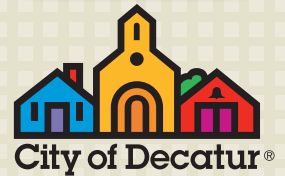


City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:
KIDS
ACTIVITY
BOOK



APRIL 2024
Volume 34 • Number 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

DBA Presents

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

In February, the Decatur Business Association and City of Decatur hosted the annual Black History Month program. The program highlighted and acknowledged the significant impact Black Americans have had on the arts and featured local Atlanta artist Pateece Lewis, creator of Decatur's newest mural at the Courtyard by Marriott Decatur Conference Center (above). The program also featured original poems by Mallorie Norman (6th grader at Beacon Hill Middle School), Lauren Daniel (8th grader at Beacon Hill Middle School) and Zakiya Wicks (6th grade ELA teacher and faculty sponsor of the Beacon Hill Middle School Poetry Club).



Artist Pateece Lewis



Some of Pateece's work on display

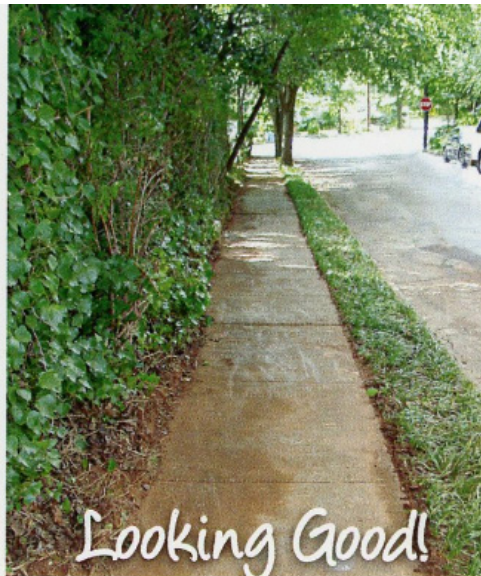
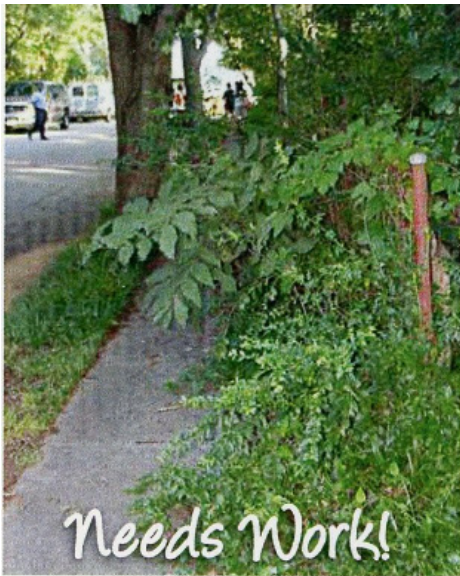


Sidewalks: Keeping them Clear, Safe, and Clean is a Responsibility We All Share

Decatur residents invest millions of tax dollars in the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, but often pedestrians find themselves in situations where residential landscaping has grown over the sidewalk or slippery leaves and landscape debris make the passage unsafe. Overgrown landscaping can also limit the visibility at intersections for drivers which can lead to accidents.

Per City code, residents are responsible for the upkeep and de-littering of their property all the way to the curb. Prune all plants so they are behind the edge of the sidewalk and make sure there is at least seven feet of clearance above the sidewalk so that pedestrians are not impeded by bushes or low branches as they walk.

Please keep the sidewalk in front of your home clear of debris and vegetation in every season. Your neighbors depend on you to help keep the neighborhood safe for pedestrians and other vulnerable users along with motorists. Questions? Email Assistant City Manager Cara Scharer at cara.scharer@decaturga.com or visit decaturga.com/sidewalks to learn more.



Neighborhood Cleanup Days Ongoing

Clear unwanted junk out of your attic, closet, and basement during Decatur Neighborhood Cleanup Days, ongoing on Saturdays through June. To determine when public works crews will be on your street, go to decaturga.com/publicworks, click the sanitation button, and choose Neighborhood Cleanup Days to download a pdf listing neighborhoods and streets throughout Decatur. You'll also find guidelines for what can (and cannot) be discarded. Crews will collect bulky materials that would not normally be placed in Pay-As-You-Throw bags. All items to be collected should be placed at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m.

Read the Decatur Focus online at decaturga.com/focus.
Limited copies also available at Decatur City Hall, Decatur Visitors Center, and City of Decatur Recreation Centers.

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.

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; email: decaturfocus@decaturga.com.



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Georgia State Senator Recognizes Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights

In February, State Senator Elena Parent introduced a resolution recognizing and commending the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights for its contributions to the Decatur community and beyond.

The Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights empowers, advocates, educates, and organizes people of African descent affected by systemic racism and oppression on issues of equity in education, housing, and the legal system, moving the City of Decatur and surrounding communities towards co-operative economics. Some of the many victories and most notable achievements of the Alliance include supporting the development of the first-ever Black Student Unions at both Decatur High School and Beacon Hill Middle School; co-sponsoring and organizing the Take Down White Supremacy March and Rally; successfully advocating for the re-hiring of an African-American police officer in the city of Decatur; coordinating efforts to remove monuments to white supremacy in the Decatur Square, including the Confederate “Lost Cause” obelisk and the “genocide cannon”; and sponsoring and fundraising for “Art for the People,” a public art project that puts works created by artists of African and Indigenous descent on display in the City of Decatur, including the installation of “What Sonia Said,” a sculpture by Ellex Swavoni celebrating Black communities.

To read the entire resolution, visit legis.ga.gov/legislation/67552. To learn more about the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, visit beaconhillblackalliance.org.



The Praise House Comes to Decatur

Artist-activist Charmaine Minnifield introduces The Praise House Project to the Decatur Community to celebrate the African American history of the area and the legacy of Beacon Hill. The public art installation will be on view until June 2, with interior access on Fridays and Saturdays from 12-5 p.m.

The project is a community-based initiative which places multimedia, site-specific public art installations within communities to uphold the African American histories of the area. Each small wooden structure offers an immersive digital projection installation created from historic archives and a curated sound installation, inviting remembrance and community, like praise houses once before.

The Praise House Project at Beacon Hill will remember the historic community, referred to as “The Bottom”, established during Reconstruction as a freedmen’s town. Though Beacon Hill became a burgeoning Black residential and business district, populated by newly freed individuals who worked and raised their families in the area, the community was largely destroyed by the FDR Housing Act of 1937, leveling the shotgun houses, displacing generations of families to make room for public housing and city offices.

The installation acknowledges the legacy of Black resilience and achievement that continues today in spite of this far too common history of erasure for Black freedmen’s towns, the recent establishment of the African American collection at the DeKalb History Center which includes a historic Freedmen’s Bureau registry, as well as the recent removal of a nearby Confederate Obelisk, and the history of labor in the area, including that of Agnes Scott College, the artist’s alma mater.

To learn more, visit praisehouseproject.org.



Raising Money to Combat Blood Cancer

Decatur Resident Nominated Visionary of the Year By LLS

David Pruett, one of Decatur’s own, has been nominated as a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Visionary of the Year for 2024. Each year, LLS hand picks a group of entrepreneurs across the country to raise awareness and funds supporting their mission of combating blood cancer and discovering a cure. David is raising money to support the LLS’s Dare to Dream campaign.

Dare to Dream focuses on delivering tailored care, medications, and support specifically for children battling blood cancer—the most common type of cancer among children. Often, these young patients are subjected to medications designed for adults, with potential lasting, negative impacts on their health.

David is accepting charitable contribu-

tions from April 4 to June 13 and actively seeking sponsorship commitments to kick-start fundraising. Email him at pruett@ansleyre.com or call 770-595-0318 if interested in participating. Go to bit.ly/daretodreamdecatur to watch David’s campaign video.

How Heat Pumps Can Make Decatur Homes More Energy Efficient

The use of heat pumps in homes is growing due to their energy efficiency when compared to gas furnaces.

A heat pump is an air conditioner that runs both ways. In the summer it transfers heat from inside your home to the outside, cooling your residence like an AC. In the winter, it takes heat from the air outside and brings it inside to warm your dwelling like a furnace.

Heat pumps are two to four times more efficient than gas furnaces. They are electric, so they do not burn fossil fuels in basements or crawl spaces. Heat is just moved either in or out of our homes. They also avoid the “meat locker” versus the “sauna effect” by providing more comfortable temperature control and keeping your house at a constant temperature and humidity.

A heat pump for an average-sized house in Decatur can save up to 1,500 pounds of CO₂ per year or 15 tons over a 20-year lifetime. This is based on calculations using an online savings tool on Rewiring America’s, an electrification nonprofit, website.

Economics can also be a big benefit. Heat pumps are currently slightly more expensive than traditional gas or oil furnaces, but the Inflation Reduction Act gives a tax break or a rebate for installing a heat pump, which can range from \$2,000 to \$8,000, depending on income level. Then you can further save money with the increased efficiency of a heat pump.

In Decatur, there are 1,267 households that have a “severe energy burden.” Residents of these households pay more than 10% of their income toward electricity or gas compared to the national average of 3%. Much of this cost is due to poor weatherization, insulation, or sealing, which allows energy to seep out the ceiling, walls, and windows. There are at least 3,000 other dwellings in our city that are in need of upgrades based on when they were built and the building codes at the time. The findings of homes suffering “severe energy burden” in Decatur were found using a GEM tool to map the City of Decatur’s four main census tracts by Greenlink Analytics.

Two things can be done to lower the amount of energy used. The first is to weatherize. The second is to use more efficient heating and cooling. Using a heat pump can help improve energy efficiency.

When is the best time to install a heat pump? Do not wait until your furnace or your AC breaks down and plan ahead with these three steps:

1. Get an energy assessment of your home completed.
2. Weatherize and seal your home so it is efficient.
3. Take the pledge to go with a heat pump when the time is right.

What’s the pledge? It’s a commitment to plan and then act. Go to decatur100.com/pledge to learn more. Decatur 100 is an independent local nonprofit coalition with the resources to help guide you through the process. They can help you figure out if a heat pump is right for you, help you find the right vendors, answer your questions on costs, tax credits and rebates as well as savings. Stay warm and stay cool.



Tips to Reduce the Number of Mosquitos in Your Yard This Summer

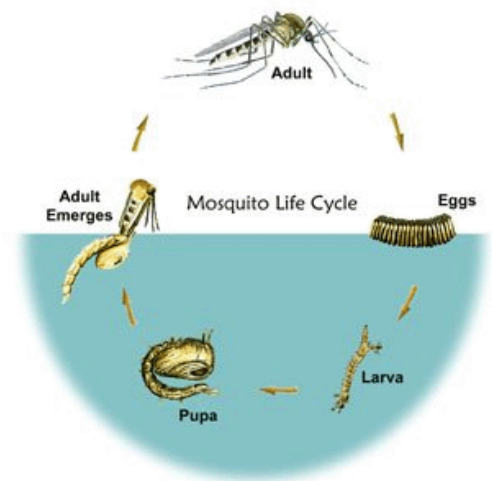
Here are some tips to help you reduce the number of mosquitos in your yard this summer. These steps can be taken today, before the start of mosquito season, and will not impact pollinators.

1. Walk your property looking for containers and other items that may collect water after it rains. Empty them and then store them away from rain or flip them over to prevent pooling of water. Mosquitos need water to breed so eliminating water is key to reducing mosquito populations.

Do not forget to clean out your gutters. These are hidden breeding areas for mosquitos. Water should run freely and not be blocked by leaf debris.

2. Put “mosquito dunks” in standing water such as bird baths and ponds. They act by killing the mosquito larvae before they can become adults, and they are safe for birds and bees.

3. Use an attractant. Traps that attract mosquitos and lure them to lay their eggs in a bucket, called “adult mosquito larva traps” online, can be an effective control method. These buckets trap the eggs so that once they hatch, the mosquitoes cannot escape to bite you or reproduce. Put these buckets out now and ask your neighbors to do the same – you will notice a significant decrease in mosquitos around your yard.



Café Alsace, a French Tradition in Decatur

Café Alsace is a French restaurant that specializes in food from the Alsace region which is located in the northeast of France bordering Germany and Switzerland. The café has been open for almost 27 years and is owned by Benedicte Cooper.

Benedicte is from Colmar, France and has been involved in the restaurant industry for several years. She was previously the manager of the St. Agnes Tea House that was on Howard St. and worked at another French restaurant that was in Decatur. She decided to open the café after the landlord of 121 East Ponce de Leon Ave. reached out to her and asked her if she would be interested in taking over a recently vacated space. When not in the front greeting guests or serving them meals, you can find Benedicte helping in the kitchen or managing the daily operations of the restaurant.

Benedicte wanted to open a restaurant with a casual feel that offers dishes for every budget. The menu is constantly evolving due to new clientele, but it features specialties from the Alsace region which has German-inspired dishes like spaetzle, sauerkraut, flatbreads, white wines from Alsace plus French classics like bœuf bourguignon, cassoulet, paté, crème brulee, and macarons.

The French native credits the quality, hard work, passion, consistency, love, and willingness to adapt and innovate for keeping her business going. She believes that human connection and personal touch are important components needed in business and life. Benedicte says that she loves Decatur because it is the closest thing to a small European town, and she is thankful for the support from the community over the years.

Go to cafealsace.net to learn more about their offerings.



Benedicte Cooper



Café Alsace in the late 1990s.

Nominations Open Now for Decatur Design Awards



In celebration of National Preservation Month in May, the Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Decatur seek to recognize and honor projects or individuals which promote excellence in preservation, design, sustainability, and advocacy. Nominations for the 2024 Decatur Design Awards are being accepted and the categories include:

- New Residential Infill
- New Commercial Construction
- Historic Preservation
- Public/Institutional Buildings
- Commercial Historic Rehabilitation
- Adaptive Use
- Residential Historic Rehabilitation
- Landscapes/Public Spaces
- Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency
- Leila Ross Wilburn Award for individuals/organizations promoting preservation and design excellence

The deadline to submit nominations is 4 p.m. on Friday, April 12. Submissions can be dropped off at the Leveritt Public Works Building; mailed to Decatur Public Works at 2635 Talley St., to the attention of Aileen de la Torre; or emailed (preferred) to aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com with the subject line "2024 Decatur Design Awards." Projects submitted must have been permitted and completed within the last five years and must be located in Decatur.

The Decatur Historic Preservation Commission connects residents and visitors to history and advocates for quality design in all projects. They work to preserve historic structures and assure that new construction is worthy of future preservation. Go to decaturga.com/design-awards or contact Aileen at aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com for application requirements and the nomination forms.

Financial Sustainability Strategy

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to work with 110% Inc to evaluate the results of a detailed financial analysis of its FY22-23 expenses and revenues to set new goals for strengthening the department's financial future. Visit decaturga.com/parksrec to follow updates on their project deliverables as they become available.

In the March edition of the Focus, some examples of draft service categories were shared. The categories were developed with Parks and Recreation staff members as part of the financial sustainability project. Here is the complete list (activities listed are examples; list is not comprehensive):

	Service Categories
Public benefit (common good)	Open Access Activities - Self-directed activity in parks, recreation facilities, and open space that does not include supervision or oversight by staff and/or volunteers.
	Human Services - Services that focus on remediation of life challenges and maintaining connection to community by providing improved access to recreation, socialization, and leisure opportunities.
	Community Events - Large-scale events that appeal to a broad portion of the community regardless of age, ability/skill, family composition, etc. These events are highly intensive and typically occur on an annual basis.
Private or Individual benefit	Drop-in Activities - Monitored access providing for self-directed activity without direct instruction. Facility oversight is provided by staff and/or volunteers and registration is not required.
	Special Events - Events designed for a target market, market niche, specific interest, or that are facility based.
	Education and Enrichment Activities - Classes, clinics, workshops, and other led and or instructed activities designed to develop and/or enhance life skills, gain a new physical skill, and promote socialization and self-sufficiency through education or experiential learning.
	Advanced Activities - Activities that are instructor-led and/or require oversight by staff in which the primary intent is to further develop an established skill and/or participate in a competitive environment.
	Private/Semi-Private Activities - Activities offered in a private setting or with limited/controlled access to meet the unique needs, interests and/or skill sets of an individual or small groups.
	Rentals - Reserved spaces, fields, and facilities for exclusive use by an individual or group.
	Resale - Consumable goods and non-consumable goods and services available for purchase.

SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES

Mark your calendar for upcoming events at the Decatur Recreation Center:

Spring Fling: April 10, 11 a.m. RSVP by April 5.

Put on your dancing shoes and experience a garden-themed celebration and enjoy the spring-inspired ambiance.

Cinco de Mayo: May 8, 11 a.m. RSVP by May 3.

Enjoy crafts, games, a taco bar, and dance to festive music.

INFORMATION SESSIONS AT THE DECATUR RECREATION CENTER

When is the Best Age to Start your Social Security Benefits?

Thursday, April 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Explore retirement planning in a comprehensive course designed for those retiring in the next 15 years. Topics cover benefit calculations, COLAs, spousal benefits, survivor benefits, taxation, and smart retirement strategies. Led by Robert Cox, a retirement strategies specialist and certified financial fiduciary.

Senior Health & Fitness Fair

Wednesday, May 29, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join Parks and Recreation for National Senior Health and Fitness Day. This event will focus on how seniors can enhance their health through various physical activities, emphasizing the importance of nutrition and exercise for preventing illness.

EVENTS

Kids Night

April 19, 6:30-9 p.m.

Join us at Ebster Recreation Center for kids night, designed for grades 3-5. There will be games, art, and mini competitions.

Game Night

April 26, 6:30-9 p.m.

Ebster Recreation Center is hosting a game night for middle schoolers filled with a variety of games, including sports, video games, board games, card games, and group activities. There will be pizza, popcorn, and, of course, games!

Parents Night Out

April 19, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Enjoy a kid-free night out with the help of Parks and Recreation. While you enjoy dinner, a movie, or a peaceful evening at home, they will keep your kids aged 5-12 entertained with games along with indoor and outdoor activities at Oakhurst Recreation Center. Dinner and snacks are included, with discounts available for siblings.



CYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that in December 2021, the League of American Bicyclists, a national cycling organization, declared Decatur the most bike-friendly city in Georgia? Decatur is the sole silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community in the state and recent Redfin analysis also crowned Decatur as the #1 most bikeable city in Georgia.

As we pedal through this biking season, don't miss out on cycling opportunities from March to November. Join us for Bikes & Brews, Fridays at 6:30 p.m. in front of Guild+Journeyman, 115 Clairemont Ave., for a 6-mile bike ride, followed by a refreshing drink from one of our local breweries. Our Saturday Ride, starting at 10 a.m. outside Guild+Journeyman, is tailored for riders of all ages and those returning to cycling. These group rides take place every first and third Friday and Saturday of the month until November. Helmets are essential for an enjoyable cycling experience.

Mark your calendars for special biking events coming up in May, celebrating Bike Month.

May 1: Learn to Ride a Bike Day - Decatur Parks and Recreation will host two learn-to-ride workshops at Legacy Park. Stay tuned for more information closer to the date.

May 8: National Bike to School Day

May 11-19: National Bike Week

May 17: Bike to Work Day

May 19: Family Ride - Embark on a family-friendly bike ride starting from Harmony Park in Oakhurst.



Pool Season is just around the corner!

Season pool passes will be available starting in April from the Glenlake Tennis Center. Check out the aquatic section in our April-June Playbook, decaturga.com/playbook, for more information.



Facility Updates

The McKoy Dugout Renovation project is complete. The project includes renovations to the first base dugout, the removal of the chain link fence behind home plate, and the addition of netting along with various concrete enhancements to the facility. The first base dugout now features a new storage room, changing area, new steps, rails, drainage system, and roofing. These upgraded dugouts will cater to Decatur Parks and Recreation adult softball and Decatur High School baseball needs.

The Ebster Multi-Use Field is temporarily closing for several months starting in April for renovations. Located at Ebster Park in Decatur, the field will be converted from natural grass to synthetic turf. Additionally, a state-of-the-art LED athletic field lighting system is being installed to facilitate evening activities throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons. The revamped field will be lined for various sports.

Be on the lookout for community input meetings regarding the Ebster Teen Outdoor Recreation Area. The City of Decatur was awarded a \$2.08 million grant from Governor Kemp's Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities program. The funding will propel Decatur Parks and Recreation's vision to transform the youth and teen activity zone at Ebster Park, creating new recreational opportunities. The proposed updates include restroom facilities, improved accessibility through open ramps, enhanced lighting, and essential maintenance improvements. These upgrades will be driven by community input to create a more vibrant and inclusive park space for the entire community.

Scan the QR code to see the latest Playbook, and dozens of programs for active children, youth, adults, and seniors.





Meeting Preview

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.
Community Bandstand on the Square

Join in celebrating the City of Decatur's awesome volunteers. Sponsored by the Decatur Business Association, Decatur Tourism Bureau and Decatur Arts Alliance.

Furnish with Love Spring Pop-Up Sale

508 E. Howard Ave.
Friday, April 19, 9 a.m-3 p.m.
Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m-3p.m.
Sunday, April 21, 9 a.m-3 p.m.

Furnish with Love's annual spring pop-up sale returns April 19-21. Shop for generously donated home decor, gifts and furniture. There will also be designer samples for sale at discounted prices. Profits will support the group's mission to help families transition out of homelessness. To learn more, visit furnish-withlove.org.



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beaconhillblackalliance.org

JOIN THE MOVEMENT. JOIN BEACON HILL

BLACK ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNOUNCING: NEW GENERAL BODY MEETING DATE
Fourth Wednesday every month, Lower Level Ebster Rec, 7pm

Spring Music Classes

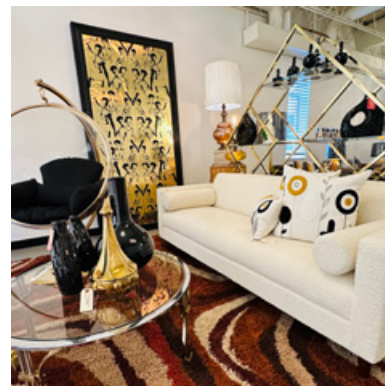
Registration for spring music classes at Music Together of Decatur is underway. Music Together of Decatur offers mixed-age music classes, for children from birth through age 4—and their caregivers. Their music includes not only the typical Western tonalities and rhythms, but also a rich variety of tonalities, meters, and genres, always featuring songs with words, songs without words, and songs in different languages that help young children be exposed to different sounds. Because Music Together of Decatur has nine different music collections, families can attend for three years and never repeat the same collection.



Parents are still able to register for spring classes at musictogetherofdecatur.com and tuition will be automatically prorated. They offer unlimited class makeups as needed while enrolled. Each semester's tuition includes take-home materials — a songbook and access to all the songs played in class.

Vintage Home Store Opens in Downtown Decatur

T.E. Wilcox Home is now open in downtown Decatur and offers new and vintage-inspired goods to accentuate your home. The shop offers vintage pieces ranging from midcentury modern to art deco and boho chic. The 1,800 sq ft. boutique is located at 131 E. Trinity Pl. Parking is available behind the building.



StretchLab opens in Decatur

StretchLab, a one-on-one assisted stretch studio, is coming to Decatur April 16. They are located at 147 Clairemont Ave., and work with clients of all ages to achieve different stretch goals. Some clients come to improve their sports performance, range of motion, and reduce injury, while others seek to reduce pain, improve posture, and gain mobility. They are currently offering founding memberships for a limited time. Email decatur@stretchlab.com or call 678-831-4949 to learn more about memberships.



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WEEKLY MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCES FOR YOU & YOUR BABY
AT OLIVE AND PINE IN AVONDALE ESTATES



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Celebrate Earth Day on Decatur Square

**Saturday, April 20
11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

The community is invited to Decatur's Earth Day celebration on the Decatur Square. The annual event will feature music, informational booths, speakers and educational opportunities for kids.

Hosted by the City of Decatur, the Environmental Sustainability Board and the Parks and Recreation Department, this is an opportunity to learn more about how Decatur is implementing a variety of actions to meet its sustainability goals.



Spring Celebration at Glenn Creek

Saturday, April 27, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
104 Fairview Ave.

Games, food, music, and a kid's scavenger hunt are just some of the annual spring events held in support of the Glenn Creek Nature Preserve. The community is invited to bring a chair and enjoy this two-acre bio reserve of native Piedmont Habitat owned by the City and maintained by Decatur Heights, Glendale Estates and Sycamore Station neighbors.



OAKHURST JAZZ NIGHTS

Oakhurst Jazz Nights are back. The free outdoor jazz concerts will be held Thursdays in April, 7-9 p.m. on the Solarium lawn located at 321 W Hill St.

- **April 4 - Gwen Hughes** will feature swing jazz music.
- **April 11 - Diane Durrett** performs her blues originals with Soul Suga.
- **April 18 - Matthew Wauchope** has his trio with a little New Orleans jazz in the mix.
- **April 25 - The Bonaventure Quartet** with Amy Pike will be performing.

Oakhurst Jazz Nights has been a Decatur tradition for 20 years and is a picnic style concert with blankets or low chairs (no high back chairs). This is a rain or shine event as attendees move inside the Solarium if the weather changes. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own dining treats or purchase food and drinks to-go from local businesses in the Oakhurst Village. Tables with four chairs can be rented for \$25; email concerts@oakhurstjazznights.com for table reservations.

This event series is sponsored by: Carter and Associate Realtors; Arlene Dean Home Builder; Oakhurst Realty Partners; Double Dome Digital Marketing; City of Decatur Development Authorities; and The Solarium - Community Center of South Decatur.

Go to oakhurstjazznights.com to learn more.

Ovations Concert Series

An Afternoon of Brazilian Music

Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m. • 308 Clairemont Ave.

Join mezzo-soprano Poliana Alves and pianist Thiago de Freitas for an afternoon of Brazilian music. This concert is part of First Baptist Church of Decatur (FBCD)'s Ovations Concert Series and is free to attend. The event will take place in the FBCD sanctuary.



Agnes Scott Offers Adult Athletics Opportunities

Agnes Scott Athletics is hosting summer camps in partnership with the Atlanta Youth Sport Association. Contact ascathletics@agnesscott.edu or check ascscotties.com for updates and registration information.

Agnes Scott Athletics is also partnering with the Atlanta Sport and Social Club to bring adult recreation to Decatur. The Atlanta Sport and Social Club's first Decatur-based league will start this spring. Visit atlantasportandsocialclub.com for more information and instructions on how to register as a team or an individual.

Decatur Civic Chorus 75th Spring Concert

Join the Decatur Civic Chorus for its annual spring concert on Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m. in the main sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Decatur. This year marks 75 years of music for the Decatur Civic Chorus. This year's concert includes several songs from their music library as well as two new songs; "Turn Your Phone Off" and "Duct Tape." Special guests expected include Mary Anne Sharp, Director Emeritus of the Decatur Civic Chorus and WWII Veteran Tom Mundy. The concert is free and open to the public.



Decatur Arts Festival & Inaugural Decatur Children's Book Festival

Friday-Sunday, May 3-5 • Decatur Square, 101 E. Court Square

Kick off the Decatur Arts Festival weekend on May 3 with ArtWalk, a single-night, city-wide art experience. Enjoy music on the square while you stroll between ArtSpots, local businesses hosting free art receptions with light refreshments. The festival features 200 performances of various artistic disciplines, 130 artist booths, the Fine Arts Exhibition at the Decatur Library, and more. There is also a Kids' Fest from 10a.m.-2p.m. on Saturday. The Decatur Arts Festival is free to attend. Visit decaturartsfestival.com for more information.

In addition to the arts festival, the Decatur Children's Book Festival, presented by Little Shop of Stories, is also taking place. This weekend event has several activities including a chance to meet youth authors including Kate DiCamillo and illustrators and opportunities to find a new favorite series for young readers. Visit decaturchildrensbookfest.org for more information.



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT WOODLANDS GARDEN

Woodlands Garden invites the community to celebrate Earth Day all week long. Activities include a forest bathing walk, watercolor class, a garden tour led by staff, volunteer projects, a foraging walk, and nature tot walk from April 20-27. Go to woodlandsgarden.org to register or learn more. Extra Earth Day points if you can locate the native azalea pictured here in bloom when you visit.

- April 20: Forest Bathing Walk
- April 21: Watercolor Workshop (spotlight on native azalea)
- April 22: Lunchtime Garden Tour led by staff
- April 24: Volunteer Project
- April 26: Nature Tot Walk
- April 27: Volunteer Project and Foraging Walk
- April 27-28: City Nature Challenge

Events Calendar

APRIL

- 1 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.
- 4-5 Agnes Scott Writers Festival**, Winter Theater (page 12)
- 7 Ovation Concert Series** (page 10)
- 11 Agnes Scott Student Film Festival**, Gaines Chapel (page 12)
- 15 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.
- 19-21 Furnish with Love Pop-up Sale**, 508 E. Howard Ave. (page 8)

- 23 DBA Meeting**, Decatur Square (page 8)
- 27 Spring Celebration at Glenn Creek**, 104 Fairview Ave. (page 10)

MAY

- 3-5 Decatur Arts Festival**, Decatur Square (page 11)
- 5 Decatur Civic Chorus Concert** (page 11)
- 6 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.
- 20 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.

Agnes Scott Launches Student-Led Film Festival

Thursday, April 11 at 8 p.m., Gaines Chapel

Agnes Scott College invites the community to its first student-led film festival hosted by Student Film Productions (SFP), in association with the Center for Writing and Speaking and the Center for Digital and Visual Literacy. This free event is open to the public. It will be held in Gaines Chapel, located in Presser Hall, and begins at 8 p.m. Make sure to arrive early for the red carpet event and grab yourself a good seat in the auditorium.

The festival features short films submitted by students and prizes—generously donated by local businesses—will be given to submission winners after the showings. These winners will be determined prior to the event by a panel of faculty and staff judges, and there will be multiple categories and qualifications for these awards. The awards are meant to highlight and recognize the collaborative process of filmmaking, as well as the variety of styles that can be enjoyed by audiences. Some of the films cover heavier or mature topics that may not be appropriate for children and minors.

Agnes Scott College Writers' Festival

April 4-5, Winter Theater in the Dana Fine Arts Building

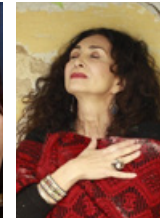
The annual Agnes Scott College Writers' Festival returns April 1-7, with the main events happening April 4-5. Readings will be held in the Winter Theater located in the Dana Fine Arts Building and are free and open to the public.

Beth Ann Fennelly reading • April 4 at 4 p.m.

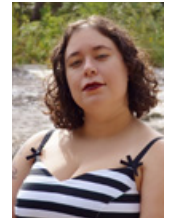
Fennelly served as Poet Laureate of Mississippi from 2016-2021 and has published three poetry books: *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*; and three books of prose.



Fennelly



Wolpé



Urieta

Sholeh Wolpé reading

April 4 at 8 p.m.

Wolpé has published collections of poetry, translations, and anthologies, as well as several plays. Her most recent book is *Abacus of Loss: A Memoir in Verse*.

Leticia Urieta reading • April 5 at 2 p.m.

In addition to her Agnes Scott College BA in English/Creative Writing, Urieta holds an MFA in Fiction writing from Texas State University.

The Writers' Festival started in 1972 and is considered the longest continuous literary event in Georgia. Visit agnesscott.edu/writersfestival for more information.

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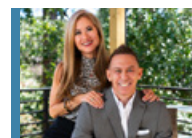


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Decatur Rotary Club Hosts DeKalb County PAGE STAR Event

Decatur Rotary Club along with PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) recognized top students and teachers of DeKalb County by hosting the STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) awards in February. The STAR program honors Georgia's highest-achieving high school seniors and the teachers most instrumental in their academic development. City Manager Andrea Arnold, CSD Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Dekalb County Schools Superintendent Dr. Devon Horton and several school board members from Decatur and DeKalb were present to celebrate the academic success of students in the area.



Above: Gordon Lichtstein was named Decatur High School's 2024 Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) student. Gordon chose Henry Tsay, a DHS physics teacher, as his STAR teacher. Gordon was among 30 high school seniors recognized at the Rotary Club of Decatur's annual 2024 STAR event. Pictured (from left): Principal Daune Sprull, Gordon Lichtstein, Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, and Henry Tsay.



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DHS Student Wins Swim State Championship

Isaiah Lewis is Decatur's newest Swim State champion. Isaiah is a sophomore swimmer at DHS and he is the first to earn a Swim State title in the last five years. Isaiah entered the state meet as the top swimmer in the 4A-5A classification and finished first in the Boys' 50-meter freestyle with a time of 21.21 seconds. His swim time helped solidify his position as the fastest 50-freestyler in Classifications 4A and 5A.



From left: Kim Buckley, Molly Randall, Isaiah Lewis, and Elizabeth Lewis



DHS boys' and girls' basketball teams participated in the Region 4-5A Tournament. The Boys' Varsity team won the championship and advanced to the state playoffs. The Varsity Girls team came in second after defeating the #2-seeded Chamblee in the semi-finals.



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A circular graphic with silhouettes of a family (two adults and two children) in the center. Below the silhouettes is the text "Decatur Parents Network" and the website "WWW.DECATURPARENTS.NET". A QR code is located below the website, with a "SCAN ME" button underneath it. The background features faint outlines of faces.

DPI THIS AD WAS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY DECATUR PREVENTION INITIATIVE.

DHS Students Advocate for Clean Energy

In January, eight Decatur High School students joined local college students to ask the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) to require Georgia Power to provide electricity powered by clean, renewable energy. They attended hearings over Georgia Power's surprise, off cycle energy sourcing request.

Together with students from local colleges, these young climate activists urged the Georgia Public Service Commissioners to require Georgia Power to meet additional energy demands in our state with renewable energy resources: more large-scale and rooftop solar, wind energy and programs that incentivize customers to use less power. Go to riseupforcleanenergy.com to read their public comments from the PSC meeting and learn ways you can support the students' efforts.



DHS Fencing Team Competes



The Decatur High School fencing club sent men's and women's teams to the Georgia High School Fencing League Team Championships. The event was the men's team's second appearance and the debut of the women's team at the championships.

Spelling Bee Champ



Congratulations to Nuha Muneer, Beacon Hill Middle School's 2023 Spelling Bee Champion, who also won second place in the Junior Beta State Convention. She will compete at the organization's national convention in June. Pictured (from left) Board: Chair James Herndon, Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Nuha Muneer, Board Vice Chair Dr. Carmen Sulton, and Board Members Jana Johnson-Davis and Tacey Anderson.

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