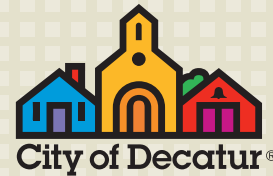


City of Decatur FOCUS



MAY 2024
Volume 34 • Number 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

Decatur Gets Football (Soccer) Team: Decatur FC

Decatur FC, a women's semi-professional football team, is coming to Decatur. Gareth O'Sullivan, a resident and local business owner, is collaborating with the City of Decatur to bring soccer to the community. Gareth, part of the ownership of Decatur FC, brings experience playing as professional soccer player in Europe and coached the Atlanta Beat 2009-2010, which competed in the Women's Professional Soccer league. The new team will compete in the Women's Premier Soccer League in the Southeast conference. Join Decatur FC for its opening match against Atlanta Fire on May 24 at 7 p.m. at Decatur High School. Attendees are encouraged to walk or roll. All home games will be played at Decatur High School at 310 N. McDonough St. Go to decaturfc.com for more information, to purchase tickets, or to buy fan merchandise. The team is also on Instagram @Decaturfc.



DECATUR FC		2024	
FULL SCHEDULE			
FRI MAY 24	ATLANTA FIRE	7PM	HOME
SAT JUNE 1	FC NASHVILLE WOLVES	5PM	AWAY
FRI JUNE 7	GEORGIA IMPACT	7PM	HOME
SUN JUNE 9	FC BIRMINGHAM	7PM	AWAY
SAT JUNE 15	865 ALLIANCE	7PM	HOME
FRI JUNE 21	TORMENTA (EXHIBITION GAME)	7PM	HOME
SUN JUNE 23	CHATTANOOGA FC	7PM	AWAY
SAT JUNE 29	NASHVILLE RHYTHM	7PM	HOME
MON JULY 1	UFA GUNNERS	7PM	AWAY



Audible Pedestrian Signals Coming to 5 Decatur Intersections

Audible pedestrian signals are being installed at five intersections in downtown Decatur to help make the city more accessible for community members with visual impairments. Users simply press the crossing button and a voice recording will announce the pedestrian walk signal. The audible pedestrian signals can be found at:

1. Commerce Dr. at North Candler St.
2. Commerce Dr. at East Ponce de Leon Ave.
3. Commerce Dr. at Sycamore St.
4. East Ponce de Leon Ave. at North Candler St.
5. Church St. at Sycamore St.

Georgia Department of Transportation's Office of Traffic Operations provided the signal equipment through its safety program, the City of Decatur is overseeing their installation, and DeKalb County Traffic Engineering is responsible for their operation and maintenance.

Shirley Baylis Steps Down as Business Development Manager

Longtime Business Development Manager Shirley Baylis has stepped down from her role to join the Community Redevelopment Authority with the City of Pensacola, Florida. Shirley worked with Decatur since December 2009 and played an instrumental role in several initiatives across the city.



She wrote and managed the employee wellness program while serving as the payroll and benefits coordinator. As special events coordinator, Shirley was a part of the steering team to bring the city's first Tiny House Festival, which brought approximately 8,000 people to the city over that weekend. As business development manager, she wrote, lead, and managed projects like the Decatur Retail Incubator Program (DRIP), the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant program, managed the Commercial Buildout program, and Marketing, Digital and Connectivity Grant program, and managed the pilot shuttle program in 2023. Those wishing to receive assistance from the city for business-related matters should contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 404-371-8386.

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



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

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

Welcoming Business Award Nominations Now Open

The Better Together Advisory Board is accepting nominations through October 11 for its annual Welcoming Business Award. This award is open to all businesses in Decatur that have employees and are located within the city limits. The purpose of the Welcoming Business Award is to reward and publicly recognize leadership actions that create a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive business environment in Decatur and to encourage businesses to prioritize inclusivity as a "best practice." Award criteria include:

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



Nomination forms may be submitted online at decaturga.com/welcomingbusiness. Printed nomination forms can be submitted via email to Renae Jackson at renae.jackson@decaturga.com or mailed to her attention at City of Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur, Ga 30031. Recipients will be announced by the City Commission in conjunction with the City of Decatur's Home-town Hero Awards in December. The Better Together Advisory Board was established in 2016 as part of the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement.



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
- Maria Alvarez.....Treasurer
- Carolyn Ficken.....Secretary
- Sean Crotty.....President-Elect

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

Information for the FOCUS should be submitted by mail to Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031, or by email to decaturfocus@decaturga.com, or by using the submission form found at decaturga.com/focus.

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FOR THE TREES ... AND LEGACY PARK

Every day is a reason to celebrate Decatur and the community we all call home. This year, we are celebrating our 2024 Georgia Arborist of the year, Kay Evanovich and just this month, the city was honored by Trees Atlanta as the Tree Champion Community Partner for 2024.

Trees have always held a special place for me and have been part of the leafy landscape that shaped my life. I grew up in the Piney Woods of East Texas and following college, moved to the lush green valley of Chattanooga, with its winding river and stately trees. The first home my husband, Gary, and I purchased was in an aptly named neighborhood, Cherokee Woods. And one of the first places we came upon when walking through a very unfamiliar Decatur, visiting from Chattanooga in 2000, was the Oakhurst Community Garden, now a part of the Wylde Center.



We served on the Board of the Oakhurst Community Garden and volunteered for Trees Atlanta, planting trees in and around Decatur. I remember gathering to celebrate the Oakhurst Arboretum; the Arboretum marker can be found at the corner of Oakview Road and East Lake Dr., in front of Oakview Coffee.

Trees Atlanta continues to plant street trees and front yard trees in its Front Yard tree program in Decatur. Over 450 native trees and shrubs have been planted by Trees Atlanta and volunteers in this year's Fall/Winter season. Tree plantings, in addition to the removal of ivy and other invasives, have made Legacy Park even more inviting. In presenting the 2024 Community Tree Champion award, Trees Atlanta provided the following:

The City of Decatur is one of our longest running and most dedicated community partners. Our long-time partnership and your continued dedication to protecting and enhancing Decatur's tree canopy leads Trees Atlanta to recognize the City of Decatur as our 2024 Community Tree Champion, recognizing the strong desire to support urban trees through planting, tree care, greenspace restoration and consistent investment. The City's leadership team supports those activities and actively promotes the benefits trees provide to the Decatur community. Our ongoing work to restore Legacy Park and make it more accessible to residents is one shining example of the investments you are making.

I invite you to visit Legacy and see the unfolding of the Master Plan in progress, with preservation of greenspace, care of the existing trees, and plantings to ensure trees and shade in the future. The construction of the new track and field facility, with City Schools of Decatur as our partner in this endeavor is underway; this facility will bring more opportunities for active uses on the property. Visit the inclusive playground; note the wonderful nonprofits that also serve our community; walk the Cross Country trail; see the Dairy Barn; listen for the birds; visit the pond; find the fruit trees planted by the Decatur Youth Council; enjoy Truckin' Tuesdays on the lawn on Tuesday evenings in May. We will also soon be welcoming new neighbors into the community with the construction of phase one of the Village at Legacy.

Legacy Park... an oasis in the city. I hope to see you there.

— Mayor Patti Garrett

Lifelong Community Advisory Board Celebrates Older Americans Month

The City of Decatur and the Decatur Lifelong Community Advisory Board are celebrating Older Americans Month in May. This year the Board has worked on several initiatives to further its goal of assisting the City in recommending, implementing, and supporting programs for senior citizens.

Decatur is recognized as an AARP Age-Friendly Community. The Age-Friendly initiative was created to prepare communities for the aging of the nation's population by focusing on and strengthening the features and services that help to make communities livable for all ages, from cradle to retirement. As part of the designation, the board created and the City has formally adopted a five-year Age-Friendly Community Action Plan. The plan was created with general guidelines from AARP and the World Health Organization.

The Age-Friendly Community Action Plan outlines a five-year effort to ensure that older Decatur residents are connected, healthy, and engaged in the community. The plan addresses challenges identified by residents and describes goals that are achievable within five years. The plan builds on previous plans created in Decatur and adds an emphasis on older residents.

There are nine areas or "domains" where goals are set and achieved: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Engagement and Participation, Communication and Information, Community and Health Services, and Business Services. Within each domain are specific goals for the City or the board to achieve.

In connection with action items in the plan for 2023-24, the board has been active with the Spotlight on Dementia Foundation and has offered training for residents and others in interacting with dementia patients and their caregivers, with the goal of ultimately increasing awareness and involvement of the business community. Bicentennial blankets to enjoy the fireworks at the outdoor celebration of Decatur's 200th anniversary in December were provided as part of the plan's goal to help encourage older adults to stay active and be able to attend special events comfortably. The Lifelong Community Advisory Board is working with Decatur Fire to learn about Smart911 and how it can assist older residents with emergency preparedness. The board has also started contributing articles to the Focus newsletter to further its goals in its Communication and Information domain.

The Lifelong Community Advisory Board members are Susan Messing, Tim Hatten, GG Howard, Sandy Bailey, Stephanie Roach, Rev. Marti Keller, Melinda Mobley, and Arlene Schler. The City's staff liaison to the Board is Julie Smith, lifelong community manager. They meet on the fourth Monday of every month in City Hall and meetings are open to the public. Go to decaturga.com/bc-lcab to learn more.

Meet the Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board

The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) recently appointed several new members including a new chair and two youth members. Eight of the 11 members on the ESB are new.

Alex Stewart is the new chair of the ESB and moved to Decatur in 2021 with his wife Courtney. They now have a one-year-old daughter, Monroe. His background is in construction project management and construction technology. Alex joins **Annie Archbold** who serves as the co-chair. Annie is retired from the CDC, a Master Gardener, and a longtime resident of the city who was part of the team that assisted with updating Decatur's tree ordinance. **Juno Rogers** and **Payton Sobon** are the new youth members of the board. Juno is a senior at Decatur High School and she says that her environmental consciousness is rooted in her love for the outdoors where she attended the Outdoor Academy, completed an internship with the Decatur Farm to School Program/The Wylde Center. Payton leads the Decatur High School Student Government Association's sustainability task force and has organized initiatives such as Earth Day 5k and a Decatur toy drive.

Kristy Bible started her career financing renewable energy projects and currently serves as the event manager and Oakhurst Garden site coordinator for the Wylde Center. In addition, she is engaged in building and maintaining gardens at Decatur schools.

Cynthia Curry is passionate about sustainability and builds the cleantech ecosystem through her work at Metro Atlanta Chamber. The Oakhurst resident has lived in Decatur for more than 30 years with her son, husband, and two rescue dogs and serves on numerous boards in the region.

Tony Harding is an assistant professor in Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy focusing on environmental economics. He is new to the community, and he wants to



Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board (front row, from left): Kristy Bible, Tony Harden, Annie Archbold, Payton Sobon, Cynthia Curry, Allison Ericson. Back row: Hunter Unrue, Mike Barick, Juno Rogers, Alex Stewart, Jane Lomas, David Nifong

focus on enhancing the city's environmental footprint during his term.

Jane Lomas is an educator and a realtor, specializing in serving seniors and their families through life transitions and believes in creating a sustainable world that will benefit future generations.

Hunter Unrue is an experienced investment manager who moved to Decatur with his wife Kendal and their new daughter Daphne. He wants to work toward the success of Decatur's environmental goals including composting, waste management and walkability throughout the city.

Board members **Mike Barcik** and **Andrew Harden** are veterans of the ESB. Mike is a technical principal at Southface Institute and helps lead weatherization efforts with Decatur's MLK Service Project. He also co-wrote Decatur's High Performance Building Ordinance, and is working to help implement Decatur's Clean Energy Plan. Andrew's interests lie in the transition to clean energy, waste management and composting,

and smart cities. He has partnered with City Schools of Decatur on several grant applications to secure funding for energy retrofits throughout CSD. In his professional life, Andrew is a change management expert, focusing on the human factors of change adoption.

The ESB was established to provide recommendations to the City Commission regarding the city's environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives as well as assisting with implementation of city projects that impact the natural environment to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners in the City of Decatur. The board assumed the duties of the Waste Management Advisory Board and the Greenspace Commission. It also fulfills the requirements for a Stormwater Management Advisory Board. The ESB meets on the fourth Monday of each month 4-6 p.m. at the Decatur Recreation Center and meetings are open to the public. Learn more at decaturga.com/bc-esb.

WASTE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Memorial Day • Monday, May 27

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, May 28

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, May 29

Juneteenth • Wednesday, June 19

No changes to the regular schedule

City Budget Process: Dates to Remember

Decatur's fiscal year 2024-2025 budget process is underway. If you want to get involved in the process, participate on these important dates (subject to City Commission approval):

- **May 20:** Formal presentation of the budget to the City Commission and adoption of tentative 2024 millage rates.
- **June 3:** Public hearing on proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and revised 2023-2024 budget and 2024 millage rates.
- **June 5:** Extended work session on proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and revised 2023-2024 budget (alternate date).
- **June 10:** Public hearing on proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and revised 2023-2024 budget and 2024 millage rates (if needed).
- **June 17:** Public hearing and scheduled adoption of proposed FY 2024-2025 budget and revised 2023-2024 budget and 2024 millage rates.

All public hearings on the budget will be held in-person and via Zoom. Access information and meeting times will be published on the City's website at decaturga.com/budget. Copies of the FY 2024-2025 budget and revised 2023-2024 budget will be posted online beginning Wednesday, May 19. Hard copies will be available at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., and at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St. For more information, contact Meredith Roark, chief of staff, 404-370-4102, or meredith.roark@decaturga.com.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR

Meet **Dr. Matt Hawkins**, our May Walk & Roll Superstar. Matt is an interventional radiologist at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and has walked to work for years. Matt, his wife Kimi, and their daughters Emma and Annalyn reside on the north side of town.

The Hawkinses moved to Decatur in 2014 to live close to Matt's job and to enjoy the city's walkable environment and schools. While in town on an interviewing trip, they walked from the Emory Conference Center to the Iberian Pig for dinner and confirmed their fondness for Decatur. When they found their house, Matt was thrilled to discover a fantastic route to Emory on foot, taking him from Ponce de Leon Heights and Chelsea Heights into Druid Hills, and finally to the hospital.

Matt reports a number of positive benefits of commuting on foot. With his intense work schedule, walking to and from work is a natural way to fit movement into his day. The trip is just under two miles each way and takes about 30 minutes. He enjoys the outside time to connect with nature while gathering his thoughts on the way to work and decompressing on the way home. Matt has loved learning the habits of the birds throughout the different seasons and also uses the time to catch up on the phone with his parents in Indiana.

Matt enthusiastically recommends walking to work and appreciates the staff at Fleet Feet for keeping him in comfortable walking shoes. Nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar by visiting bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur.



Fabu Face Spa a Long-Standing Beauty Destination

Fabu Face Spa has been in business for nearly 21 years. The spa specializes in facial care but also offers waxing, makeup, brows and lashes services, and massages. It is owned by Jessica Kane, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Growing up, Jessica visited Atlanta frequently and was charmed by the City of Decatur which is why she decided to open a business here. She originally moved to Georgia to take a make-up course but ended up getting an esthetician license instead and became an entrepreneur.

Fabu (short for fabulous) Face Spa has seven estheticians and has consistently been ranked among the best spas in the area. It was recently voted "Best Day Spa" on Atlanta's Best website atlantasbest.com and has been crowned "Best Facial in Atlanta" by *Allure* magazine for multiple years. The Glo2 Facial by Geneo and Fabu mixology treatments are just some of the unique facials the spa offers. A Glo2 facial exfoliates (oxygenates & exfoliates), and infuses the skin using patented technology that creates CO2 bubbles that gently burst on the skin, sending oxygen-rich blood to the area. A hands-free device delivers a lymphatic massage that sculpts the face, helping reduce redness and puffiness while infusing active ingredients even deeper



into the skin. Their mixology facials feature special blends created by Jessica and her team that combine different ingredients and modalities. One example of a mixology facial offered is the Luminifusion treatment which combines "nano-needling", which does not actually involve needles but rather uses little pyramids to infuse products deep into the skin, and an LED panel to brighten and regenerate the face.

Jessica believes that the offering of high-quality products, the relationships built with clients, the authenticity, and passion for skincare and wellbeing have all helped make her business successful along with putting her team first. The spa owner says that she loves Decatur because it cares about its residents and business owners. She believes there is a strong sense of community making the city a great place to live and work which is why so many are drawn to it.

Go to fabufacespa.com to learn more.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

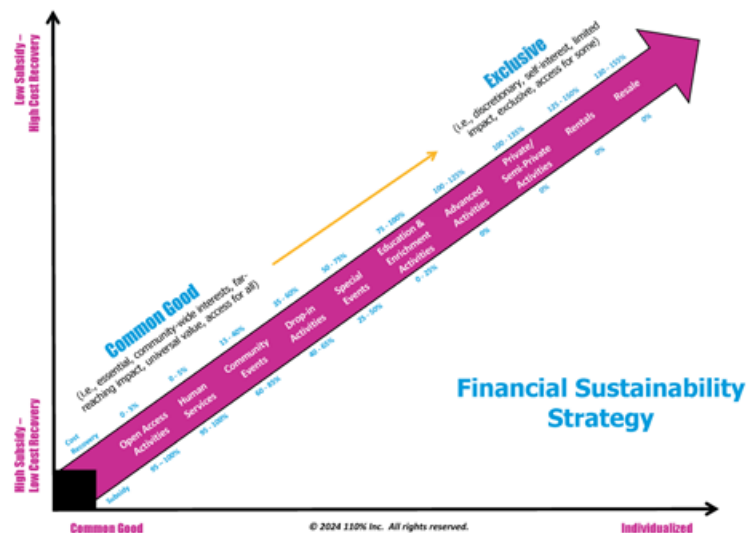
The financial sustainability strategy model developed with input from city commissioners, members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and staff members, is a critical tool in the Parks and Recreation Department's efforts to strengthen their financial future. The model identifies both the level of subsidy (portion of an activity's costs to be offset by the City's budget) and the level of cost recovery (portion of an activity's costs to be offset by the beneficiary or participating community members) by service category (activities or services with similar purpose). This continuum will serve as a guide for the Parks and Recreation Department for the next two to three years in designing future programming and in setting fees aligned with the subsidy and cost recovery targets based on service category.

Insights

- The City of Decatur parks and recreation system is facility-rich and, therefore, expensive. They have more recreation centers, pools, and other facilities, such as a full-service tennis center, than other communities of a similar size (both in terms of population and square mileage).
- A detailed financial analysis by 110%, Inc. did not identify areas of excess or inefficiency in the Parks and Recreation budget. The consultants determined that the department needs staff to operate the City's many facilities – and personnel and facility costs make up a majority of the department's operating budget.
- In the upcoming fiscal year, the department's 58% cost recovery goal is very competitive when compared against the national average of 24.6% for public parks and recreation agencies (source: 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review Report).

Recommendations

- Avoid fee increases for FY24-25 – Focus on improving cost recovery goals by implementing a variety of strategies (increase program



participation, create a sponsorship program, implement operational efficiencies, consider increasing specific service category fees over a two- to three-year period).

- Formalize agreements with partners such as Agnes Scott College and City Schools of Decatur.
- Prioritize filling facilities with people and programs and maximize use of multi-functional spaces. Do this through creative marketing strategies including direct marketing to target audiences.
- Use strategies such as a facility utilization study (identify facility utilization gaps in order to determine marketing targets) and a partner inventory (gather information on all local leisure services providers and their programming to avoid duplication and explore potential partnerships).
- Conduct another financial sustainability analysis in FY25-26 to evaluate progress.



BIKE MONTH EVENTS

May is National Bike Month. Here are some cycling opportunities Decatur will be offering.

May 1 – Learn to Ride a Bike Day: Decatur Parks and Recreation will present learn-to-ride workshops at Legacy Park at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. for ages 4-8. Register on CommunityPass.

May 8 – National Bike to School Day

May 11-19 – National Bike Week

May 17 – Bike to Work Day

May 17 – Bikes & Brews: Meet at 6:30 p.m. in front of Guild+Journeyman, 115 Clairmont Ave., for a 6-mile bike ride. Afterwards we'll grab a drink from one of our local breweries. Helmets required.

May 19 – Family Ride: Join a family-friendly bike ride starting at 3 p.m. from Harmony Park in Oakhurst.

Senior Activities

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

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

Join us for a Cinco de Mayo celebration! Enjoy fun crafts and games, indulge in a taco bar, and dance to festive music.

Summer Solstice: June 12, 10 a.m. RSVP by June 7.

Celebrate the arrival of summer and the longest day of the year with our Summer Solstice White Party. Immerse yourself in the festive ambiance of our outdoor classroom while enjoying a tea party brunch.

Senior Trip to Fernbank Museum: June 21. Register by June 14.

Explore diverse exhibits like Flora, Fauna, & Flight, and A Mirror Maze, discovering the wonders of science and culture. Register on CommunityPass by June 14.

Information Sessions at the Decatur Recreation Center

Estate Planning Basics

Thursday, May 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Learn estate planning through the use of wills and trusts. Topics covered include how to minimize estate taxes, efficiently transfer assets, and leave a lasting legacy with enhanced estate planning. Join an education-only session with Robert Cox, a retirement strategies specialist and certified financial fiduciary.

Senior Health & Fitness Fair

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

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

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



More Opportunities

End of the Year Bash – May 17, 6:30-10 p.m.

Stop by the Ebster Recreation Center for the End of the Year Bash and celebrate the end of the school year with your friends before summer break. For grades 3-5.

Stay Cool this Summer

Pool season officially kicks off on May 25. Decatur has three outdoor pools at Mckoy, Ebster, and Glenlake parks. Grab your season pool passes from the Glenlake Tennis Center. Check out the Aquatics section in the April-June Playbook at decaturga.com/playbook for more details.



Baseball Opening Day Parade

Mark your calendars for June 1 for the annual Baseball Opening Day Parade. The parade will kick off at College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center and wind its way through the streets of the Oakhurst business district, ending at Oakhurst Park. Then, it's game time at 12 p.m. as our young athletes take to the field to showcase their skills and team spirit.



Facility Updates

The community is invited to participate in a community engagement session on May 8 from 6-8 p.m. at Ebster Recreation Center to shape the future of the Ebster Teen Outdoor Recreation Area. The City of Decatur was awarded \$2.08 million from Governor Kemp's Improving Neighborhood Outcomes program that will allow us to enhance recreational opportunities and create a vibrant space for the community. Proposed updates include restroom facilities, improved accessibility with open ramps, enhanced lighting for safety, and essential maintenance improvements. Parks and Recreation wants to hear from you to ensure that the changes reflect the needs and desires of our diverse community.

The construction of a lighted, 8-lane track and field facility is underway at Legacy Park.



Decatur 101 Class of '24 Graduates



Fifty-nine community members recently graduated from Decatur 101, a program designed to develop informed and involved citizens. The annual program was created in 2000 and over the course of eight weeks helps participants learn how the City of Decatur works, who does what, and how they can make a

difference in their community. The program also includes a Smart Growth walking tour for both classes on one Saturday.

Classes are held on Thursdays in various city buildings and guided tours of the buildings are offered each week prior to the class start time. Topics covered by the city include

equity and engagement, economic development and capital improvements, budget and administrative services, public safety, tourism, volunteer opportunities, volunteer boards and commissions, parks and recreation, and more. Stay tuned for more information on how to apply to the next Decatur 101 class.

JOIN US!



Decatur
Parents Network

WWW.DECATURPARENTS.NET



SCAN ME



THIS AD WAS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY DECATUR PREVENTION INITIATIVE.



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





Meeting Preview

Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m.
T. E. Wilcox Home
131 E. Trinity Pl.

Drop in for the May meeting at Decatur's newest home furnishings store, specializing in mid-century vintage (and vintage-inspired) home goods. Visit decaturdba.com to learn more about DBA.



Decatur Resident Introduces Athletic Footwear Brand

Longtime Decatur resident Rod Foley and his partners have launched Frank Works, an athletic footwear company designed for tennis and pickleball. Rod will be out at various tennis and pickleball courts in the community with samples of his new shoe called "The One" for players to try on. Rod and his partners have spent their careers working for several global athletic footwear brands and wish to bring something different to the market. Learn more at frankworksshoes.com

For the Community!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DRIVE

MAY 18, 2024
9AM-12PM

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

<Scan QR code for a list of accepted items

decaturFIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECATURFIRST.ORG

@decaturfirstumc
 @decaturfirst

DEREK WOOD | **KELLER KNAPP REALTY**
DEREKWOODREALTY.COM

Your partner in Decatur real estate.

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

Free Skin Cancer Screenings Offered by Dermatology Consultants in May

May is Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month and Dermatology Consultants is offering free skin cancer screenings at their Decatur, Atlanta, and Covington locations on May 14 and May 28 from 12:30-4 p.m. The screenings will be done through appointment only. Call 404-351-7546 to make an appointment in their Decatur (200 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., suite 275) or Atlanta offices. For an appointment at their Covington office, call 770-784-0343



With more than 5 million cases diagnosed in the US each year, skin cancer is America's most common cancer according to American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). Here are some key facts from the AAD that can help you prevent skin cancer and help with early detection:

- Many skin cancers could be avoided by using appropriate sun protection and avoiding the use of tanning beds.
- People of all colors and ages get skin cancer.
- When found early, skin cancer is highly treatable.
- Because skin cancer begins on the skin, you can find it early by performing skin self-exams and having your annual skin exam with your dermatologist.
- If you find a spot on your skin that's growing, bleeding, or changing in any way, see a skin cancer expert.

Dermatology Consultants will be providing educational information about the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer throughout the month across their social media platforms. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook and watch their Tuesday Coffee Chats on the subject. Go to dermatologyconsultants.org to learn more.

Summer Music Classes

Music Together of Decatur is hosting summer music classes. Parents can choose between a three-week session (June 3 to June 22) and a six-week session (July 8 to August 17). Classes last for 30 minutes and feature contemporary songs along with classic oldies. They offer mixed-age music classes for children from birth through age 4. Go to musictogetherofdecatur.com to register or email Wendy@MusicTogetherOfDecatur.com for any questions.



The Huntington Learning Center Giving Away 5 Digital SAT Practice Tests

Huntington Learning Center of Decatur has been helping local high school students prepare for the SAT and ACT for years, and is now offering full digital practice SAT tests and help with adapting to the new digital format of the SAT. Bill Boersma, owner of the local Huntington, says that students who prepare at the center increase their score by 225 points on average. He also notes that while some colleges are test optional, the top schools in Georgia, including UGA and Georgia Tech, still require an SAT test. Stop by 335 West Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 103, to sign up for the giveaway of five free digital SAT tests. The drawing will be held on May 15.



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
WELLSPRINGINDECATUR.COM

Agnes Scott Alumnae Collaborate to Co-Open Black-Owned Bookstore & Fashion Boutique in Avondale Estates

A Small Place Bookshop and Nta-Woven boutique are now open in Avondale Estates. Agnes Scott alumna Enkeshi El-Amin, founder of A Small Place Bookshop, and Nta-Woven co-owners Jasmine Okafor and Zubi Adu Mantey, have teamed up to open their stores alongside each other. The shared store is located at 40 Franklin Street, Suite 500, Avondale Estates, GA 30002.

The community is invited to visit the bookstore to explore Black voices, culture and storytelling. Another component of A Small Place Bookshop are free book fairs for children and families in book deserts through sales, donations and community partnerships. Grand opening activities are scheduled for



bookshop on social media to learn more.

Guests visiting the store are also able to purchase cultural gifts including handcrafted, sustainably-made pieces from Nta-woven, a global-inspired fashion brand that connects the tapestry of women's lives through the vibrant colors of African fabric and fashion. Before now, customers could only shop Nta-woven online or at their signature pop up shops hosted throughout metro-Atlanta and other cities across the country. At their physical location, customers can have an in-person shopping experience that allows them to connect more deeply with the meaning behind the clothing. Go to nta-woven.com or follow [@ntawoven](https://www.instagram.com/ntawoven) to learn more.

all of May and include author signings, kid's activities, giveaways and opportunities to engage with fellow book lovers. Visit asmallplacebookshop.com or follow [@asmallplace](https://www.instagram.com/asmallplace)

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www.dermatologyconsultants.org

Book Sale at Decatur Library

The Friends of the Decatur Library is holding a used book sale on Saturday, June 1, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on the ground floor of the library at 215 Sycamore St. Proceeds support Decatur library programs for children, youth, and adults. Shoppers will find fiction and mystery titles for all ages and books in varying non-fiction categories including history, biography, sports, health, and cooking. Most hardback books are \$2; most paperback books are \$1. Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted. Shoppers should bring their own bags.

Truckin' Tuesdays Are Back at Legacy Park

500 S. Columbia Drive

Legacy Park's Truckin' Tuesdays return May 7, 5-8 p.m., and continue every Tuesday through the month. Discover trucks and vendors of all types. The events offer food, music, and plenty of room to spread out with your friends and family. Proceeds help fund ongoing operations at Legacy Park. Bring blankets, chairs, and your appetite, and discover new flavors.

Truckin' Tuesdays are subject to cancellation depending on the weather so follow the Decatur Legacy Park Facebook page for updates.

Events Calendar

MAY

- 2-26 Catlandia Exhibition**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Decatur Arts Alliance, 113 Clairemont Ave.
- 2-31 Forced Perspective Exhibition**, Thursday-Saturday 1-5 p.m., Decatur Library
- 6 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 7,14,21,28 Truckin' Tuesdays**, 5-8p.m., Legacy Park
- 20 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 27 Memorial Day**, City Hall closed

JUNE

- 1-14 Forced Perspective Exhibition** continues
- 3 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 17 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 19 Juneteenth**, City Hall closed

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DECATUR MOMS RUN THIS TOWN: A Welcoming Group for Women of All Fitness Levels

Decatur Moms Run This Town (DMRTT) is a running group open to women of all fitness levels. Not all members are moms, and not all are runners. They meet up on Saturday mornings in front of Decatur's Dancing Goats for a three-mile "run" where members are broken up into smaller groups of varying paces including a walking group.

Members celebrate many things together: first 5ks and other running events, but also come together to honor life events. For instance, recently, members gathered to celebrate member Patricia Schneider's promotion at work.

New members wishing to join are invited to connect with DMRTT on the Facebook group ("Decatur, GA Moms RUN This Town") or just show up any Saturday at 8 a.m. at Dancing Goats. The group also hosts interval runs, seasonal couch-to-5k groups, other planned runs of various distances, and race meetups.




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2024 Fine Arts Exhibition FORCED PERSPECTIVE

Fourth Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library
 May 2-June 14
 Exhibit Hours: Thursday-Saturday 1-5 p.m.
 Closing Reception Friday, June 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Decatur Arts Alliance invites the Decatur community to experience its 35th annual Fine Arts Exhibition that explores “Forced Perspective” as the 2024 theme. The juried multimedia exhibition featuring more than 60 unique artworks from across the United States is presented in conjunction with the Decatur Arts Festival. The show will be on display in the Fourth Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library. The exhibit will offer extended hours during the Decatur Arts Festival weekend, May 3-5. Meet the artists and celebrate the exhibition with light refreshments at the closing reception on Friday, June 14.



“RETURN TO CATLANDIA” a Tom Zarrilli exhibition

Decatur Arts Alliance, 113 Clairemont Ave.
 On display through May 26
 Gallery open daily from 10 a.m-4 p.m.

The Decatur Arts Alliance welcomes back to its gallery Atlanta-based artist, photographer, and children’s librarian, Tom Zarrilli, with a new exhibition filled with familiar characters. ‘Return to Catlandia’ features more than 20 conceptual paintings depicting the fanciful dreams and fantasies of Zarrilli’s cats, Joey and Petey. These favorite artistic subjects find themselves in settings and situations that explore current realities through a colorful and inverse world.



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CSD Teacher Among Finalists for 2025 Georgia Teacher of the Year Award

City Schools of Decatur's 2023-24 Teacher of the Year, Alicia Reno, had a surprise visit from State Superintendent Richard Woods at Talley Elementary School. Superintendent Woods announced her as one of the ten finalists for the 2025 Georgia Teacher of the Year award. Board Chair James Herndon, Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, and Talley Street Principal Billy Heaton were among those present for the occasion. In October, Reno was recognized as the Talley Street Teacher of the Year and later as the district Teacher of the Year.

Reno and the other nine finalists will proceed to the next phase of the selection process for the 2025 Teacher of the Year, which includes delivering formal speeches and participating in interviews with a panel of judges.



Reno's contributions to student success are truly inspiring, and her passion for teaching has tremendously impacted the CSD com-

munity. We wish her all the best in the next phase of the selection process.

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Step Up for Teachers & Staff Appreciation Campaign

Through the month of May, the Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) will be running the Step Up campaign. Anyone who would like to express appreciation for a CSD teacher, administrator, or school support member can go to stepupforteachers.com, give a small donation, and leave a short note of gratitude. Funds raised through the Step Up campaign are used to support Teacher Innovation Grants awarded every fall. Tributes will be posted on the DEF website and notifications will be sent to the individuals honored.

Those contributing \$25 or more will receive a yard sign of their choice. Either "We Step Up for Teachers & Staff" or "Congratulations DHS Class of 2024." Signs will be delivered by DEF volunteers to yards throughout the month of May.

Go to decatureducationfoundation.org for more information about how DEF supports teachers, schools, and students. If you are unable to make a donation, but would still like to send a tribute, email drew@decatureducationfoundation.org with your tribute message.





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