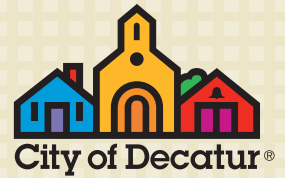


City of Decatur FOCUS

FOR NEW RESIDENTS:
HELLO
WELCOME TO DECATUR!



March 2019
Volume 29 • Number 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA



Terry Koval
The Deer and the Dove

Darcell Stewart
The UPS store

Molly Finzer
Savi Provisions

Sean Crotty
Kelly's Market

Bunnie Hilliard
Brave and Kind Kids Books

Christine and Jonathan Christensen
Haven Hygge House

Business Is Booming in Downtown Decatur

Numerous small businesses have opened in recent months, or will be opening soon, in downtown Decatur (see related story on page 2). Owners and managers of many of those businesses recently gathered for a photo at the Decatur Visitors Center. Pictured above (from left) are: Terry Koval, partner and chef for The Deer and the

Dove, which will soon move into the vacant Cakes and Ale space at Church and Sycamore streets. Darcell Stewart is the franchise owner for Decatur's new UPS Store at the Commerce Square shopping center. Molly Finzer is the general manager at Savi Provisions on West Ponce. Sean Crotty is the owner of Kelly's Market

on East Howard Avenue. Bunnie Hilliard owns Brave and Kind Kids Books on West College Avenue. And Christine and Jonathan Christensen are the owners of Haven Hygge House – a new concept where young children (under 4) and their parents can meet others, make friends, and explore parenting in a phone-free zone.

A Few Facts about Decatur's Storefront Vacancies

What do you think the vacancy rate is for street-level retail and restaurant space in the city of Decatur – 20 percent, 15 percent, 10 percent? Actually, it's less than 3 percent. The national average is 10 percent. Yes, you heard that correctly – less than 3 percent, so rumors that Decatur is losing its edge are greatly exaggerated.

Focus on Downtown Development

No one wants a local business to close. When they do we are all concerned, but the reasons behind those decisions are as many and varied as the individuals who own those businesses. The reality about the health of the city's retail and restaurant climate is that interest in leasing remains high and all but one vacant space has a lease pending. We don't see news cameras rolling and social media churning about new business openings in the same way we do when one closes, but the news is good and we are excited to welcome these new businesses to our city. Now it's up to *you* to help them succeed.

Have you dropped by **Kelly's Market** at 308 E. Howard Ave. to welcome them to the city and pick up some fresh flowers? What about **Brave and Kind Kids Books** at 722 W. College Ave., to pick up something fun for the young ones in your life? Mark your calendar to visit **Splash of Olive** at their new storefront at 432 E. Howard Ave., just down the street from Kelly's Market. Interested in a saltwater spa treatment? What's that, you ask? Drop in and ask the owners of **Float**, opening soon at 111 Clairemont Ave. And, after that saltwater float, indulge in some homemade cupcakes at **Lenox Cupcakes**, opening at 114 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., right next to **Wild Oats and Billy Goats**.

The exciting news that Terry Koval and George Frangos are bringing a new restaurant called **The Deer and The Dove** to the former Cakes and Ale space has Decatur and the foodie community buzzing. Other restaurants are joining our business community too. Once grease trap and sewer permits are finalized, look for a new tenant to be announced for the former Thumbs Up space, and a new brewpub is opening in the Oakhurst business district. **Wild Crab Seafood Bar** should open this month in the former Davinci's Pizza location.

Other retail and restaurant businesses have recently opened or will soon be announced, so pass the word – the city of Decatur is alive and well and bustling. Let's not forget that we are blessed to have a core group of thriving, locally owned retail and restaurant businesses

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These businesses have recently set up shop in Decatur.

See **Focus on Downtown Development** on page 4

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



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

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Design and layout: Lampe-Farley.com

City of Decatur Recognized for Commitment to Sustainability

The city of Decatur has been recertified as a Green Community at the Platinum Level. In 2009, Decatur was one of the first communities to be certified under the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities Program. The city reaffirmed its commitment to being green in 2014 and 2018.

The Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities is a voluntary certification program that helps local governments implement measures that will reduce their environmental impact. It recognizes their commitment to environmental stewardship and their leadership in sustainability practices.

All winners earned certification points for sustainable measures implemented in their communities. Measures that earned Decatur certification points include:

- Saving energy in city buildings by programming occupancy sensors and computers to enter sleep mode when idle. The Public Works building also has sun tubes installed on the roof, reflecting sunlight into top-floor rooms as an alternative to using artificial light.
- Incentivizing homeowners to install so-



lar photovoltaic panels via the Solarize Decatur-DeKalb program. As a result, residential solar capacity in DeKalb County increased nearly 600 percent, with half of all residential installations located within the city of Decatur.

- Being certified as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the bronze level. This national designation considers a community's bicycle network mileage, community bicycle advocacy groups, city laws and ordinances, and more.
- Installing two public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Also, six private and commercial entities have provided EV

charging stations to advance Decatur's mission of being electric-vehicle ready.

- Topping Fire Station No. 1 with a green roof. This helps lower energy costs, keeps the building cool, and filters and retains stormwater runoff. As an added benefit, the roof provides a pleasant space that's available for firefighters to enjoy.

In metro Atlanta, 20 local governments – 13 cities and seven counties – are currently certified under ARC's Green Communities program. This is the first program in the country to

promote sustainability through a green certification program for local governments at the regional level.

ARC developed the Green Communities Program in 2009 to recognize local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The nationally recognized program showcases the many ways that local governments can reduce their environmental footprint.

For more information about ARC's Green Communities certification program, including the measures each community has implemented, visit atlantaregional.com/greencommunities.

Scott Community Garden Now Offers Raised Beds

Have you considered community gardening but your mobility concerns have stopped you? Scott Community Garden, located behind the Decatur Recreation Center, now offers six raised-bed plots. These accessible beds make it easy for people of all abilities to take part in the community gardening experience.

Raised-bed gardening provides non-strenuous exercise and quality time outdoors, and is a great way to engage people of all ages in physical activity. Plots in Scott Garden are \$25 per year. Gardeners have access to water, a storage shed, pine straw and other gardening needs. Those interested should contact Sara Holmes, sara.holmes@decaturga.com or 678-553-6559 for more information.



Touch-A-Budget Returns

Tuesday, March 19 • 5-7 p.m. • MARTA Plaza

Get an up-close-and-personal look at the city's budgeting process at the free Touch-A-Budget event. See what "pending spending" is planned for the FY 2019-2020 city budget and how it supports the 2010 Strategic Plan principles developed by Decatur residents. Talk to representatives from all city departments and play budget games for prizes. For information, check decaturga.com/budget. (Rain location: Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St.)



Cocoa with the Po-Po

The Decatur Police Department hosted its first "Cocoa with the Po-Po" event for middle and high schoolers in January. With the help of Decatur Youth Council members, officers served nearly 200 cups of cocoa while visiting with the kids.



Volunteers Needed for New Affordable Housing Task Force

As an outcome of the Affordable Housing Summit held in November, the Decatur City Commission has created a citizen Affordable Housing Task Force. Beginning in April, the task force will review recommendations that came out of the summit, including those for ongoing research and education.

If you are interested in serving on this task force, fill out a Statement of Interest Form by March 15. Access the form at decaturga.com/resident-boards-commissions. Return it via email to City Manager Andrea Arnold, andrea.arnold@decaturga.com, or mail it to her attention at City of Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031.

Decatur Neighborhood Meeting

Wednesday, March 20 • 7 p.m.

Decatur Housing Authority Community Center
481 Electric Ave.

Neighborhoods throughout Decatur are invited to attend the next Decatur Neighborhood Alliance meeting. You are invited whether you live in a house, condominium, townhome or apartment; no neighborhood is too big or small. Join the discussion about what goals you and your neighborhood would like to achieve to actively be good neighbors.

Contact Lee Ann Harvey, leeann.harvey@decaturga.com or 678-553-6548, to confirm your attendance or to update your neighborhood's listing on the Neighborhood Groups page of the Decatur website: decaturga.com/neighborhoodgroups.



Focus on Downtown Development continued from page 2

that have established Decatur as a destination dining and shopping center. These owners meet quarterly with city staff and the Decatur Arts Alliance on new events, activities and surprises intended to keep the Decatur "experience" fresh and fun.

And here's another number for you to consider: more than 70 percent of our retail and restaurant businesses are locally owned. So let's "Keep it Indecatur" and support those who have made an investment in our community.



Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers assists with the ribbon cutting for Brave and Kind Kids Books

Touch-a-Truck

Saturday, March 23 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m. • East Lake MARTA Station North Lot

Join Decatur Active Living for the annual Touch-a-Truck community event that gives children of all ages an opportunity to see, touch and explore their favorite trucks or equipment on wheels. City of Decatur and DeKalb County dump trucks, fire trucks, tractors, police cars and motorcycles and many other types of vehicles will be on display. This year we will even have a solar panel display truck.

Ride MARTA!

This year's Touch a Truck event will be held in the East Lake MARTA station's North lot

(on W. Howard Avenue/DeKalb Avenue). Parking is limited so consider riding the train, walking or biking to the event.

Register Your Bike

We encourage folks to ride their bikes to the event to have them registered by the Decatur Police Department. All those who ride bikes to the event will also receive a special bike pin.

Food Drive

March is National Nutrition Month, a campaign that focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices

and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. When you come to Touch-A-Truck, join in the effort by bringing a canned or non-perishable food item. All items will be delivered to Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM).

For more information, contact Cheryl Burnette, 678-553-6541 or cheryl.burnette@decaturga.com. In the event of rain, Touch-a-Truck will be held on May 4. This year's event is sponsored by the City of Decatur and MARTA. Go to beactivedecatur.com for more Active Living event information.



Oakhurst Pool Offers Free Family Days in March and April

The community is invited to the Oakhurst indoor pool at the Samuel L. Jones Boys and Girls Club, 450 East Lake Dr., to enjoy an afternoon with ice cream, prizes and swimming. Admission is free for the entire family. Family Days will be held on March

16 and April 13 from noon until 2 p.m.

Dynamo Swim is now offering water aerobics and water arthritis classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the indoor pool. In addition to the classes, the pool offers lap swimming, swim lessons

and year-round swim team.

The entrance to the pool is on the right side of the building. For more information, visit decaturga.com/activeliving or email Lauren@dynamoswimclub.com.

The Facts on Flooding in Decatur

Although located at the top of the watershed, Decatur periodically experiences minor to moderate localized flooding. These conditions are a symptom of the fully developed nature of the city. Documented flooding problems have occurred along Peavine Creek at a condominium complex near Coventry Road. Along Peavine Creek Tributary, two houses on the south side of Garden Lane and two houses on the south side of Lamont Drive are subject to occasional flooding. Five houses damaged by flooding at the end of Westchester Drive were purchased by the City of Decatur, with help from FEMA, and converted to green space.

Two isolated locations in the upper Peavine Creek Basin – Landsdowne Avenue at Hibernia Avenue and an area along North Candler Street – have some problems with flood damage due to poor localized drainage. Occasional flooding on the South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary has been a continuing problem for property owners in the vicinity of Willow Lane just downstream of the Church Street crossing.

In 1971, a flood on this tributary resulted in substantial personal property damage near Landover Drive and North Decatur Road. Potential for flood damages appears to be minimal in the southern half of the city, which is drained by Shoal Creek and Sugar Creek Tributary.

The lack of any significant history of flood damages to residences and other buildings along Shoal Creek and its tributaries is due to the absence of development on the floodplains in the southeastern section of the city. Because of extensive storm drainage improvements in the past, no recent flood damage problems have been experienced along Sugar Creek Tributary.

Although damage to buildings generally is limited, ponding behind drainage pipes and culverts and flooding of streets, driveways, parking lots, and yards are a recurring

concern at some locations in Peavine Creek, Shoal Creek, and South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary basins. For example, the Peavine Creek basin often experiences flooding problems. Channel erosion and damage to drainage and bank stabilization structures are also a problem in some areas of these three basins. As a result of basin improvements, areas drained by Sugar Creek Tributary have been relatively free of ponding or erosion problems for many years.

City Flood Services

Decatur's Design, Environment and Construction Division provides general and site-specific flood and flood-related information on property located within the city limits. To obtain site-specific responses, individuals making inquiries must provide a survey of the specific property and elevation data relating to existing structures and site topography. The Design, Environment, and Construction Division and the Decatur Public Library also have reference documents on flooding and flood protection available for review.

A map information service is available from the division for a \$10 fee. This service provides inquirers with the current Flood Insurance Rate Map information and identifies whether a property is in a Special Flood

Hazard Area. An accurate street address or DeKalb County/Decatur Tax Parcel number is needed to obtain this information. If you would like more information, contact the Design, Environment and Construction Division, 404-370-4104.

What You Can Do

Several of the city's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here's how you can help:

- Do not dump debris or throw anything into the ditches or streams. Depositing debris, trash, and other items in ditches and streams is a violation of the city's Solid Waste Ordinance Section 82-38. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and clog channels. A clogged channel cannot carry the necessary volume of water. When it rains the water has to go somewhere, usually flooding yards and streets, thus damaging property and endangering public safety. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.
- Individual property owners are responsible for maintenance of the creeks and drainage ditches on their property. Please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. In addition to maintaining the public roadways and public drainage facilities, the city can help remove major blockages from the creeks, such as fallen trees.
- Report the depositing of debris and trash into streams and storm drains and blockages to the Design, Environment and Construction Division, 404-370-4104.
- Check with the division before you build on, alter, re-grade, or fill on your property. Such activities in floodplains are strictly regulated and permits may be needed.
- Report illegal construction activities to the Design, Environment and Construction Division, 404-370-4104.

City of Decatur Design, Environment, and Construction Division 404-370-4104 • decaturga.com

Floodproofing

There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage. For example, you can re-grade your lot or build a small floodwall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep, and if your property is not in the designated floodway. Please note that permits are required prior to undertaking these and similar activities.

Another approach is to waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended for houses with basements or if water will get more than two feet deep.

You can also consider raising the house above flood levels. Drive by and check out the dwellings at 504 Westchester Dr. and 249 S. Columbia Dr. to see examples of elevated buildings. Many houses, even those not located in the floodplain, have sanitary sewers that back up into the basement during heavy rains. This may be due to stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer line. A plug or standpipe can stop this if the water doesn't get more than one or two feet deep. These can be purchased at a hardware store for under \$25. For deeper sewer backup flooding, talk to a plumber. The above measures are called floodproofing or retrofitting.

More information is available from the Decatur Design, Environment and Construction Division or the Decatur Public Library. Please note that re-grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit. Also, any alteration to your building or land may require a permit from the Design, Environment and Construction Division.

If you know a major flood is coming, you should shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs or raise items off the floor. Fortunately, the flooding experienced in Decatur is localized and most floodwaters will recede within a few hours. However it is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance will help ensure that you don't forget anything.

Flood Insurance

If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Decatur participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and implements activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at discounted premiums. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded in the past. There is a 30-day waiting period from the time the insurance is applied for until it becomes effective.

Some people have purchased flood insurance because the financial institution required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. Property owners need to verify with their insurance agent what extent of contents coverage is available. During a flood in 1990, the damage to the contents of a property near the South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary exceeded the damage to the structure.

At last count, there were 202 active flood insurance policies in the city of Decatur. If you are covered, check out the amount and make sure you have contents coverage. Remember, even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood proofing, the next flood could be worse. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.

Flood Safety

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure the ground is still there. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Georgia Power Company by dialing toll free 1-888-891-0938. If your house or other structure is flooded, contact the power company to turn off the electricity. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried by qualified personnel.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals. Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be slippery. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames, unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Inspections: Repair and Maintenance Activities

Staff from the Drainage Section of the Design, Environment and Construction Division are available to conduct site visits to review flood, drainage, and storm sewer problems and determine if corrective repair or maintenance action is the responsibility of the city or the private property owner. For more information regarding this service or to request an inspection call 404-370-4104.

Learn More

For more information call the Design, Environment and Construction Division or visit decaturga.com and follow the links to the floodplain information. Copies of this document can be obtained at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., or the Leveritt Public Works Building, DEC office, 1st floor, 2635 Talley St.

Inside the Fire House:



Decatur Fire Welcomes Intern

The Decatur Fire/Rescue Department has welcomed Agnes Scott student Alyssa Bayus as an intern. Alyssa has always been drawn to helping people. She has a passion for firefighting because of the camaraderie firefighters develop with their colleagues and the relationships they build with their communities. Her long-term goal is to become a firefighter and build a career in firefighting.

The internship has provided Alyssa with the opportunity to gain essential knowledge and skills that apply to the job, including participating in a ride-along, completing basic tasks with firefighters, helping out around the station, and putting to practice appropriate protocols for medical procedures.

Help Give Burns the Boot

Have you ever noticed a fire boot at city events and wondered what it was for? The Decatur Fire Department brings a fire boot to all events to offer people the opportunity to donate to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. The foundation uses the money for fire prevention and education programs. Money also goes toward camps and programs for burn victims. Visit gfbf.org for more information.



Stop the Bleed Campaign

In 2017, the nationwide "Stop the Bleed" campaign was launched in Georgia. The campaign's aim is to better prepare the public to save lives through basic actions to stop life threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies as well as man-made and natural disasters.

The first phase of the campaign includes the school response program, which is specifically designed to train and equip school staff and leadership (students will not be trained) on how to control bleeding in a life-threatening situation. To date, more than 60,000 school personnel have been trained in Georgia. Decatur City Schools are on track to complete staff training by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

Bleeding control kits are given to each school upon completion of the training and contain tourniquets, wound packing materials, and gloves, ultimately preventing traumatic blood loss when used correctly. Research has shown that bystanders, with little or no medical training, can become heroic lifesavers. Like knowledge of the use of CPR or automatic defibrillators (AEDs), improving public awareness about how to stop severe bleeding can be the difference between life and death for an injured person.

While the campaign has been funded by the Georgia General Assembly to train and equip all Georgia Public Schools and, eventually, school buses, with bleeding control kits, the efforts don't stop there. The goal of Stop the Bleed is to build national proficiency by educating and empowering citizens to be aware of the simple steps that can be taken to stop or slow life-threatening bleeding.

The Decatur Fire Department now offers this free, lifesaving training to the community. The course is held at Fire Station One, 230 E. Trinity Place, every second Saturday of the month, beginning at 10 a.m. Parents may choose to bring their children to this training at their own discretion. For more information, contact Captain Gary Menard, gary.menard@decaturga.com. For more information on the Stop the Bleed campaign, visit stopthebleedgeorgia.org.





Walk
& Roll
Star



Scott Leith and his wife Mary Jane Credeur have lived in the MAK neighborhood of Decatur since 2005 with their first grader, Jack. Scott has been a life-long distance walker since 1995, waking up every morning at 5 a.m. for a 5-mile walk. He uses his walks as time to think. Scott's daily walks include a path around the city that takes him by the Old Courthouse on the square, the Ice House lofts and back to Winnona Park.

Scott has worked in journalism and PR throughout his career, including the AJC, Turner and now with the Coca-Cola Company, where he is senior director for Financial Communications.

City of Decatur Provides a Safe Place

When teens find themselves in crisis or need a place to stay, they should know how and where to get help. Thanks to Safe Place, immediate help is never too far away. Whether teens are escaping an abusive environment, non-acceptance for gender identity or sexual orientation, lack of resources at home, fear, or any other reasons, those teens can go to the City of Decatur Fire stations, Decatur Recreation Center or Ebster Recreation Center. Safe Place locations are recognizable by their display of the yellow and black sign.



Celebrate Women's History

Although the stories told in many of our history books highlight the contributions of prominent men, women have always engaged in planning, strategizing, and laying the groundwork needed to create a more equitable, just and peaceful society. Our past is teeming with women who risked their lives and worked tirelessly to further democratize and equalize their political and social systems. Though historians now acknowledge that women were pivotal at critical junctures in the fight for equality and peace, many of them remain widely unknown.

At the national level, the first step toward acknowledging the consistent and pervasive silencing of women throughout history was taken in February 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. With 14 states already using March to honor the contributions of women to our nation's advancement, in 1987, Congress declared the entire month of March to be National Women's History Month.

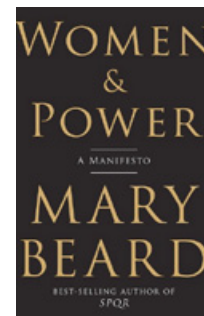
We hope you will use this month as an opportunity to learn about and discuss the myriad of ways women enrich our communities, our nation, and the world. The Better Together Advisory Board (BTAB), in partnership with the Little Shop of Stories, offers a small contribution to that effort with these reading recommendations. You can find these books and many others at Little Shop of Stories, 133 E. Court Square, or online at littleshopofstories.com/shop-online.

Here are some discussion questions to consider, while reading or just thinking:

- Are women and men (or, more broadly, people of different genders) different? If so, how should we as a society respond to such differences?
- Who is a woman you admire? Talk with a friend or family member about why (or tell her!).

Women & Power, by Mary Beard (Adult)

Mary Beard is one of the smartest historians publishing today, and yet, as a woman, she has gotten frequent attacks, threats, and trolling, particularly online. In this slim manifesto, she examines the nature of power and how it has been defined to exclude women through history. Ultimately, she lays a case for how we should rethink what leadership and power look like if we stop redefining it to exclude women.



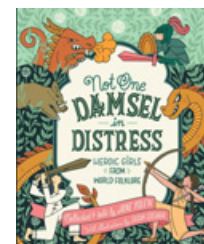
Little Dreamers: Visionary Women from Around the World, by Vashti Harrison (Children)

This follow-up to last year's brilliant Little Leaders book is even more charming and delightful! Chock-full of both well-known and less-recognized historical figures, Little Dreamers exposes readers to a host of women who made huge impacts on the world. It is a picture book aimed for younger children, ages 3 and up.



Not One Damsel in Distress, by Jane Yolen (7 and up)

Famed fantasist and children's book author Jane Yolen has collected folk tales and legends from around the world that highlight strong females who are rescuing themselves (as well as a prince or two!). This newest edition contains new stories, as well as beautiful illustrations by Susan Guevara. It is written for elementary school students, ages 7-10.



MLK Service Project: Weather Proves No Match for Community



Volunteers from Decatur and all across Metro Atlanta participate in the three-day MLK Service Project in Decatur.



Weather threatened to pull the plug on Decatur's Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project on Saturday morning. But despite cold, blustery conditions and dense fog, the day's 300 volunteers arrived ready to work. The three-day project assists some of Decatur's older residents with critical repairs and "yard repairs," enabling them to remain safely in the homes they've lived in for years.

Many of the repairs were necessary because of the toll the weather has taken on these old homes over the years. Water accumulates in basements and crawlspaces causing wood to rot. Sump pumps fail. Critical systems are compromised. Gutters fall off and roofs leak.

The half-day of work planned for Sunday looked like it might be in peril, since the wind had picked up overnight. More than 200 additional teenagers, middle school students, members of religious organizations, co-workers, skilled amateur carpenters and others came out to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and play their own roles in creating his "beloved community."

Monday started out bitterly cold but dry. Repairs that had been put on hold due to the weather were begun. By the end of the weekend, an astounding amount of work had been completed. A 120-foot French drain was installed to redirect water. A shed was

demolished so that water draining in from neighboring properties could be redirected. This water would get as much as four feet deep, flooding basements.

A gentleman who had his gas shut off years ago due to a gas line problem that he couldn't afford to fix got his line repaired and service restored. The stairs falling apart on his back porch were repaired. A room with a rotting corner in a disabled veteran's home was remediated and repaired to make it safer and more comfortable. A dangerous skylight leak was repaired for a woman who is also a caregiver for her intellectually challenged adult son. Kitchen cabinets in disrepair or



falling off were repaired or replaced. Rotten carpeting was removed and replaced. Soffits were repaired by skilled carpenters.

Our partners with Southface Energy Institute worked all weekend to weatherize two homes. A disconnected furnace flue that was venting into a house was reconnected. Our partners at M. Cary and Daughters Plumbing and Bray Electrical spent many hours correcting health and safety issues.

Volunteers filled three industrial dumpsters with trash and construction debris. Floors were retiled, ramps and other handicap features were added, a detached ceiling was repaired, and lots and lots of painting was done.

The volunteers completed an incredible amount of yard work, including the removal of a half-acre of bamboo from one yard. Approximately 830 yard-waste bags were filled. Youth from Decatur High School and from all over the Atlanta metro area learned new skills. Two high school girls shared how they appreciated learning how to weatherize because it would help them save money when they own their own homes one day.

The weekend ended with a dinner hosted by the Community Center of South Decatur and Oakhurst Market. As the volunteers gathered together with the homeowners, they celebrated their accomplishments and the new friends they made.

The threat of foul weather seemed to make the volunteers more determined than ever to tackle the work needed to help older residents to live safely, comfortably, and affordably in the city and the neighborhood that they love. By the end of the day on Monday 1,100 volunteers had stood up to the weather, working on projects at a total of 38 homes.

Join us next January for the 19th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project (Saturday, Jan. 18, through Monday, Jan. 20). For more information, visit mlkserviceproject.com; email leeann.harvey@decaurga.com; or call 678-553-6548.

Mayor Garrett Delivers Annual State of the City Address

In the annual State of the City address, Mayor Patti Garrett introduced new city manager Andrea Arnold. She highlighted city department and employee accomplishments, and new additions around Decatur, including new businesses, the Columbia Senior Residences at Decatur East, the West Court Square pocket park, the Task Force for Global Health's new space, and the public art installations around town. Mayor Garrett also invited Lewis Jones, school board chair, to give an update on the state of the City Schools of Decatur.



Mayor Patti Garrett



Corey Bivens, director of Youth Services for the Decatur Housing Authority, received the 2019 Thomas O. Davis Award. He's pictured here with Susan Bennett (daughter of Thomas O. Davis) and City Manager Andrea Arnold.



Lewis Jones delivers the board of education's State of the Schools address



These employees were saluted for their longevity with the city. From left: Doris Fleming-Thompson and David Goode, 20 years; Chet Walker and Greg White, 25 years; Linda Harris, 30 years; and Lyn Menne, 35 years.



Commissioner
Kelly Walsh



Deputy Chief Scott Richards, Lt. Barry Woodward,
and Chief Mike Booker represent Decatur PD



DBA Officers: Treasurer Jill Joplin, Secretary Emily Holden, President Susan Sparks,
Past president Kyle Williams, and President-Elect Daryl Fun

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 13
10 a.m.-noon**

The Decatur Business Association and the First Baptist Church of Decatur are partnering to bring you the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Gather your friends and family on April 13 and hop on over to the church lawn at 308 Clairemont Ave. The Easter bunny arrives at 10:30 a.m. and the hunt begins at 11 a.m. There will be other festivities as well.



DBA
Decatur Business
Association

Meeting Reminder March 26

Location TBD

5:15 p.m.
Networking Reception
6 p.m.
Program

Check for details and updates
at decaturdba.com

Sycamore Place Gallery Summer Camps

Paint, splatter and print your way through artistic stories of classic and contemporary artists and themes this summer. Children ages 4-11 are invited to draw, collage and sculpt with Ms. Sylvia and friends at Sycamore Place Gallery, 120 Sycamore Place. Campers will take walking field trips through Decatur and interact with professional artists and musicians. For more information or to register, call/text 404-377-7747, email ms.sylvia.cross@gmail.com, or visit decaturartclasses.com.

Class Schedule and Fees

Morning Camp • 9 a.m.-noon

\$145/week – 5 days

\$95/week – 3 days

\$75/week – 2 days

\$40/week – 1 day

Extended lunch \$15/day

Afternoon Camp • 1-4 p.m.

\$145/week – 5 days

\$95/week – 3 days

\$75/week – 2 days

\$40/week – 1 day

Also available: both camps plus lunch

Dates and Themes

May 28-30: Sendak and African Masks;
Where the Wild Things Are

June 3-7: Picasso, Matisse and Bearden;
Cirque du Soleil

June 10-14: cARTooning Your Day/Graphic
Comix

June 17-21: Midsummer Nights Dream Sur-
realism

June 24-28: Mari Mekko and Warhol Pop
Art Fashion

July 1-3: Kusama Infinity Mirrors

July 8-12: Abstract Expressionism, Painting
Like Pollack

July 15-19: Georgia O'Keefe and the Wild
West

July 22-26: ARTchitecture and Architecture

July 28-Aug: Frida Khalo and Diego Rivera
Mexican Murals Flowers and Fruits

Aug. 4-6: The Little Prince Prints

DFUMC: New Worship Schedule

Beginning March 10, the first Sunday in Lent, Decatur First United Methodist Church, 300 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., will launch a new worship schedule:

8:45 a.m. • Sanctuary | Worship with Communion Service

9:45 a.m. • Chapel | Worship with Band

11 a.m. • Sanctuary | Worship with Choir

Come as you are to worship. All three services have a welcome, inspiring music, and preaching by pastors Rev. Dalton Rushing and Rev. Joya Abrams.

For more information, visit decaturfirst.org.

Enjoy the Peace at Decatur Cemetery

Now is a good time to enjoy the peace of Decatur Cemetery. As you stroll through Decatur's largest and most historic downtown greenspace, you'll see many signs that spring is at hand. Friends of Decatur Cemetery have recently added some new plantings that will soon begin their springtime growth. Shoots of newly planted bulbs are appearing, birds are returning, and trees are beginning to show their green finery.

Return often and note how the landscape blossoms. And consider volunteering for "Garden-
ing among the Graves." Contact friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com for more information.

Tennis Camps at Emory Registration Now Open

Bryant Camps LLC is a tennis specialty camp run by Decatur resident and Emory Women's Tennis coach Amy Bryant, who has directed tennis camps in the community for more than 15 years. This summer, full- and half-day options are available for girls and boys 5-14, of all levels. Sessions will be held on Emory University's main campus:

Session I: May 28-31

Session II: June 3-7

Session III: June 10-14

The goal at Bryant Camps LLC is to engage every camper in the game of tennis for life while providing a fun and safe learning environment. The camp curriculum is creative and age- and level-appropriate. In addition to tennis, full-day campers swim, play glow-in-the-dark badminton, tie-dye their camp shirts, compete in a water balloon toss and explore the Emory campus in a scavenger hunt.

Register online at bryantcamps.com, with an early bird discount before March 15.



Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool Registration Open for 2019-2020

Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool, 830 W. College Ave., fosters a nurturing community where children and their families learn, communicate, play and grow together. The family-centered educational environment helps develop each child's curiosity, empathy, confidence, self-discipline and enthusiasm for learning.



The co-op preschool offers a play-based curriculum, integrating key elements of Reggio Emilia, Waldorf, and Montessori curricula. Classes focus on the total development of the child, including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills and language and communication.

- Seasonal themes and celebrations and a nature table in each classroom help children connect with the rhythms of nature.
- Through planting, tending, and harvesting garden beds, children better understand where food comes from.
- Classes focus on nature-based and play-based learning. Students spend up to an hour each day in a parent-maintained play garden.
- Student-teacher ratios start as low as 6-to-1.
- Optional enrichment classes (yoga, art, gymnastics, Spanish) are offered throughout the year.
- Children ages 2 (as of Sept. 1) to 4 attend classes from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., two to five days a week.

Parents:

- Participate in the classroom on a regular, rotating basis.
- Form lasting friendships with other families.
- Serve on a committee and/or the board of directors.
- Learn new skills and gain a deep understanding of the unique education their children are receiving.

Tour the School

Parent-led tours are available March 7 and March 21. RSVP to admissions@oakhurstcoop.com or call 404-474-7255. Children are welcome to experience the play garden during the tour. Additional tours may be added as needed. Discover more about the preschool parents built at Oakhurst-Coop.com.



DEF Announces Volunteers of the Year

In January, Decatur Education Foundation held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Party at Twain's Brewpub and Billiards, where they honored volunteers who went above and beyond for the education nonprofit in the past year.

Six standouts were recognized for giving so generously of their time and talents to support Decatur youth through DEF: Arthur Ratliff, volunteer photographer; Steve Watkins, Opportunity Partnership mentor and office handyman; Lauren Brown, event volunteer, Lighten the Load program volunteer, Equity Circle member (to name a few); Bernadine Bramblett, office volunteer; Courtney Sollie, Lighten the Load program volunteer and organizer; Amina Mohamed, Opportunity Partnership coordinator and community connector.

As a nonprofit, DEF relies on its volunteer base to do its work of helping Decatur kids reach their full potential. To learn more about how you can help DEF, visit decatureducationfoundation.org/join-us.



Decatur Education Foundation volunteers Bernadine Bramblett, Amina Mohamed, and Courtney Sollie receiving their plaques from DEF's Director of Community Engagement, Meagan Berardi.

DEF Executive Director Selected to Serve on NSFA Board

Gail Rothman, executive director of the Decatur Education Foundation, has accepted a position on the board of directors for the National School Foundation Association (NSFA). As an active member of the industry organization for many years, Ms. Rothman has served as a workshop presenter, a conference panelist and as Georgia's representative on the NSFA Industry Leadership Council. As a newly elected board member, she will now be responsible for co-chairing the group's Industry Leadership Council.



Guitar Decatur Owner Opens New Location

Grand Opening Celebration:

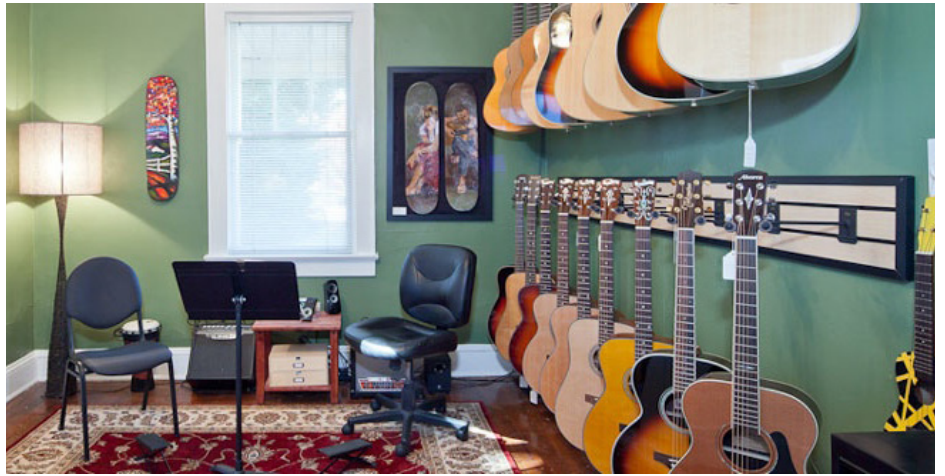
Saturday, April 13 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
111 S. Columbia Dr.

The Decatur community is invited to celebrate both the grand opening of Decatur Music Project and the 10-year anniversary of Guitar Decatur. There will be food, drinks, activities for the kids, and live music.

Eddie Minjarez opened Guitar Decatur in 2009 at 117 McDonough St. to provide clients with lessons designed around their individuality in an inviting and warm environment. After 10 years of growth, the demand for lessons exceeded what the physical space could provide. From this need came the founding of Decatur Music Project as a second location of Guitar Decatur at 111 S. Columbia Dr.

In addition to private lessons, Decatur Music Project also offers seminars, master classes, recitals, and rock band programs. Currently Decatur Music Project offers a youth rock band and two adult rock bands. Each provides a collaborative, social, and challenging creative environment for students who are in private lessons. The adult bands have performed around the community, most recently at Porchfest, and members include bankers, doctors, teachers – everyday folks coming together to make music and have fun.

Learn more at guitardecatur.com, or contact 404-915-4599, or info@guitardecatur.com.



Guitar Decatur Jam Camp participants

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Beat the Street for Little Feet 5K

Saturday, April 20 • 7 a.m.-noon
Harmony Park

Bring the family and join the fun at the Beat the Street for Little Feet 5K. The race kicks off in Harmony Park, takes participants through the historic Oakhurst neighborhood, and features a 5K, a one-mile fun run and a Tot Trot. After the race, join the Backyard Bash celebration, with activities for the whole family.

Participants are encouraged to register early to receive a race T-shirt with an original Pete the Cat illustration donated by author/illustrator James Dean.

The race benefits Oakhurst Cooperative Preschool, a preschool built by parents with the goal of creating an ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse community with a shared vision of parental involvement in education and respect for the environment.

For more information or to register, visit oakhurstcoop.com/beat-the-street.





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Keep on swimming!
Dynamo Swim School offers year-round swimming lessons in Decatur at Agnes Scott and the Oakhurst Pool

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Expires 09.30.19

Register online at dynamoswimschool.com

English Country Dancing

First and third Sundays
Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore St.

The community is invited to join the English Country Dance Atlanta (ECD) community for English country dancing. New dancers are always welcome, and no prior dance experience is necessary to enjoy this lively dance genre set to elegant music.

ECD is a form of couples dancing that has its earliest documented instances in the late 16th century. It is considered to be the precursor to American contra and square dancing and has similar moves. ECD is commonly danced to classical music, and is done in short sets or long lines up and down the hall. Couples may progress along the lines, dancing with other couples as they go. Each dance is taught beforehand, then the moves are called during the dance. Everyone is encouraged to dance with different partners for each dance, so you don't have to bring a partner, spouse or friend to the dance in order to join in.

ECDA holds dances on most first and third Sunday afternoons of the month, at the Decatur Recreation Center. A beginner's class is available, 1:30-2 p.m., and then the dance runs 2-5 p.m., with a break for refreshments. For more information, visit ecdatlanta.org.

Women Create Art Show at Trinity Mercantile & Design

Opening reception Friday, March 8 • 5-9 p.m.
116 E. Trinity Place

Trinity Mercantile & Design and the Decatur Arts Alliance announce the second annual "Women Create" Collaborative Art Show, celebrating International Women's Month. The event highlights emerging and established women artists showing paintings, textiles, ceramics and jewelry from local artists. The opening reception will also feature a female DJ and include craft cocktails and bites. Collections will be on display within store through March 30.





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Mavis Staples, Jeff Tweedy to Highlight Amplify Decatur Music Festival

The Amplify Decatur Music Festival returns to the downtown square on Saturday, April 13, with a line-up featuring Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Mavis Staples and two-time Grammy award winner Jeff Tweedy of Wilco. The lineup also includes Kevn Kinney of Drivin N Cryin, and the Atlanta-based jam-rock band The Bitterroots. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., and the show will close at 11 p.m.

Tickets are available at AmplifyDecatur.org and through Eventbrite.com. General Admission tickets are \$45. VIP tickets (quantity limited) are \$149.50 and include preferred seating (behind Premium seats), a dedicated



Jeff Tweedy



Mavis Staples

bar, four complimentary beverages, and dedicated VIP bathrooms. And new this year, Premium seating will be \$249.50, and will include seating directly in front of the stage, access to the VIP bathrooms, unlimited beverages, and drink service (during intermissions) and with additional benefits to be

determined. Only 100 Premium tickets will be sold.

All funds raised – including ticket sales – will be directed to Decatur Cooperative Ministry (DCM) to support its efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Decatur and DeKalb County. To date, Amplify Decatur has raised \$190,000 for DCM.

The concert series is presented by Decatur-based marketing agency Lenz and produced in partnership with the Decatur music venue Eddie's Attic.

Amplify Decatur will also feature shows at Eddie's Attic: Friday, April 12; Saturday, April 13; and Sunday, April 14; with artists to be announced.

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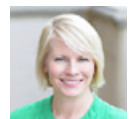
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COMPASS

Different TRAINS Gallery Presents Ruth Franklin Exhibition

Opening Reception Thursday, March 21 • 5-8 p.m.

The one-woman-show for Ruth Franklin at Different TRAINS Gallery, 432 E. Howard Ave., is the artist's first solo exhibition in more than a decade. It comes nearly 21 years since her Decatur debut at Vinson Gallery in 1998. She emigrated from England to the United States in 1994 and moved to Decatur, where she has maintained a studio ever since.

In 2014, Ruth Franklin was voted "best established visual artist" in Atlanta by the readers of *Creative Loafing* and in 2016 she was nominated for a USA Artists Fellowship. Her exhibition will continue through May 18 at the gallery in the Old Depot District, Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., or by appointment anytime.

Artist Harry Underwood's exhibit, "Red-Letter Days," has been extended at the gallery through March 9.



Harp Festival March 15-17

The Atlanta Harp Center will present the Southern Harp Festival at the Courtyard by Marriott Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory hotel. The event will offer a wide variety of performances from world-class harpists. Internationally acclaimed soloist Maria Luisa Rayan will be featured in the opening concert on Friday evening, celebrated Brittany harpist Nikolaz Cadoret will perform on Saturday, and the festival will conclude Sunday afternoon with a performance highlighting harpist and composer Frank Voltz, joined by the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble and the SHF harp ensemble.

All of the festival's performances are open to the community. Purchase tickets at southernharpfestival.com, or call 770-619-2920. For more information about this festival and to view the full schedule, visit southernharpfestival.com.

Core Dance Offers Drop-In Fieldwork Sessions

This spring, in place of bi-weekly and weekly sessions, Core Dance will offer bi-weekly drop-in Fieldwork sessions. The sessions are \$10 each and will take place on Monday, March 11 and March 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m. To register, visit donate.coredance.org.



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Agnes Scott to Host Sustainability Town Halls

Agnes Scott Sustainability Fellow Gianni Rodriguez and student Brittany Judson invite the community to a series of town hall meetings focused on fostering a community that is informed about the causes and effects of climate change and, therefore, empowered to make more environmentally sustainable choices.

The purpose of the event is to create space for education and open dialogue about climate change, action, and justice. The series of town halls will be split into four topics with a reoccurring theme of justice: climate change, Agnes Scott's carbon footprint and climate action plan, climate resilience, and community input/feedback. The feedback will be incorporated into the college's Climate Action Plan, which is currently being updated.

For more information, contact the Center for Sustainability, Campbell 204 (2nd floor) at sustainability@agnesscott.edu or on Instagram, Facebook: @sustainablecotties, and Twitter: @sustainableasc.

SCHEDULE

Climate Justice

Thursday, March 21
6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 28
6-7:30 p.m.

Community Input/ Strategic Planning

Thursday, April 4
6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 11
6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 18
6-7:30 p.m.

Westchester Battle of the Bands

March 22 • 7 p.m.

The Marlay House • 426 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Mark your calendars for the annual Westchester Battle of the Bands, presented by Decatur CoWorks and Natalie Gregory and Co. The event is a high-energy, adults-only, dancing good time that raises money for the students and staff of Westchester Elementary School while showcasing the talents of local bands.

Tickets are available online at westchesterrocks.org/buy-tickets. Tickets sell out fast, so get yours as soon as possible.

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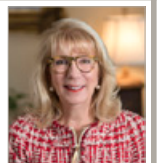
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DHS Student Makes an Impact

Decatur High School student Bethani Thomas found her purpose while working with the Atlanta Women's Foundation for her 10th grade personal project. Bethani knew very little about the organization. All she knew was that it raised funds for women and girls in poverty. She jumped right in last summer, determined to understand how philanthropic foundations work and how the organization serves women and girls in poverty.

Bethani participated in everything she could, from stuffing envelopes, asking questions, interviewing, volunteering at events and participating in poverty simulations led by the foundation. As a result of this experience, she is now a volunteer math tutor at Global Village Project, helping to change the lives of the young girls in the program.



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Charlotte and Zac Visit Decatur FD



Charlotte and Zac enjoyed a visit with firefighter Pigett at Fire Station One on their third birthday.

#happybirthday #futurefirefighters #comeagainsoon

Dining Notoriety



Brick Store Pub and Iberian Pig made the list for Food Network's Guide to the Best Restaurants in Atlanta; Iberian Pig for best date spot and Brick Store for Beer Bliss.

#brickstorepub #iberianpig #foodanddrink

New in Blue . . .



The Decatur Police Department welcomes officer Joshua Suddith and officer Jephthe Beljour to the family.

#decaturpd #welcometodecatur #communitypolicing

Meet the New Judge



In January, the Decatur City Commission appointed F. Robert Slotkin Jr. as a substitute municipal court judge.

#judgingdecatur #judgeslotkin

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