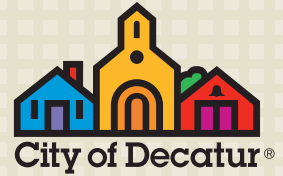


City of Decatur FOCUS



APRIL 2023
Volume 33 • Number 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

Decatur Celebrates Earth Day Every Day Become a Climate Activist!

As Decatur celebrates its 200th anniversary, there are many reasons to be proud and excited about our city. One big reason is Decatur's commitment to addressing the climate emergency. During the 2020 Strategic Planning process, Decatur citizens asked for climate action to be one of the city's top priorities. City leaders responded by creating the Energy and Sustainability Manager posi-

tion and funding the creation of a Clean Energy Plan. Adopted last September, the plan's commitment supports the worldwide scientific community's guidelines to combat global warming. And it aims to do so in a way that will improve living conditions and address equity issues in Decatur.

In another bold move, the City joined forces with Agnes Scott College to create a Climate Resiliency Plan. The goal is to work to-

gether on projects that protect and enhance the community, ranging from emergency preparedness and response to creative renewable energy solutions. But this is only the beginning; to achieve these goals requires policy and action at higher levels of government. By joining together to advocate as a community, we can create a healthy and livable Decatur and world for the next 200 years and beyond.

See *Climate Heroes* on page 4



Decatur Partners with SCAD to Collect 200 Stories

The City of Decatur has partnered with the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) through its SCADpro program to support the city's bicentennial celebration. During the year-long partnership, SCAD students are collecting stories and developing creative materials to promote the city's milestone anniversary.

The first phase of the collaboration has launched, with SCAD students developing special recording technology that is being used to preserve the dynamic stories of Decatur residents. The 200 Stories initiative, which is modeled after StoryCorps, will record and archive 200 stories of a diverse cross-section of the Decatur community. All stories will be recorded, with some being used to create a visual record through film or animation and shared at the official community celebration event.

SCAD students will be collecting stories from community members, past and present, Saturday, April 1 through May 15 at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. For those interested in participating, recordings will take place on Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. To make an appointment, email 200stories@decaturga.com. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Other partners for the 200 Stories initiative include Agnes Scott College and StoryCorps.



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 or 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; email: decaturfocus@decaturga.com.



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CORRECTION

Decatur's Tree Canopy Conservation Ordinance

In the March issue of the Decatur Focus, the New Resident Guide included an outdated summary of Decatur's Tree Ordinance. Key elements of the new Tree Canopy Conservation Ordinance include the following:

- Residents may no longer remove three healthy trees every 18 months.
- A minimum tree canopy coverage of 60% is required on single-family residential properties.
- All permitting is now submitted/reviewed online through Community Core permitting.
- A tree permit is required to remove dead, diseased, and/or hazardous trees. City arborists are available to assist in permitting the removal of dead trees.
- Any demolition, building, or development activity must comply with Tree Canopy Conservation Ordinance requirements.

For more information on Decatur's tree ordinance and Community Core, visit decaturga.com/trees. For an updated copy of the New Resident Guide, go to decaturga.com/nrg.



Read the Decatur Focus online at decaturga.com/focus.

Limited copies also available at Decatur City Hall, Decatur Visitor's Center, and Decatur Recreation Center.

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.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS

Bonnie and Kevin Chatham-Stephens and their children, Kai and Sage, are the quintessential Decatur walking and biking family. Before settling in Decatur in 2013, the family had two priorities: walkability and school system quality. Decatur fit the bill perfectly, offering a bike-able commute to both the CDC and Zoo Atlanta, where Kevin and Bonnie worked, respectively.

Bonnie and Kevin committed to bike commuting as a young couple living in Portland, Oregon. When they welcomed children, they expanded their commitment, strapping on baby carriers for regular hikes and adventures, and both kids became confident bike riders before the age of three.

Today, the family's one car is rarely needed. The kids ride their bikes to Decatur High School and Beacon Hill Middle School, and Kevin still commutes by bike to the CDC when he's not teleworking. Bonnie is a kindergarten paraprofessional at Westchester with a lovely ten-minute walk to work.

Nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar at bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur



Participate in Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0

Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Decatur Recreation Center

Community members are encouraged to attend the third and final community meeting for the Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0 process, the first comprehensive look at downtown since the 1982 Town Center Plan. Much like the original plan, this fresh look at downtown will help guide growth and establish priorities for years to come.

By connecting with residents and stakeholders, the Planning Team can set priorities and craft a vision that will become the blueprint for a future downtown that reflects Decatur's humanity, warmth, and vibrancy. Whether you live, learn, work, or visit downtown, the City welcomes your involvement in this process.

On March 2, community members gathered at the Decatur Recreation Center for the second of three community meetings to engage in activities and discussions on the Plan's foundation, downtown visioning, and the first phase of public engagement. The event gave the Planning Team an opportunity to connect with residents and stakeholders, and created space to review and share feedback on project goals and objectives.

If you are not able to attend this final meeting, there are still opportunities to get involved. Visit the Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0 website at decaturtowncenterplan.com to review meeting presentations and summaries and participate in online activities. Stay tuned for more details on the website and the City of Decatur's social media channels.



CELEBRATE DECATUR'S 200TH WITH COOL SWAG!



Stop by the Decatur Visitors Center at 113 Clairmont Ave. to check out the latest gear.

We Can All be Climate Heroes

Continued from page 1

Climate change is already affecting our lives, as we experience more heat days, floods, and fires. As the scientific community appeals to governments and corporations

to drastically reduce emissions and move to clean energy, we must come together to demand action as a community. History shows that community advocacy can lead to transformative change. Thankfully, there are many organizations right here in Decatur that are working to make an impact and unite to

fight climate change.

In honor of Earth Month, act today and join your neighbors in one (or more) of these local organizations. Embrace this opportunity to be a climate hero and protect the planet for ourselves and future generations.

MEET SOME OF DECATUR'S CLIMATE HEROES



Lisa Coronado
co-founder, Decatur
Cares About Climate,
decaturclimate.com



Neil Sardana, Sierra
Club organizer, Metro
Atlanta,
sierraclub.org/georgia



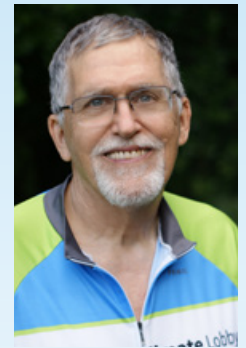
Lily Mae Barcik,
co-founder, Sunrise
Decatur,
[sunrisedecaturhub@
gmail.com](mailto:sunrisedecaturhub@gmail.com)



**Mehul Tejani, MD,
MPH, GaCCA,**
Steering Committee,
[georgiacclimatehealth.
org](http://georgiacclimatehealth.org)



**Tanya Coventry-
Strader**, Executive
Director, [mothersand-
othersforcleanair.org](http://mothersand-
othersforcleanair.org)



Henry Slack, Citizens
Climate Lobby of
Georgia, cclusa.org

Decatur Cares About Climate partners with local and state environmental organizations and sends out monthly emails with easy ways to learn and advocate for hot button climate issues. Spend 5-10 minutes each month to sign a petition or write an email. If you want to get more involved, you can participate in social and advocacy events and follow tips to reduce your personal carbon footprint.

Sierra Club is one of the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organizations, and there's an active chapter in Georgia working to combat pollution and protect communities and the planet. Reach out and make an impact.

Sunrise Decatur is a local hub of the national Sunrise Movement, building an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the influence of fossil fuel executives on politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people. Support local and statewide campaigns to bring this vision to Decatur and fight against the climate crisis.

Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action takes action by building clinician climate advocates, speaking out for patient and community health, and advocating for a climate-healthy future in Georgia. These health professionals understand the links between the health of patients and the planet and believe addressing climate change is an important factor for improving health.

Mothers and Others for Clean Air protects children's health by educating the public about the health impacts from air pollution. Working at the intersection of healthcare

and the environment, creating partnerships between scientists, healthcare professionals, parents, educators, and community organizations, facilitating learning, and encouraging collective climate action in the Southeast.

Citizens Climate Lobby's 450 Chapters create political will for bipartisan action in Congress, focusing on healthy forests, building efficiency and electrification, clean energy permit reform, and a carbon price. Local volunteers do outreach by tabling and speaking. Atlanta Chapter meets 2nd Saturday at 11 a.m., 701 W. Howard.



Decatur Fire Helps Assure Your Child's Car Seat is Installed Correctly

According to the CDC, proper usage of car seats reduces the risk of injury to your child by 71% to 82%. There are numerous car seats on the market, and each vehicle has specific features that may or may not be compatible with your child's seat. Decatur Fire is a car seat fitting station, so you can stop by to check that your car seat is correct for your child's size and weight, not expired, and not recalled for safety reasons. It only takes 30 minutes to perform the check to assure that you are providing the safest riding environment for your little ones. To schedule an appointment, contact Captain Gary Menard, gary.menard@decaturga.com.

TEXT TO PARK

New Signage Improves On-Street Parking Payment

As Decatur continues to grow, the City strives to make parking simple and convenient while complying with established municipal sign guidelines. SP+ has created a sign solution that makes on-street parking in Decatur easier by using text to pay, a secure and efficient option.

- One zone number throughout the city makes parking simple, fast, and convenient.
- Seamless transition from signage to the payment experience.
- Proactively responds to market changes and demand.



PAY TO PARK
PAY BY PLATE

- 1) PARK VEHICLE
- 2) NOTE LICENSE PLATE #
- 3) PAY BY TEXT, APP OR METER
- 4) CONFIRM VEHICLE AND PLATE BEFORE PURCHASE

City of Decatur

TEXT TO PAY

TEXT: **7801** TO: **30202**

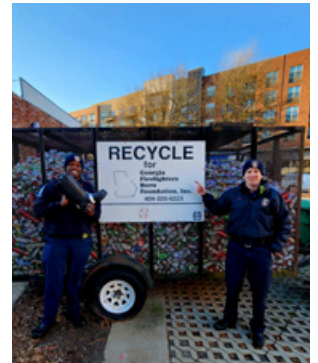
ParkingApp.com

ZONE# **7801**

Official Parking Apps for the City of Decatur

Decatur Fire Recycles To Support Burn Foundation

Recycling is an important initiative for protecting the environment, and Decatur Fire uses the opportunity to help raise funds for the Georgia Firefighter Burn Foundation's summer camp for burn survivors, assisting with recovery and helping prevent injuries. Additionally, 10 percent of the money collected goes to DFD's prevention programs in Decatur, such as installing smoke detectors. If you want to support the Burn Foundation, simply drop off your cans at our stations or drop some loot in the boot at Decatur Fire's EMS tent during city events.



Kick off summer with friends and neighbors for a day of throwback games and activities, food, adult beverages, and everyone's favorite field game—kickball! Team and individual registration is open now on Community Pass.

Limited team spots are available so get your group together and register for a discount. If you don't have a team, we can find one for you. Contact Jada Jordan, jada.jordan@decaturga.com. Proceeds support future active living adult programs and activities.

Decatur First United Methodist Church Celebrates 200 Years

**April 22-23,
Decatur FirstUnited Methodist Church,
300 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.**

City of Decatur is not the only one celebrating a milestone in 2023; Decatur First Methodist marks its bicentennial this month with a variety of activities, culminating with a homecoming service in the Sanctuary on Sunday at 11 a.m., presided by Bishop Robin Dease of the North Georgia Conference. The community is invited to a picnic lunch on the front lawn after the service.

Throughout its history, the church has sought to couple its spiritual witness with its social witness. Decatur First works closely with the City of Decatur, Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry, Decatur Cooperative Ministry, and other organizations to support community members in need. Last year, the church gave away more than \$400,000 to mission, service, and social causes in the Decatur community and beyond.

For the last several years, the church has partnered with A Home for Everyone in DeKalb to offer a warming shelter on cold nights for those suffering from homelessness. The church also has a rich history of supporting human rights from the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s to the LGBTQ+ rights movement of today. In 2020, Decatur First established an endowed scholarship in memory of John Lewis through Georgia State University in support of the African American Male Initiative at GSU.

Originally housed in The Chapel on Sycamore, the current site of the church is located on E. Ponce de Leon, just down the street from the city square. Come and worship at DFUMC on Sundays at 9 a.m. (under the tent, weather permitting) and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary and online at decaturfirst.org.



Letterboxing A FAMILY ADVENTURE TO EXPLORE DECATUR

Looking for your next family adventure and a new way to explore? Try letterboxing. Started in England in 1854, the activity has evolved into a worldwide “scavenger hunt” that combines outdoor fun with a dash of creativity—and you can start your quest here in Decatur.

HOW DOES IT WORK: Letterboxes are hidden in public, outdoor places and each container houses a rubber stamp, ink pad, and logbook.

- Each “letterboxer,” or searcher has their own signature rubber stamp and personal logbook
- Use clues to find one of the secret letterboxes
- Letterboxers complete a stamp exchange to mark the occasion

GET STARTED: Supplies

- Ink pad, notebook and pen
- Pick a “trail name” (register your trail name for free on atlasquest.com)
- Signature stamp—use a rubber stamp you own or create an original stamp.

FIND LETTERBOXES:

Visit atlasquest.com

- This online resource lists “clues” within a 15-mile radius of your ZIP code
- Choose a clue, then explore and observe things in a new way as you hunt
- Search for 140+ hidden letterboxes
- Be on the lookout for a recent letterbox planted by Decatur Girl Scout Troop 21729 as part of earning their letterboxing badge

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: After you’ve found the box

- Be “sneaky” by moving the box away from its hidden location to prevent accidentally revealing it to anyone that could be watching
- Do your stamp exchange
- Return the box and its contents to its original location for the next letterboxer to find

This family friendly activity is a rewarding way to explore Decatur and beyond.



Legacy Park Removes Invasive Plants, including Callery Pear

Since November, Trees Atlanta has been working to eradicate invasive evergreen ground cover (English ivy, monkey grass, wintercreeper, and vinca) throughout the park, as well as removing invasive trees and shrubs surrounding the marsh and old ropes course. As we welcome spring, work is shifting to chipping brush piles and spreading mulch on trails for erosion control and to improve the aesthetics of the park. The crew also is removing large Callery pears that have invaded the park yet comprise much of its canopy.

According to Trees Atlanta, uprooting established Callery pear plants is difficult because of their extensive root system. Instead, the organization recommends cutting trunks with a hand saw within an inch of the ground and treating the stump within five or 10 minutes with a high-concentration (20 to 50 percent) glyphosate-based solution. If you do not want to use herbicide, make a cut one foot above the ground and use pruners or a hand saw to remove new growth as soon as it appears. Eventually, the roots will starve and kill the plant.

Native replacements for Callery pears include Carolina silverbells, shadbush/serviceberry and fringe trees. In smaller yards, consider chaste tree, cherry blossoms, southern crab apples and smaller varieties of crape myrtle (not the tall Natchez cultivar).

Invasive Plant Highlight:

GALLERY PEAR / BRADFORD PEAR

The white flowers of ornamental pear trees are a sign of spring in much of the eastern United States. Unfortunately, these showy forerunners also have become one of the top invasive plant species in many parts of the country. In Georgia (and Decatur particularly), the Callery (or Bradford) pear cultivar joins Chinese privet and kudzu at the top of our local invasive plants list.

Introduced to the U.S. from China a century ago, *Pyrus calleryana* initially was seen as a way to save valuable edible pear orchards in the Pacific Northwest that had succumbed to fireblight—a contagious bacterium that can destroy an entire orchard in a growing season. During the 1950-60s, the Bradford cultivar (named for horticulturist F. C. Bradford) became popular in residential landscaping in the Eastern U.S. because of the trees' hardiness, quick growth, ability to maintain colorful foliage into the fall, and beautiful flowers in the spring.

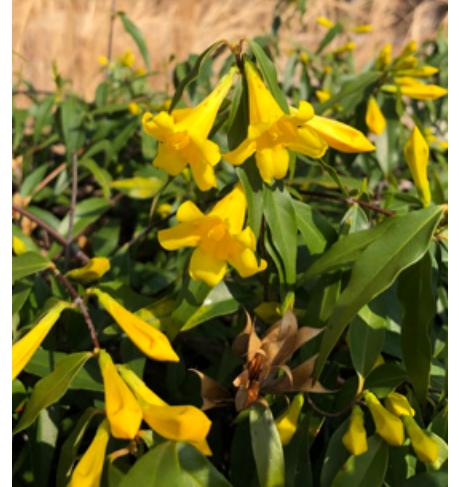
In the 1980s, horticulturists began to detect problems with species; as the trees aged, they became more brittle and would break apart during wind storms or after heavy snowfall. Other cultivars were developed to replace Bradfords—whitehouse, redspire, autumn blaze (on the West Coast); aristocrat (Kentucky); and Cleveland select (Ohio). However this resulted in allowing previously "sterile" trees to cross-pollinate with other cultivars.

The ability to cross-pollinate has contributed to the invasive nature of the trees. In the past 20 years, they have started appearing at forest edges, in wetlands, along roadsides, and within forests. Warmer temperatures also have allowed the trees to spread to previously colder climates (like Wisconsin), where it was thought they could not survive. These wild growths produce dense thickets that inhibit wildlife movement and thorns large enough to puncture a car or tractor tire. Their early leafing also shades out native plants.

Because they are fast growing, inexpensive, and tolerant to difficult growing conditions, Callery pear cultivars continue to be popular today. According to the US Department of Agriculture, sales of the trees exceeded \$23 million in 2009. Horticulturists, however, have advocated for phase-out of the trees from commercial production to replace them with suitable regional alternatives. They also recommend replacing the trees as they break or decline. Trees Atlanta has an online resource for replacement trees at treesatlanta.org/resources/50-atlanta-trees.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT WOODLANDS



Every season is worth visiting Woodlands, but spring is particularly beautiful. Come for a stroll among the native yellow jessamine blooms (pictured above) or join an upcoming program to get involved.

Come and volunteer on Wednesdays 9-11 a.m. at our community volunteer project. And on Sundays 2-4 p.m. enjoy Music in the Garden at the Pavilion. Other upcoming opportunities include:

April 8 Forest Bathing Walk with Renewal by Nature

April 22 Celebrate Earth Day at a community volunteer project

May 14 Woodland Tradition Workshop with Flourish & Flora

Joining a volunteer project is an ideal way to give back and learn about this natural sanctuary. Visit woodlandsgarden.org for details about these spring events and to register.

DBA
Decatur Business
Association

Meeting Previews

Tuesday, April 25, 5:30 p.m.

Community Bandstand on the Square

Join in celebrating DBA's awesome volunteers. Sponsored by DBA, Decatur Tourism Bureau, and Decatur Arts Alliance.

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

Southstate Bank, 150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 120

Details to be announced.

decaturdba.com

2023 BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



In the spirit of Decatur's bicentennial, the annual Black History Month program focused on homecomings—HBCU and church homecomings, family reunions, and neighborhood gatherings. The Redan High School drum section kicked off the program in the Ebster courtyard, followed by a lively panel discussion that featured Mikka Wolff, co-president of Decatur High School's Black Student Union; Doris Sims Johnson, one of the Decatur Day organizers; and Felix Floyd, facilities maintenance superintendent for City of Decatur.



BICENTENNIAL

1823 2023

DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 23 AT 11AM

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@decaturfirst
300 E. Ponce De Leon Ave
Decatur, Ga 30030



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The High House is one of the oldest buildings in DeKalb County and for nearly 50 years has served as a law office for solo practitioners and entrepreneurial firms. It was fully renovated in 2013 and updated again in 2023. We are pleased to be able to offer executive office space to another generation of attorneys and related professionals.

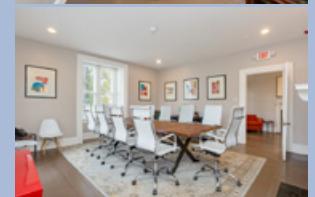
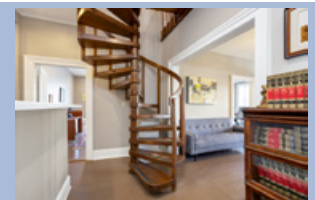
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*Parking not included with rental of a work station.
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THE HIGH HOUSE
circa 1830



Furnish with Love Hosts Pop-up Sale

Fri.-Sat., April 21-22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 508 E. Howard Ave.

This month, support Furnish with Love at their fundraiser while shopping for new and gently used home decor, gifts, and furniture, including high-end designer pieces at deeply discounted prices. One hundred percent of profits support their mission of helping families transition out of homelessness. Learn more at.

Play & Sing This Spring

Music Together of Decatur is offering a spring session that will nurture your child's inner music-maker with research-based curriculum, as families enjoy a playful, weekly class of singing and moving to the beat in a classroom community. Spring session is underway and tuition is prorated, so find a schedule of classes and register today at musictogetherofdecatur.com. Email, call or text, wendy@musictogetherofdecatur.com, 678-466-0737.



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Decatur Cemetery Spotlight

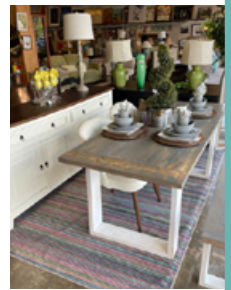
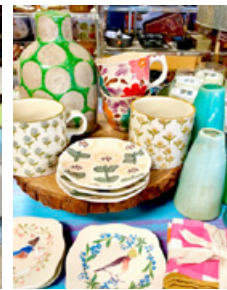
Emily Verdery Battey, Journalist (1826-1912)

A Georgia native, Battey was considered one of the South's most gifted writers and lecturers. Widowed early, she moved to New York City in 1870 to pursue her writing career, and became known throughout the country for her articles in various New York newspapers and

journals. In 1875, Battey was hired by the *New York Sun* as an editor, becoming one of the earliest salaried women reporters in the United States. She continued in that position until 1890 when she returned to Georgia. Battey was also an accomplished lecturer, well acquainted with the many women's causes of the late 19th century—social, political, literary, and religious. Battey is buried in the Old Section of Decatur Cemetery with her sister and brother-in-law, Col. John Prather (walking tour #30). For more information about Decatur Cemetery, visit decaturga.com/publicworks/page/friends-decatur-cemetery.



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DeKalb History Center Lecture

Fletcher Pearson Crown and Crown Camellia Gardens

Tuesday, April 18, 10-11 a.m., Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 2nd floor, 101 E. Court Square, FREE

The DeKalb History Center is hosting Treadwell Rice Crown III for an informative lecture exploring how Fletcher Pearson Crown created extensive gardens and a uniquely successful gardening instruction business in Decatur during the early to mid-twentieth century. The lecture is in partnership with the North Georgia Camellia Association and support from the Cherokee Garden Library at the Atlanta History Center. For more information visit dekalbhistory.org/programs/lecture-fletcher-pearson-crown-and-crown-camellia-gardens.



Sunday, April 23, 2 p.m., Harmony Park

Come and experience an informative walking tour of public art in Oakhurst led by Angie Macon of the Decatur Arts Alliance and co-sponsored by the Decatur Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

2023 Spring Season of Oakhurst Jazz Nights



Thursday nights in April, the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association hosts free outdoor jazz concerts on the lawn of the Solarium at 321 W. Hill Street 7-9 p.m. Bring a blanket or low-back chair (no high-back chairs) to enjoy this picnic-style event, rain or shine.

April 6 Gwen Hughes entertains with swing jazz music.

April 13 Diane Durrett brings blues originals.

April 20 The Bonaventure Quartet (pictured above) with Amy Pike will have the crowd dancing.

Tables with four chairs can be reserved on a limited basis for \$25 by emailing concerts@oakhurstjazznights.com. For more information, visit oakhurstjazznights.com.



KEEP ON SWIMMING!

Agnes Scott College and Decatur-Oakhurst

Both Dynamo locations offer indoor heated pools and year-round swimming lessons for all ages.

Decatur-Oakhurst also offers USAS Competitive Swim Team, Lap Swim, and Water Aerobics!

Register online at dynamoswimclub.com



Bring in this ad for \$15 off one session of swimming lessons.

This offer may not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Expires 7.01.2023

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BIKES & BREWS

Join Decatur Active Living on Friday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. for the monthly Bikes & Brews ride. Meet in front of Guild + Journeyman, 115 Clairemont Ave. Enjoy a ride through the city and then kick back at a local brewery. All skill levels are welcome. Helmets are required.

Intown Writers ATL Offers New Classes This Spring

A group of local writers, formerly instructors with the Decatur Writers Studio, has launched Intown Writers ATL, a learning and working resource for writers in the Atlanta area. They are offering two classes this spring—"Novel Writing 101" with Zoe Fishman and "Lose Your Writing Inhibitions" with Nicki Salcedo—with more classes to come in fall 2023. Learn more at intownwritersatl.com.

Celebrate Earth Day All Month in Decatur

This month, Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board, Decatur First UMC, and Decatur Active Living are hosting events for the community to celebrate and protect the planet. For more information, visit earthdaydecatur.org.

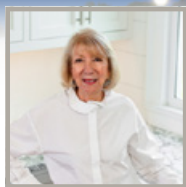
Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 22, 1-4 p.m., Decatur Recreation Center
Come and enjoy family-friendly activities with live animals, yoga, and other surprises.

Electronics Recycling

Sunday, April 30, 1-4:30 p.m., Decatur First United Methodist Church (enter lot from N Candler)
New Life Technology Group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will collect to support our community through their Computers For Kids program, recycling, refurbishing, and redistributing old computers, IT equipment, and other electronic waste. All data is wiped according to Department of Defense standards (DoD 5220.22-m) in order to guarantee donor privacy. If drives cannot be wiped, they will be physically destroyed with a 12-ton press. Certificates of data destruction are available upon request.

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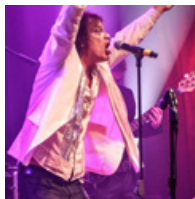


Amplify Decatur Music Festival Brings Full Weekend of Music

Amplify My Community hosts three days of charitable music concerts

Friday, April 28, 7 p.m., Community Bandstand at Decatur Square

Kick off the weekend with a free concert featuring folk rock band Ghoststories and followed by Tumbling Dice: The Ultimate Tribute to The Rolling Stones. Across the city, other performers will be playing free shows at venues near Decatur Square, including Leon's Full Service, Brick Store Pub, and Mellow Mushroom Pizza.



Line, and The Sundogs. Tickets are \$75 for general admission, \$195 for VIP, and \$275 for premium VIP.

Sunday, April 30, 7 p.m., Waller's Coffee Shop, 240 DeKalb Industrial Way

The weekend concert series wraps with Amplify vs. Elliott Smith, an all-star roster of local acts performing songs from Smith's catalog. Tickets are \$10.

Amplify Decatur Music Festival is presented by Lenz and produced in partnership with Eddie's Attic. Proceeds are directed to Decatur Cooperative Ministry, Decatur Education Foundation, and Giving Kitchen to aid their vital missions. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit AmplifyDecatur.org.



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The Decatur Arts Festival Returns to Downtown Decatur the First Weekend in May

Friday, May 5-Sunday, May 7

Enjoy a full weekend, celebrating fine arts, music, theater, dance, comedy, and literary arts. This year's festival also welcomes the return of a revamped Fine Arts Exhibition; visit the newly renovated 4th floor gallery at the Decatur Library to view small works on display. Throughout the weekend, experience performances at various stages around Decatur Square and enjoy local food and beverage vendors.

Visit decaturartsfestival.com for updated information about performance schedules, participating artists, and other festival info.

ARTWALK • Friday, May 5, 6-10 p.m.

Festivities begin with the city-wide art experience—ArtWalk. Enjoy music on the square while strolling between ArtSpots, local businesses hosting free art receptions with light refreshments.

KIDS' FEST • Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

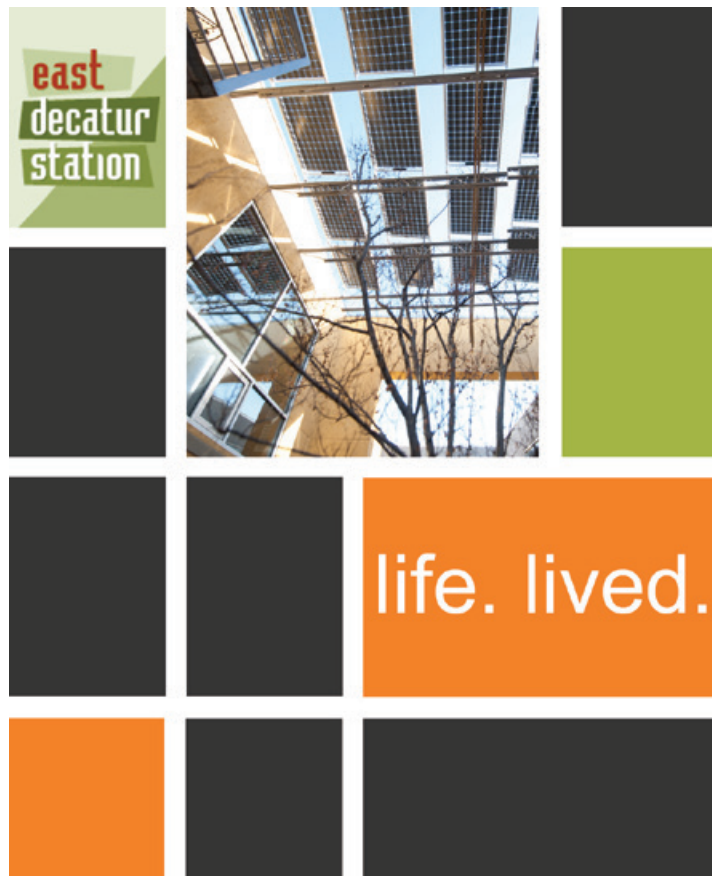
Bring the family and enjoy Kids' Fest, with inflatables, kid-friendly performances, crafts, and more.



ARTISTS MARKET • Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

All day Saturday and Sunday, purchase incredible one-of-a-kind artwork in the juried Artists Market, showcasing 140 artists working in a wide range of mediums.

The Decatur Arts Festival is produced by the Decatur Arts Alliance, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides free and low-cost arts programming to the Decatur community. Learn more about the organization (and become a supporting member) at decaturartsalliance.org.



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16th Annual Beacon Hill Middle School Poetry Slam

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., DHS Performing Arts Center, FREE

Slam poetry is a unique style of spoken-word poetry that combines the elements of writing, performance, competition, and audience participation. It is spoken-word “riffing” on contemporary issues, and in the hands of Beacon Hill students, it is an opportunity for our community to see the depth of passion and insight that these kids have to offer. Come and support these blooming artists.



Pitching in Where Decatur Students Need it Most

With community activities back in full swing, it’s easy to think that life has returned to “normal.” But the pandemic continues to impact student retention and learning and adversely affect some Decatur families economically. Decatur Education Foundation has supported the needs of Decatur students for more than 20 years, often going above and beyond the classroom.

Lighten the Load was created in 2018 to provide supplemental food for students and families experiencing food insecurity. DEF helps fund weekend backpacks at five schools and stocks snacks for the pantry at Beacon Hill Middle School. Community members can donate to monthly Amazon wish lists by visiting decatureducationfoundation.org/schoolsnacklinks.



Preparing for college or post-high school plans can be a scary notion for many high schoolers. DEF established the **FOCUS Prep program** (Finding Opportunities to Create your Success), which pairs community volunteers (“coaches”) with high school students to offer guidance and assistance. Currently, the program supports 33 9th-12th graders, with plans to expand to more students next year. FOCUS works closely with College Ave Consulting to assure coaches have the training and resources to help their students. If you are interested in becoming a coach, visit decatureducationfoundation.org/mentoring.

To learn more about how DEF is solving problems and creating opportunities for students, visit decatureducationfoundation.org.



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Decatur Career Academy Prepares Students for Success

City Schools of Decatur's goal to build a foundation for students to be their best, achieve their dreams and make the world a better place comes to life with the authentic experiences students receive through the Decatur Career Academy (DCA). Located at Decatur High School, the DCA serves students in grades 9-12 and offers 14 in-demand career pathways categorized into six clusters (Architecture & Construction, Audio & Video, Education & Training, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, and JROTC).

After completing pathways within these clusters, students have transferable soft skills and are prepared to experience work-based learning as a senior in high school, preparing themselves for both entry-level career opportunities and transition to college.

The DCA also offers four Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO), including SkillsUSA, FCCLA, CTI, and First Robotics. Being a member of a CTSO helps

students gain career, leadership, and personal skills that set them apart and maximize their productivity not only in the workforce but at home and in the community.

Another unique characteristic of the DCA is that students can receive training in state-of-the-art labs, earn college credits, and participate in job shadowing and internships without leaving the DHS campus. Currently, DCA has more than 100 students participating in work-based learning, placed as student interns across the district. Students also participate in national organizations that offer competitions, travel, and scholarships.

Departments within the DCA often work together through project-based learning. In December 2022, culinary, AV/tech, and



JROTC students collaborated on the Bake for Good program: DHS culinary students baked and packaged loaves of bread to donate to The Sycamore House, DHS JROTC delivered the bread, and the audio/visual class made a mini-documentary of the process (vimeo.com/810309082).

In February, Dr. Fehrmann facilitated a Teaching as a Profession class, answering thoughtful questions from aspiring educators and encouraging students to stay passionate about being positive change-makers for their community and the world. By offering authentic and exceptional career pathway experiences, the DCA equips students to excel and succeed.

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<https://www.agnesscott.edu/agnesengage/summer-at-agnes/youth-camps.html>

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