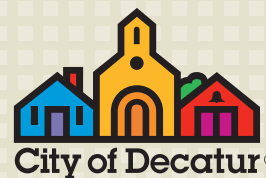


City of Decatur FOCUS



NOVEMBER 2023
Volume 34 • Number 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

CHEERS!

Meet the Creator of Decatur's Bicentennial Mocktail

Nick Brackett, the lead bartender and bar manager for the White Bull restaurant, is behind Decatur's official bicentennial mocktail. He is originally from Buford, Georgia, but grew up in Fayetteville and has been tending bar at the White Bull since 2021.

You can usually find Nick behind the bar at the modern Italian eatery on weekends and he specializes in creating drinks with vermouth and amari. He believes that the bar is an extension of the culinary experience and what he finds the most gratifying is when he exceeds people's expectations when they try a cocktail he has created.

Aside from bartending, Nick enjoys playing music and plays in a band called Bantling. He also enjoys cooking, camping, and reading old cocktail books and looking up forgotten drink recipes online.

Read more, and find the recipe, on page 7



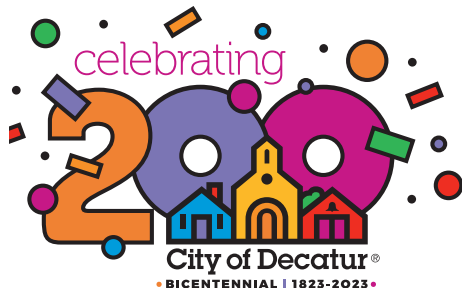
DECATUR TURNS 200 Bicentennial Weekend Events

The City of Decatur officially reaches 200 years on December 10, 2023, the 200th anniversary of its charter. Over the past year, Decatur has been in the process of planting 200 trees and collecting 200 stories in honor of the bicentennial. Decatur invites the community to a free, community-wide anniversary celebration Dec. 9-10.

Join us Saturday, Dec. 9, at 9 a.m. to run or walk the beautiful 5k course at Legacy Park. All proceeds from this event go to the Bicentennial Fund, funding legacy projects like 200 Stories, replenishing the City's tree canopy, and affordable housing. The 1-mile youth race starts at 8:45 a.m. and the 5k event starts at 9:30 a.m. Get your tickets at bit.ly/bicentennial5k. Later, join us for the Pied Piper Community Bicentennial Parade. Line-up begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Decatur Post Office. The parade begins at 3 p.m. and ends on the square. Walk, ride or decorate a float and join the fun. Plan to stay and enjoy live music, activities for all ages, cupcakes and more. The celebration ends with a special fireworks display at dark.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, come see the first official screening of the 200 Stories videos created in collaboration with Savannah College of Art and Design and members of the Decatur community who shared their Decatur stories. Time and location will be announced on the website and via our social media channels.

The celebration ends Sunday with the Chabad Intown annual Menorah Lighting on the square at 4:30 p.m. with music, entertainment, dreidels, doughnuts, hot latkes, crafts for kids, and more.



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



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Design and layout: Lampe-Farley.com

SAVE THE DATE: CFCI LOCAL ACTION PLAN LAUNCH

As part of the Decatur Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), the Decatur Parks and Recreation Department is launching the CFCI Local Action Plan for



Youth. With this launch, Decatur will become a child friendly city candidate. Join them for a special event, in conjunction with the Decatur Youth Council-sponsored movie on the Square, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. UNICEF representatives will be present to celebrate this milestone.

The City of Decatur is one of only six local governments in the United States partnering with UNICEF to achieve recognition as a Child Friendly City. The distinction is reserved for communities that elevate the needs of children in the following areas: safety and inclusion, participation, equitable social services, safe living environments, and play and leisure.

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.

A New PHB Arrives on Scott Boulevard

Another pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) has been installed in Decatur, at Nelson Ferry Road and Scott Boulevard. The City of Decatur is continuously working to improve safety across the city inclusive of the streets and transportation network. The City, together with the Georgia Department of Transportation, identified the opportunity to replace the existing crosswalk at the intersection with a PHB and began traffic studies in June 2022. There is already a PHB across Scott Boulevard in front of Westchester School, about 0.6 mile northeast of the new PHB site.

DRIVERS

Pedestrian hybrid beacons can be activated at any time of day or night. Pay attention and always be prepared to stop for pedestrians.



Proceed with caution



Slow Down
Pedestrian has activated the PHB



Prepare to Stop



STOP!
Pedestrian in crosswalk



STOP!
Proceed with caution if clear



Proceed if clear

PEDESTRIANS

PHBs will make it safer to cross busy thoroughfares, but pedestrians must always be vigilant. Pay attention and make certain that traffic is stopping before you proceed.



Push button to cross



Wait to cross



Wait for traffic to stop



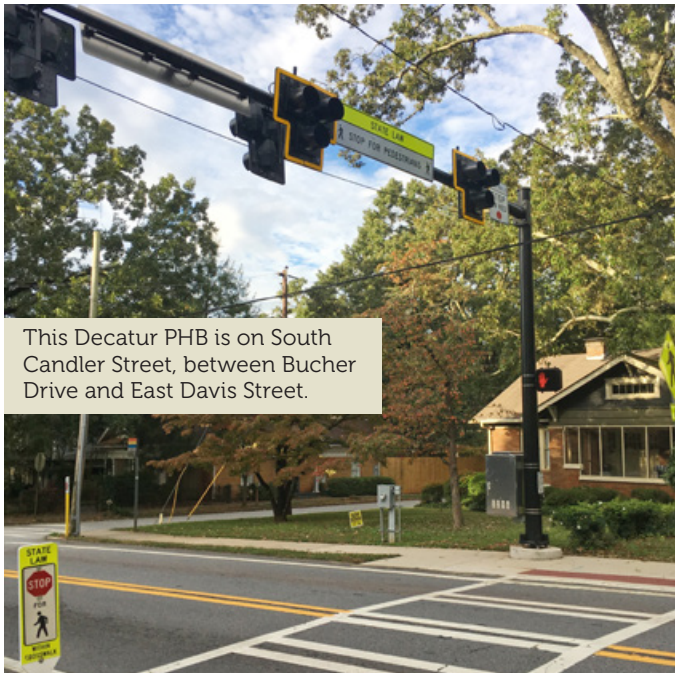
Start crossing after traffic stops



COUNTDOWN
Continue if in crosswalk. If not, don't start.



Push button to cross



This Decatur PHB is on South Candler Street, between Bucher Drive and East Davis Street.



City of Decatur®

WASTE AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

November 2023 to September 2024

Thanksgiving Holidays

Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24

Service for both days will be Wednesday, Nov. 22, before the holiday

Christmas Holidays

Monday, December 25

Regular service for Monday will be Wednesday, Dec. 27

Regular service for Tuesday will be Thursday, Dec. 28

Regular service for Thursday and Friday will be Friday, Dec. 29

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, Jan. 2

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, Jan. 3

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 15

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, Jan 16

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, Jan 17

Presidents' Day

Monday Feb 19

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, Feb. 20

Regular service for Tuesday will be on Wed, Feb. 21

There are no changes for Thursday and Friday

Memorial Day

Monday, May 27

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, May 28

Regular service for Tuesday will be on Wednesday, May 29

Juneteenth Day

Wednesday, June 19

No changes to the regular schedule

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4

There are no changes to Monday and Tuesday

Regular service for Thursday will be on Wednesday, July 3

Labor Day

Monday, September 2

Regular service for Monday will be Tuesday, Sept. 3

Regular service for Tuesday will be Wednesday, Sept. 4

Please note: if your day is not on the schedule, your regular scheduled day has not been affected.



► Set-Out Time

All garbage, trash, recyclables, yard trimmings, bulky items and appliances for collection must be ready for pickup by 7:30 a.m. on collection day. Pickup times will vary, but collectors will not arrive before 7:30 a.m.

► Containers on the Curb

Refuse and recycling containers may be placed at the curb after 5 p.m. the day before collection and must be removed from the curb by midnight on collection day.

► Recyclable Materials

Decatur's curbside recycling program accepts paper products, plastic, glass and metal. Glass must be separated in its own bin. For a complete list of items visit decaturga.com/recycling.

For more tips on items that are hard to recycle, visit livethrive.org.

► Bulky Items Reminder

Decatur accepts bulky items like furniture and appliances as a part of your regular sanitation pick-up. Just set them at the curb. There is no additional cost for this service except for a \$50 collection fee for items containing freon.

► Christmas Tree Recycling

Wednesday Dec. 27-Saturday, Jan. 6

Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

Drop off live Christmas trees at Decatur Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. Look for signs indicating the drop-off area. Please do not leave Christmas trees anywhere else on the Legacy Park property.

For more information about solid waste and recycling services, call 404-377-5571, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., or visit decaturga.com/sanitation.

Help Improve Community Safety by Cutting Back Vegetation

Cutting back vegetation along our city streets is a low-cost and impactful way to improve community safety. Decatur residents invest millions of tax dollars in the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, but often pedestrians find themselves in situations where residential landscaping has grown over the sidewalk or slippery leaves and landscape debris make the passage unsafe. Community members can help by keeping the sidewalks in front of their homes clear of debris, vegetation, and low hanging branches, with special consideration for driver line of sight approaching crosswalks and intersections.

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

Please keep the sidewalk in front of your home clear of debris and vegetation in every season. Your neighbors depend on you to help keep the neighborhood safe for pedestrians. Questions? Contact Public Works at 404-377-5571.

City Code 7.2.1C

In all use districts, except the general business district, no fence, wall, shrubbery, sign, marquee, or other obstruction to vision between the heights of 3 feet and 15 feet shall be permitted within 20 feet of the intersection of the right-of-way lines of 2 streets or of a street intersection with a railroad right-of-way line.

Line of Sight Triangle definition

Approach sight triangles provide the driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection an unobstructed view of any conflicting vehicles or pedestrians. These triangular areas should be large enough that drivers can see approaching vehicles and pedestrians in sufficient time to slow or stop and avoid a crash.

A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur

Make the holiday season brighter for children and senior citizens in Decatur by participating in A Season of Giving. You can choose to purchase gifts on your own by requesting a wish list and purchasing \$150 in gifts specific to that person. To receive a wish list for a child or senior, go to aseasonofgiving.org.

If you are too busy to shop, then consider making a financial contribution online at legacydecatur.org/give (and directing the gift towards A Season of Giving) or volunteering. To inquire about volunteer opportunities or for additional information, go to aseasonofgiving.org or email aseasonofgivingdecatur@gmail.com.



Meet the Shmukler family, our November Walk & Roll Superstars: Becca, Jacob, and Eden. Becca and Jacob are devoted walkers who have enjoyed the walkability Decatur has to offer and like taking their preschool daughter Eden to and from school at College Heights on foot.

Becca is from Bethesda, Maryland, and grew up in a highly walkable neighborhood. Strolling down to the shops or the Metro station was a regular activity she remembers fondly. Jacob grew up in Johns Creek and discovered the beauty of a walkable built environment in Washington, D.C., where he and Becca met at work. After a few years in the nation's capital, they moved to San Francisco, where they once again relished their walkable location. During the pandemic, Becca and Jacob began to contemplate a move, and in 2020, they relocated to Decatur. Their daughter Eden was born a few months later, and they are expecting a second daughter in January.

When the Shmuklers were looking for housing in the Atlanta area, they wanted to live in an "intown" neigh-

borhood with strong schools, ideally located within a 15-minute walk from a downtown area. Their new home is south of College Heights, and it has just the mix of the urban and suburban life they were hoping to find. They enjoy walking to coffee shops, restaurants, farmers markets, and parks. The family has one car and uses it once or twice on the weekends; Jacob appreciates that Decatur's built environment allows them to live with less depen-

dence on cars.

Becca and Jacob work from home, allowing them to walk Eden to school at College Heights in her stroller, which takes about 30 minutes roundtrip. The family dog, Leo, accompanies them, and Becca and Jacob love beginning their workdays by stretching their legs on their walks. Eden enjoys the outside time on the way to school, knows the location of every fire hydrant on their route, and is learning at a young age that walking is a viable transportation option. In the afternoons, the family often walks behind the school and spends time in McKoy Park before heading home. They take great pleasure in utilizing

the city's public spaces and encourage even more people to do the same—Becca, Jacob, and Eden find joy in meeting new friends at the park!

The journeys have helped the family become well acquainted with their neighborhood, and they notice details they might otherwise miss. Nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar by visiting bit.ly/walk-and-roll-decatur.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS



DECORATE DECATUR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is upon us and that means it is time to pull out holiday decorations and decorate your home or business in the colors and traditions of the season. To enter the Holiday Decorating Contest, simply submit a photo of yours or your neighbor's best decorations with the name and address of the entry to Jackie Moore at jacqueline.moore@decaturga.com by Friday, Dec. 8.

Judging will begin on Dec. 11 and winners will be posted on the Decorate Decatur Facebook page. Special yard signs will be posted in the yards of winners to display for the holidays, and the winner of the Commissioners Cup will be presented at the Dec. 18 City Commission meeting. If you have questions or need more information, email jacqueline.moore@decaturga.com. For more information and to see past winners, visit decaturga.com/decoratedecatur.



Screen on the Square Movie Series

Mark your calendars for the family-friendly Screen of the Square Movie series. Movies start at dusk, so be sure to arrive early to secure your spot and enjoy the pre-movie festivities. This is a free community event. Bring your blankets, cozy up under the stars, and enjoy free popcorn on us while supplies last.

- **Deck the Halls, Nov. 10:** Join two neighbors in their hilarious battle for the brightest and most extravagant Christmas decorations.
- **Happy Feet, Dec. 1:** Follow the journey of Mumble, a penguin with a passion for tap dancing.



Positions Available with the City of Decatur

Join City of Decatur and make a difference in the community while doing meaningful work. Elevate your career with an organization that encourages innovation, embraces collaboration, and invests in professional development by applying for one of several open part-time and full-time positions:

- E911 Communications Manager/ P.O.S.T. Certified
- Police Officer
- Full-time Certified Firefighters EMT I or above only
- Part-time Certified Firefighters (AEMT / EMTI)
- Out of School Time Counselor (Part-Time)
- Center Specialist (Part-Time)
- Operations Analyst
- Front Desk Specialist (Part-Time)
- School Crossing Guard
- Senior Transportation Engineer
- Volunteer Coordinator

Apply at decaturga.com/jobs.



Decatur's Bicentennial Mocktail *continued from page 1*

When the events coordinator at the White Bull presented Nick with the opportunity of creating a special mocktail to commemorate Decatur's bicentennial, he started researching how larger ceremonies and celebrations were celebrated and he noticed punches have been a popular drink throughout the decades.

As Nick was developing the mocktail recipe, he started thinking of ways to create a glamorous beverage that could be enjoyed by all and feature seasonal winter ingredients. To start, Nick included persimmons, his favorite fruit, and incorporated winter spices like cinnamon and clove. Check out the recipe to the right. There are two ways to enjoy this beverage: cold as a punch or hot as a wassail.



Decatur Bicentennial Mocktail Recipe *(makes one serving)*

- 2 oz. of apple and peach (or persimmons in December) reduction
- .5 oz. of oleo saccharum of sugar, lemon, and grapefruit
- 1.25 oz of falernum of lime, juniper, clove, and cinnamon
- 1 oz. of bottle of SeedLip Spice 94 "Aromatic"
- 1 oz. orange blossom tea (mixture of green tea, orange, and safflower)
- .5 oz of lemon, lime, and grapefruit juice each

Notes: Oleo sacchurum is Latin for "oil sugar" and is a mixture produced by coating citrus or other oil-rich fruit rinds in an excess of sugar. Falernum is a sweetened lime and spice concoction that is commonly used in the Caribbean to make alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Fire Inspector **Lashawna Bussey** (center) received the DHS JROTC Service Award for 2023. Every year, the Decatur High School JROTC honors dedicated Decatur community members with a service award at their 9/11 memorial event. She is pictured here with Deputy Fire Chief Vera Morrison (l) and Chief Toni Washington.

Bicentennial Trees Provide a Living Legacy for Generations

Legacy Decatur and Trees Atlanta are continuing the 200 Trees Project, a bicentennial effort to commemorate the milestone with free trees planted in yards throughout the city. Homeowners can register to receive up to two free trees and work with Trees Atlanta to select appropriate species and locations within their yard. Planting of trees will take place during the appropriate planting season, and each tree will feature a granite marker noting its significance and will be catalogued online for future reference.

Over time, trees offer numerous benefits:

- Reduce energy bills
- Absorb pollutants
- Reduce maintenance costs for streets and stormwater infrastructure
- Increase property values
- Combat the urban heat island effect

Make your mark on the future of Decatur by adding a tree or two to your property. Visit treesatlanta.org/yardtree to sign up. If you have questions about this or other Trees Atlanta programming, email yardtree@treesatlanta.org.



Leadership Georgia Comes to Decatur/DeKalb County

The City of Decatur and DeKalb County will host Leadership Georgia Nov. 9-11. The program, which has been shaping leaders for decades, is set to bring together 120 of the most influential and promising leaders from across the state. Leadership Georgia offers a unique opportunity for these individuals to sharpen their leadership skills, foster collaboration, and gain insights into the diverse facets of our community.

Leadership Georgia, recognized as one of the nation's oldest and most successful leadership training programs, has played a pivotal role in nurturing the talents of individuals who have gone on to make significant contributions in various fields.

The primary objective of Leadership Georgia is to empower leaders with the knowledge, tools, and perspectives they need to create positive change in their communities and the state as a whole. This year's program will delve into the rich tapestry of our region, exploring key aspects that define our identity and impact our daily lives. One of the highlights of this event will be the exploration of our thriving agriculture, education, economy, healthcare, and arts and culture sectors.



Meet Decatur's Tourism Pros

Congratulations Sherry Jackman, executive tourism director, and Shirley Baylis, business development manager, for becoming certified Tourism Marketing Professionals from Southeast Tourism Society's Marketing College in September.



Sherry Jackman



Shirley Baylis

Decatur is FAR Accessible

In 2017, Decatur teamed up with Foresight Augmented Reality (FAR) to establish FAR-accessibility for locations throughout the city: Decatur City Hall, the Decatur Police Department, Ebster Recreation Center, Decatur Recreation Center, Decatur Visitors Center, the Community Bandstand and the Decatur MARTA plaza. These locations were made "visually-impaired friendly" with the installation of Bluetooth beacons that, when paired with the FAR Vision mobile app, provides users with descriptive information such as entrances and exits, restrooms, hazard warnings and more. Through the mobile app, the visually impaired can hear descriptive details about the businesses as well as listen to the menus at restaurant locations.

Foresight Augmented Reality beacons provide compliance beyond ADA requirements for businesses looking to support those with vision-related disabilities. For more information, visit ForesightAR.com and download the FAR Vision mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android devices.

Decatur Parks and Recreation Seeking New Contract Instructors

Decatur Parks and Recreation (DPR) is currently accepting applications for new contractors.

If you've been yearning to teach a class or have a group looking for the perfect space, DPR has you three recreation centers welcoming new classes and activities. Whether your expertise lies in fitness, wellness, arts, or any other field, they want to hear from you. As a contracted instructor, you'll have the flexibility to set the dates and times of your classes. Contact sara.holmes@decaturga.com if interested.

Are You Ready to 'Virtually' Fight Fire?

Decatur Fire will soon be offering classes that let you extinguish fires virtually. Previously, Decatur Fire had to rely on having a supply of expired extinguishers to teach firefighting techniques. When



these extinguishers were used, they were messy, and required the recycling of the empty cylinders. This type of training also relied on burning kerosene, which isn't environmentally friendly, and can be dangerous, since fire is unpredictable. Technology has advanced enough that Decatur Fire will soon be offering a virtual, safe, environmentally friendly alternative. This setup utilizes a VR headset and an extinguisher that looks and feels real, but sends a signal, rather than a messy powder, to extinguish a fire in many different virtual situations. Settings include the kitchen, the living room, the office, outdoor trash, and large equipment at a worksite. If you're interested in scheduling a time for this training, you can email gary.menard@decaturga.com.



Meeting Preview

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m.

**Courtyard by Marriott
Decatur Conference Center,
130 Clairemont Ave.**

Join us on Dec. 5 for the DBA Holiday Party as we salute Decatur's Hometown Heroes for 2023, recognize Welcoming Businesses, and elect DBA officers for 2024. A networking reception begins at 5 p.m. and the program begins at 5:30 p.m. Visit decaturdba2021.com for more information.

Musical Tour at Decatur Cemetery

Friends of Decatur Cemetery is grateful for longtime member, Tolly Williamson, who led a musical tour in September. He crafted the tour using musical epitaphs of several burials in the new section of the cemetery. Follow Friends of Decatur Cemetery on Facebook and Instagram for events and happenings at the Decatur Cemetery.



25th Anniversary Capital Campaign at Wylde Center

Wylde Center is launching the public phase of its 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, aiming to raise \$2.89 million to enhance existing infrastructure and create new spaces to expand its community and school programming gardens and support buildings so the nonprofit can expand and grow its programming in Decatur and Atlanta.



A major piece of this project will be the complete renovation of Wylde Center's home office at the Oakhurst Garden. The structure will receive complete upgrades that include a ramp to allow full access and bathrooms that comply with ADA standards. At the rear of the building, a multipurpose classroom will serve as a hub for student and community programs on a daily basis. Adjacent to this space, the teaching kitchen will provide opportunities for expanded nutrition and farm-to-table cooking programs. A covered deck, offering views of the 1.5-acre garden with year-round blooms, will stretch the entire length of the back of the building. The renovated structure will comply with EarthCraft certification standards.

To learn more about Wylde Center's capital campaign and its additional projects, please visit wyldecenter.org.

Help DEF "Lighten the Load" for Decatur's Students in Need

Did you know that more than 50 families in the City Schools of Decatur are experiencing homelessness and financial instability? This is where the Decatur Education Foundation (DEF)'s Lighten the Load program steps in, offering hope, support, and opportunities to those students who need it most. DEF collaborates closely with City Schools of Decatur social workers, McKinney-Vento administrators, counselors at the Beacon Hill Middle School and Decatur High School student centers, and the Decatur Housing Authority. Together, they provide a comprehensive range of support services. Through the Lighten the Load program, students have access to snacks during the school day and weekend food packs. Students are provided with clothing, toiletries, and essential personal items.

Emergency assistance is provided to families facing immediate crises. You can join this mission by contributing to the Lighten the Load program at decatureducationfoundation.org/donate. Consider taking your support a step further by becoming a corporate sponsor as a valued member of DEF's Step Up Circle. Together, we can "Lighten the Load" for Decatur's students facing homelessness, food insecurity, and financial hardship.



HAVE YOU VISITED THESE BUSINESSES IN DECATUR?

Over the last year, a few new retail and restaurant businesses opened in Decatur. There were also a couple to change locations. Be sure to go out and explore the new options and check out the new spaces.



Cap't Loui, 319 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



bb.q chicken, 319 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



Cereal Lab, 335 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



Simmon's Veterinary Clinic, 121 Church St.



La Chiquiada, 110 W. Trinity Pl.



NEW LOCATION

Calle Latina, 627 East College Ave., Suite. A



Vida-Flo Decatur, 431 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



OPO Coffee, 314 E. Howard Ave.



NEW LOCATION

Diamond Dust Cupcakes
760 Commerce Dr.



Takumi Cuisine, 250 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



holidays

in decatur

fun for everyone



**GET
GIFTY.
EAT
THRIFTY!**

Spend \$200 at City of Decatur retail shops November 1-30, and **get a \$20 gift card** for a local Decatur restaurant! Email photos of your receipts along with your address to decatur.sbs@decaturga.com and look for your gift card in the mail. And support your favorite local shops on the Square during **Small Business Saturday**, Nov. 25.

Limit: three gift cards per shopper. Other restrictions apply.



NOVEMBER!

Thursday 2

Decatur's Annual Ornament Unveiling

Sq/Ft, 149 Sycamore St.

6 pm | **FREE!**

Thursday 9

Shoppin' & Noggin' Decatur

Grab some eggnog at the tent on the plaza and shop local all over Decatur! Watch for details about participating shops with tents set up on the plaza.

6-9 pm | **FREE!**

Friday 10

Screen on the Square + mocktails:

'Deck The Halls'

Mocktails | 6 pm

Movie | 7 pm | **FREE!**

Thursday 16

Santa Pictures with Pets

on the Square

Bring your own camera!

Cats | 6 pm • Exotic animals | 7 pm

Dogs | 8 pm

Saturday 25

Santa on the Square

10 am-2 pm | **FREE!**

Small Business Saturday

Free wrapping for gifts purchased in city of Decatur
10 am-4 pm

DECEMBER!

Friday **1**

Holiday Screen on the Square: 'Happy Feet'

7 pm | FREE!

Saturday **2**

Trees for Toys on the Square

Donate to Toys for Tots, receive an evergreen seedling.

Sponsors: WASE and Bartlett Tree Service

11 am-2:30 pm

SantaCon on the Square

Holiday fun for grown-ups

7 pm | FREE!

Thursday **7**

Tree Lighting

on the Square • 7 pm | FREE!

Sunday **10**

Menorah Lighting

on the Square • 4:30 pm | FREE!

Thursday **14**

Bonfire & Marshmallow Roast on the Square

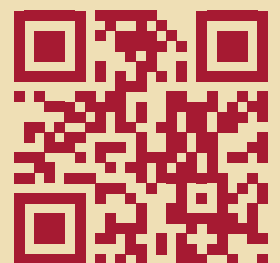
on the Square • 7-8 pm | FREE!



Make Decatur Your Happy Holiday Headquarters!

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES AND POP-UP EVENTS

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



SCENE AROUND THE CITY

In October, the Decatur community welcomed Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, who visited the city to spread her story of hope. During her journey through Decatur, Amal falls in with a second line processional led by the Black Sheep Ensemble.



Woodlands Welcomes YMCA Day of Service

In September, Woodlands hosted a group of volunteers for the YMCA Day of Service. More than 40 volunteers were able to mulch a large bed in the parking area, pick up litter along the road, and conduct trail maintenance in the garden. Thank you

to this group of garden friends for helping enhance Woodlands for fall visitors. Contact Julia Bryant, garden manager, at info@woodlandsgarden.org to learn how your group can make a difference as a team at Woodlands Garden in 2024.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Go to VisitDecaturGa.com for community events
For a full list of board and commission meetings visit decaturga.com/calendar

NOVEMBER

4 Decatur Wine Festival, Decatur Square, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

6 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.

10 Waldorf Holiday Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (page 19)

10 Screen on the Square Movie Series, (page 6)

11 Salute to Veterans, 11 a.m., Decatur Cemetery, Veterans Memorial at Bell Street gate

11 Holiday Makers Market, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (page 16)

16 Pictures with Pets on Decatur Square, 6-9 p.m. (page 6)

27 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall 509 N. McDonough St.

25 An Artist Collective, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (page 17)

25 Small Business Saturday

25 Santa on the Square, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

DECEMBER

1 Screen on the Square Movie Series (page 6)

1-2 Furnish with Love Holiday Pop-Up Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (page 18)

2 Summer Camp Expo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (page 17)

5 DBA Holiday Meeting, 5 p.m.

7 Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

8 West Ponce Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.

10 Menorah Lighting, 4:30 p.m.

14 Bonfire/Marshmallow Roast, 6 p.m.

18 City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

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Holiday Makers Market at Decatur Makers

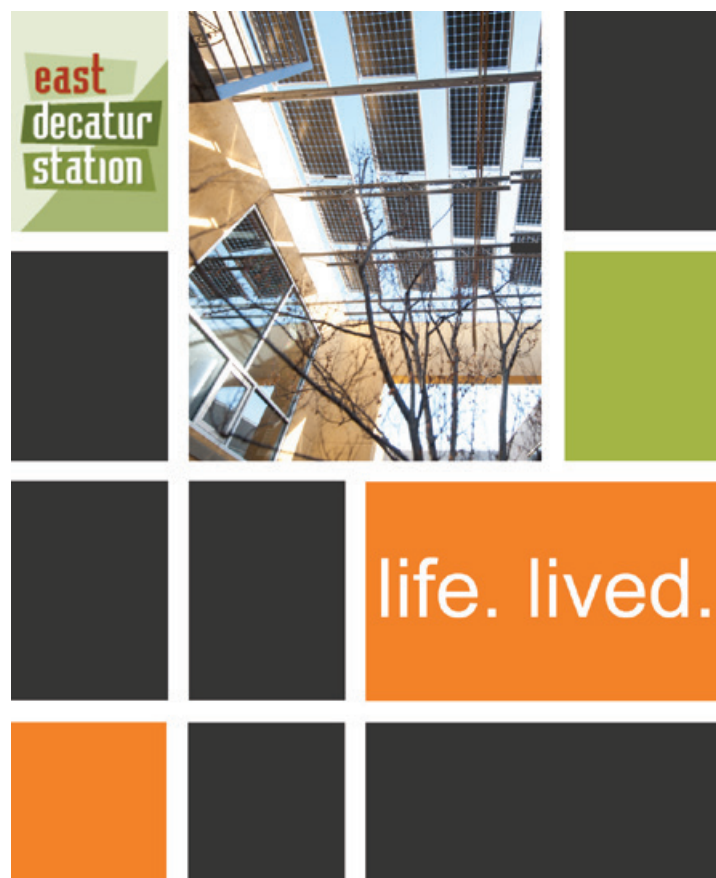
Nov. 11 • 11 a.m.-5 p.m. • 605 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Decatur Makers' first Holiday Makers Market will feature a variety of local hand-crafted gifts. Shop unique gifts and learn how they are made while supporting local creatives, builders, and life-long learners. Throughout the day, Decatur Makers will showcase a variety of family-friendly activities to inspire your maker spirit. There will also be a concession stand with a s'mores station! This is a free outdoor event.



Winter Music Classes Coming

Registration for Music Together of Decatur's winter session is now underway. Register you and your child for nine weeks of singing, dancing, and instrument-playing starting right after Thanksgiving (no classes Dec. 12-Jan. 5). Do you know a family who would benefit from Music Together of Decatur classes? Nominate them for a Music Together of Decatur Scholarship by emailing info@musictogetherofdecatur.com and share how music classes could give them a boost. Learn more about Music Together of Decatur at musictogetherofdecatur.com.



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Summer Camp Expo

Mark your calendars for the Summer Camp Expo on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Multipurpose room at Fifth Avenue Upper Elementary (F.Ave). Learn about the summer camp offerings from several vendors in the Decatur area. Featured camps include options for kids from pre-k through 12th grade. The event is free for the community. There will be a raffle for camp prizes and a digital summer camp planning guide will be available.



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An Artist Collective - A Curated Holiday Shopping Affair

Nov. 25 • 11 a.m.-4 p.m. • The Solarium, 319 W Hill Street

An Artist Collective – A curated holiday shopping affair is happening at The Solarium in Oakhurst. The one-day event features paintings, ceramics, wood, leather, and jewelry. Artists include:

- **Chelsea Glankler** – printmaker/jeweler producing small editions of relief prints and one-of-a-kind jewelry in gold and silver
- **Luke Foco** – woodturner and furniture maker with an affinity for using wood from local trees
- **Ann Finley** – jeweler of gemstone and mixed metal pieces with a southwestern flair
- **Dawn Kinney Martin** – painter focused on land, sea, and plein air
- **Judy Parady** – jewelry maker with gemstone-focused gold and silver jewelry
- **Avian and John** – creators of unique leather belts, bags, and accessories
- **Leola Reis** – artist expressing the joy of gold and pearl jewelry and vibrant hand knits
- **Karen Fincannon** – maker of whimsical, one-of-a-kind ceramics
- **Cliff Calvert** – jewelry maker of modern, wearable pieces in silver, gemstones, and pearls
- **Kathryn King** – creator of bold, handmade contemporary jewelry in precious metals and semi-precious stones

For more information, contact Judy Parady judy@judyparady.com or visit judyparadystudio.com/an-artist-collective-at-the-solarium.



GEORGIA CENTER FOR THE BOOK PRESENTS LEE NOWELL



The community is invited to join a series of unique, one-time-only performances for the Theatre in your Mind on the 4th Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library. For the final installment of *Written in Water*, Lee Nowell will read the mystical section from her performance piece "I'm Not Supposed to Talk About This" accompanied by Chelsea Shag playing music inspired by the piece. When a writer hits a roadblock in a creative project, she decides to consult the forces of a 40,000-year-old divine feminine circle. Thursday, Nov. 16, 7-8 p.m. To create an intimate theatre experience, seating in the Gallery is limited. Registration is strongly encouraged. Go to bit.ly/writteninwater to reserve free tickets to the event.

2023 Alternative Gift Market

Decatur resident David Lewicki, co-pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church, invites the community to the church's annual Alternative Gift Market on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors sell fair trade, sustainable, and reasonably priced holiday gifts that create positive change for refugees and disenfranchised populations. Purchase unique items from around the world, as well as one-of-a-kind local products from emerging entrepreneurs. Donation cards in honor or memory of loved ones will also be available from local and international charities. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted by most vendors. Visit ndpc.org/agm to learn more.

Furnish with Love Holiday Pop-Up Sale

Dec. 1-2 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • 508 E. Howard Ave.

Join Furnish with Love for their semi-annual fundraiser Dec. 1-2. Hundreds of gift items, works of art and home decor have been donated by designer showrooms. Whether you're looking for holiday gifts or decor to spruce up your home, come shop for a good cause. One hundred percent of the profits support their mission of helping families transition out of homelessness. Go to furnishwithlove.org for more information.



Celebrate the holidays with Wylde Wreaths

The Wylde Center will host its annual Wylde Wreath fundraiser Nov. 30-Dec. 9. Guests at the Wylde Wreath event will be provided with all materials to decorate a wisteria or fir wreath. Materials include dried flowers and other natural items. Groups are encouraged and outside food and beverage is permitted. Take-home kits are available for those unable to attend an in-person session.



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Waldorf School Holiday Fair

Saturday, Nov. 11 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • Free entry • The Waldorf School, 827 Kirk Rd.

The community is invited to Waldorf's 35th annual Holiday Fair, where children of all ages can participate in a range of activities including a puppet show. An artist's market will offer gifts like jewelry, pottery, art, candles and more. Live music and food trucks will round out the day. Admission to the event is free, with fees for activities. Activity and timed puppet show tickets can be purchased at ticket booths on the day of the event. Parking is available at WSA and at Columbia Presbyterian Church on South Columbia Drive. Overflow parking is available at The Friends School of Atlanta and Columbia Theological Seminary, Inman Drive lot. If you're attending the Holiday Fair for the first time as a visitor, email Dana Palermo at dpalermo@waldorfatlanta.org for details and a special invitation.



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Agnes Scott College Students Achieve 100% Medical School Acceptance Rate

During the 2022-2023 medical school application cycle, 100 percent of qualified Agnes Scott College master's and post-baccalaureate students were admitted to the medical school or health professions programs of their choice. Including undergraduate students, 96 percent of all qualified Agnes Scott students were admitted.

Qualified applicants are defined as those who completed their program at Agnes Scott with a 3.50 GPA or higher and scored at or above the 50th percentile on the MCAT/DAT/GRE. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, medical schools receive many more qualified applications than they can interview or enroll each year. In the 2022-2023 cycle, the average cumulative GPA and MCAT score for matriculants to medical school was 3.75 and 83rd percentile, respectively.

Agnes Scott students were admitted to: Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Medical College of Georgia, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Mercer University School of Medicine and Physician Assistant Program, Morehouse School of Medicine, and University of New England College of Dental Medicine, among others.



With an almost 225 percent increase in enrollment in its post-baccalaureate and graduate programs over the last few years, the college has strengthened its commitment to preparing students for success as the next generation of

leaders in healthcare. Admissions for Agnes Scott College's graduate and post-baccalaureate programs begin in mid-August and continue through April each year.

Register at agnesscott.edu/gradevents to learn about its graduate and post-baccalaureate programs.

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CSD Ranks in Top 5 Districts in GA for SAT Scores, Highest in Metro

According to recent College Board data, CSD ranks top five in Georgia school districts for average SAT scores and highest in the Metro Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) region for the fifth consecutive year. The class of 2023 earned an average score of 1,147, the fifth-highest score out of 181 school systems in the state. Seventy-five percent of DHS students took the SAT at some point during high school, compared to 50 percent statewide.

DHS IS A U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2023-24 BEST HIGH SCHOOL

RANKED 16TH BEST HIGH SCHOOL IN GEORGIA



Twenty-Three DHS Students Earn Honors from Recognition Programs

College Board National Recognition Programs celebrate and showcase the strong academic performance of students. The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students provide opportunities to share their achievements with

colleges and scholarship programs recruiting diverse talent. Congratulations to these DHS students: Ameer Muhammad, Andwele Pittman, Audrey Ferguson-Brown, Camille Hardy, Gabriel Westry, Gianna Esposito, Isabella Watkins Gomez, Isabella Cabrices, Jalia

Poole, James Watson, Jessica Ashun, Justice Agolory, Laila Canis, Laura Hanson, Lucas Pawloski, Lucas Abebe, Negash Kebede, Olivia McKenley, Raquel Tartt, Samuel Woldegiorgis, Skylar Bentley, Sydney Pierce, Travis Whitson.



Five DHS Students Earn Governor's Honors

The Georgia Governor's Honors Program is a state-funded, month-long, residential program for gifted and talented rising 11th and 12th graders. Students are nominated on the school level in an area in which they excel, ranging from core academics, fine and performing arts, world languages, and technology and engineering. Around 700 students are selected each year to attend the summer program across all nomination areas. DHS awardees are Ida Chapman, Margaret Kyle, Genevieve Gardes, Grace Goodman Cohn, and Cecilie Frazee.



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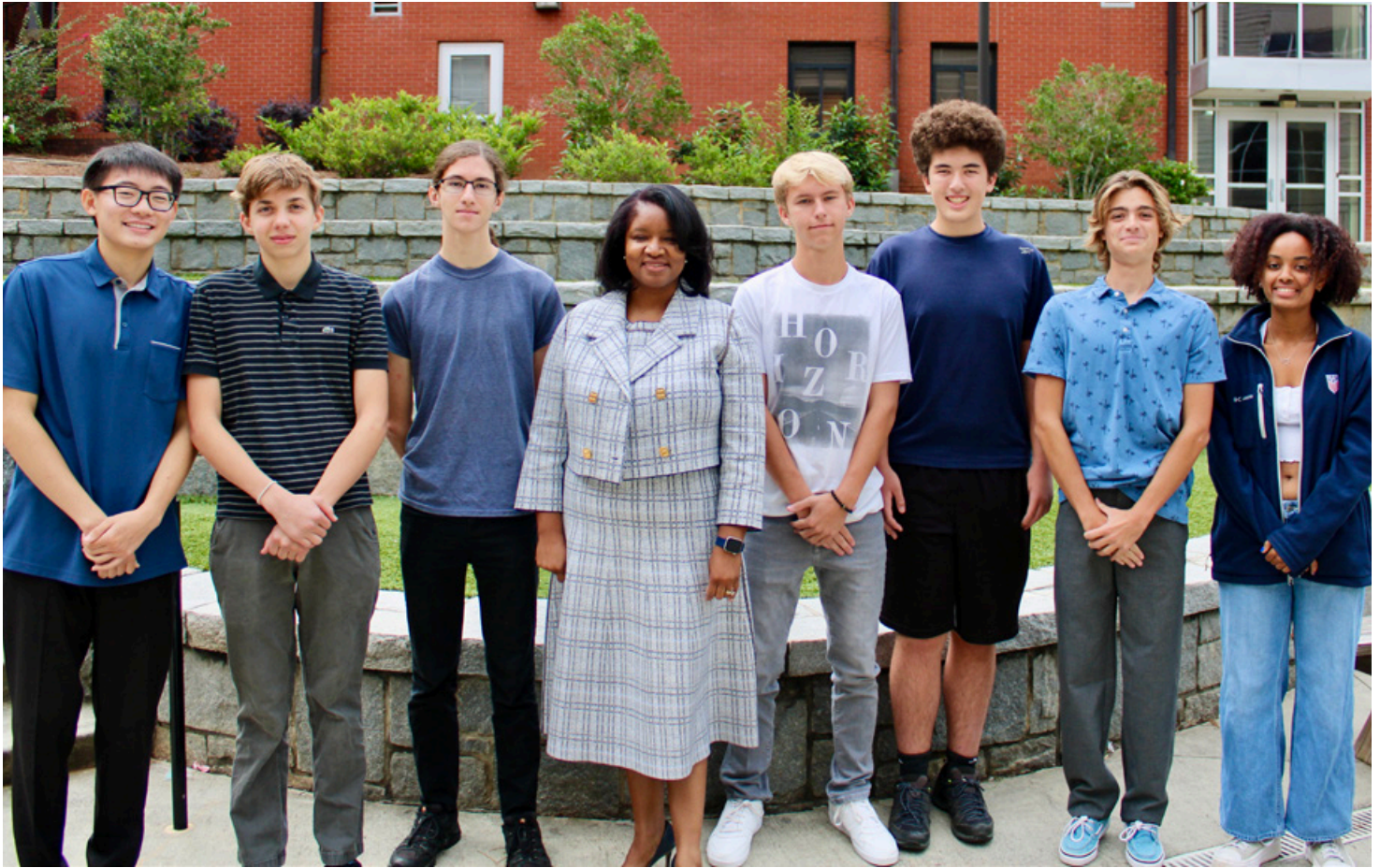


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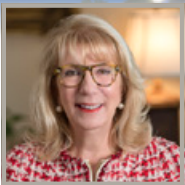
NINE DHS SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMIFINALISTS

City Schools of Decatur announced that nine of the 16,000 semifinalists named in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program are from DHS. Representing the highest-scoring entrants on the SAT in the state and less than one percent of high school seniors nationally, these students have an opportunity to continue in

the competition for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. Winners will be announced in spring 2024. The CSD semifinalists are Miriam Araya, Alexander Y. Gurch, Jason He, Rory D. King, Gordon E. Lichtstein, Louis A. Messonnier, Brennan J. O'Keefe, Connor M. Prather, and Alexander Williams.



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