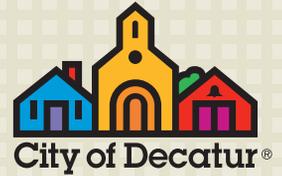


# City of Decatur FOCUS



DECEMBER 2022  
Volume 33 • Number 5

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

## City of Decatur Celebrates Crossing Guards

**O**n November 9, City of Decatur hosted a brunch, catered by culinary students from the Decatur High Career Academy, to celebrate our crossing guards in conjunction with Crossing Guard Appreciation Week, November 7-11. At the event, Active Living and Decatur Police presented each guard with a certificate and gift bag to demonstrate the City's gratitude to these important community helpers. Decatur crossing guards are a vital component of Decatur's Safe Routes to School program, protecting kids and citizens across our city whether rain, shine, heat or freezing temperatures.

The highlight of the event came when the Georgia Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator Marielena Gutiérrez announced that Decatur Crossing Guard Cindy Bryan had been selected as Crossing Guard of the Year for the Metro Atlanta Region.

Decatur employs 40 crossing guards; several have served the Decatur community for many years, including Nancy Copeland, Angela Gresham and Linda McGee (5 years), Gloria Rose (6 years), Sibyl Williams (10 years), Desiree Hall, Eula Malone & Tracy Washington (14 years), Earnestine Brooks (15 years), and Joyce Washington (17 years).



GA Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator Marielena Gutiérrez and GDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Engineer Ron Knezevich present crossing guard Cindy Bryan with her award



Decatur's crossing guards. On floor: Sgt. Nembheard and Jennifer Ross. Seated: Sylvia Walker, Linda Middlebrooks, Eula Malone, Andrea Thomason, Earnestine Brooks, Betsy Jones, Gloria Rose, Victorious Sanders, Carla Horton, Annie Chisom, Patricia Ogletree, Carolyn Watson, and Martha Slaughter. Standing: Linda McGee, Leslie Brooks, Caro-

lyn Shorter, Sherrolyn Battle, Sibyl Williams, Deputy Chief Matics, Karen Law, Constance Allen, Chief Richards, Joyce Washington, Joe Safford, Tracy Washington, Angela Gresham, Ryan White, Cindy Bryan, Shirley Watkins, Heloise Kaunan, Desiree Hall, Wezlynn Davis, Angela Pointer, Charlene Germany, Etta Shaffer, Angela Brown, and Marvin Kirk.

# Out-of-Town House Check

Going out of town or leaving your house for a few days? Request an out-of-town house check and the Decatur Police Department will look in on your house while you are away. To sign up for this service fill out the Out of Town House Check form in the city's SeeClickFix system or call the police department at 404-373-6551.

To aid the department in its scheduling processes, do not enter your information any earlier than seven days prior to your departure. If by chance you change your mind and do not leave town, be sure to let them know that as well.

To complete this form online, visit [decaturga.com/publicworks/page/see-click-fix](http://decaturga.com/publicworks/page/see-click-fix). Scroll down and click on the Out of Town House Check Request tab. Enter your address in the search bar on the map, confirm location, then complete the form by answering the questions and hitting submit. Once done, you will receive an auto-generated confirmation email from the SeeClickFix system. You may also download the SeeClickFix smartphone app to make your request. Look for MyDecaturGA in your app store.

Three easy ways to request an out-of-town house check:

- Click on the SeeClickFix page and scroll down to the REPORT and ISSUES tabs.
- Download the SeeClickFix app on your smart phone. Look for MyDecaturGA in your app store.
- Call the police non-emergency number, 404-373-6551.

# Have a Story You Would Like to Share?

The Decatur Focus is the official newsletter of the City of Decatur and publishes announcements and information about the city, including city services, downtown development, school news, business news, and news about individual residents and neighborhood associations. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners, and the school system.

Contributions to the Focus can be submitted by using the online submission form on Decatur's official website [decaturga.com/focus](http://decaturga.com/focus). 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. The Decatur Focus also accepts advertising. For information about ad rates call 404-371-8386.

The deadline for content/advertisements is the first day of the month preceding publication (i.e., the deadline for the December issue is November 1). The exception is the combined issues, January/February and July/August, for which the deadlines are December 10 and June 10, respectively.

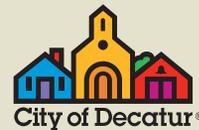
The Decatur Focus is supported by the City of Decatur, the Decatur Business Association, and the Decatur Downtown Development Authority. It is published 10 times per year and mailed to every household, business, and professional license-holder in the city. An online version of the Focus is uploaded to the website the first week of each month, and additional paper copies can be picked up at City Hall, the Visitors Center, and at the local recreation centers (Decatur Rec, Ebster, and Oakhurst).

Contact: Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031; phone 404-371-8386; fax 404-371-1593; email [decaturfocus@decaturga.com](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com).

## Focus Combined for January/February

City of Decatur will publish a combined January/February issue of the Focus, scheduled to arrive in mailboxes during the second week of January.

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



### DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

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- Tony Powers.....Mayor Pro Tem
- George Dusenbury.....Commissioner
- Lesa Mayer.....Commissioner
- Kelly Walsh.....Commissioner



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Design and layout: [Lampe-Farley.com](http://Lampe-Farley.com)

# Missing Middle Zoning Updates

While Missing Middle may be a new and unfamiliar term for some Decatur residents, the housing type that it represents is prevalent in Decatur's existing neighborhoods. From the outside, these multi-family structures are comparable or compatible in size to single-family homes yet they offer a place in our neighborhoods for middle income and workforce individuals and families who don't qualify for mortgages that start well above their pay range.

For many residents, single-family homes are impractical and/or unaffordable. City of Decatur's proposal to re-allow duplex, triplex, and quad housing types supports a more inclusive community. Decatur needs more housing that is tailored to accommodate different stages of life — recent graduates, young professionals, working couples building careers, growing families, or those divorced or retired.

The City of Decatur recently held two public hearings on October 11 and October 17 to present the proposed zoning to re-allow missing middle housing types in Decatur. Public input is an important step that informs the final zoning proposals. The City Commission also hosted a missing middle work session on December 5. Video recordings of the meetings and associated links can be accessed on the City of Decatur website at [decaturga.com/affordablehousing](https://decaturga.com/affordablehousing).

Prior to the hearings, signs were placed throughout Decatur in compliance with state law. The City Commission will vote on the final recommended zoning proposals to re-allow duplex, triplex and quadplex construction and home conversions on January 17 and February 6, 2023.



**WHY SO MANY SIGNS?**  
Scan the code to find out.

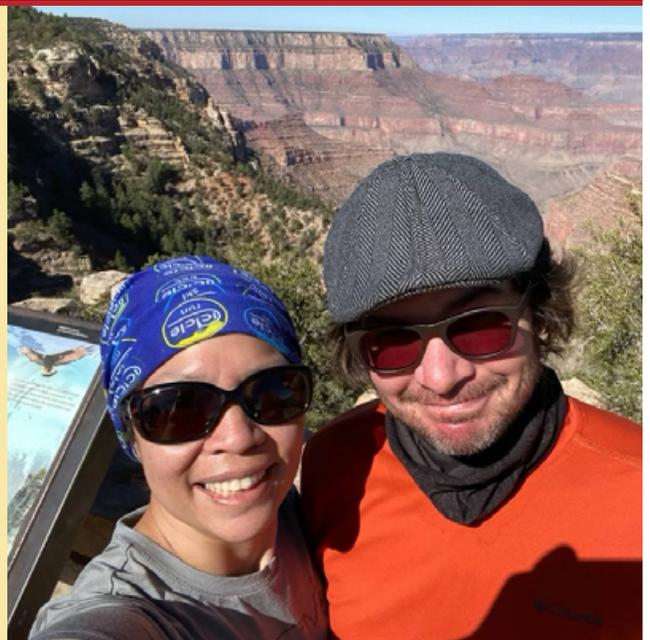


## WALK AND ROLL SUPERSTARS

Decatur residents Viranuj Sueblinvong and Chris Jackson are the epitome of Walk & Roll Superstars. Their motto, "it's the journey, not the destination" is built into every aspect of their lives, walking and rolling across Decatur and the US.

Viranuj is a tremendous hiker whose goal is to summit the highest point in all 50 states. So far, she has completed this feat in 35 states, with her most recent ascent being Mount Frissell in Connecticut. Chris is a dedicated cyclist who has completed numerous long rides, including the recent Trans North Georgia 2022. During this 350-mile mountain biking route on trails, "forest roads," and paved roads, Chris ran into other Decatur residents.

When not traversing the country, you may see Viranuj and Chris walking and biking around Decatur to various local destinations. They enjoy our city's built environment, which lends itself to alternative forms of transportation. Not taking the car is always a good option to consider!



## 2022 DECATUR 101 GRADUATES



Congratulations to the 2022 Decatur 101 Class - the first group to meet in person since prior to COVID-19. The next class will be offered August-October with a break for CSD fall break. To join the 2023 class, reach out to Shirley Baylis, [shirley.baylis@decaturga.com](mailto:shirley.baylis@decaturga.com)

## HOLIDAY SANITATION SCHEDULE REMINDER

### Christmas Holidays

#### Sunday, December 25

Observed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26

- Regular services for Thursday, Dec. 22 will be Wednesday, Dec. 21
- Regular services for Friday, Dec. 23 will be Thursday, Dec. 22
- Regular services for Monday, Dec. 26 will be Tuesday, Dec. 27
- Regular services for Tuesday, Dec. 27 will be Wednesday, Dec. 28

There are no changes to Thursday, Dec. 29 and Friday, Dec. 30

### New Year's Day 2023

#### Sunday, January 1

Observed Monday, January 2

- Regular services for Monday, Jan. 2 will be Tuesday, Jan. 3
- Regular services for Tuesday, Jan. 3 will be Wednesday, Jan. 4

There are no changes to Thursday, Jan. 5 and Friday, Jan. 6

## RECYCLING TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Follow these tips for a more sustainable holiday season:

- Drop Christmas trees at Legacy Park Dec. 26-Jan.7 to be made into mulch for use in our city parks and greenspaces. Trees may also be placed at the curb for collection by the City's sanitation department, but these trees will be sent to the Dekalb County landfill and converted to mulch only as capacity allows.
- Wrapping paper – both regular and glossy – can be recycled at the curb unless it has non-paper additives like metallic flakes, foil, glitter, or plastic. Paper with these additives should be disposed of with your household trash. Please ensure all ribbons, bows, and other non-paper items are removed from wrapping paper before placing it in your commingled bin.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

The City of Decatur is wrapping up Neighborhood Cleanup Days this month for the streets listed below, to allow residents to dispose of bulky materials that would not normally be placed in pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) bags. Please read the instructions carefully and note the dates specified for each street. Contact Sean Woodson at sean.woodson@decaturga.com or 404-377-5571 if you have questions.

**INSTRUCTIONS** All items to be collected should be placed at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m.

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** yard trimmings, building materials (that are not from the work of private contractors), tires, furniture, appliances (not containing Freon), trash that would not normally be placed in PAYT bags

**WE WILL NOT COLLECT:** liquids, dirt, bricks, blocks, stone, rocks, or concrete, motor vehicle batteries or parts

### WESTCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD December 3

Westchester Drive	Kathryn Avenue
Dogwood Way	North Parkwood Drive
Maediris Drive	Coventry Drive
Harold Byrd Drive	(North Parkwood to
Clairemont Avenue	Scott Boulevard)
(900 to 1100 block)	Merrill Avenue
Ridley Circle	Pope Circle
Mockingbird Lane	Harold Byrd Lane South
Chelsea Drive	Walden Square Way

### LENOX PLACE December 10

Greenwood Circle	Hampshire Avenue
West Howard (300 to 900 Block)	Lansdowne Avenue
Patillo Way	Melrose Avenue
Eastlake Drive (2300 Block)	Chief Matthews Drive
Atlanta Avenue	East Parkwood Road
Hibernia Avenue	West Parkwood Road
Braeburn Lane	Upland Road
Ridley Lane	Wimberly Court
Adair Street	Parkwood Lane
Cottonwood Place	Pinetree Drive
Emerson Avenue	Scott Boulevard
West Ponce de Leon Avenue	(100 to 700 block)
(600 to 900 block)	Swanton Hill Subdivision
Drexel Avenue	Charter Square
Devonshire Avenue	

### MAK NEIGHBORHOOD December 17

Ansley Street	West College Avenue
Greenwood Avenue	(100 to 700 block)
Greenwood Place	West Dougherty Street
Evans Drive	West Davis Street
Kings Highway	West Hancock Street
Adams Street (100 to 500 block)	East Hancock Street
South McDonough Street (100 to 500 block)	East Davis Street
	College Place

## Decatur MLK Jr. Service Project is Back for 2023

For nearly 20 years, the Decatur MLK Jr. Service Project has helped our city's seniors stay in their homes by providing home repairs and safety improvements. Nearly 100% community powered, the projects are managed by an all-volunteer team that provides the care and energy to make repairs to homes and touch lives. They sort and manage tools, deliver food, rake leaves, drive trucks, haul trash and do whatever is needed to serve the families in 20-30 homes each year.

There are many opportunities to participate;

- House captains assure that volunteers have the guidance they need and that the homeowner is left with a safer, healthier, more livable home.
- Food captains assure that hundreds of volunteers are fed.
- Skilled craftspeople focus on more technical jobs.
- Laboring volunteers help make the whole project happen.

The next service project takes place January 14-16, 2023, so whether you're a veteran or a newbie, visit [mlkserviceproject.com](http://mlkserviceproject.com) to register and volunteer to serve our community. Financial contributions can be made by visiting the website or emailing [sponsor@mlkserviceproject.com](mailto:sponsor@mlkserviceproject.com).



## Winter Fire Facts from Decatur Fire

Each year, U.S. fire departments respond to thousands of home fires during the holiday season. While candles are the leading cause of home fires (45%), nearly 20 each day or 7,500 each year, Christmas trees, decorations, and holiday cooking all contribute to some staggering statistics. Some tips to avoid being a victim of holiday home fires include:

- **Christmas trees** – assure that the electrical distribution and/or lighting equipment is functioning properly, place your tree away from heat sources such as candles or heating equipment, keep your tree watered so needles don't dry out and become a fire hazard.
- **Holiday decorations** – set decorations away from open flames or heating equipment.
- **Candles** – don't place candles near flammable items such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations.
- **Cooking** - Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Do not leave decorations close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

Decatur Fire wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

## Decatur Fire Chats

Do you have a church group, neighborhood organization, or any other group that has occasional meetings? Decatur Fire offers important information about fire safety, health and wellness, emergency medical response, or any number of issues. They can address specific topics or offer more general conversation. Contact Fire Captain Gary Menard, [gary.menard@decaturga.com](mailto:gary.menard@decaturga.com) and find time to get together.

## When Strokes Strike, Don't Delay, Make the Call

When a Decatur resident suffered from a stroke earlier this year, the quick reaction of his wife saved his life. Sharing their experience is an important way to help others identify the signs and make the right decisions, quickly. A stroke victim will likely be unable to make proper decisions, so it's important to know how to help.

**Recognize the warning signs.** Initially her husband seemed to have dizziness and lack of balance. His symptoms quickly worsened — trouble speaking, problems with movement, weakness, numbness and paralysis on the left side of his body.

**Call 911 immediately.** Every second counts. Decatur EMS at Fire Station #1 responded within minutes. Once they reached the hospital emergency department, a swarm of doctors and nurses worked quickly to get him to surgery.

From the time of the stroke until surgery was complete was less than four hours. Had it not been for immediate medical intervention, the outcome could have been quite different. Due to these quick decisions, her husband was released from ICU about 55 hours after arriving at the hospital and has made a 100% recovery.

Anyone can experience a stroke, but several factors can put you at greater risk, including smoking, atrial fibrillation, hypertension, high cholesterol, lack of physical activity, previous history of stroke or TIA, old age, excessive alcohol consumption. Controlling these factors, diet changes, and an exercise program go a long way to preventing stroke. As always, consult your doctor before making changes. Questions? Reach out to Decatur Fire Captain Gary Menard, [gary.menard@decaturga.com](mailto:gary.menard@decaturga.com).



## STROKE FYI FROM DECATUR FIRE

Strokes can be caused by blockages (ischemic) or bleeding (hemorrhagic); the symptoms can present differently but both require immediate treatment. A stroke can be likened to a heart attack of the brain, where compromised blood flow causes tissues to die. When blood is not reaching portions of the brain, the result is permanent damage. Seek immediate emergency medical care if you experience any of these warning signs.

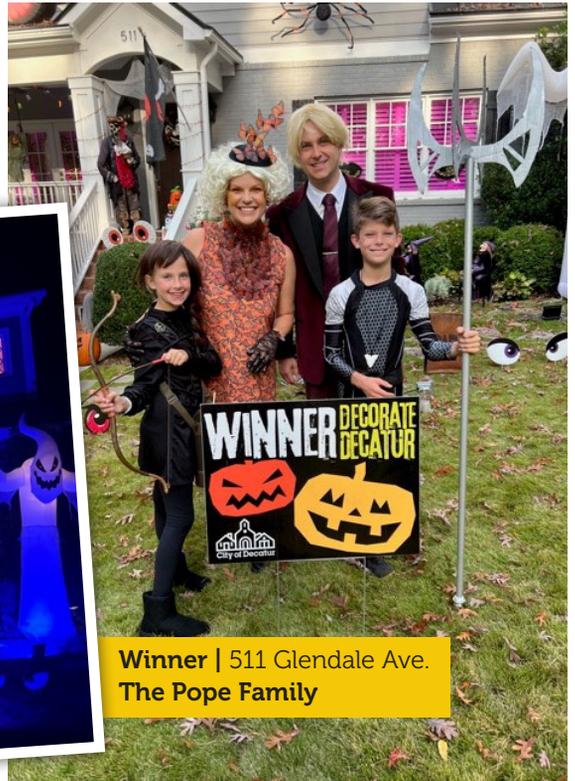
- Numbness or weakness on one side of the body or face.
- Speech alterations.
- Terrible headache, often accompanied by neck stiffness
- Trouble walking or loss of coordination.
- Altered mental status

# 2022 Decorate Decatur Halloween Winners

*Come in . . . if you dare. There's no way to prepare  
For the spooks, ghouls and ghosts that this house seems to host  
As the chills hit your spine and the smile leaves your face  
Don't get too close, you'll be frozen in place  
Just ask the skeletons, bound above to the fans  
Or the "guests" in the garage (all you see are the hands!)  
All eyes are on you, but there's so much to see  
Take care and be wary — there's no way to break free!*



Outstanding Mention, 145 Feld Ave.



Winner | 511 Glendale Ave.  
The Pope Family



**WILLIAMS  
TEUSINK**

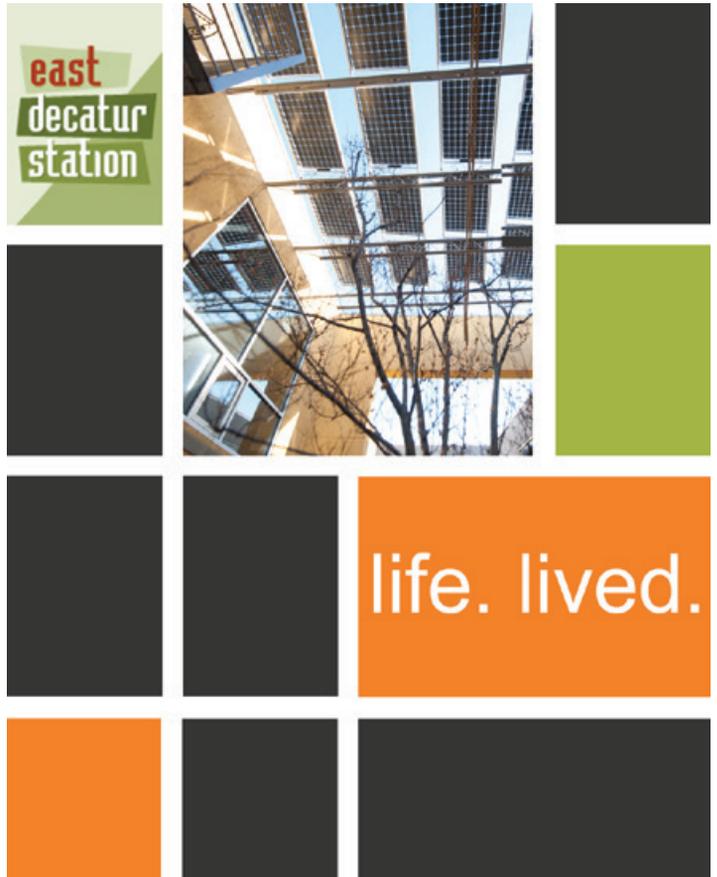
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DECATUR, GEORGIA 30030

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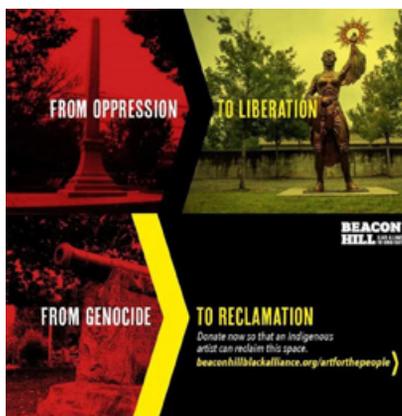
404.377.3095

627 East College Ave. Decatur. GA

## Contribute to Art for the People and Support Indigenous Art

The Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights is closing out 2022 with its final fundraising campaign to support Art for the People, a project of the Decolonize Decatur Committee. Your contribution will help commission an Indigenous artist's work that will serve as a response to the genocide cannon from the Creek Indian Wars of 1836 recently removed from Decatur Square. The previous project commissioned What Sonia Said, a sculpture created by Ellex Swavoni that resides in the Beacon Hill community as a response to the Lost Cause confederate monument removal. What Sonia Said was inspired by the poem "Catch the Fire" written by Sonia Sanchez.

*Where is your fire? I say where is your fire?  
 Can't you smell it coming out of our past?  
 The fire of living...not dying  
 The fire of loving...not killing  
 The fire of Blackness...not gangster shadows.  
 Where is our beautiful fire that gave light  
 to the world?  
 The fire of pyramids;  
 The fire that burned through the holes of  
 slaveships and made us breathe;*



This excerpt undergirds the purpose of Art for the People to lift up the intersecting stories of people of Afrikan descent and the Indigenous in remembrance of their loss of life from genocide and forced enslavement along with land dispossession. Art for the People illustrates stories of resilience from both groups who continue to thrive and build communities in their respective places they call home today following their forced removal. Your donation honors their stories and lives, and supports Decolonize Decatur. Visit [beaconhill-blackalliance.org/artforthepeople/](http://beaconhill-blackalliance.org/artforthepeople/) to learn more and to donate.

## Decatur Cemetery Seeds Clover

The Old Section of Decatur cemetery is getting a new planting. Friends of Decatur Cemetery volunteers have been breaking up soil with picks and shovels and seeding clover at the Marble Hill Sunday School plot. The historic gravesite features a monument with tiny headstones surrounding it, and is on record as being the "Orphans' Home Lots." Most of the children buried there were residents of the North Georgia Methodist Children's Home, now the site of Legacy Park in Decatur. It's believed that a local Sunday school donated the cemetery lots where 30 burials dating back to the early 1900s are distributed. Come Spring, visitors can enjoy new blooms. For more information about the Friends of Decatur Cemetery volunteer opportunities, email [friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdecaturcemetery@gmail.com).



## HOLIDAY PARTY Tuesday, December 6

### DECATUR CONFERENCE CENTER

at Courtyard by Marriott,  
 Decatur Conference Center  
 130 Clairmont Ave.

Join us on December 6 for the DBA Holiday Party as we salute Decatur's Hometown Heroes for 2020, 2021 and 2022, recognize Welcoming Businesses, and elect DBA officers for 2023. A networking reception begins at 5:15 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m. Visit [decaturdba.com](http://decaturdba.com) for more information.

## Decatur Restaurants Among Atlanta's Best

Congratulations to Decatur's own Chai Pani, Deer & Dove (with mention of B-Side), Kimball House, and Taqueria del Sol for making *Atlanta Magazine's* 75 Best Restaurants in Atlanta. Visit [atlantamagazine.com/50bestrestaurants](http://atlantamagazine.com/50bestrestaurants) to read the write-ups.

**CHAI PANI**, 406 W Ponce de Leon Ave., [chaipani.com](http://chaipani.com), 404-378-4030, @chaipanidecatur

**DEER & THE DOVE**, 155 Sycamore St., [deerdove.com](http://deerdove.com), 404-748-4617, @thedeerandthedove

**KIMBALL HOUSE**, 303 East Howard Ave., [kimball-house.com](http://kimball-house.com), 404-378-3502, @kimballhouse

**TAQUERIA DEL SOL**, 359 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., [taqueriadelsol.com](http://taqueriadelsol.com), 404-321-1118, @taqueriadelsol

# HOLIDAYS

*in Decatur*

## December



THURSDAY

**1**

**Tree Lighting  
on the Square**

6 pm | **FREE!**

FRIDAY

**2**

**West Ponce  
Tree Lighting**

6 pm | **FREE!**

That's right, TWO tree lightings! On Thursday, enjoy **holiday carols**, warm cookies, hot cocoa and "snow" on the square. At 7 p.m. sharp, **Santa** flips the switch to light the tree above the east entrance of the Decatur MARTA station. And on Friday we will light a **second tree** on the lawn of the First Christian Church of Decatur, 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

THURSDAY

**8**

**Bonfire +  
Marshmallow  
Roast**  
on the Square

6 pm | **FREE!**

SATURDAY

**10**

**SantaCon  
on the Square**

6 pm | Adults only | **FREE!**

Dress up as your best version of Santa, an elf, a reindeer or a dreidel. Join us for a night of dancing, celebration, fun, and prizes!

THURS. | FRI. | SAT.

**15-17**

**Holiday Market  
at The Chapel  
on Sycamore**  
318 Sycamore St.

Thurs. + Fri. 4-8 pm  
Sat. 11 am-8 pm

SATURDAY

**17**

**Holiday Movie  
on Sycamore**

6 pm | **FREE!**



THURSDAY

**22**

**Menorah  
Lighting**

6 pm | **FREE!**

Join in the Chanukah celebration on the square. Enjoy hot drinks, **latkes**, music, and photos with **Mr. Dreidel!** Chabadintown.org.

*merry it up & jingle on*

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES AND POP-UP EVENTS

  visitdecaturga | #holidaysindecaturga #decaturga | [visitdecaturga.com](http://visitdecaturga.com)



## Furnish with Love Holiday Pop-Up Sale

Friday, Dec. 2 and  
Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,  
508 E. Howard Ave.

Join Furnish with Love for their semi-annual fundraiser; a holiday pop-up sale, offering hundreds of works of art, gift items, and yards of designer fabrics, all generously donated by designer showrooms. Most pieces are being offered at deeply discounted prices, and 100% of the profits support their mission of helping families transition out of homelessness. Whether you're looking for holiday gifts or decor to spruce up your home, come shop for a good cause. Visit [furnishwithlove.org](http://furnishwithlove.org) for more information.

## Christmas on Clairemont Returns

Sunday, December 18, 6 p.m.  
First Baptist Decatur  
308 Clairemont Avenue

After a couple years in hibernation, this year's event offers an exciting twist - Christmas on Clairemont: Keyboards and Choir will feature four grand pianos, an organ, a festival chorus of singers, and special guest soloists and conductors. In keeping with the Christmas Spirit, the concert is free to attend with an opportunity to support disaster relief in Ukraine. For more info and to sign up for email updates, visit [christmasonclairemont.com](http://christmasonclairemont.com).



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CHIROPRACTIC  
&  
WELLNESS**

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Decatur, GA 30030  
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[WELLSPRINGDECATUR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WELLSPRINGDECATUR@GMAIL.COM)  
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## Beacon Hill Middle School Hosts Dedication



Principal Thomas, Mercie Holt, Harley Davis, Dr. Fehrman, and Said Abdikadir

In September, City Schools of Decatur hosted a dedication ceremony for Beacon Hill Middle School. The event was emceed by seventh grader Harley Davis and eighth grader Said Abdikadir, and included

musical selections from the middle school orchestra and a reading of the poem "Beacon Hill" written by BHMS teacher Suzy Plishka and recited by sixth grader Mercie Holt.

## Join us for our Holiday Events!

### John Howell Park Fundraiser

Both locations - December 7 thru 11  
Mention the park and 10% of sales will go to help the renovation of the Virginia Highland park (exclusions apply).



### Dilamani Designer Event

Decatur - December 7, Midtown - December 8

### Meet Designer, Chris Correia

Midtown - December 10, Decatur - December 11

### Royal India

Midtown - December 10, Decatur - December 11

## WORTHMORE jewelers

117 East Court Square . Decatur . 404/370-3979  
500 L-3 Amsterdam Ave . Atlanta . 404/892-8294  
www.worthmorejewelers.com



You are invited to

# Advent

at Decatur First UMC

"Sounds of the Season"  
Christmas Concert  
Dec 11 at 4pm  
A Service of Grief and Hope  
Dec 21 at 6:30pm

**Christmas Eve Service  
& Kids Nativity**  
Dec 24 at 4:30 & 6:30pm

Worship at 9 & 11am Sunday Mornings



DECATURFIRST.ORG



@decaturfirstumc  
@decaturfirst

300 E. Ponce De Leon Ave  
Decatur, Ga 30030

## Decatur Schools Celebrate Diwali – Festival of Lights

On October 22, Decatur elementary school families joined to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. Originated in India, Diwali is celebrated by more than one billion people worldwide. The festival coincides with harvest and new year, and signifies new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

More than 200 attendees enjoyed traditional Diwali festivities, including art and craft activities, dance and music, and free food tastings. Families made and decorated diyas (clay lamps) and created rangolis (floor patterns using chalk and colored powders). Children and parents queued up to receive henna tattoos (intricate designs on their hands from plant-based dye), and danced the garba and dandiya (festival dance forms from the Indian state of Gujarat). Brave + Kind Bookshop provided Diwali and fall festival books that parent volunteers read in the reading nook. As dusk set in, the idea of Di-



wali as a celebration of “light over darkness” was realized by lighting sparklers around various firepits.

Sponsored by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committees of CSD’s Oakhurst, Talley Street, Winnona Park, Glenwood, F.AVE, and Westchester Elementary School PTAs, volunteers provided attendees with free Indian food tastings, including samosas and mithai (traditional Indian sweets), and local baristas Divya and



Deepesh (@gonewithawhim), served up hot Chai and specialty Indian coffees.

The DEI committee plans to make this an annual event to help highlight the diversity and inclusivity of CSD and the broader Decatur community. By embracing all cultures, they aim to foster a love and understanding of our global citizenry. To participate or contribute to future events, contact oakhurstptadei@gmail.com.

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## DHS Career Academy Partners with Emory for CNA Program

When Decatur High School Career Academy Director Duane Sprull learned that Emory School of Nursing was opening its new Emory Nursing Learning Center (ENLC) in downtown Decatur, he was excited to explore opportunities to develop a partnership program that would enable students at Decatur High to participate in a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program.

Of 1,800 Decatur High students, more than 1,100 participate in the Decatur Career Academy. For FY 2023, the DCA received more than \$100,000 in state and federal grants, which helps fund 1,364 spots (some students participate in multiple programs). The DCA offers 10 career pathways, the most popular being culinary arts, architecture, and graphic arts. Every track provides employability skills so participants can move directly into a career in their field of interest.

Developing the CNA program for DHS students was no small feat; Sprull needed a minimum of ten students to participate in the program. With only four Decatur High students committed, Sprull reached out to Drew Academy's respective career program and identified 10 additional participants to round out the enrollment at 14 students.

The first semester provides an introduction to healthcare through the Georgia Virtual Academy, completing three articulated credits at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. The semester rounds out with two classes; medical terminology and nutrition,



### Emory School of Nursing Moves into Downtown Decatur

The Emory Nursing Learning Center is the latest resident at 250 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. Constructed in 1962, the eight-level office building has undergone a \$20.6 million renovation to four levels. The 70,000-SF ENLC features simulation and clinical skills labs that are among the largest and most advanced in Georgia.

which students complete online through the technical college. The second semester offers one class in nurse aid fundamentals, which includes 24 hours of hands-on clinical work in either a hospital or nursing home setting. Once completed, participating students will earn seven continuing education credits.

The new Emory facility provides an innovative workforce development partnership with CSD, and is an important addition to Decatur's downtown environment. The 70,000-SF ENLC facility features state-of-the-art simulation and professional development space, allowing participants to engage in interactive technology and experiential

learning that supports critical leadership skills and compassionate support for patients so graduates can become the next generation of nurse leaders.

Created to address the significant nursing shortage in the United States, the ENLC serves students of all levels, from undergraduates to continuing education students and advanced-practice nursing professionals. The program generates jobs by graduating three large classes of nurses and CNAs every year. This new partnership with Emory offers another career opportunity for Decatur students while supporting the nation's effort to sustain more jobs in the nursing field.

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## Register Today for Run With the Dogs 5K

**Sat., Jan. 28, Beacon Hill Middle School**

Celebrating its 19th year, the annual Run With the Dogs (RWTD) 5K and Pup Trot is a Decatur tradition. Returning to Beacon Hill Middle School this year, the race is now an official qualifying event for the Peachtree Road Race. As a fundraiser for the Decatur Bulldog Boosters, RWTD 5K supports the athletic programs at Decatur High School and Beacon Hill Middle School. Register before January 15 to receive the coveted long-sleeved T-shirt, which will feature a one-of-a-kind design by Decatur artist and DHS lacrosse coach Adam Pinsley. Students, City Schools of Decatur employees, and City of Decatur employees receive \$5 off registration. To register, scan the QR code or visit [rwtd5K.com](http://rwtd5K.com).



## Agnes Scott College Receives \$1 Million Grant

The Delta Air Lines Foundation has announced a \$1 million grant to Agnes Scott, designated for the Global Journeys initiative, which is part of the college's SUMMIT program. Delta CEO Ed Bastian shared the news during the third Annual Women's Global Leadership Conference which took place at Agnes Scott and where he participated as a keynote speaker. Through SUMMIT, 100 percent of Agnes Scott's first-year students engage with the wider world by traveling globally on college-sponsored, faculty-led trips. This unifying experience helps to transform minds, build confidence, and position students to claim their places in the community, workplaces and world.

In 2022, Agnes Scott sent 300 students to 16 destinations as part of the Global Journeys initiative, including Paris, Alaska, Martinique, Bulgaria, Belize, Tuscany and Jamaica. Global Journeys is one of the many reasons that Agnes Scott has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the nation's No. 1 most innovative college and in the top ten for social mobility for the past five years. Agnes Scott's student population is incredibly diverse, with 61 percent of the students identifying as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and 32 percent of students are the first in their families to attend college. Learn more at [news.agnesscott.org](http://news.agnesscott.org).

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## DEF Awards \$35,000 in Teacher Grants

For the past 20 years, Decatur Education Foundation has awarded grants to CSD teachers to bring innovation and creativity to the classroom. This past October, DEF awarded 27 grants to teachers from College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center to Decatur High School and even the Decatur Virtual Academy.

This year's teacher grants cover a full range of learning areas: braille readers for early literacy, two new mellophone instruments for the high school band, national dues to reignite Junior Beta Club at Beacon Hill Middle School, a task-box library for an adapted kindergarten classroom, and even outdoor trucks for toddlers at College Heights.

In addition to supporting classroom innovation, DEF also supports students who are experiencing food insecurity. Through the Lighten the Load program, community members can donate to the snack pantry at Beacon Hill Middle School and to a weekend



backpack program for those students who need supplemental food on non-school days. Both programs have dedicated Amazon wish lists that are updated monthly. If you would like to donate food to students in need, visit [decatureducationfoundation.org/school-snacklinks](http://decatureducationfoundation.org/school-snacklinks).

DEF thanks the community for continuing to support these programs that serve students in Decatur. If you would like to support initiatives that ensure every Decatur student has what they need to learn and thrive, visit [decatureducationfoundation.org](http://decatureducationfoundation.org).

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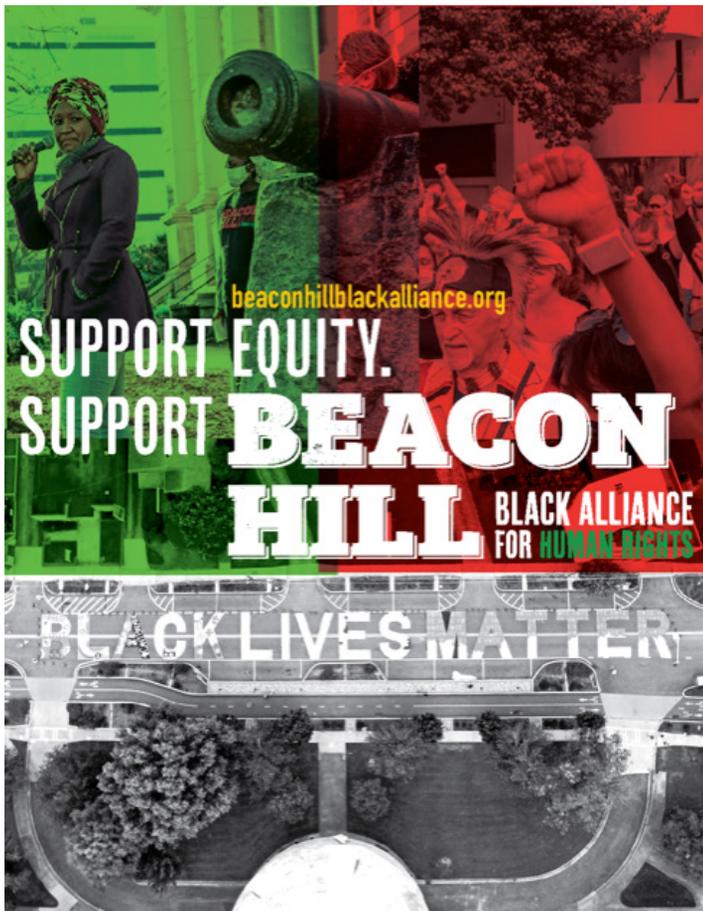
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