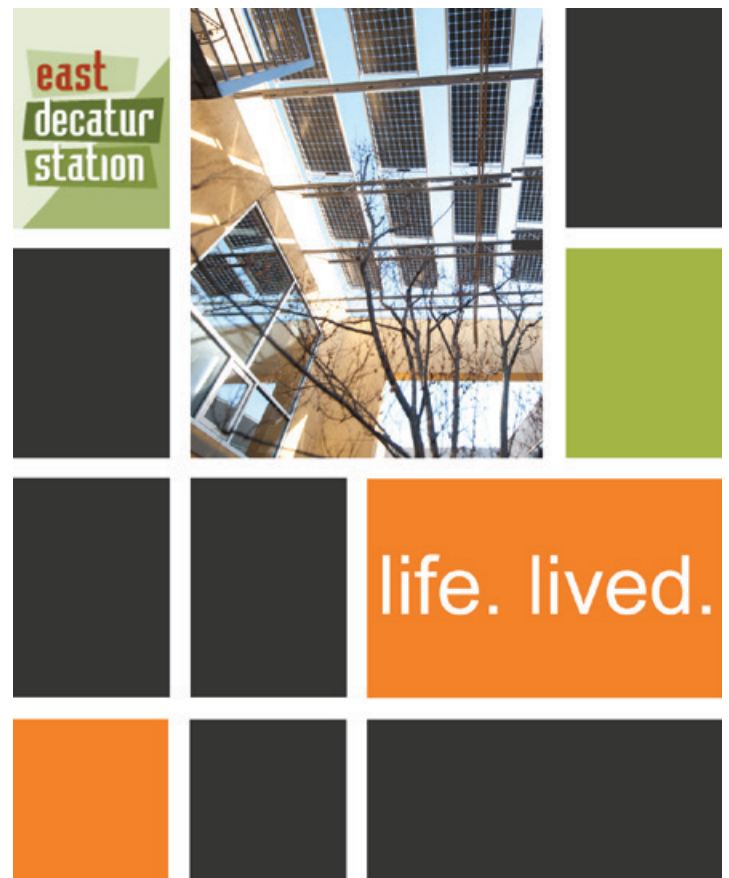
While music has been shown to be a positive influence on the development of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, Music Together families have found that singing together in a group offers fun-filled connection for adults as well. The classes help inspire families to “do music” together at home, and the Music Together song collections become the soundtrack to their lives, making long car rides more fun. Sign up today, by emailing wendy@musictogetherofdecatur.com, calling/texting (678) 466-0737, or visiting musictogetherofdecatur.com.

New York Handbell Concert

Fri., July 29, 7 p.m.

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, 118 2nd Ave.

Come and enjoy the music of this group of dedicated teens and adults as they ring six-octave Schulmerich bells and seven-octave Malmark chimes under the direction of Scott Munson and Eiko Shimazu Cornelius. For more information about this event contact admin@oakhurstpresbyterian.org. For more information about upcoming events at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, visit opc-1.faithlivesites.com.



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Decatur's Lifelong Community Advisory Board Hosts Dementia Friends Training

Monday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.
Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore Dr.

Decatur resident Whitney Oeltmann, MSW, co-founder and executive director of Dementia Spotlight Foundation, will present a one-hour information session, explaining what dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease, and some tips for communicating with people who have dementia. Attendees are encouraged to turn their new understanding of dementia into practical action that can help someone living in the community. From telling friends about the program to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts. To participate in the training, please RSVP to Lifelong Community Manager Lee Ann Harvey, leeann.harvey@decaturga.com or call 678-553-6548 or 770-652-8593 by Friday, August 19.

The Lifelong Community Advisory Board is pleased to make this free training available for Decatur residents to become familiar with dementia and learn ways that they can support those who are living with the disease. In 2020, the group successfully spearheaded a campaign to designate Decatur as an AARP Age Friendly Community. To learn more about the advisory board visit decaturga.com/bc-lcab.

Dementia Spotlight Foundation is a non-profit organization that aims to raise awareness about dementia by helping people and communities better understand it. The organization works to dispel fear of dementia and advocates for the rights and needs of individuals and families living with dementia. The Dementia Friends initiative strives to change people's perceptions of dementia, transforming the way we think, talk, and act about the disease. For more information about dementia, the Dementia Spotlight Foundation, and how to become a Dementia Friend, visit dementiaspotlightfoundation.org.



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Missing Middle Housing Forum

Wed., Aug. 17, 6 p.m., via Zoom (tinyurl.com/bdf8vbet)

Sign up now to attend the Missing Middle Housing Forum and learn more about Decatur's proposed housing policy to re-introduce the "missing middle" (duplex, triplex, quadplex) housing types, once prevalent in Decatur's neighborhoods. Visit decaturga.com/affordablehousing for more information and to register.

In addition, the City of Decatur continues to collect resident questions on the two draft proposals. Respondents have inquired how this change might impact property values, what the impact may be on neighborhoods and schools, traffic and parking issues, and short-term rentals. Feedback from the community also includes:

- Offer more housing options at different price points in neighborhoods,
- Appeal to a more diverse range of incomes and household sizes,
- Maintain building sizes and parking requirements consistent with current standards for single-family detached homes,
- Enable home modifications, and
- Re-introduce long-range planning at a scale that is already represented in our neighborhoods.

Access the pre-forum questionnaire at decaturga.com/affordablehousing and/or host a small group discussion with Decatur's Affordable Housing Fellow Kristin Allin, kristin.allin@decaturga.com.



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Pan African Festival Celebrates Black Culture

Sat., Aug. 20, 4-10 p.m., on the square • FREE

The Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, in conjunction with City of Decatur, will host the 2nd annual Pan African Festival on the square with musical headliner Mausiki Scales and the Common Ground Collective. The festival is a celebration of Black culture and Black joy that engages the entire family and community in a safe setting. Festival goers will experience music, food, dance, artists, live entertainment, a children's art station, vendors, and can participate in a self-guided walking tour of the Beacon Hill community. The festival theme of Uplifting Voters' Rights, Culture, and Cooperative Economics marries cultural expression through various art forms centered on Pan African values with political messaging as the backbone that affirms Black strength and resilience.

For more information on how to participate, contact;

Vendors: Fonta High, transformation88.3@gmail.com

Volunteers: Toni Roberts, toni.c.roberts@gmail.com

Sponsors: Phil Cuffey, pcuffey@gmail.com



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Placita Latina Is Back! Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Thursday, Sept. 15-Friday, Oct. 14 • Day of the Day Parade, Sunday, Oct. 30

Latinx culture is returning to Decatur with a colorful, fun, and educational series of events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which promotes the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic-Americans. Placita Latina (Small Latina Plaza) commemorates the influence of 30 Latin American countries through rich and diverse Latinx entertainment, flavors, and cultures. Latin America represents a variety of diverse people, history, food, music, culture, and languages. Placita Latina brings awareness to the many perspectives and people who make up these Latina communities.

Participating Decatur businesses will create their own Placita Latina special offers and mini events during the celebration. Learn more about Placita Latina at placitalatina.org.

Decatur will host three major events:

Salsa on the Square (6-8 p.m.) and La Choloteca After Party (8-10 p.m.), Saturday, Sept. 17

Enjoy live salsa band performances and dance instruction followed by La Choloteca Dance-Party, featuring authentic Hispanic food, drink, and merchandise vendors around the square.

Emerging Latinx Artist Showcase Sept. 15-Oct. 14, Decatur Visitors Center

In partnership with the Decatur Arts Alliance, the exhibit will be on display all month, with a closing event on Friday, Oct. 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Day of the Dead / Haints and Saints Parade Sunday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m., starts at Decatur Cemetery and ends at Decatur square

This year, Placita Latina and Haints and Saints have joined forces to reprise the popular Halloween-themed parade, which includes giant Katrina ("skeleton") puppets and Dias de los Muertos ("Day of the Dead") elements.



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As a parent, business owner and Decatur aficionado, I couldn't be more grateful to be rooted in this community. Congratulations to all the Decatur kids on a wonderful school year!

If you are thinking of exploring a move, please let me know if I can be of service.

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11th Annual Madison Avenue Derby Announces Race Date and New Organizers

Saturday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m., Madison Avenue, Decatur

Started in 2011 as a community project organized by a group of neighbors, the Madison Avenue Derby is a non-motorized racing event that challenges amateur racers to design and build human-powered soap-box cars that compete against the clock in a downhill race. Competitors are divided into age groups with awards for fastest times and most creative car themes.

The family-friendly event is free for spectators and features creatively-themed race cars, food vendors, and entertainment. Over the years, the event has grown from 20 competitors to more than 100 racers, with an estimated 1,000 spectators lining Madison Avenue to cheer them on.

Through local business sponsorships, participation by racers, and community giving, the Derby has raised more than \$200K for area nonprofits that serve the needs of children, including \$40K in 2021 for the Decatur

Student Center.

The Madison Avenue Community Fund (MACF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization, run by volunteers, that organizes the event and administers charitable giving. Derby co-founders Marco DiCarlo and Raul Trujillo have been overwhelmed by the community's support over the past decade. What began as a neighborhood fundraising event has grown, benefitting local nonprofits, and serving as a community builder for Decatur.

As DiCarlo and Trujillo step down, a new generation of neighbors has rallied to ensure the Derby and its philanthropy continues. Madison Avenue resident Jamie Burnett will help lead MACF and continue the tradition. The new organizers are currently working to identify a community beneficiary for the 2022 race.

Online registration for the 2022 Madison



Avenue Derby is now open. For details on making a donation, signing on as an event sponsor, competing in the derby, or volunteering, visit madavederby.org. More information about food vendors, entertainment, health protocols, and programming will be released in the coming months. Follow the Madison Avenue Derby on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

JOIN US!



Decatur
Parents Network

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

Saint Thomas More Catholic School Extends Pre-K4* Application Deadline

This past year, STM School introduced their first-ever Pre-K4 class, which was welcomed with great success. Due to increased demand, the 2022-23 school year will offer a second Pre-K4 class, and the deadline to apply has been extended. STM students experience joy in learning and live their Catholic faith in action, all within the support of a loving, diverse, and inclusive community. For additional information, contact Admissions Director Eileen Maron, madmissions@stmga.org or apply at stmga.org/admissions1/online-application-information. *To be considered, applicants must turn four years old before September 1.



DEF Celebrates 20 Years with Summer in the City Event

Saturday, August 27, 6-10 p.m.
42West, 1088 Huff Rd. NW., Atlanta, GA 30318

Students head back to school the first week of August, but Decatur Education Foundation plans to celebrate summer like a 20-year-old! Pull out your festive summer threads and head to DEF's Summer in the City for an adult night out with dinner and a dance party. Come and celebrate two decades of supporting Decatur's kids at 42West, an award-winning event venue in Atlanta, where guests will enjoy a farm-to-table dinner, signature cocktails and mocktails, and live music by local favorite Maxwell Street. After nearly two years of hitting pause on social events, DEF is ready to cut loose and celebrate, while acknowledging and renewing community support for Decatur students. Summer in the City is a great opportunity to share exciting news about the year ahead and toast to all the accomplishments thus far. Visit defsummerinthecity.com to purchase tickets for this special evening.



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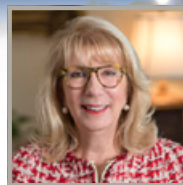
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Facts on Delta-8 from Decatur Parents Network

The Decatur Parents Network has fielded various questions and concerns from parents over the last year regarding Delta-8. What is it? What are the impacts? Is it legal? Delta-8 is one of the 100+ compounds found in the cannabis sativa plant. There are two common varieties of this plant: marijuana and hemp. The more familiar compound is Delta-9, predominantly found in the marijuana plant. Delta-8 is typically synthesized from cannabidiol (CBD) extracted from the hemp plant, and chemicals utilized in the extraction process are used to make commercial Delta-8 products. Trying to figure out what is in these products can be difficult as there is no current regulation of the extraction process.

Delta-8 is sold in vape cartridges, tinctures, and edibles (i.e. gummies, candies, etc.), and can be purchased legally in health food stores, gas stations, hemp and CBD

shops, and companies online by those 21 years and older. These products can relieve pain and produce feelings similar to Delta-9 but the reactions are described as milder. However, some reports show that the effects of Delta-8 may last up to five hours, and products can have the same known risks associated with Delta-9 as well as unknown risks due to how it is made. Using Delta-8 products may also result in a positive THC drug screen.

With these similarities, one may wonder how Delta-8 is legal. In 2018, the Farm Bill legalized hemp farming as long as the plant contained less than 0.3% THC. This law also permitted the distribution and sale of hemp's byproducts, which opened the door for Del-



ta-8 products as an alternative to Delta-9. As Delta-8 has become more widespread, some states have moved to make it illegal, citing that it offers the same mood-altering effects as Delta-9.

As long as Delta-8 remains legal, DPN urges parents to talk with their children about the effects and potential risks.

For more information, check out the latest marijuana speaker series on the DPN website at decaturparents.net/decaturparents-network/events/speaker-series/marijuana-the-developing-brain?authuser=1 or visit drugfree.org/prevention-and-taking-action-early. For additional information on this and other issues impacting teens today or to join DPN, visit decaturparents.net/join-us.

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