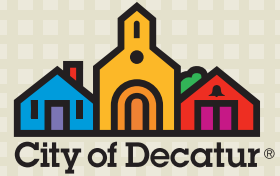


# City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:  
PLAYBOOK  
PARKS &  
POOLS



MAY 2023  
Volume 33 • Number 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

## Decatur Youth Advocate for New Recreation Facilities



DHS sophomore Heath Rowland takes flight.

Community outreach and engagement are key steps in Decatur's mission to bring the community's vision for its future to life. Decatur is one of six communities in the United States pursuing recognition through UNICEF as a Child Friendly City. A critical aspect of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative is youth participation. Decatur strives to be a community where youth are encouraged to contribute to plans and where young people are given a voice in the decisions that drive policy and action.

When a group of Oakhurst Elementary students suggested an inclusive playground at Legacy Park, the City helped bring that vision to reality, providing a space that children of all ages can enjoy. In March, Decatur Legacy Park held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new inclusive playground, the first of its kind in Decatur with a rubberized surface. The sensory-rich environment goes beyond minimum accessibility standards to create play experiences that accommodate an array of physical and cognitive abilities. This effort was made possible by a \$145,000 community development block grant through DeKalb County with the support of county Commissioners Steve Bradshaw (District 4) and Ted Terry (District 6). The City of Decatur pledged \$114,000 in matching funds for a total project budget of \$259,000.

Also in March, the City Commission heard and approved a request from Decatur High students for renovations to McKoy Skate park. During the City Commission meeting, DHS Skate Club member Julian Berman shared reasons for updating the existing skate park, including the need for safe places in the city for skateboarders to gather and skate. The Decatur Skate Club is one of the only known skateboarding clubs in Georgia and has 15 members. With the support of

Parks and Recreation Department leaders, the youth were given a voice in the design of the project, which resulted in a \$175,000 change order for more durable concrete equipment. The City of Decatur along with skaters will work with American Ramp Company to design the new skate park for a total budget of \$365,000. Previously, the City had approved a contract for \$190,000 after an anonymous donor gave \$200,000.

The new inclusive playground at Legacy Park.



## Decatur Welcomes New Communications Manager/Public Information Officer

The City of Decatur welcomes Tiya Jordan as the new communications manager/public information officer. Ms. Jordan comes to the division of Equity and Engagement with 12 years of communication and marketing experience in sectors such as local government, education and non-profits. She received a Bachelor of Arts of Communication and Marketing from Tulane University.

The City's 2020 Strategic Plan ([decaturga.com/strategicplan](http://decaturga.com/strategicplan)) identifies a number of goals related to communications and community engagement including sharing existing initiatives and successes, broadening the means of engagement and telling Decatur's story. Ms. Jordan will play a vital role in leading and developing effective strategic communication efforts to help achieve these goals. She is also responsible for managing the City's website, engaging the community in key City initiatives, and serving as the City's public information officer.



The Decatur Focus is a joint publication of the City of Decatur, the Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the Decatur Business Association. It is a newsletter intended to provide announcements and information related to events, activities, and businesses in the city of Decatur. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners and the school system. Letters to the editor, editorials or other opinion pieces are not published. All press releases, announcements or other information received for publication are subject to editing. Information found in the Focus is also posted on Decatur's official website at [decaturga.com](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

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



### Decatur Downtown Development Authority® BOARD

Conor McNally, Chair  
Noah Peeters, Vice Chair  
Tony Leung, Treasurer/Secretary  
Darren Comer • Linda Curry  
David Harry • Lisa Turner



Jill Joplin.....President  
Sean Crotty.....President-Elect  
Maria Alvarez.....Treasurer  
Daryl Funn.....Past President

## Have a Story You'd Like to Share?

The Decatur Focus is the official newsletter of the City of Decatur. Supported by the City of Decatur, the Decatur Business Association and the Decatur Downtown Development Authority, the Focus 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 available on the city website at [decaturga.com/focus](http://decaturga.com/focus).

The Decatur Focus publishes announcements and information about the City of Decatur, 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 are encouraged and can be submitted by using the submission form on the website. 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 submitting articles, announcements, or advertising is the first day of the month preceding publication (i.e., information that appears in the June issue should be submitted by May 1). Contact: Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031; phone 404-371-8386; email [decaturfocus@decaturga.com](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com).



**Read the Decatur Focus online at [decaturga.com/focus](http://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](mailto:decaturfocus@decaturga.com), or by using the submission form found at [decaturga.com/focus](http://decaturga.com/focus).

Design and layout: Lampe-Farley.com

## DECATUR RECOGNIZED AS TOP 20 ALL-AMERICA CITY

The National Civic League named City of Decatur among twenty finalists for the 2023 All-America City Award. Finalists were selected after a competitive review process based on the criteria of shared vision, civic engagement, inclusiveness and equity, collaboration, innovation and impact.

The twenty finalists are being recognized for their work to improve the health and well-being of young people, and, by extension, all residents. A primary focus is placed on communities that are authentically involving and welcoming youth in this work.

Each finalist submitted a robust application discussing the strengths of their civic capital — the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities they use to make decisions and solve problems — and providing examples of three community-driven projects or programs that have adapted and transformed the community. Decatur's projects included the recently-installed Inclusive Playground at Decatur Legacy Park, the Decatur Youth Council, and participation in UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

The All-America City Award event and competition will be held June 9-11. Decatur was chosen as an All-America City in 1988 for its equity and inclusion efforts and the creation of the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Engagement.

## City Budget Process: Dates to Remember

Decatur's fiscal year 2023-2024 budget process is underway. If you want to get involved in the process, participate on these important dates (subject to City Commission approval):

- **May 15:** Formal presentation of the budget to the City Commission and adoption of tentative 2023 millage rates.
- **June 5:** Extended work session and public hearing on proposed FY 2023-2024 budget and revised 2022-2023 budget and 2023 millage rates.
- **June 7:** Extended work session on proposed FY 2023-2024 budget and revised 2022-2023 budget (alternate date).
- **June 12:** Public hearing on proposed FY 2023-2024 budget and revised 2022-2023 budget and 2023 millage rates (if needed).
- **June 20:** Public hearing and scheduled adoption of proposed FY 2023-2024 budget and revised 2022-2023 budget and 2023 millage rates.

All public hearings on the budget will be held in-person as well as via Zoom. Access information and meeting times will be published on the City's website at [decaturga.com/budget](https://decaturga.com/budget). Copies of the FY 2023-2024 budget and revised 2022-2023 budget will be posted online beginning Wednesday, May 17. Hard copies will be available at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., and at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St. If you have questions or need more information, contact Meredith Roark, city clerk and budget director, 404-370-4102, or [meredith.roark@decaturga.com](mailto:meredith.roark@decaturga.com).

## Decatur 200 Stories Project

Be a part of history by sharing your story. SCAD students are conducting in-person interviews at Legacy Park's Leigh cottage this month, Wednesdays 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m. until Saturday, May 14. Those who are interested may make an appointment by emailing [200stories@decaturga.com](mailto:200stories@decaturga.com). Walk-ins are also welcome.



## DECATUR DOGGIE STOP



What do dogs love more than (almost) anything? Treats of course. Inspired by the little free libraries in her neighborhood, Sycamore Drive resident Anne Dodd (pictured above with her dog, Logan) set up a Doggie Stop. For dogs in the area, it's their favorite place to visit for a treat and a cool drink. When not spending time with wife Kimberly and their three dogs, Anne works as a research lab manager at Emory University.

## SOLID WASTE AND HOLIDAY RECYCLING SCHEDULE

### MEMORIAL DAY • Monday, May 29

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, May 30

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, May 31

## Planning for the Legacy Park Track and Field

**Tuesday, May 16, 5-8 p.m., Legacy Park**

The City of Decatur and City Schools of Decatur welcome all interested community members to learn more about the proposed track and field at Legacy Park.

Breedlove Land Planning of Atlanta will lead the planning and design effort for the track and field, which was identified as a community priority in the 2018 Legacy Park master plan ([decaturnext.com/timeline/legacy-park-master-plan](https://decaturnext.com/timeline/legacy-park-master-plan)). Breedlove is a landscape planning and engineering firm that is recognized for its expertise in design of parks and recreation facilities, scholastic site and athletic field improvements and storm water management systems.

The planned improvements include a new competition track and field facility, synthetic turf athletic field, lighting, field house or comparable improvements to the existing gym, and storm water management. Funding for the track and field will be provided jointly by the City of Decatur and the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education. Barring unforeseen conditions, the project should be ready for construction by the end of 2023.

An open house was held on Tuesday, April 18, at Legacy Park to meet the planning team and share ideas for the project. If you are unable to attend the workshop on May 16, there will be another opportunity on Tuesday, June 13, 6-8 p.m. in Hawkins Dining Hall.

Information about this project is available at [decaturlegacypark.com](https://decaturlegacypark.com). Comments can be emailed to Hugh Saxon, [hugh.saxon@decaturga.com](mailto:hugh.saxon@decaturga.com).



## WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS

This month's Walk & Roll Superstars are people who "roll," but not how you might expect. Decatur has a vibrant skateboard community, and a group of students started the Skate Club at Decatur High School last year. The members ride their skateboards to and from school on a regular basis. Now that's a different way to roll.

Skate Club founder and president Heath Rowland, a sophomore, and 14 other members meet weekly with social studies teacher and club sponsor Chris Seldon. Recently, the club advocated for an overhaul to Decatur's skate park at McKoy Park and their ideas are being taken into consideration by the City's contractor during the design process.



Heath enjoys the freedom his skateboard allows and is proud that Decatur High School is the only school in the Atlanta area with a skate club. Heath describes skateboarding as a versatile mode of transportation. The students easily store their boards in their lockers during the school day, and when school is out, they are ready to hang out and have fun on their boards. When skateboarders run into their friends on foot and wish to join them, it is easy enough to carry their boards.

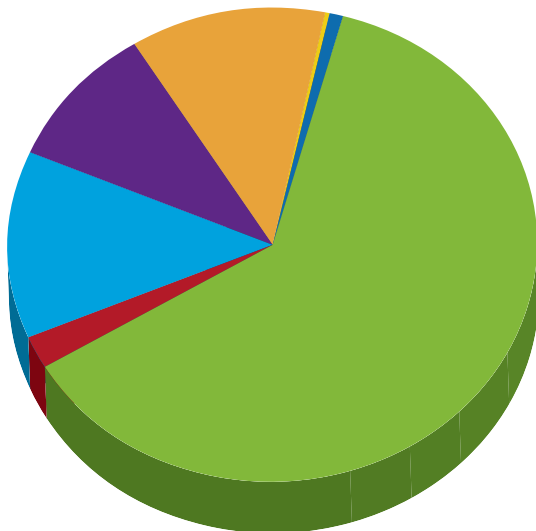
Decatur is a great place for students to walk, bike, and skate on a daily basis to get to and from school. To nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar, visit [bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur](https://bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur)



# Decatur Fire Puts Out More than Fires

Each year, DFD responds to a variety of calls for service, with emergency medical incidents topping the list. DFD is committed to prevention; if you want to learn more about how to protect your home and family from incidents, reach out to Captain Gary Menard, [gary.menard@decaturga.com](mailto:gary.menard@decaturga.com).

## DECATUR FIRE RESCUE CALLS FOR 2022



RESCUE/EMS INCIDENT	• 2,559 • 62.11%
SERVICE CALL	• 531 • 12.89%
FALSE ALARM	• 494 • 11.99%
GOOD INTENT CALL	• 397 • 9.64%
HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)	• 96 • 2.33%
FIRE	• 39 • 0.95%
SPECIAL INCIDENT	• 2 • 0.05%
SEVERE WEATHER	• 1 • 0.02%
OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)	• 1 • 0.02%

## Lithium Ion Batteries

# SAFETY TIPS FROM DECATUR FIRE

Many devices are powered by long-lasting, rechargeable batteries. While convenient, if used improperly, these batteries can malfunction and result in intense heat and flame with thick, toxic smoke. To prevent emergencies, follow these safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association. For more information, contact Captain Gary Menard, [gary.menard@decaturga.com](mailto:gary.menard@decaturga.com)

### Safety Tips

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery and charging cord that is designed for the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

### Signs of a Problem

Odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises.

### Battery Disposal

- Recycling is always the best option. Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash or in piles.

## Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area, away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.

## Car Seats for Refugees

In partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Decatur Fire installed and distributed more than 20 child safety seats to refugee families as part of the Child Occupant Safety Project. Held at the Women's Refugee Network building at Legacy Park, many of the refugees were recent arrivals from Ukraine and Afghanistan. With a grant from AAA, Decatur Fire purchased child-sized training dolls for the installation program to demonstrate to parents how to properly secure children in their seats.



# DECATUR MUNICIPAL COURT AMNESTY PROGRAM APRIL 15-JUNE 30

The Municipal Court Amnesty Program offers the opportunity to clear up any and all outstanding traffic cases with the municipal court.

## What is the Amnesty?

The City of Decatur Municipal Court Citation Amnesty is a program for individuals with past-due traffic citations and/or active bench warrants to now appear to resolve their matters and avoid arrest on the warrant or other penalties. The Court will waive any additional costs that may have been assessed such as a warrant fee and court costs.

## Why Amnesty now?

The Court is offering Amnesty to promote public safety through traffic law compliance and education, and specifically to resolve court cases that were not resolved because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Amnesty affords citizens an opportunity to clear and update their driving history by satisfying outstanding violations that may have caused or are in the process of causing a license suspension, if not properly and timely resolved. This Amnesty program may also help citizens avoid an additional suspension as many are unaware that failing to go to court when summoned can, and in many instances, has resulted in their driver's license being suspended.

The Amnesty program is also offered at this time to facilitate a new start for citizens wanting to drive legally and appropriately on Georgia roads, but need some support with the costs associated with reinstatement. This is that opportunity as the Court is waiving many the fees and costs that might be incurred with new charges.

## Who Can Participate?

Any driver who was stopped by the City of Decatur police and issued a citation.

**Note:** City of Decatur violations are not the same as DeKalb County State Court – Traffic Division violations. If you are unsure, please

review your citation information or visit the Court.

## When does the Amnesty period begin?

The Amnesty program will run from April 15 to June 30. Court sessions will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. Additional Court sessions will be held on Saturdays, April 29, May 20 and June 17, 9 a.m.-noon for Amnesty only.

For citizens unable to attend court during the week, the City of Decatur Municipal Court will be open by appointment on the following Saturdays:

- Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-noon
- Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.-noon
- Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m.-noon

Please complete the on-line request form for a date.

## How does the Amnesty process work?

**STEP 1** Find out if you are a candidate for the Amnesty program. If you meet any one of these criteria, then you are a candidate for the Amnesty program:

- You have received a letter from the City of Decatur Municipal Court advising you that you missed court and need to contact the court to reschedule your court date, and you have not done so.
- You have an outstanding violation from the City of Decatur Municipal Court
- You believe that a warrant may have been issued against you in the City of Decatur Municipal Court for any reason such as failure to appear, failure to satisfy deferred payment option or probation violation.

If you are unsure or do not remember if you ever received a letter from the City of Decatur Municipal Court regarding a missed court date, etc., contact the court staff at 678-553-6655 or come to the court at 420 W. Trinity Place to find out if you are a candidate for the Amnesty Program.

**STEP 2** If you are a candidate, come to the City of Decatur Municipal Court, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to pay the full fine from the original violation. **Note:** If the original violation requires a mandatory court appearance such as a DUI, suspended driver's license or no insurance, you must appear on a Saturday court date to appear before a judge. Alternatively, you must appear to receive a new court date.

Additionally, and only through the Amnesty period, you may complete the on-line "Case Amnesty Request Form" and specifically request a court date to insure an opportunity to address your case during Amnesty. However, should you specifically request a date that is granted, and fail to appear, your license will be suspended and a warrant shall issue.

**STEP 3** Receive clearance and final resolution documents. After the violation has been resolved and the fine has been paid,

1. The warrant will be recalled (if one has been issued); and
2. The court clerk will give you documentation to submit to the Department of Driver Services to have your driver's license reinstated (if already suspended).

## What can I expect if I do not resolve my issue during Amnesty?

Please be advised, a warrant shall issue for all outstanding cases unresolved during Amnesty, and will proceed through the arrest process prior to case resolution and/or license reinstatement, if already suspended due to Failure to Appear.

## What are my payment options?

- Cash (in-person only)
- Money order
- Certified check (no personal checks)
- Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and debit cards with Visa or MasterCard logo, a 5% service fee will be applied)



## Meeting Preview

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

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

For more details or to join, visit [decaturdba.com](http://decaturdba.com)

## FREE CITY SHUTTLE SERVICE

The new GoDecatur Circulator will transport residents and visitors to popular destinations like Publix, CVS, the YMCA, and Legacy Park. The shuttle service offers two 12-person buses that will run Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in a continuous loop of 15 stops around the city, listed below.

Visit [decaturga.com/shuttle](http://decaturga.com/shuttle) for more information.



**Decatur Recreation Center**, 231 Sycamore St.

**Philips Tower**, 218 E. Trinity Pl.

**Harmony Park**, 630 East Lake Dr.

**Oakview Walk**, 1111 Oakview Rd.

**Oakhurst Recreation Center**, 450 East Lake Dr.

**Oliver House**, 1450 Commerce Dr.

**Park Trace Apartments**, 700 Atlanta Ave.

**US Post Office**, 520 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

**Commerce Square / CVS Shopping Center**, 225 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

**Clairemont Oaks**, 441 Clairemont Rd.

**YMCA**, 1110 Clairemont Rd.

**Town Square Condos / Pure Service Station**, 249 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

**Publix / Sam's Crossing**, 2720 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

**Columbia Residences**, 590 E. Freeman St.

**Legacy Park**, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

## Shakespeare Superhero Sidekicks

Children aged four to six years are invited to attend Shakespeare Summer Camp. Join professional teaching artists for exciting mornings of creative play, including acting, singing, dancing, arts and crafts, outside recess time, theatre games and learning to share the stage with an ensemble. A final, costumed class will take place on the last day of camp. Two daily camp programs are offered May 30-June 9 and July 10-21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Atlanta Friends Meeting. For more information and to register, visit [shakespearetaavern.com/education/summer](http://shakespearetaavern.com/education/summer).



## Summer Music & Movement

Music Together of Decatur's research-based curriculum develops music skills, nurtures creativity and self-expression, and builds confidence for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Wiggling, singing, and laughing provides a fun and creative learning experience for kids and parents, while bonding in a community setting. This summer choose from one of the following programs:

- Six-week Session starts June 5 (with a break June 26-July 8)
- Four-week Session starts August 5

Space is limited so register today at [musictogetherofdecatur.com](http://musictogetherofdecatur.com). Select both sessions for a \$25 discount with code MoreSummer. For more information email [wendy@musictogetherofdecatur.com](mailto:wendy@musictogetherofdecatur.com) or call/text 678-466-0737.



## Global Growers Network Names Executive Director

Susan Pavlin will serve as the new executive director at Global Growers Network, but she is not new to the mission and work of GGN. Susan is co-founder of the organization, and served as GGN's director during its early years before passing leadership to co-founder Robin Chanin. Susan is passionate about the communities that GGN works with, international newcomers whose unique contributions to the local food system helped inspire her and other leaders to create the organization.

For the past 15 years, Susan has focused on building equitable regional food systems and mission-driven businesses. Additionally, she served as the founding director of Common Market Southeast, and co-founded Taproot, a consulting company specializing in growing enterprise, equity, and community.

Currently, Susan is as an advisor to the Reinvestment Fund's Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a member of the USDA Data Standardization Committee, and serves on the board of Working Title Playwrights. Her experience and expertise are an asset to Global Growers Network, as the organization continues to build sustainable food systems for unique and diverse communities who are raising the next generation of Americans.

Global Growers Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to partner with people from diverse cultures to grow fresh food for their families and for local marketplaces. They build and sustain networks of growers, land, resources, and markets in order to create a more equitable food system that is driven by cultural diversity, inclusive economies, and regenerative agriculture practices. Visit [globalgrowers.org](http://globalgrowers.org) for more information.



## DADs Offers Connections and Support

Decatur Area Dads (DADs) is a group of local dads that welcomes anyone looking to make new friends, ask questions about fatherhood, or bring their kids to playdates at the

park. The group hosts monthly events with and without kids, including a meet

up at Decatur Toy Park (133 Nelson Ferry Rd) the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. For more information, follow DADs on Facebook or sign up for the newsletter at [decaturdads.com](http://decaturdads.com).



## Local Girl Scouts Provide Meals for Kids

Oakhurst Girl Scout Troop #21729 held a food drive supporting the Atlanta Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack, an organization that helps feed kids facing food insecurity. The

troop felt strongly about supporting children and helping ensure kids in Atlanta have access to healthy food on the weekends to keep their bellies full and hopes high. The troop

collected more than 2,000 items, creating nearly 450 meals. Proving that small hands can make a big difference.



Photos by Hector Amador

## Gear up for the 12th Annual Madison Avenue Derby

While October may seem far away, it's time to start planning if you want to build and race your own human-powered soapbox derby car. This family-friendly FUNdraiser offers lots of opportunities to get involved whether you're a racer or a spectator. Through local business sponsorships, participation by racers, and community giving, the event has raised nearly \$300,000 in its first eleven years, including \$40,500 for the 2022 beneficiary, Friends of Refugees.

### Beneficiary Applications

Non-profit organizations that serve local youth can submit an application to be the 2023 Mad Ave Derby Beneficiary. Interested organizations should apply online at [madavederby.org/about](https://madavederby.org/about) by June 23.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Businesses interested in connecting with the community and supporting the event as a sponsor should contact [sponsors@madavederby.org](mailto:sponsors@madavederby.org).

### Early Bird Driver Registration Opens May 1

To improve the driver registration process as well as the spectator experience, Mad Ave Derby is offering discounted early bird registration May 1- July 31. Driver spots sell out quickly, so register early at [madavederby.org](https://madavederby.org). Then mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21 and look for the checkered flag.







THERE'S LOTS  
TO LOVE AT  
AML DECATUR!

Our luxury apartment community offers a uniquely walkable location in downtown Decatur, high-end interiors and exceptional amenities. And our LEED Gold® certification promises healthy and sustainable living.

122 W Trinity Pl, Decatur, GA 30030 | [AMLIDecatur.com](https://AMLIDecatur.com) | 855-777-9438 | 



75 years  
& counting


join in the dance with  
CREATIVE MOVEMENT | BALLET | JAZZ | TAP | MODERN  
SWING | LYRICAL | HIP HOP | THEATRE DANCE and so much more!

141 Sams Street | 102 Church Street | Decatur, Georgia 30030  
404.378.3388 | [decaturballet.com](https://decaturballet.com)



DEDICATED.  
EXPERIENCED.  
RESPECTED.

Expert, uncompromising  
legal representation  
when you need it most.



CHAMBERS & AHOLT

— TRIAL ATTORNEYS —

• Personal Injury and Wrongful Death •

150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 260 • Downtown Decatur  
404-253-7860 • [doug@carllp.com](mailto:doug@carllp.com) • [www.carllp.com](https://www.carllp.com)

## TRUCKIN' TUESDAYS RETURN TO LEGACY PARK

**Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 5-8 p.m.**

Come and enjoy good eats, fresh air, music, and plenty of room to spread out with your friends, family, and neighbors. Bring blankets, chairs and your appetite to discover a delicious array of providers — many appearing for the first time — to tempt your taste-buds. Get fed, have fun, all while helping fund ongoing operations at the park. Should the weather look bleak, check in with the Decatur Legacy Park Facebook page for cancellation announcements. Visit [decaturlegacypark.com](http://decaturlegacypark.com) for more information about this and other happenings at Legacy Park.



**DEREK WOOD**  
DEREKWOODREALTY.COM

**KELLER KNAPP**  
REALTY

Your partner in Decatur real estate.

Text or call Derek  
at (678) 595-5427.



## Decatur Arts Festival

**Friday, May 5 to  
Sunday, May 7**

Enjoy a full weekend, celebrating fine arts, music, theater, dance, comedy, and literary arts. Visit [DecaturArtsFestival.com](http://DecaturArtsFestival.com) for performance schedules, participating artists, and other festival info. This event is produced by the Decatur Arts Alliance, [decaturartsalliance.org](http://decaturartsalliance.org).



**tag&stash**  
changing spaces one room at a time

*professional home organizers*

book an in-home assessment today!  
tel | 678.626.1852  
[www.tagandstash.com](http://www.tagandstash.com)



**The High House • 309 Sycamore Street • Decatur, Georgia 30030**

For Leasing Info: [hello@highhousedecatur.com](mailto:hello@highhousedecatur.com) • [highhousedecatur.com](http://highhousedecatur.com)

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.

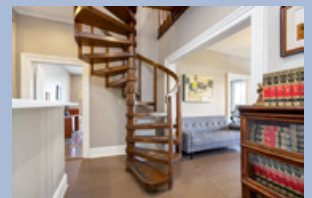
Each full service gross executive office lease includes:

- 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  
since 1830





**Rock the Mic**

**Karaoke Night**

6-8 pm

Second Fridays on the Square  
in Decatur, Georgia

April 14  
May 12  
June 9

## SHARE YOUR VOICE!

Friday, May 12, 6-8 p.m.  
Community Bandstand

Release your inner diva and belt out your favorite tunes at Rock the Mic Karaoke Night on the square. Grab your friends (and fans), warm up those vocal cords, and rock the microphone like a pro.



**JOIN US!**

Decatur Parents Network

WWW.DECATURPARENTS.NET

SCAN ME

**DPI** THIS AD WAS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY DECATUR PREVENTION INITIATIVE.



**THE DAMMANN TEAM**

BORN HERE. RAISED HERE.  
*Here for you!*

YOUR HOME IS YOUR SANCTUARY,  
SO WE WANT YOU TO LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE!

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
+ INTEGRITY + 5 STAR  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
= HAPPY CLIENTS!

**KW METRO ATLANTA**  
KELLER WILLIAMS READY

OUR TEAM IS RANKED AS ONE  
OF THE TOP 5 TEAMS FOR KELLER  
WILLIAMS METRO ATLANTA!

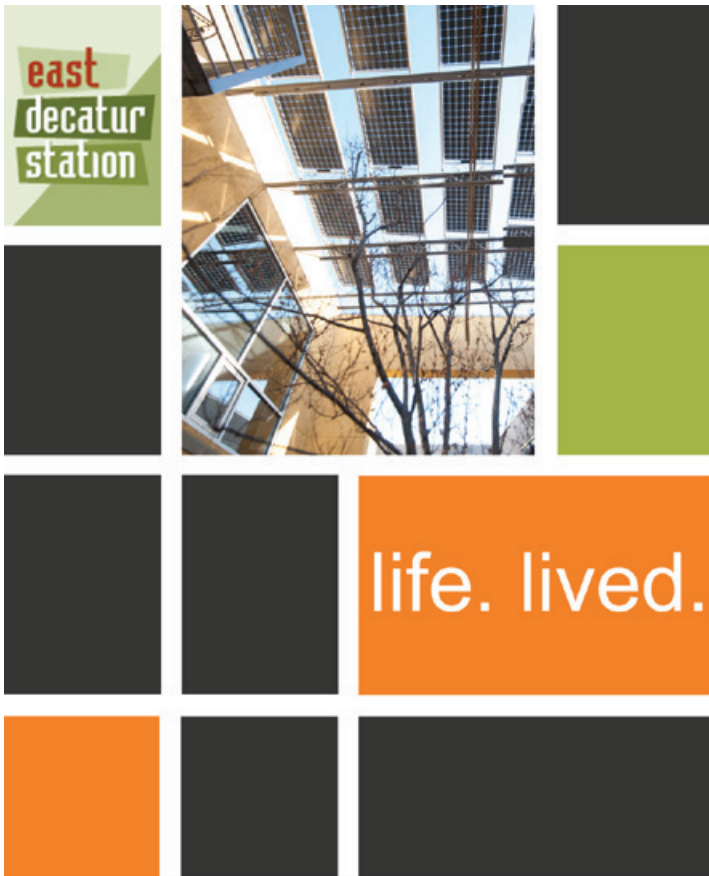
**DOWNLOAD OUR GUIDE  
FOR A SUCCESSFUL SALE!**  
SCAN HERE

CALL OR TEXT US! 404.377.9000 • THE DAMMANN TEAM.COM

**BIKES & BREWS**  
**EVERY THIRD FRIDAY,**  
**MARCH–OCTOBER**



Join Decatur Parks and Recreation and Decatur cycling enthusiasts on the third Friday of every month, March-October, for Bikes and Brews. Enjoy a ride through the city and then kick back at a local brewery. All skill levels are welcome, and helmets are required. Meet at 6:30 p.m., May 19, at Guild + Journeyman, 115 Clairemont Ave.



404.377.3095

627 East College Ave. Decatur. GA



## Second Sunday Strolls at Decatur Cemetery

**Sunday, May 14, 2:30 p.m., Wellhouse/gazebo in the Historic Old Section, Decatur Cemetery**

Friends of Decatur Cemetery offers educational tours, highlighting the resting places of the many Decatur citizens who contributed to the history of Decatur, DeKalb County, and the state of Georgia. Visit [facebook.com/friendsofdecaturcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdecaturcemetery) for more information. Upcoming tours, monthly through October, are scheduled June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, and Oct. 8.



## Protect the home you love.

**If you need home coverage, I can help.**

I live and work right here in our community. I know what the homes are like in the area. So I can offer advice you can trust to help you get the protection that fits your needs.

If you're ready to talk home insurance or need some advice about protecting all that's important to you, call me today.



Rob Enfinger

404-537-1343

120 W. Trinity Place 4th Floor, Ste. 117  
Decatur, GA 30030



Personalized service. Trusted advice.

Allstate home products not available in FL, and may also not be available in certain areas of other states. Policies may be written by a non-affiliated third-party company. Insurance subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company & affiliates; 2775 Sanders Rd Northbrook, IL. ©2016 Allstate Insurance Co.

16910765

## Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson Presents The Beacon Hill Funk Fest

As part of the year-long celebrations marking Decatur's 200th Anniversary, the community is invited to come out and experience the first Beacon Hill Funk Fest on Decatur Square, featuring legendary funk band Brick and Lakeside and local favorites John Boy and Surround Sound, with DJ Quasi Mandisco. Funk Fest is free and open to the community.

Decatur's 200th Anniversary is a time for celebration and reflection, and an integral piece of Decatur's history includes stories of Beacon Hill, the thriving Black community in Decatur that was destroyed by urban renewal practices during the 1950s and 60s.

Last year, the City launched Mayor Emerita Elizabeth Wilson Presents: The Beacon Hill Concert Series that served to highlight stories from the Beacon Hill community and celebrate the legacy of its residents while bringing the greater community together with incredible musicians. The Beacon Hill Funk Fest will serve the same purpose yet on a larger stage.

In addition to the talented lineup of musicians, the event will offer Black and Indigenous food truck vendors onsite. Attendees are welcome to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy during the show, and encouraged to come early or stay late and experience shopping and dining on the Square.



**Saturday May 20 | 4-8 pm**

**FREE!**

**BEACON HILL Funk Fest**

**Brick**

**Lakeside**

**John Boy & Surround Sound**

**with DJ Quasi Mandisco**

**Co-hosts**

**celebrating 200**  
City of Decatur  
"BIRTH OF A NATION" 1923-2023

**VISIT DECATUR GEORGIA**  
City of Decatur

**Decatur Square**

**Experience is not Expensive...It's Priceless!**



**43 years of being your neighbor  
and REALTOR® of choice!**

**PAM HUGHES**  
REALTOR®

Cell: 404-626-3604

Office: 404-897-5558

[Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com](mailto:Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com)



*Personalized Service and an Exceptional Experience*



**WELLSPRING  
CHIROPRACTIC  
&  
WELLNESS**

"I am a practicing Chiropractic Physician. For the past 20 years I've been passionate about healthy living.

The prevention of pain and chronic diseases are the focuses of my practice.

I manage these conditions through Chiropractic Care, Functional Medicine and Nutrition."

235 E. Ponce De Leon Ave.  
Suite 109

Decatur, GA 30030

OFFICE - 404.377.7263

[WELLSPRINGDECATUR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WELLSPRINGDECATUR@GMAIL.COM)  
[WELLSPRINGINDECATUR.COM](http://WELLSPRINGINDECATUR.COM)

## Clairemont Elementary's March on Decatur

On Friday, March 31, Clairemont Elementary hosted its March on Decatur, themed "Extinguishing the Isms." Students, teachers, families, and community members joined the march from Clairemont to the DeKalb History Center and were inspired by student and adult speakers who spoke out against racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism. The march served as a culminating event to a thematic unit created by the Clairemont Elementary Equity Team in partnership with the school's PTA and the John R. Lewis Legacy Institute. Clairemont thanks City Schools of Decatur, the City of Decatur, The DeKalb History Center, and the Decatur Police and Fire Departments for their support.



**Chamberlain**  
FINANCIAL ADVISORS



**Helping Decatur families reach their goals**  
**GET STARTED TODAY**  
ChamberlainFA.com | 678-938-0372

DECATUR'S INDOOR PLANT SHOP

 *Lush Plant Co.*



Stop By & See Us:  
317 W. Hill Street  
(Rear of Building)

LUSHPLANTCO.COM

(917) 451-0737  
@LUSH\_PLANTCO

LOCALLY-OWNED BY WOMEN

## Education Foundation Wants You to Step Up for Teachers

Many agree that teachers have one of the hardest and most important jobs on the planet. As the school year winds down this month, the Decatur Education Foundation asks the community to demonstrate their support by planting yard signs to encourage our teachers through the final weeks of school. DEF's Step Up for Teachers campaign is a feel good fundraiser that spreads love for CSD staff while raising \$15,000 to support DEF initiatives.

During the months of April and May, current students, alums, and community members can express appreciation for a CSD teacher, administrator, or school support member by visiting [stepupforteachers.com](http://stepupforteachers.com) to make a financial contribution or leave a note of gratitude. DEF notifies the recipients and posts the tributes on the DEF website.

For those who contribute \$50 or more, DEF offers a "We Step Up for Teachers" or "Congratulations Class of 2023" yard sign. Funds raised through the Step Up campaign are used to support Teacher Innovation Grants that are awarded every fall. If you are unable to make a donation, you can honor a teacher with a tribute by emailing [drew@decatureducationfoundation.org](mailto:drew@decatureducationfoundation.org). For more information about how DEF supports teachers, schools, and students, visit [decatureducationfoundation.org](http://decatureducationfoundation.org).



"The Art of Lacrosse" is an artistic collaboration between local Decatur artist Adam Pinsley and the Decatur High School Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team. Through the project, Pinsley, a coach on the DHS Boys Lacrosse Team, seeks to express and combine his passions of art and lacrosse. With the support of the girls' head coach Alex Powers, Pinsley and members of the team had a fun bonding experience while creating abstract expressionist splatter painting. The players dipped lacrosse sticks and balls in Bulldog colors and took shots at a canvas attached to the goal. The result is a colorful and original work of art.

Atlanta Fine Homes | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## Giving You the Time and Attention You Deserve

**LISA CRONIC, REALTOR®**

Decatur resident since 1989



**Lisa Cronic**

c. 678.641.4325 o. 404.874.0300  
[lisacronic@atlantafinehomes.com](mailto:lisacronic@atlantafinehomes.com)  
[atlantafinehomes.com](http://atlantafinehomes.com) | [sir.com](http://sir.com)

Atlanta Fine Homes, LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated. Intown office: 1555 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

## Estate Planning Wills & Trusts • Probate

As your family grows, or you prepare for retirement, it's important to have a plan.



**Mackintosh**  
LAW, LLC

246 Sycamore Street, Suite 150, Decatur, GA 30030  
(404) 793-2510 • [Brooks@Mackintosh.law](mailto:Brooks@Mackintosh.law)  
[www.mackintosh.law](http://www.mackintosh.law)

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

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 199  
Decatur, GA 30031



Decatur  
**Focus**

P.O. Box 220  
Decatur, GA 30031-220

DATED MATERIAL MAY 2023

# SUMMER AT AGNES!

Agnes Scott College offers summer youth camps for elementary, middle and high school students on its campus in the heart of downtown Decatur.

*Camps include:*  
**NASA Astro Camps**  
**Georgia STARTALK**  
Program: Chinese and Turkish  
**Writing Camps**  
**Camp Tech Revolution and MORE!**

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

**AGNES SCOTT**  
COLLEGE

Feeling jaded?  
Worthmore can  
help!



Find out how...



**WORTHMORE**  
jewelers

117 East Court Square . Decatur . 404/370-3979  
500 L-3 Amsterdam Ave . Atlanta . 404/892-8294  
[www.worthmorejewelers.com](http://www.worthmorejewelers.com)



AMERICAN GEM  
SOCIETY  
Consumer Protection Since 1924