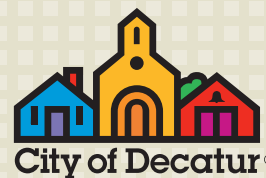


City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:
DECATUR
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
IMPACT REPORT



OCTOBER 2023
Volume 34 • Number 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

ONE LITTLE GIRL. ONE BIG HOPE

Little Amal Visits Decatur October 10

Greet Amal and welcome her to Decatur as she visits and spreads her story. Little Amal is a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, spreading her story of hope as she discovers the beating heart of America, its blended culture and diverse people. Little Amal arrives in Atlanta on Oct. 8 and will visit Decatur on Oct. 10 as part of her epic 6,000-mile journey across the United States. There will be special activities, music and food on the square.

Her two-month trek visiting more than 35 U.S. cities and towns for 100+ events started in Boston on September 7 and will end on November 5 in San Diego. Amal Walks Across America is produced by the Walk Productions in association with Handspring Puppet Company, which also guided Amal's initial 5,000-mile walk across Europe in 2021 and through all five boroughs of New York City in 2022.

Check for updates at walkwithamal.org and on Decatur's social media channels.



Metro Atlanta Cities Wellbeing Initiative

In August, representatives from Decatur Parks and Recreation, Decatur Fire, and Clarity Fitness, along with Mayor Patti Garrett joined other Metro-Atlanta Cities Wellbeing Initiative participants to present final plans to improve health outcomes for residents in their communities. Decatur was one of five cities awarded \$4,500 from the Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI) as seed money to implement their plans.

The Metro-Atlanta Cities Wellbeing Initiative was developed in partnership with ARCHI, the Georgia Municipal Association, and its non-profit, Georgia City Solutions, and the National League of Cities, with financial support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The 8-month course brought together city officials, staff, and community leaders to improve the quality of life in their communities through greater understanding of local well-being metrics, stewardship, social determinants of health, equity, and systems. With the support of University of Georgia Health Equity Fellows and regional experts, these leaders developed action plans by translating data and insights into tangible policy action to improve community wellbeing.

Decatur plans to promote physical activity among adults, especially older adults, by identifying physical health activity needs and barriers to access, and incorporating weight inclusivity into new or existing programs.



Floodplain Information Available

The Decatur Public Works department provides general floodplain information on property located within the incorporated city limits. The Decatur Library also provides references on flooding and flood protection.

A map and information service is available for a \$10 fee, and explains:

- If a property is in a special flood hazard area
- If a property is in a floodway
- Flood insurance rate map information
- Flood depth information
- If a FEMA elevation certificate for a property is available in city records

An accurate street address or DeKalb County/Decatur Tax Parcel Identification number is needed to obtain this information. Contact 678-553-6529 or jennings.bell@decaturga.com

Read the Decatur Focus online at decaturga.com/focus.

Limited copies also available at Decatur City Hall, Decatur Visitor's Center, and Decatur Recreation Center.

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

The Decatur Focus is a joint publication of the City of Decatur, the Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the Decatur Business Association. It is a newsletter intended to provide announcements and information related to events, activities, and businesses in the city of Decatur. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners and the school system. Letters to the editor, editorials or other opinion pieces are not published. All press releases, announcements 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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Decorate Decatur Halloween

Halloween decorating season is here and that means the Commissioners Cauldron is up for grabs. Unpack your best Halloween decorations, dress up your home or business in the colors and traditions of the season, and enter the Halloween Decorating Contest. Submit a photo of your décor or nominate your neighbor by sending an email to Jackie Moore, jacqueline.moore@decaturga.com, that includes your name and mailing address by Friday, October 20.

Cauldron winners will be announced at the City Commission meeting on Monday, November 6. Winner photos will also be posted on the Decorate Decatur Facebook page and special yard signs will be placed in yards to display for Halloween.

For more information and to see previous winners, go to visitdecaturgeorgia.com/decoratedecatur.



2022 Commissioners Cauldron Winners
The Pope Family
511 Glendale Ave.

BICENTENNIAL PARADE & CELEBRATION

Saturday, Dec. 9 • Parade Start Time: 3 p.m. Parade Lineup: Decatur Post Office
Celebrate two centuries of Decatur's rich history and vibrant community spirit. The entire community is invited to participate in this momentous occasion. Walk, ride, or float your way into the parade through downtown to showcase your civic pride. Dress up, decorate your float, and make history with your neighbors. After the parade, join us on the square for a celebration featuring live music and activities for all ages.

Don't miss this opportunity to come together as a community and acknowledge and honor where we've been and celebrate what's to come. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and family, and let's make Decatur's birthday weekend a time to remember.



Decatur Youth Council

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Decatur Youth Council (DYC). Fifteen local high school students were selected to serve on this year's council. DYC is a City of Decatur-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the city limits of Decatur. Members learn about local government and how it functions. They also inform city leaders about the youth perspective for Decatur and their hopes for the future of the city.



Row 1 (front): Riley Pare, Lexi Foster, Elia Mathew-Lewis
Row 2: Flora Burdette, Greta Tell, Claire Duvall, McLaine Drake
Row 3: Austin Nobles, Robert Nobles, Qaden Daise, Jake Eagle
Row 4: Laolu Oguneke, Henry Cayce, Theo Jackson

COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Pay attention to fire prevention

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking caused an average of 172,900 reported home structure fires per year, 49 percent of all reported home fires in the U.S. These fires resulted in an average of 550 civilian deaths (21 percent of all home fire deaths) and 4,820 civilian injuries (44 percent of all reported home fire injuries) annually.

What can you do to help avoid cooking fires?

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove. Conversations and distractions can last longer than you think, allowing a fire to occur in your absence.
- Stay alert. It's easy to fall asleep if you watch TV while your food is cooking, especially at night or if you are on medications that cause drowsiness.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop, even if it is not on.
- Tightly roll sleeves or wear close-fitting clothing when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire when reaching over burners.
- Keep handles turned inward, (but not over another hot burner) to prevent pans from being accidentally knocked off and cause serious burns.
- Keep an extinguisher near the kitchen, but not in a place where you'd have to reach past a fire to get it. Make sure that it's charged and not expired.
- Place a lid over small fires to extinguish the flames instead, if possible. Never put water on a grease or oil fire.
- Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms in the house, but not directly in the kitchen where you might be tempted to remove the battery from too many alarms due to burnt food.
- Improper microwave use can also result in fires, and steam from sealed microwave food bags can cause serious burns. Don't allow children to use the microwave or open bags of hot food.



If you would like more information or would like to learn extinguisher safety, contact Captain Gary Menard at gary.menard@decaturga.com.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR



Meet **Tonio Andrade**, this month's Walk & Roll Superstar. Tonio is an Emory history professor who has commuted to work by bicycle for 15 years. He lives in Winnona Park with his wife Andrea and daughters Amalia, Sylvia, and Josephine.

Tonio's daily bike adventures began after hearing that each mile driven in a car emits about a pound of carbon dioxide into the air. After some quick mental calculations, he realized biking to work could make a considerable difference. He decided to give it a try and has never looked back.

While Tonio initially considered environmental reasons for commuting via bike, he quickly became aware of the myriad of other benefits. First and foremost, he feels "absolutely fantastic." He arrives at the office with a clear head, fully ready to work, write, and plan. He's fit and healthy, loves breathing in the morning air, and certainly does not miss the frustrations of car commuting and sitting in traffic.

Tonio actively advocates for safer streets, and is co-founder of two organizations. The Decatur Bicycle Coalition seeks to create infrastructure safe for people on bikes or in wheelchairs, with a goal of building a network of protected paths complete and connected enough that people of all ages can use them without fear of harm from automobiles. Calm Candler focuses on one of the city's most dangerous roadways, and works to lower traffic speeds and provide safer crossings for the hundreds of people—including students—who walk along or across South Candler Street. Tonio appreciates the city's co-operation, and Candler Street has become safer, although the basic problem remains: motorists drive too fast and frequently run stoplights.

Nominate a Walk & Roll Superstar by visiting bit.ly/walk-and-roll-decatur.

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS

YOUR BROKEN,
USELESS &
OBSOLETE

OCTOBER 28

SATURDAY • 9 AM TO NOON
Styrofoam recycling too!



Your favorite recycling events - combined!

Recycle your old electronics and Styrofoam. Just drop by between 9 a.m. and noon. (Sorry, early drop-offs are not possible.) Please enter Talley Street from Columbia Drive and exit via Sams Street to East College Avenue.

Contact Public Works at 404-377-5571 or sanitation@decaturga.com for more information and last-minute updates, or visit decaturga.com/electronic recycling

NOTE:

PAPER SHREDDING SERVICES WILL **NOT** BE AVAILABLE DURING THIS RECYCLING EVENT.

Get this junk out of your house And keep it out of the landfill

Adding machines	Game controllers	Stereo equipment
Answering machines	Keyboards	Telephones
Batteries, any kind	Label makers	Telephony equipment
Cable converter boxes	Mice	3-in-1 devices
Cables	Mini-towers	Typewriters
Calculators	Monitors	UPS units
Component parts	Pagers	VCRs
Computers	PDAs	Workstation
Copiers	Portable CD players	Zip drives
Digital cameras	Portable game players	
Digital projectors	Printer cartridges	
DVD players	Printers	
Electric lawn mowers	Radios	
Fax machines	Remote controls routers	
Garden equipment	Scanners	
GPS receivers	Servers Speakers	

**Fee required to
recycle cathode ray
tube equipment**
(exact change only):
Monitors \$5; TVs \$10

Styrofoam Recycling

- Make sure foam has the "6" symbol on it
- Rinse and separate food service containers from other foam
- No foam peanuts or insulation material

PERMITTING 101

Residents can find permitting information at decaturga.com/dec. For questions, including inquiries about right of way permits or stop work orders, call 404-377-6198.

WHEN IS A PERMIT NEEDED?

- Constructing, enlarging, altering, repairing, moving, demolishing, or changing the occupancy of any structure
- Repairs, maintenance, or construction valued equal or greater than \$1,000
- Any roofing or structural work
- Trade permits are required when installing, enlarging, altering, repairing, removing, converting, or replacing any drainage, sewer, natural gas, mechanical (HVAC), electrical, or plumbing system (regardless of value)
- Any changes that impact zoning (such as changes in lot coverage) and any land disturbing activities
- Work within a Local Historic District
- Work or activities that block, impede, or otherwise affect sidewalks, streets, or other rights-of-way

WHY SHOULD I PULL A PERMIT?

The permitting process ensures work is done to code. These codes are in place to protect the environment and the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

THE PERMITTING PROCESS

Depending on size and scope, a pre-application meeting may be necessary

1. An application is submitted
2. The application is accepted and processed
3. Construction documents and other supporting files are uploaded
4. Staff reviews documents for compliance (revisions may be necessary)
5. A building permit is issued
6. As work takes place, compliance inspections are done
7. Once work is complete, final inspections are completed
8. A Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion is issued and the permit is closed out. A Certificate of Occupancy ensures a newly constructed or significantly renovated structure is safe to occupy. A Certificate of Completion signifies less extensive work has been completed per code.
 - Certificate of Occupancy : new structures, additions, or major renovations
 - Certificate of Completion: smaller renovations, driveway/roof replacements

ePERMITTING

To improve efficiency and reduce waste, the City of Decatur uses an electronic permitting platform. All applications, reviews, and inspections are handled digitally.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PERMITTING PROCESS?

City Staff:

- Permit Technician
- Plan reviewers
 - City Planner
 - City Arborist
 - Building
 - Engineering (site/land development)
 - Fire Marshal
- Inspectors
 - Building
 - Engineering
 - Arborist
 - Fire Marshal
- Building Official

Non-City Staff

- Property Owner
- Owner's Agent
- Developer
- Contractor/Builder
- Surveyor
- Architect/Engineer
- Permit Expeditor
- Sub-Contractor
- Realtor

For more information, including how to apply for a permit, visit decaturga.com/dec or contact permits@decaturga.com.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

When permits are secured, the work has been verified to be code compliant. Benefits include:

- Licensed/qualified contractors perform work
- Work has been reviewed to ensure compliance to codes
- Property value is maintained (or increased)
- Environmental impacts are mitigated

When permits are NOT secured, work has NOT been reviewed for code compliance. Potential outcomes include:

- Structurally unsound work
- Dangerous living conditions (no emergency egress)
- Environmental hazards (electrical, natural gas, fire)
- Damage to trees, resulting in premature failure
- Erosion, sediment, and stormwater issues

Decatur Parks & Recreation Project Updates

The Decatur Parks and Recreation Department (DPRD) is working to update facilities to enhance parks and facilities for the community. Here's a roundup of what's in the works:

McKoy Dugout Renovation Project

McKoy dugout renovations are scheduled to begin this fall. Expect enhanced facilities, including new storage rooms, locker rooms, steps, railings, roofing, and a state-of-the-art drainage system in both dugouts. Chain link fencing will be replaced with netting, and a fresh coat of paint will complete the upgrade. These improvements will serve both DPRD adult softball and Decatur High School baseball players at McKoy Park.

McKoy Skate Park Renovation Project

Starting the week of October 16, the McKoy Skate Park will undergo a redesign. In close partnership with the Decatur High School Skate Club, this project was guided by the input of avid skaters advocating for improvements. Concrete structures will replace outdated elements, and American Ramp Company will lead the construction.

The redesign also involves removing the fence to enhance the open feel of the space. The playground will be closed starting October 16 until construction is completed in early December. This redesign showcases the power of collaboration between Decatur High School Skate Club, residents, and the broader skate community.

Ebster Field and Lights Project

Ebster Field is set to be turfed, opening the door for an array of activities, and brand-new LED lights will illuminate the area. The project is in advanced stages, with several qualified bidders looking to begin construction. The City will soon announce the contractor for these improvements.

Ebster Teen Outdoor Recreation Area

Ebster Park is set for a major reconstruction thanks to a \$2.08 million grant for Enhancing Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities. Ebster Park will soon evolve into an inclusive community space, with improved access, lighting, and shade areas. Collaborating closely with the community, DPRD is soliciting

input to craft a master plan tailored to resident needs, especially our teen population. Anticipate enhancements such as an accessibility ramp, restroom facility, basketball court renovations, playground improvements, and even the possibility of a skate park or a versatile "all wheels" feature.

Track and Field at Legacy Park

A shared vision between the City of Decatur and City Schools of Decatur is materializing at the proposed track and field. Extensive community engagement has shaped the design, resulting in a vision for an NCAA 8-lane track, a versatile turfed field for multiple sports, state-of-the-art LED athletic field lighting, a new field house, ADA accessibility, upgraded restrooms, and improved storage.

These projects exemplify our commitment to offering dynamic and inclusive environments that enrich lives in our community. Stay tuned for more updates and witness these renovations firsthand.

HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT ON DECATUR SQUARE

**Saturday, Oct. 28,
7 p.m., Decatur Square**

Join us for a spook-tacular night in downtown Decatur for a FREE Halloween movie night featuring Disney's film 'Coco'. Bring the whole family – costumes encouraged. Enjoy the community spirit, trick-or-treating, and support local businesses.



Help Your Neighbors during the Holiday Season

For almost 30 years, A Season of Giving has helped make the holiday season brighter for children and seniors in Decatur. Last year the program helped more than 500 children and seniors have a happier holiday season by providing needed and wanted gifts. Donors can directly purchase or make a donation and volunteers will do the shopping.

Donors are asked to spend around \$150 based on a wish list specific to each recipient. The lists are created through conversations with seniors and input from each child's parent or guardian. Each list includes a mix of wants and needs. Obtain a wish list at aseasonofgiving.org/adopt-a-child-or-senior. Too busy to shop? Financial contributions of any amount can be made at legacydecatur.org/give. Email aseasonofgivingdecatur@gmail.com for more information.



CPR Life Save

Scott Carter and Ryan Frazier are two people who can tell you from personal experience that learning CPR can be a life-saving experience. When Scott went into cardiac arrest on the job, Ryan, his co-worker, knew exactly what to do. Without hesitating, he initiated CPR immediately. He knew that every minute without CPR would decrease Scott's chances of survival by 10 percent, so he continued compressions and breaths until Decatur Fire arrived on scene.

A few months prior to the incident, Scott suggested that the crew learn CPR. He was aware that cardiac arrest can occur on the job and CPR could be needed at any time. Ryan had all the training necessary to keep circulating the blood in Scott until help could arrive.

Visit decaturga.com/cpr or call 404-373-5092 to learn when City of Decatur Fire Rescue Department is hosting its next CPR Class.



Ryan Frazier, center left and Scott Carter, center right

Digging through the (Decatur Focus) Crates

In 1987, the Decatur City Commission adopted the daylily as the city's official flower. Here's the Focus article from July 1990 describing the flower.

THE DAYLILY CITY OF DECATUR'S OFFICIAL FLOWER

Three years ago the Decatur City Commission adopted the daylily as the city's official flower. Since that time, Decatur residents and business owners have planted varieties all over the city. Results of their efforts can be seen now and on into the summer as the daylily begins blooming in May.

Although the daylily is a member of the lily family as are such other plants as onions and hyacinths, it is not a lily. Its botanical name is *Hemerocallis*, derived from two Greek words meaning "beauty" and "day" or "beautify for a day." The phrase is somewhat misleading. While individual blooms are generally open for only a day, there are successive flowers for a number of days during the blooming season. Thus, the daylily is a valuable perennial for its long periods of bloom.

The use of the daylily by the ancient Chinese people began before the development

of written language. Earliest records report the plant's use for food. The flower buds were palatable, digestible, and nutritious. The root and crown were found to be a good pain reliever.

The modern daylily is a highly evolved flowering plant. It originally came from Asia and is known for its toughness, tenacity and ability to grow anywhere- even in ditches. Orange and yellow are the most common colors, but others exist. Common names for the daylily include ditch lily, tiger lily or southern lemon lily.

Hemerocallis expert and long-time Decatur resident, Clyde Davidson, registered 92 diploids and tetraploids with Decatur as the prefix. Thus Decatur's official flower is also official in horticulture circles.

It is often said that the daylily is the "lazy person's flower" because it thrives on neglect and flourishes anywhere. Gardening experts say they are one of the most versatile and

adaptable perennials that do require some degree of care.

Daylilies lend themselves to commercial, residential, institutional, conservation, park and parkway uses.





Meeting Preview

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Location, programs, and sponsors to be announced

Check for up-to-date meeting information and learn more at

decaturdba.com

Oakhurst Choir Turns 10 and Celebrates Partnership with the Solarium

The Oakhurst Community Choir (OCC) began in the fall of 2013 with a small group of community members who wanted to bring joy to the community through singing. Co-founders Alice Reeves and Holly Scarborough said they wanted to create a space where people could come together to sing and make music, no matter their experience in previous choirs. They found a perfect location for the choir at the Solarium, the community center in Oakhurst. The Solarium has been a consistent supporter of the OCC, providing space for rehearsals and performances since that first season. The Solarium, managed and maintained by the Community Center of South Decatur (CCSD), is a valuable asset to the Oakhurst community.

The OCC is an independent, non-audition group welcoming teens and adults who enjoy singing. The choir has performed on CNN, at The Fox Theatre, and at a variety of events in Decatur, including the Oakhurst tree lighting, Decatur holiday festivities, the Decatur Arts Festival, Porchfest, and the Oakhurst farmers market. The choir is just starting its 2023 fall season and will typically hold performances during the first two weeks of December. If you are interested in joining future seasons, contact the OCC Board at oakhurstcc@gmail.com.

If you are looking for more information about the Solarium, events, and renting this historic space, go to communitycentrsofouthdecatur.org/contact/.



Open House for Prospective Students

Agnes Scott College's graduate and post-baccalaureate programs in the health professions continue to grow. Learn more about the forward-thinking programs offered on Saturday, November 4, for the in-person Fall Graduate Studies Open House. Visitors will have a chance to meet faculty directors and students from the Medical Sciences master's, Pre-Medical post-bacc, and Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs. The graduate admission team will provide application and financial aid information and give a tour of the campus. In addition to this in-person event, virtual information sessions are offered on a regular basis. Visit agnesscott.edu/gradevents to learn more and RSVP.



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Innovation is Thriving at City Schools of Decatur

This month, DEF is launching more than 50 innovative projects in every school in the City Schools of Decatur (CSD) as part of Teacher Innovation Grants and — for the first time ever — Student Innovation Grants programs.

CSD teachers and staff members are building inclusive playgrounds, establishing ornithology and gardening clubs, and supporting literacy for all students. Students are creating a school supply closet at Decatur High School, starting cultural identity clubs, exploring the future of education with AI, 3-D printing, and building a better world through LEGO robotics.

DEF's programs are possible because of the continued support of the community. To support initiatives that ensure all Decatur students have what they need to learn and thrive, visit decatureducationfoundation.org.



The Music Man presented by Decatur First Drama

Decatur First Drama presents "The Music Man." The show is completely free and open to all members of the community. It is a light-hearted, family-friendly musical featuring performers from across the Atlanta area, including a professional barbershop quartet. Donations will be accepted at the performance to support the program and efforts to bring free theatre to the community. Also wanted: musical instruments, including small children's instruments, to be donated to local organizations.

The show will be held at Avondale Pattillo UMC, 3260 Covington Hwy. on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. No tickets necessary. First come, first served.



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MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, FAULTY PRODUCTS, HERNIATED DISCS, FRACTURES,
INADEQUATE SECURITY

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER

- 1-30** Book as Art Exhibit Page 13
- 2** City Commission Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 6-7** "The Music Man" Avondale Pattillo UMC, 3260 Covington Hwy. Page 10
- 7** Lotus of Life Community Health Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 603 Church St.
- 8-22** Fairies in the Garden
- 10** Little Amal Visits Decatur Page 1
- 13** Emerging Latinx Artist Showcase 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Decatur Visitors Center
- 14** Oakhurst Porchfest noon -7 p.m., all around Oakhurst

- 14** World Singing Day Page 12
- 16** City Commission Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 21** Madison Ave Derby 11 a.m., Madison Ave.
- 21** Great Medlock Veg Out Page 12
- 24** DBA Meeting Page 9
- 26** Parker's On Ponce Weller Bourbon Dinner Page 12
- 28** Screen on Decatur Square Page 7
- 28** Electronics Recycling Page 5

- 28** Decatur Craft Beer Festival (now SUDS) 12-4 p.m., Legacy Park
- 29** Day of the Dead Haints & Saints Parade 6 p.m., Decatur Cemetery

NOVEMBER

- 4** Decatur Wine Festival Page 14
- 6** City Commission Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11** Salute to Veterans Page 14
- 27** City Commission Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 25** Small Business Saturday
- 25** Santa on the Square 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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CALL OR TEXT US! 404.377.9000 • THEDAMMANNTEAM.COM

Parker's On Ponce Weller Bourbon Dinner

116 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. • Reservations: 404-924-2230

Parker's On Ponce will host a Weller bourbon dinner Oct. 26 that will include a chef-curated, six course dinner pairing featuring craft cocktails and neat pours from a selection of Weller bourbon.

The Great Medlock Veg Out!

Decatur resident David Lewicki invites the community to the free 2nd Annual Veg Out! Festival at North Decatur Presbyterian Church, 611 Medlock Rd., Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrate all things veggie with vegetarian food, cooking demonstrations, live music, lawn games, expert gardening advice and a wide range of local Atlanta and Georgia exhibitors. Bring a chair or blanket, relax, eat a diverse array of vegetarian food, and learn about sustainable food. Raffle proceeds will support the Atlanta Free Fridge and Decatur Area Emergency Assistance Ministry.

Uniting the World in Song

The Decatur Civic Chorus is pleased to sponsor this year's World Singing Day event. Join the sing-along Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. on the front lawn of First Baptist Church of Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave.

Fairy Magic at Woodlands

Oct. 8-22, Woodlands Garden, 932 Scott Blvd.

Fairies return this fall to Woodlands Garden for the eleventh year of "Fairies in the Garden" Oct. 7-21. Put on your wings, grab a map, dance along the trails, and explore the gardens while searching for intricately crafted fairy homes created using natural materials. All ages and abilities are welcome to experience the magic during this two-week event made possible by horticulture therapy programs at Skyland Trail and Hillside Atlanta.



New this year: Many fairy homes will be viewable from ADA-friendly sidewalks and hardscape surfaces. Return as many times as you like before the fairies fade into dust. Visit woodlandsgarden.org for all the magical details. The free exhibit is made possible by sponsors including Arboguard Tree Specialists, A. S. Turner & Sons, Atlanta Intown Real Estate Services Nancy Scott & Mark Lewis, Decatur Arts Alliance, and Glide Pizza.

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THE BOOK AS ART V.11: MYTH & MAGIC

Through October 30 • Thursday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m.
Fourth Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library

The Book as Art exhibition seeks to showcase beautifully made volumes, sculptural and conceptual interpretations, and one-of-a-kind approaches to the book format. For the 11th volume of this annual exhibition, artists were challenged to look inward and outward, to interpret classical myths and tales, to explore and expose modern myths and myth-making, and to create new, magical tales. More than 50 artworks are on view.



Decatur City Dance Presents "The Land of Sweets"

"The Land of Sweets" will be the first of three performance offerings for the 70th Season of Decatur City Dance. On the weekend of Oct. 28 and 29, the Nexus Premiere and Nexus Apprentice companies will venture into a



sweet-filled kingdom just in time for Halloween. Excerpts from Act 2 of the "Nutcracker" will be presented, as the performers dance their way through the "Kingdom of Sweets" ushered in by the flitting of snowflakes and the iconic Sugar Plum Fairy and culminating with the "Waltz of the Flowers." Performances will be held at the Drew Charter School Performing Arts Theater, 300 East Lake Blvd., at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students (18 and under). For more information and to buy tickets, visit decaturcitydance.org

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Decatur Wine Fest Turns 21

Saturday, Nov. 4
12:30-4:30 p.m.
Decatur Square

Tickets are on sale now for the annual Decatur Wine Festival. With more than 400 varieties of wine from around the world, a live DJ spinning tunes, and plenty of delicious food options, it's the can't-miss event of the season. Proceeds fund the Decatur Arts Alliance, a local nonprofit that produces free art events and programs in Decatur.

Tickets are available online for \$50 through Oct. 14, and for \$60 between Oct. 15 and Nov. 3. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate on Nov. 4 for \$70. Tickets include a commemorative wine glass.

Visit decaturartsalliance.org/dwf for more information.



SALUTE TO VETERANS

American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 66 and Friends of Decatur Cemetery will again sponsor the annual veterans flag placement and patriotic ceremony at the Cemetery. Volunteers are needed for flag placement on Saturday, November 4 beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers will also be needed on Saturday, November 18 to remove flags and prepare them for storage. Contact Sarah Zingarelli, sarahzunit66@gmail.com, to sign up to volunteer for either or both days.

On Saturday, November 11, at 11 a.m., a short ceremony of remembrance will be held at the Veterans Memorial at the Cemetery just inside the Bell Street gate. In case of rain, there will be directions to an alternate site. As you are walking around the Cemetery Nov. 4-18, watch for the more than 1,000 flags honoring veterans in the Decatur Cemetery who served in every war from the American Revolution to the Gulf Wars.



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



City Schools of Decatur Welcomes Gyimah Whitaker

Gyimah Whitaker, Ed.D., began her tenure as superintendent of the City Schools of Decatur (CSD) on July 1. An engaging and experienced leader, Dr. Whitaker has more than two decades of leadership experience, including serving as deputy chief academic officer for Fulton County Schools, where she supervised the assistant superintendents of student support services and learning and teaching and oversaw a budget of \$48 million in general funds, \$61 million in federal funds, and \$47 million in ESSR funds. Her previous leadership experience includes serving as an area superintendent and executive director. She also held progressive leadership roles in Atlanta Public Schools as an area superintendent and coordinator of gifted and talented Services.

Dr. Whitaker earned a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She also has a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Georgia State University.



STEAMy Fridays in City Schools of Decatur

The DHS Robotics Team hosted Parent Night for K-5 elementary students and parents to assist them in building Lego teams at their home schools. Steamy Friday is a time to develop students' science, technology, engineering, art, and math skills. K-2 students collaborate, problem-solve, and build through the engineering design process.

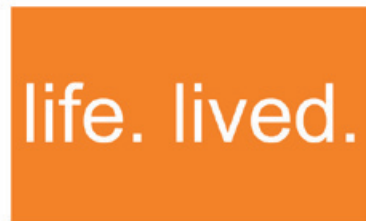
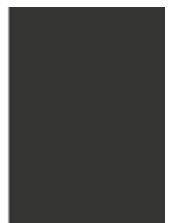


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