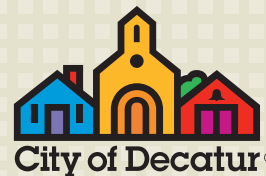


City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:
DECATUR
ANNUAL REPORT
2023



JULY-AUGUST 2023
Volume 34 • Number 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

WE ARE WINNING IN DECATUR



Decatur Named 2023 All-America City Award Winner

Story and photos on page 6



Chef Terry Koval of The Deer and The Dove named Southeast Chef of the Year by the James Beard Foundation.

Read the article on page 7.

2023 Welcoming Business Award Nominations Are Now Open

The Better Together Advisory Board is accepting nominations through October 13 for its annual Welcoming Business Award. Recipients will be announced by the City Commission in conjunction with the City of Decatur's Hometown Hero Awards in December. The award is open to all businesses in the city of Decatur that have employees and are located within the Decatur city limits. The purpose of this award is to:



- Reward and publicly recognize actions that create a welcoming and inclusive business environment in the City of Decatur;
- Encourage businesses to prioritize diversity, inclusivity, and equity as a "best practice"; and
- Publicize and share "best practices" among local businesses.

Award criteria include:

- Increasing accessibility for people with disabilities;
- Creating welcoming environments for people who are historically marginalized based on race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age;
- Recruiting and hiring practices that incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion policies;
- Training staff to cultivate welcoming environments for all patrons;
- Anything else that creates a welcoming and inclusive environment.

The Better Together Advisory Board was initiated from the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement. The advisory board created the Welcoming Business Award to highlight those businesses who make diversity, equity, and inclusion a priority.

Nomination forms may be submitted online at decaturga.com/welcomingbusiness. Printable forms are available for submission via email to Linda Harris, linda.harris@decatur.com, or mail to her attention at City of Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031. For more information contact Linda Harris or Renae Jackson, renae.jackson@decaturga.com.

Attention High School Students Apply for the Decatur Youth Council

There is still time for rising 9th through 12th grade students to apply for the 2023-2024 Decatur Youth Council (DYC) leadership program, which is open to students who live within the city limits of Decatur and attend public, private, and home-based schools. DYC members volunteer, plan projects and events, and serve as an advisory board to the City Commission. The application of interest is available at decaturga.com/bc-dyc and the deadline to apply is Friday, August 4. For more information contact staff liaison Meredith Roark, meredith.roark@decaturga.com.



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.

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 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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Nominate Your Decatur Hometown Hero

Who is your Hometown Hero? Nominate a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or community member who works hard, often behind the scenes, to make our community a better place to live, work, and play. Show your appreciation by submitting them for a Decatur Hometown Hero award.

Decatur began recognizing and celebrating Hometown Heroes at the close of its Hometown to the World Festival during the summer Olympics of 1996. The award is a tradition to honor a new group of Hometown Heroes each year. Nominations are reviewed by an independent panel of professionals who work with volunteers and who do not know the nominees.

Nominations are being accepted until September 29. Nomination forms can be downloaded at decaturga.com/hometownheroes. Submit a completed form along with a short essay describing your Hometown Hero and how they contribute to the Decatur community to sherry.jackman@decaturga.com or by mail to: Decatur Hometown Heroes, Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

You may also drop off your nomination form at the Decatur Visitors Center. For more information, call 678-615-0915 or email sherry.jackman@decaturga.com.

A Community of Service

Did you know that the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project works to help long-time City of Decatur residents remain in the community, safely and comfortably, by providing free home maintenance and repairs? Hundreds of committed volunteers of all skill levels replace siding, repair windows, fix doors, repair fences, build ramps, clean yards, paint rooms, fix kitchens, prepare food for volunteers, and ultimately change the lives of folks who need help. One volunteer said, "My work over the MLK, Jr. weekend in January is one of the most meaningful ways for me to give back to my community! I love it!"

You can participate by volunteering or donating. You can also refer a senior neighbor or veteran who may need help with their city of Decatur home.

Visit mlkserviceproject.com for information, and make plans to roll up your sleeves and pitch in for your neighbors in January.



Introducing the Decatur Parks and Recreation Department

In March, Recreatur, the Parks and Recreation 10-year master plan was approved, and the City of Decatur's Parks and Recreation Department was officially created. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a long-range, community-supported vision to move Decatur's parks and recreation efforts forward by expanding recreational facilities, protecting additional greenspaces, and considering community needs through varied programming. Recreatur recommended merging two divisions — Active Living and Children and Youth Services — under a single department. The Parks and Recreation Department will focus its energy on shaping programming and activities that support its mission to “provide quality experiences while promoting healthy living and connections.” To learn more about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, visit decaturga.com/masterplan.

What does this mean for Decatur residents and visitors? Current services will continue uninterrupted over the next few months, and residents and visitors will begin to see a rebranding of the department. You may have already noticed the Active Living name now reflects Decatur Parks and Recreation. Children and Youth Services will fall under the Parks and Recreation umbrella and has changed to Out of School Time Services. Social media channels have merged: you can find Decatur Parks and Recreation on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@decaturparksandrec). The webpage on the City's site can be found at decaturga.com/parksrec and will serve as a hub of information about the department and its programming. You may also visit any one of Decatur's three recreation centers to learn more. Front desk staff will be available at all three recreation centers from 9-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10-4 p.m. on Saturdays, or look for the Parks and Recreation staff at festivals and events around town.

Celebrate Parks and Recreation Month

July is National Parks and Recreation Month. Decatur Parks and Recreation celebrates the role parks and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services, and fostering the growth of our communities.

Mark Your Calendars

2023 ANTI-RACISM SPEAKER SERIES

The City of Decatur and Better Together Advisory Board will host the next Anti-Racism Speaker Series September 14, October 17, and November 16. This year's series will focus on creating space for us to listen to and learn from the hidden stories of survival and triumph within our communities. Our effort is propelled by a simple question: How can organizations leverage their histories to create more just communities? Similar questions are being asked by other institutions. Our first two events will explore efforts at Emory University (September) and Ages Scott College (October). Our culminating event (November) will focus on the City of Decatur's effort to ensure that its future is illuminated by the hidden stories of our past.

The Speaker Series is designed to generate awareness of equity concerns in the city and to hold the city and community accountable for meeting established goals and implementing policies to achieve the aspiration of being an inclusive, equitable and just city.

Join us and share your story. For more information on the Speaker Series or to view past programs, visit decaturga.com/speakerseries.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS

On August 1, many Decatur students will walk, bike, and scoot to school. As a motorist, be vigilant and keep your eyes peeled for school children as you navigate city streets.

Students benefit physically, socially and academically from an active commute creating an automatic time for physical movement and making exercise a part of their daily routine. In addition, students build relationships and emotional bonds with friends and older students experience independence and personal growth as they navigate the natural world and improve road and traffic safety skills. Studies show that physical activity contributes to student success in the classroom.

Students actively commuting benefits the greater community with fewer cars on the road, leading to less traffic congestion. Plus, seeing so many Decatur students walking, biking and scooting to and from school reminds us that our city is a rare place where the built environment makes it safe and possible for students to get to school without relying on cars. Increased pedestrian traffic encourages the city to continue investing in Safe Routes to School initiatives, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

Beginning August 1, enjoy seeing Decatur students – the August Walk & Roll Superstars – out and about on their way to and from school.

To nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar, visit bit.ly/walk-and-roll-decatur.

SOLID WASTE HOLIDAY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Labor Day • Monday, Sept. 4

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, Sept. 5

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, Sept. 6

Staying Safe While Grilling

July and August are peak months for grill fires. Nearly 65 percent of households have a grill or smoker, and on average fire departments respond to more than 10,000 home fires each year involving grills, hibachis or barbecues.

Decatur Fire wants to keep the community safe by reminding us to follow rules and codes for grilling and using fire pits. The use of grills on combustible balconies and patios of multi-family dwellings is prohibited. There are some exceptions for some townhomes/condominiums; contact your homeowner's association and building supervisor for specific rules.

The City of Decatur's ordinance for open burning is as follows:

- No open burning of leaves, rubbish or trash of any kind.
- No heavy smoke producing materials such as heavy oils, asphaltic materials, natural or synthetic rubber.
- Recreational fires must be in commercially available chimineas or outdoor fireplaces and used according to their intended use, and the manufacturer's recommendations. They shall have a chimney, screen, or other approved method to prevent sparks escaping.
- Only burn untreated wood, lumber, manufactured fire logs, or charcoal in Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces.
- Chimineas or outdoor fireplaces shall not be operated inside structures, on combustible surfaces or balconies, or within 25 feet of combustible construction; and they shall have a non-combustible surface underneath to catch sparks.

Decatur Fire Launches Field Referral Program

In 2020, DeKalb County launched its innovative Nurse Navigation Program in partnership with American Medical Response, helping thousands of 911 callers access appropriate levels of care, right when they need it. Now, a field-referral process with Decatur Fire Rescue will extend the reach of that program, connecting more patients to skilled nurse navigators, while freeing vital EMS resources.

Decatur Fire Rescue first responders will assess patients and determine if they are eligible for the Nurse Navigation Program. If they are eligible, Decatur Fire Rescue first responders will connect the patient to a Nurse Navigator who will match the patient with appropriate care, including an alternative destination site, nurse advice for care onsite or a visit with their primary care provider.

Through this program, the City of Decatur is better equipped to allocate resources and focus on providing timely, appropriate and high-quality patient care aimed at improving each patient's experience and outcomes. For more information, contact Deputy Chief Vera Morrison at 678-553-6580.



Help Keep Decatur Fire Hydrants Clear

Every year Decatur Fire inspects, tests, and maintains more than 900 hydrants throughout Decatur. If you have a hydrant in your yard, please remember that there must be three feet of clearance on all sides. Bushes, plants, and trees must be trimmed to allow firefighters to easily open the hydrant and attach supply lines to any outlets in the event of an emergency.

Be Prepared for Heat Emergencies

During the summer, it's important to watch out for dehydration and other heat-related emergencies. Drink a glass of water every few hours throughout the day based on your sweating, activity, and temperatures.

If you experience heat cramps, which can be accompanied by headaches and sweating, stop your activity, get out of the sun, and place cool cloths or ice wrapped in towels on the areas cramping. Be vigilant for worsening symptoms. If you're experiencing heat exhaustion, you might have the above symptoms, plus dizziness and vomiting. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should immediately get out of the sun, lay down, remove as much clothing as possible, and cool their body with water or damp cloths on the neck, armpits, and groin.

Lastly, heat stroke is a very serious condition that can be life threatening. With heat stroke, sweating may no longer occur, and there may be confusion or a loss of consciousness or seizures. This person must be cooled immediately with no delay after being removed from the sun. Call 911 as soon as possible and be prepared to locate an AED and start CPR if necessary.

When in doubt, call 911 any time you are concerned.

Summer Water Safety Tips

Did you know drowning is the number one cause of preventable death for children aged one to four? The American Heart Association recommends five things to avoid a tragedy: four-sided fencing around water; life jackets; swimming lessons; supervision; and lifeguards.

It's important to ensure life jackets are worn properly or they may not be effective. Swimming lessons are recommended for children aged one or older, and awareness of how to respond to smaller children struggling in the water is recommended for older children. Constant supervision is the most crucial thing to remember, since it only takes a moment of inattention for a child to drown.

If a child isn't breathing, call 911 and begin compressions immediately.

DECATUR DID IT AGAIN!

City Named All-America City for 2023

The National Civic League has once again named City of Decatur one of 10 All-America Cities at its annual meeting held in June. Decatur showed the power of involving youth, and all residents, in identifying and addressing community challenges.

Applicants submitted their community-wide work on engaging youth to create more thriving communities, and the field was narrowed to 20. Finalist communities presented their projects and their communities to a jury. Decatur's presentation focused on the Decatur Youth Council, participation in UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative, the recently installed Inclusive Playground at Decatur Legacy Park, and other youth-inspired initiatives.

Decatur first received recognition as an All-America City in 1981 for its equity and inclusion efforts through the creation of the Better Together Community Action Plan; the Police department's intentional focus on community engagement and training; and the I Am Decatur project coordinated by Beate Sass.

To learn more about the projects visit nationalcivicleague.org/2023-all-america-city-finalist-decatur-ga. To view the presentation, visit facebook.com/decaturga.





Meeting Preview

**Tuesday, July 25, 5-7 p.m. at
Independent Distilling**
547 E. College Ave.

Co-hosted and sponsored by
Independent Distilling and
Spirited Event Group,
547 E. College Ave.

Food Sponsors: Tortuga y Chango
and Bake and Batter ATL

For more details or to join, visit
decaturdba.com

Come See What's New with DBA

Over the past several months, Decatur Business Association leadership has been hard at work on developing a new strategic plan for the organization. Join us on Tuesday, July 25, to learn about what's in store for DBA, and take a look around Decatur's newest meeting space at Independent Distilling Company.

This past year Independent Distilling moved to their new location on College Avenue which has space to host meetings and events. Independent and its events team, Spirited Event Group, are excited to host the July meeting.

Come enjoy a cocktail, food, networking with other local business owners, and hear about all the new happenings. Food will be provided by Tortuga y Chango with desserts from Bake and Batter ATL.

LOCAL CHEF WINS JAMES BEARD AWARD FOR BEST CHEF IN THE SOUTHEAST



Terry Koval, owner and chef of The Deer & The Dove, received the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast for 2023. Terry opened The Deer and The Dove in 2019, where he and his team prepare a unique menu.

Terry and his wife, Jennifer, also own and operate B-Side, where they serve bagels, pastries, coffee and sandwiches. Visit them at 155 Sycamore St. on the square or online at deerdove.com.

Congratulations to Koval on earning the James Beard Award. Your hard work, dedication, and passion for food have truly paid off. The Decatur community appreciates the hard work and dedication required to receive this accolade, and the city is proud that The Deer and the Dove and B-Side are stalwart supporters of the Decatur community.

DEF Welcomes New Executive Director and Program Enhancements

The board of directors of the Decatur Education Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Ricky Hyde as its new executive director. Outgoing Executive Director Gail Rothman announced in January that she would step down at the end of the school year, and Ricky transitioned into the role in June.

Ricky brings a wealth of experience from his career in education and nonprofit management in Atlanta, and he has a proven track record of centering youth voice and a strong commitment to equity and inclusion. This experience will help further the foundation's mission of helping every Decatur student learn and thrive. Most recently, he served as director of iProject at the Mount Vernon School in Sandy Springs. Ricky is also a Decatur parent whose children attended City Schools of Decatur and recently graduated from Decatur High School.

In addition to welcoming a new executive director, this summer, the staff and board conducted a program audit to enhance classroom support through the Teacher Innovation Grants and Arts Infusion Grants and to strengthen community initiatives like Lighten the Load and the F.O.C.U.S. college prep program. The organization is excited to continue its work on promoting equity, encouraging student agency, and supporting positive mental health during the upcoming school year. To discover more ways that you can help Decatur's youth, check out decatureducationfoundation.org.



Join the Oakhurst Garden Book Club for Reading and Weeding



The Oakhurst Garden Book Club meets twice a month on the first and third Fridays of each month, 9-11 a.m., at Oakhurst Garden. The meeting days are split between discussing the chosen book (first Friday) and participating in a garden project (third Friday). Books cover all topics and feature both fiction and non-fiction titles that may or may not be related to gardening.

Recently the group read *The Fun Widow's Book Tour* by local author Zoe Fishman, and she joined them for their discussion. The August book choice is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. Gardening projects the group has worked on include turning the Oakhurst coop into a free library and making the reception room at the Oakhurst office more welcoming. Everyone is welcome to join the Oakhurst Garden Book Club. Email kristy@wyldecenter.org for more information.

Oakhurst Garden is one of five gardens managed by The Wylde Center, a non-profit working to connect more people to nature through its programs. Visit wyldecenter.org for more information. The Oakhurst Garden is at 435 Oakview Rd. in Decatur and is open every day during daylight hours.

Second Sunday Strolls

Decatur Cemetery hosts educational tours on the second Sunday of every month, May through October, to highlight the history of the cemetery while visiting the resting places of citizens who helped shape Decatur, DeKalb County, and the state of Georgia. Tours begin at 2:30 p.m. at the wellhouse/gazebo in the Historic Old Section and are led by the Friends of Decatur Cemetery. The remaining 2023 tours are on July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8. Follow Friends of Decatur Cemetery on Facebook and Instagram for news and events.



Music Together Classes Forming Now

Music Together of Decatur classes are forming now for a four-week end-of-summer August session and a nine-week back-to-school fall session. As you nurture your child's inner music-maker with Music Together's research-based curriculum, discover new ways to bond with your little one and build lasting friendships for both you and your child.

Learn more and save your spot here: musictogetherofdecatur.com/classes.aspx. Questions? Email wendy@musictogetherofdecatur.com or call/text 678-466-0737.



COUNSELING THE WHOLE PERSON AGNES SCOTT'S INTERSECTIONAL GRADUATE COUNSELING PROGRAM

Anyone familiar with Agnes Scott College knows the institution maintains a clear mission: engaging with the social challenges of the times. In support of this mission, Agnes Scott offers a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with instruction that goes further than just the mental health component of counseling – the counseling faculty guides students to see people through a holistic, intersectional lens. Agnes Scott understands that when you view others as complex people, you become a more effective and empathetic person and counselor.

With a curriculum that prepares students with an intersectional understanding of their clients, along with a community that empowers students to enter the world ready to help others, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program stands out from others. Current graduate student, Taylor Jaczko, shared that they chose Agnes Scott's counseling program because of “the focus on diversity, inclusivity, and intersectionality. Emphasizing the uniqueness of each individual is key to effective counseling. We do not exist in a vacuum: The personal is political and Agnes Scott College recognizes this.”



This inclusive approach to counseling allows clinicians to understand the effects on mental health from systems of oppression and discrimination when working with clients. Clinical Mental Health Counseling faculty are not just instructors – they maintain research and continue working as clinicians. Their counseling and scholarship focus on race, sexuality, gender, and other identity impact areas. The program's small class sizes and cohort model inculcate a close-knit community where they are seen and heard as the whole person. According to the Faculty Program Director Jennifer Fulling-Smith, PhD, LPC, RPT-S, “Agnes Scott's commu-

nity empowers Clinical Mental Health Counseling students to think critically about mental health and barriers to mental health. We approach core areas of counseling with intersectional frameworks so that graduates will enter the field not only as well trained, skilled counselors, but also counselors who can truly engage in the social challenges clients face due to the oppression they experience. Our program prepares its graduates to make a lasting impact in the community.”

Agnes Scott College's innovative Master's in Clinical Mental

Health Counseling offers a clear path to preparing students for licensure. For recent college graduates or working professionals looking to make a career change, this 18-month master's program is a great career step. After five consecutive semesters of primarily in-person instruction, students will be well-prepared to sit for the licensure exam required to apply to become a licensed professional counselor.

Learn more by registering for the college's fall open house or an online information session for a glimpse into the Agnes Scott graduate studies community. Visit agnesscott.edu/decaurfocus for details.

CCSD Grant Program Call For Applications

The Community Center of South Decatur/Solarium Board of Directors is excited to share the return of the Grant Program. Applications are being accepted now from Decatur-based nonprofit organizations to be considered for funding from proceeds from CCSD/Solarium fundraising events held last year. The CCSD is interested in funding projects that contribute to the quality of life in Decatur. The board prefers to use its grant funds to jump-start a special project and

provide seed capital to get a focused activity off the ground.

Organizations must be based within the city of Decatur to be considered. The grant application for 2023 may be found at communitycenterofsouthdecaur.org. Grant recipients will be notified directly and invited to attend the check presentation at a DBA meeting. Please email any questions to: grants@thesolarium.com.

Managed and maintained by the The

Community Center of South Decatur, this self-sustaining non-profit organization serves the community in many ways. Each year, The Solarium hosts and partners to support many thriving community events and educational programs and provide grants to other non-profit groups in the city. These events and outreach are financially supported by the rental of The Solarium's event space for weddings, social events and meetings.

Community Support for Greenspace

Woodlands Garden relies on community support in many forms, from neighbors who help spread the word about upcoming music performances in the pavilion to folks who donate a Tribute Tree to commemorate life's events. With a small staff, the volunteer support that helps maintain the native garden is critical.

When Marco DeStefano of Boy Scout Troop #134 decided on Woodlands as the site for his Eagle Scout project, staff were thrilled to collaborate on an effort to benefit visitors while keeping with the natural aesthetic of the garden by using natural materials. Marco selected this site because it was close to home and he was already involved as a volunteer, so he knew the positive impact his project would have on the community. Marco worked with staff and coordinated a volunteer team to install a "tree cookie" path in the children's natural play area to help connect this fanciful space to the recently installed native fern garden. Come visit to see what Marco's 95 hours of volunteer time helped accomplish. Thank you to Marco for all of his hard work and to Brendan Gill of Gill Tree Care for donating the locally sourced tree cookies for the path.



Looking to get involved? Visit woodlandsgarden.org to learn how you can volunteer.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Volunteer Projects / Fall Events

Volunteer Projects

Every **Wednesday** and select **Saturdays** (July 15, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Nov. 11, and Dec. 5) 9-11 a.m. Groups welcome!

September 22: Donor preview of the Fall Plant Sale

September 23-24: Fall Plant Sale

Sundays in October: Music in the Garden

October 7-21: Fairies in the Garden

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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.

Each full service gross executive office lease includes:

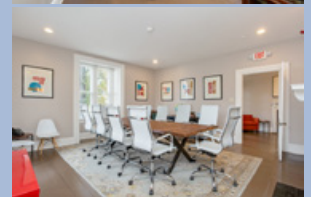
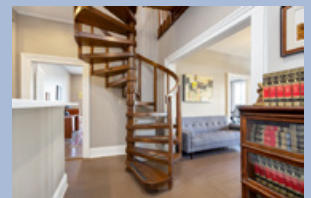
- Internet access
- Phone service
- Reception services
- One (1) parking space*
- Conference Room access

*Parking not included with rental of a work station.
Additional parking available for \$100 a month.



THE HIGH HOUSE

circa 1830



Rock the Mic Karaoke Night

Fridays, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8,
6-9 p.m. Decatur Square

Release your inner superstar and belt out your favorite tunes at Rock the Mic Karaoke Night in Decatur. We'll be set up at the bandstand 6-9 pm. So, grab your family and friends, warm up those vocal cords, and get ready to rock the mic like a pro.



BREW + BUILDINGS: MAGICAL MYSTERY DEKALB TOUR

Thursday, July 20 • 6:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Decatur

Thursday, July 27 • 6:30 p.m.

Location: East Atlanta Village

Saturday, September 9 • 6 p.m.

Location: Stone Mountain Village

Join the DeKalb History Center for a series of magical and mysterious pop-up tours around DeKalb County. Participants will know when and where to meet, but the content will remain a mystery. Expect a mix of history and architecture. Tours will be casual, last under an hour, and cover less than a mile. Tours will end at a designated spot for an optional brew (beer or coffee). Member tickets are \$5 and non-member tickets are \$12.50. Tickets can be purchased at dekalb-history-center.square.site. Tickets do not cover the cost of the brew. Details can be found at dekalbhistory.org.

Fall Events at Agnes Scott

Many arts and cultural events at Agnes Scott College are open to the public. See them all at calendar.agnesscott.edu.

September 19 • 8 p.m. The William A. Calder Equinox Concert Series in Bradley Observatory features a concert given by a visiting musical group or solo musician. Following the lecture or concert, guests are invited to stay for a planetarium show and (weather permitting) observations with Observatory telescopes, including the historic Beck Telescope. Planetarium shows typically include astronomy facts and a look at what is visible in the local sky that night.

September 27: The department of English welcomes author Dionne Irving to campus for a reading and discussion of her work. More poets and writers are planned for the rest of the year in the department's annual Writers & Scholars Series.

JOIN US!



Decatur
Parents Network

WWW.DECATURPARENTS.NET



SCAN ME



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Summer Covers Concerts

**Fridays, July 28, and Aug. 25, 7 p.m.,
Decatur Square**

Visit Decatur and Amplify Decatur are excited to announce a new series of free, family-friendly Friday summer concerts on the square. Bring your blankets to the Decatur bandstand on the last Friday of every month for "Summer Covers." The music starts at 7 p.m.



Pan African Festival Returns August 18-19

Liberation Rising: Remember, Resist, Rejoice!

Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights in conjunction with the City of Decatur will host its third annual Pan African Festival. The festival will open with a showing of the critically acclaimed documentary, "The Big Payback," on August 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Decatur High School's Performing Arts Center (310 N. McDonough St.) with special guest Robin Rue Simmons and a panel discussion to follow.



The festival theme, Liberation Rising: Remember, Resist, Rejoice will carry over into a day of festivities on Saturday, August 19 in Decatur's downtown square, with activities starting at 2 p.m. to include a Children's Village, music from DJs to appeal to all ages, artists painting live, vendors providing food, clothing, jewelry, art, health and body products, along with a return of Mausiki Scales and the Common Ground Collective and other musical acts. Festival goers will also have the opportunity to participate in a self-guided walking tour of the Beacon Hill community.

For more information:

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

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

Sponsors: Phil Cuffey, pcuffey@gmail.com

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(Rear of Building)

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MADISON AVE DERBY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Madison Avenue Derby on Saturday, October 21. The event supports non-profit organizations serving local youths and has raised nearly \$300,000 in its first eleven years.

Derby Drivers: Register Now!

Returning drivers, we hope to see you again this year. Please note that this year there are some new protocols to increase safety and the event experience. First time racer? A few things to know below, and be sure to check the website for more details on car build regulations and photos for inspiration.

- Soapbox-style cars are non-motorized and use gravity (and are required to have brakes).
- Have fun when designing your car theme - inspiration can come from anywhere.
- Helmets are required for all drivers and riders.
- Registration has sold out in the past, so early registration is encouraged!

Attend the Race

Everyone is invited to come cheer on their favorite racers and cars for a day of family-friendly fun. It's free to come watch. Featuring creatively-themed race cars, food vendors, and entertainment, the race starts near the intersection of Bryan Place and Madison Avenue in Decatur's Oakhurst neighborhood.

Be an Event Sponsor

If your business is interested in connecting with the community and supporting the event with a sponsorship, please contact: sponsors@madavederby.org.

For more information and registration, visit madavederby.org.



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Talley Street Elementary Hosts First Amazing Shake

This year at Talley Street Upper Elementary School, teachers, staff, and students kicked off their new “house” system modeled after the program at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. The house program helps to make Talley, a school of 700 students, seem smaller as students participate in activities throughout the year in their house groups including house meetings, community service projects, and social events.

At the beginning of the school year, students were sorted into one of six houses: Altruismo (the house of givers), Amistad (the house of friendship), Isibindi (the house of courage), Rêveur (the house of dreamers), Onarka (the house of unity), and Nukumori (the house of kindness). Each house is led by students chosen by the students in each house.

This year, the students interested in becoming house leaders participated in the Amazing Shake, a program aimed at teaching students manners, discipline, respect, and how to conduct themselves in a professional environment. Students were selected to participate after completing a written application and giving a speech to their house members.

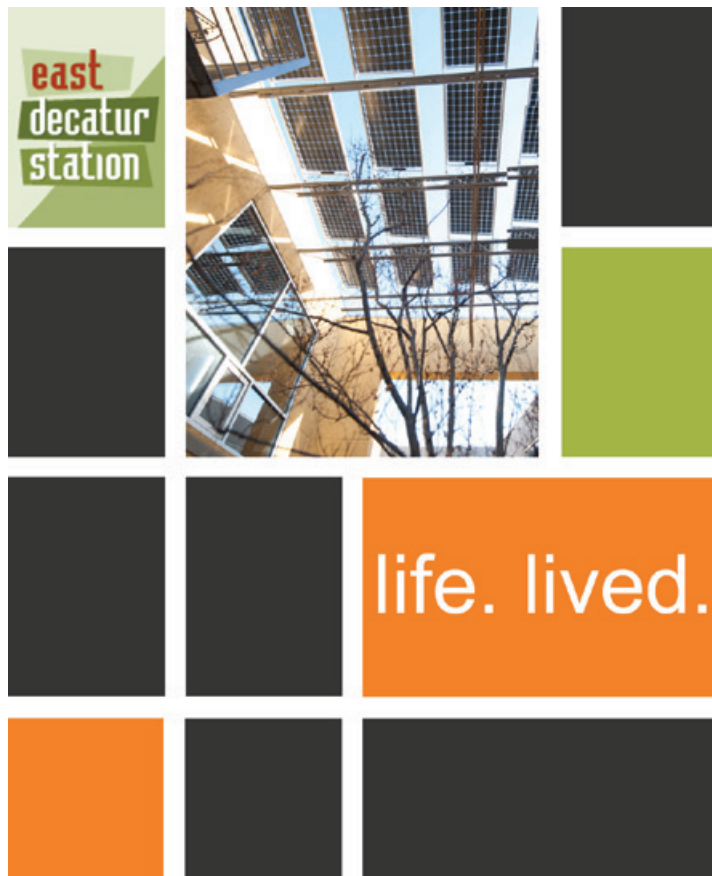
During the school year, students learned the mechanics of a proper handshake and working the room so that they are able to present themselves exceptionally well for opportunities today and in the future. Participating students rotated through an obstacle course of



From left, back row: Ethel Johnson, Michelle Block, Mayor Patti Garrett, Commissioner Lesa Mayer, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers, Laura Spriggs, Green Francis, Claire Miller, Dan Whisenhunt. Front row: Alicia Reno, Kelly Nichols, Jessica Young, Dr. Maggie Fehrman

community members and answered questions and completed tasks to test their skills. Students were asked to lead an interview, give a press conference on current events, create a house cheer, reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, come up with ideas for community involvement, as well as other tasks. Community members, including Decatur's mayor, journalists, city commissioners, school district officials, city employees, and Talley staff interviewed the students and scored them on their answers.

At the end of the event, six students were chosen to lead their houses in the 2023-2024 school year: Uma Raman-Baski, Connie Bhasin, Madelyn Edney, Zinn Olson-Masick, Cleo Saliers, and Suria Pillay. Assistant house leaders include: Elanor Coblenz, Chloe Bell, Lillian Gutman, Taylor Hall, Anna Schoeman, and Malachi Stauffer. Throughout the year, the house leaders will participate in leadership workshops and attend a conference for students at the Ron Clark Academy to hone their leadership skills. Talley looks forward to extending the program next year.



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DHS Senior Receives President's Gold Volunteer Service Award

Nick Galenkamp, a Decatur High School senior, was honored with the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award—the highest level next to the 4,000 hour lifetime award.

In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the President's Volunteer Service Award to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too.

The PVSA has continued under each administration, honoring the volunteers who are using their time and talents to solve some of the toughest challenges facing our nation. Led by the AmeriCorps and managed in partnership with Points of Light, this program allows certifying organizations to recognize their most exceptional volunteers.



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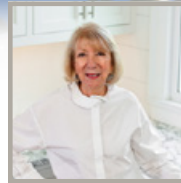
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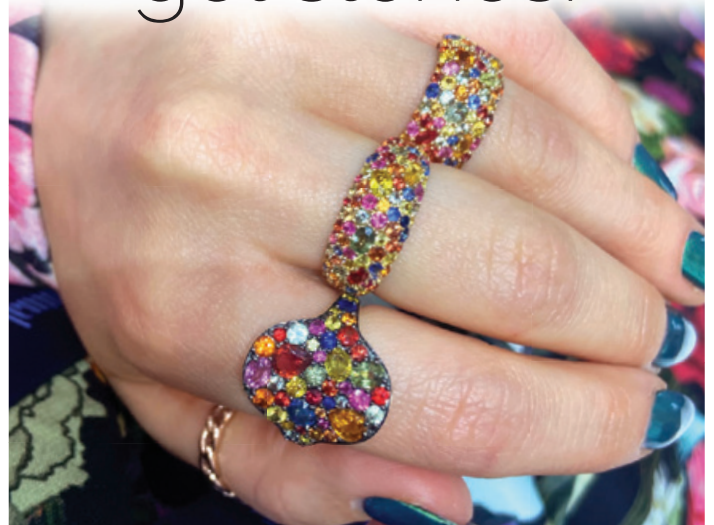
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