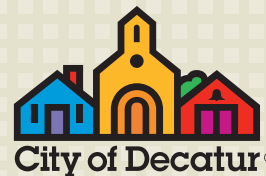


City of Decatur FOCUS

INSIDE:
DECATUR
PLAYBOOK



SEPTEMBER 2023
Volume 34 • Number 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

Who Is Your Decatur Hometown Hero?

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

Nominations are reviewed by an independent panel of professionals who work with volunteers and who do not know the nominees. Nominations are being accepted until September 29. Nomination forms can be downloaded at decaturga.com/hometownheroes. Submit a completed form along with a short essay describing your Hometown Hero and how they contribute to the Decatur community to sherry.jackman@decaturga.com or by mail to: Decatur Hometown Heroes, Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

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



Decatur's First Hometown Heroes

Decatur began recognizing and celebrating Hometown Heroes at the close of its Hometown to the World Festival during the summer Olympics of 1996. The City honored 24 residents and volunteers who worked on a wide range of projects including planting trees on Church Street, creating a park out of undeveloped land, working with schools, the Atlanta Project, and volunteer committees, and volunteering for the Hometown of the World Festival.

The 1996 Hometown Heroes are: Eddie Owen, Roberta E. Bayles, Sandy Bishop, Linda Sabo, Jane Boykin, Cheryl Burnette, Scott Miller, Beverly Dabney, Patricia Dollisch, Sydney Floyd, Buddy Goodloe, Michael Harbin, Genevieve Edwards, Mrs. Ola Kate Morgan, Rosella Pringle, John Randall, Pat Solomon, W.D. Wheeler, Commander B.F. Wilkins, Weny Worrell, Matt Parry, Paula Bonaker, Brady Horne, and Dana Haugaard.

A new group of Hometown Heroes is recognized each December at the Decatur Business Association holiday meeting. To date, Decatur has honored more than 300 Hometown Heroes.

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON THIS MONTH. SEE THE **EVENTS CALENDAR** ON PAGE 15.

Decatur Parks and Recreation Awarded two Grants

Decatur Parks and Recreation has been awarded two grants to improve programs and facilities. Improvements to Ebster Park are being made possible by a \$2.08 million Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities grant from Governor Kemp's office.

The initiative aims to transform Ebster Park into a vibrant and inclusive community space, with improvements to access, lighting, and shade in the park. The project will include comprehensive community engagement efforts to gather input and design a master plan that meets the diverse needs of residents, specifically the teen population. Proposed changes include improvements to the accessibility ramp, addition of a restroom facility, renovation of the basketball court, playground, and pavilion areas, as well as potential new amenities such as a skate park or an "all wheels" feature.

A \$75,000 BOOST grant for summer camp was also awarded from Georgia Recreation and Park Association. BOOST grants are intended to support the learning acceleration, connectedness, and well-being of Georgia's students, utilizing a whole-child approach.

Restaurants for Repairs Returns

Save the date for Restaurants for Repairs, the signature fund-raising event for the MLK Service project. On Oct. 17, dine out at one of the participating restaurants who have committed to donating a portion of their proceeds from meals to the project.

The Annual MLK Jr. Service Project week-end works to help long-time City of Decatur residents remain in the community, safely and comfortably, by providing free home maintenance and repairs and doing yard work. Volunteers and sponsors who provide cash or in-kind donations help make this effort possible.

Participating restaurants include Brickstore Pub, Butter & Cream, Folk Art, The Imperial, Inner Voice Brewing, Leon's Full Service, Ragging Burrito & Taco, and Sushi Avenue. Visit mlkserviceproject.com to stay up to date on participating restaurants. You can also sign up to volunteer for the January MLK Jr. Service Project event and/or make direct donations by visiting mlkserviceproject.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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Thank you for your service, Lee Ann!

Lee Ann Harvey retired in June after a distinguished 20-year career with the City of Decatur. Mayor Patti Garrett proclaimed Monday, July 17, as Lee Ann Harvey Day, expressing special recognition to her upon her retirement and honoring her career.



Lee Ann joined the City in 2000 as the first Volunteer Coordinator and was promoted to become the first Lifelong Community Program Manager in 2010. Lee Ann's dedication to her profession made her a highly valued employee, colleague, and mentor and she is highly regarded for her caring and compassionate heart for senior citizens and our community.

Lee Ann applied her high level of committed servant leadership to the broader community bettering the lives of many through countless efforts, activities, and projects such as the annual Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur, the MLK, Jr. Service Project, Restaurants for Repairs, Decatur Hometown Heroes, and the Lifelong Community Advisory Board.

EASTSIDE HOPS BEER TRAIL PASS

Decatur is part of the Eastside Hops Beer Trail, a gateway to six hoppin' communities on the east side of Atlanta, offering a wide selection of craft and local brews. Download a free digital pass to start exploring breweries in Decatur and beyond and earn prizes along the way.

A limited supply of Eastside Hops Beer Trail t-shirts and beer glasses are available so download your pass, grab a friend, and start collecting points today. Go to visitdecatur-georgia.com/eastsidehops for more information and the full list of stops along the trail.

Anti-Racism Speaker Series Uncovering Hidden and Untold Narratives

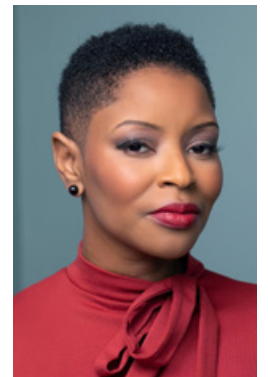
Join the Better Together Advisory Board and the City of Decatur this fall as we explore the importance of recognizing hidden narratives and rectifying histories of erasure and disenfranchisement. The Anti-Racism Speaker Series was designed in 2020 to create impactful models for talking about race and racism that generate opportunities for our neighbors throughout the city to learn from people who have spent a significant amount of time thinking about how we can cultivate strategies to alleviate injustice in Decatur and beyond.

This year's speaker series is guided by the belief that stories are the foundation of cultural change. Stories about our shared goals and heritage have galvanized historic moments of empowerment and emancipation. Conversely, other more harmful stories sowed the seeds for communal acceptance of race-based dispossession and displacement. We believe that the seeds of change reside in our willingness to seek and hold out the "hidden stories" of struggle, strain, and success that remain buried in the annals of our racial history.

Moderated by Decatur resident and member of the Better Together Advisory Board Ed Lee, the three-part series will help us learn from other organizations working to unearth the "hidden stories" in their community and will culminate in an exploration of community-driven storytelling.

Thursday, Sept. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. • virtual
Emory University's Twin Memorials

Dr. Anjulet Tucker, a cultural sociologist and Director of Presidential Initiatives at Emory University, is one of the primary leaders in the university's effort to create "Twin Memorials" on its Oxford and Atlanta campuses. It will serve as a nexus for ongoing efforts to understand the university's history of slavery and dispossession and create opportunities for healing and restoration. Dr. Tucker is a highly energetic and engaging national thought leader who understands that a humble and generative inquiry into our past that can transform our present requires that we earnestly listen to the "hidden stories" of enslaved and dispossessed people.



Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. • virtual

Acknowledging and Learning from Our Past; Acting Now for a Transformed Future

How does a college campus engage with its history, document its invisible past, and re-right its present? Join Agnes Scott College leaders and faculty as they discuss their work for a transformed future through a project, in collaboration with city and community partners, that is examining and elevating the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, artisans and workers who built Agnes Scott's campus to ensure that their contributions are not erased.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 5:30-7 p.m. • Decatur Recreation Center
Connecting Community through Storytelling

We will discuss the City's 200 Stories initiative and share the importance of lifting up hidden narratives. We will also have activities that will encourage building connections and help people see themselves as storytellers.

Parks & Rec Introduces Membership Program

Decatur Parks & Recreation recently launched an all-new membership that provides unlimited access to open gym activities available at Ebster, Oakhurst, and Decatur Recreation Centers. Membership is \$25 a month (or \$50 a month for non-residents) and includes access to activities such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, badminton, and pickleball. Open gym for youth and families is free.

- **Volleyball:** Year-round on Sundays, 6-9 p.m. at Decatur Recreation Center
- **Table Tennis:** Thursdays from 6:45 to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at Decatur Recreation Center
- **Basketball:** Women's basketball on Wednesday nights and men's basketball on Thursday nights, 7-9 p.m., at Oakhurst Recreation Center. Adult co-ed basketball from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, every other weekend. Adult open gym is also held Monday-Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. through October at Ebster Recreation Center.
- **Pickleball:** Monday-Friday 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Ebster Recreation Center. Saturdays 1-4 p.m. in September and October and Sundays 1-4 p.m. in November and December.

Visit decaturga.com/registration for registration information or visit any of the recreation centers where front desk attendants are available to assist you. For more information on activities and fees, visit decaturga.com, email dprd@decaturga.com, or call 404-377-0494.



**JULY 4TH
PARADE
CONTEST
WINNER**

Everett Orenshall won the decorating contest for his decked-out bicycle during the July 4th pied-piper parade.

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS

Meet **Bridgette Jenkins**, our September Walk & Roll Superstar. Although Bridgette is a newer Decatur resident, she has been involved with the city for a number of years.

Originally from the college town of Oberlin in Ohio, Bridgette first experienced Atlanta as an undergraduate at Spelman College. St. Louis was then home for many years, as Bridgette earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and worked for the University of Missouri—St. Louis as a professor and psychologist in the student counseling center. Upon her retirement in 2016, Bridgette relocated to Georgia. Her mother was living at Phillips Tower in downtown Decatur, and Bridgette moved to the “greater Decatur” area. Naturally curious, she read her mom’s Focus issues and noticed all of the programs and offerings at the recreation center. She started taking classes at the rec center—including an adult tricycle class—and began attending the weekly Wednesday morning walks offered by the city. Bridgette has been a “regular” at the walking group for several years. It was one of the first activities to resume during the pandemic, for which she was very grateful.

Bridgette liked the feel of Decatur, and it reminded her of her hometown of Oberlin. She enjoyed the people she met and the city’s multitude of activities and events, leading her to the realization that she preferred Decatur to her location outside the city limits. Earlier in 2023, Bridgette found a place in Oakhurst that met her needs, and she moved in without looking back. She is well acquainted with the city thanks to the time she has spent exploring Decatur on foot; walking has helped her know the city in a deeper way than car travel typically allows. Bridgette says moving to Decatur felt like coming home, and it has given her a sense of identity she did not feel before. She said it is one of the best decisions she has made.

In addition to walking and various pastimes within the city, Bridgette teaches citizenship classes in the evenings, and after noticing the reading challenges some college students face, she became passionate about reading and literacy. To feed her appetite for learning, she enrolled in literacy and adult education classes before her retirement, earning so many credits that she ended up with a master’s degree.

Spending time with Bridgette is delightful, and she is quite a conversation partner. Accompany Bridgette and the other regulars on a Wednesday morning walk at the rec center, and you will not only become familiar with the city in new ways while exercising but also engage in conversation along the way.

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



City of Decatur Joins City Health Dashboard

The City of Decatur has been selected to be added to the City Health Dashboard. The Dashboard provides cities big and small with local and neighborhood-level data on health and its drivers. Sixty-seven cities were selected to join the Dashboard during its annual Put Us on the Map Challenge – an opportunity for smaller cities to gain access to local data – and Decatur was one of them. Our city is now live on the site with access to more than 30 metrics on health. To begin exploring how to use data on the Dashboard to make a difference for health in our community, visit cityhealthdashboard.com and select Decatur, GA, from the search bar.

Welcoming Business Award Nominations Open

The Better Together Advisory Board is accepting nominations through October 13 for its annual Welcoming Business award. Awarded recipients will be announced by the Decatur City Commission at the DBA Holiday Meeting in December. The award is open to all businesses in the city of Decatur that have employees and are located within the Decatur city limits.

For more information on this award's purpose and selection criteria, as well the online submission form for nominations, visit decaturga.com/welcomingbusiness. Printable nomination forms are also available for submission via email to Linda Harris, linda.harris@decatur.com, or mail to her attention at City of Decatur, PO Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031. For more information contact Linda Harris or Renae Jackson, renae.jackson@decaturga.com.

September Is Child Passenger Safety Month

AAA Grant Makes Car Seat Education Even Easier at Decatur Fire

City of Decatur Fire was recently awarded a grant by AAA that allowed the purchase of realistic training dolls, from newborn to small teen, and a tablet for the child passenger safety seat installations program. The training equipment will help to better demonstrate how to properly secure a child in an infant rear-facing seat, a forward-facing seat, a booster seat, and with a seatbelt. Caregivers can choose the doll closest to the size of their child allowing the child passenger safety technicians to show them exactly how the child should be secured.

Digging through the (Decatur Focus) Crates

A little more than 30 years ago the first issue of the Decatur Focus was published, combining two former community newsletters: Around Decatur and Central Focus. The new publication was created to to strengthen the sense of community and share information between resident and local businesses. Today the newsletter is mailed to every home and business within the Decatur city limits and is one of the City's top outlets for communications.

The first issue of the Decatur Focus, June 1990



Contributions to the Focus are encouraged and can be submitted by using the submission form on the website, cognitofirms.com/cityofdecatur2/decaturfocussubmissionform. Letters to the editor, editorials, or other opinion pieces are not published. All press releases, announcements, and other information received for publication are subject to editing. The Decatur Focus also accepts advertising. For information about ad rates call 404-371-8386.

The deadline for submitting articles, announcements, or advertising is the first day of the month preceding publication (i.e., information for the December issue should be submitted by Nov. 1). Contact: Editor, Decatur Focus, P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031; phone 404-371-8386; email decaturfocus@decaturga.com.

AROUND DECATUR IN SEPTEMBER 1996

In 1996 the September Focus issue highlighted changes that occurred in downtown Decatur from 1995 leading up to September 1996. Here is the article written by Lyn Menne, then executive director of Decatur Downtown Development Authority.

Looking back at the last 18 months, it's staggering to think of all that has been accomplished in this small town of ours.

Many of you may not be aware of the 1982 Decatur Town Center Plan or the 1989 update which established the blueprint for our downtown development program. But in 1995 and 1996 we achieved many of the goals identified in those plans. Laying the groundwork for achieving these goals took many years and the hard work of many volunteers. Trees have been planted, older buildings restored, downtown sidewalks replaced and new businesses opened. The payback for all dreaming, planning and hard work rarely comes in large doses, but we've been greatly rewarded over the past few months. The following is just a sampling of projects we've accomplished together:

- Over 300 trees were planted in the City of Decatur in 1995 & 1996. A Georgia Trees Coalition grant paid for 102 trees along Trinity Ave., N. McDonough between Trinity and the railroad tracks, and Church St. South of Trinity. A Georgia Department of Transportation grant paid for an additional 100 trees planted downtown as part of the Streetscape Project. The remaining 100 trees include trees planted by Trees Atlanta along Church Street north of Commerce Drive and additional trees planted by the City to replace diseased trees along neighborhood streets.
- The new MARTA bus-to-rail transfer facility was completed and the buses finally moved off Church St.
- The bandstand project was completed after years of fundraising providing a permanent stage on the square.
- The Houston-McDonald House on Church St. Was renovated and turned into a successful retail operation after years of fighting to keep it from being demolished.
- The old Firestone Building at Ponce de

Leon & Church St. Was transformed from a vacant eye-sore into Atlanta Bread Company, Church Street Coffee, and Seventeen Steps.

- The old EMS space at Church & Trinity was renovated into the new Twain's Billard & Tap.
- The Revenue Building on E. Court Square, vacant for years, was purchased from the county by a private developer, returned to the tax roll, and now houses Starbucks Coffee.
- The once vacant building at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. is now fully occupied by Emory Clinic Administrative departments.
- Egleston Children's Hospital opened a beautiful, new clinic in the former Atlanta Gas Light space.
- Zac's restaurant opened in the Shops at West Ponce de Leon.
- Crescent Moon and Maud Baker Flower Shoppe installed new awnings.

- Pastries A Go Go opened next door to Maud Baker and Tokyo Café opened in the shops at West Ponce de Leon.
- By Hand South moved to Ponce de Leon and expanded their inventory and their space.
- The Dream Hostel expanded its space and opened St. Agnes's tea room.
- Luckie's Irish Pub and Bundo's Market Restaurant opened on East Court Square.
- New Decatur entry signs were installed at Church St. And Medlock and at Oakview and Second Ave.
- The Decatur logo was painted on the water tank on W. Howard Ave.
- We participated in the largest Olympic Games event ever held, hosted representatives from five countries (Burkina Faso, Canada, Ireland, Lithuania, and France) and had a great time doing so. Did you see the article on Decatur in Sports Illustrated? It has been a great year folks and there's more to come. There are more businesses planned, more buildings to renovate and exciting new projects to be built. Thanks to all of you who volunteer and make the City of Decatur a great place to live and work.



Pages from the September 1996 Decatur Focus, where this column by Lyn Menne first appeared.

THROW BACK SEPTEMBER EVENTS

With September comes the return of festival season to Decatur. Some old favorites have gone away, or are on hiatus, and some are likely to return in some new form, but there's already a nice supply of things to do on the schedule for this month, including Salsa on the Square, the West Ponce Music Stroll, Oakhurst Jazz Nights and another installment of Rock the Mic Karaoke. See a complete list in the Events Calendar on page 15.

Decatur Craft Beer Festival, 2005



Blue Sky Concert, 2017



Young Emerging Artists (YEA!) event, 2016



Decatur Book Festival, 2013



Concert on the Square, 2018

BEFORE + AFTER

Long-time residents may want to reminisce, and newcomers may want to see some of the city's history.

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COURTHOUSE
SQUARE



245
E. TRINITY
PLACE



CLAIREMONT
AVENUE



E. PONCE
DE LEON
AVENUE





Meeting Preview

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Location, programs, and sponsors to be announced

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

decaturdba.com

Waldorf School Offers Programs for Infants/Toddlers and Parents

Registration is currently underway for The Waldorf School of Atlanta's fall parent/infant and parent/toddler programs. Parents and their youngest ones participate in a small community of families with children of similar ages, guided by an experienced Waldorf Early Childhood educator. Children are accompanied by either a parent, another family member, or a caregiver. Families participate for two hours weekly (one hour for infants) during the fall months. Programs are available on campus or at a local park, depending on the age of the child.

Toddlers and their caregivers participate in a rhythmic morning of songs, movement, play, handwork, snack, and conversation. As the children learn to walk and free their hands, their speech begins to emerge and with that a richer social life. This is the time for caregivers to expand their observation including not only how the children move in space, but also how they greet, talk, interact, imitate, and participate in group settings like snack and circle time.

Visit The Waldorf of Atlanta website (waldorfatlanta.org) for more information or contact Jolie Luba, the morning garden teacher at jluba@waldorfatlanta.org.



All-Girl Boy Scouts of America Troop Welcomes New Members

Working on community service projects is one of many activities that the girls in Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 4475 enjoy. During the past school year, they also went on weekend camping trips at Scout camps around Georgia, spent a week at Camp Thunder near Molina, GA, and learned skills from environmental awareness to first aid at meetings throughout the year.

Near the end of the school year, they worked with members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club to spread mulch in the To-

tem Garden at Avondale Elementary School. It was the first of what girls in Scout Troop 4475 hope will be many service projects in conjunction with the garden club as they learn ways to protect the environment.

The troop for girls ages 11-17 was chartered in 2021. Boy Scouts of America opened membership to girls in 2017 under the name Scouts BSA. The all-girl troops share space and equipment with a troop of boys and proceed through all the levels of scouting, up to and including the rank of Eagle.

Assistant Patrol Leader Allison Bombardier, 12, of Avondale Estates, invites girls to visit Troop 4475 meetings and consider joining. The group meets at the Scout Hut behind First Baptist Church in Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave. Pack 4475 meets at the same location and is open to girls in grades K-5.

For more information about Troop 4475, contact Carroll McKoy Knabe at scoutmaster4475@gmail.com or 404-213-8371.



Commemorating Veterans Day at Decatur Cemetery (from left): Violet Webb, Allison Bombardier, Heather Rudich, and Lila Becker



Scouts work day (from left): Scouts Catherine Dederick, Ezri Bluth, Lila Becker, Miriam Bailey, and Allison Bombardier, with Avondale Estates Garden Club President Patricia Calcagno and club member Linda Corbett.

Sing with Decatur Civic Chorus

The Decatur Civic Chorus invites you to join for the upcoming season — no pressure and no auditions. The first practice is set for Monday evening, September 11 at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Decatur (308 Clairmont Ave). If you are interested, contact director, Scott Keesey, sdkeesey73@gmail.com; or President Dan Mundy, danielmundy@att.net, so that someone can meet you at the door.



Music Together Fall Session Starts September 11

Music Together of Decatur's music classes are open for any baby, toddler, or preschooler to attend with their favorite grown-up. Each class is designed as an interactive music-making experience for everyone involved. Children and their grown-ups will participate in a range of musical activities — from playful free movement to instrumental jam sessions — with children participating at their own levels: singing, moving, listening, watching, or exploring instruments. With the help of Music Together's research-based curriculum, participants will grow musically and discover new ways to bond with little ones and build lasting friendship. Get ready to sing, dance, maybe even bark like a dog or meow like a cat, and have the most fun ever in class with little music makers!

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



Rotary Club Announces Grant Awards to DeKalb County Literacy Nonprofits

The Rotary Club of Decatur announced its annual grants for DeKalb County nonprofits to support literacy during its June meeting at the historic DeKalb Courthouse.

The Rotary Club of Decatur actively supports education for all children and literacy for children and adults and Rotary International's initiative to increase literacy and education worldwide. According to Rotary International, more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population. Rotary Club of Decatur's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

Organizations and their representatives receiving grants included:

- **Creating Our Future**, Brittany Moore-Hill
- **Dekalb Library Foundation**, Elisabeth Nark
- **Decatur Makers**, Kalia Morrison
- **Friends of Refugees**
- **Decatur YMCA**, Stacey Stevens & Beth Costello
- **Family Heritage Foundation**, Bennett Ekandem
- **Literacy Action**, Sara Totonchi
- **Our House**, Stephanie Lloyd
- **Men Stopping Violence**, Mark Bracey



Grave cleaning workshop at Decatur Cemetery

In July, a group of around 20 people gathered in the historic Old Section of Decatur Cemetery for a grave cleaning and repair workshop presented by Jon Appell under the auspices of Atlas Products and the Friends of Decatur Cemetery. The workshop involved a hands-on demonstration of the proper method for cleaning gravestones plus the repair of a broken gravebox from mid 19th century which was restored to an upright position using approved preservation methods. Mr. Appell has visited Decatur Cemetery in the past presenting workshops and repairing many gravestones. In 2009 he repaired the tomb box of Emily Pittman near the Commerce Drive gate.

You can see the results of the work by visiting the Murphey/Candler plot across the road from the gazebo (FODC walking tour stop #44). As a result of the hard work of workshop participants, FODC now has a new mystery. Who is the child who was buried at the top of the hill with no other family nearby?



Wylde Center Offers Fall Break Nature Camp In September

Wylde Center is offering a nature camp in September to coincide with the City Schools of Decatur fall break. Drop your child off at the Oakhurst Garden for a day of exploring nature, planting in the camp garden, tasting fresh organic fruits and veggies from the garden as well as learning to make healthy snacks. Each day will include time for arts, crafts, and camp games.

The camp is open to students in grades K-5. The camp will take place Sept. 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oakhurst Garden, 435 Oakview Rd. Register for camp at wyldecenter.org/fall-camp-2.

Wylde Nature Camp is one of the many education programs organized each year by the education team at Wylde Center. Additional education programs include field trips, in-school programs, farm-to-school, and garden-based afterschool programs.



HEALTH FAIR AT LOTUS OF LIFE CHIROPRACTIC

603 Church St.

Lotus of Life Chiropractic and Wellness Center is celebrating 17 years of helping Decatur families thrive. The business will host a community health fair and open house on October 7 at its location at the corner of Church Street and Commerce Drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors can meet the practitioners and staff, check out the guest vendors, and participate in some children's games. Treat yourself to a juice and a complimentary chiropractic or nutrition consultation. All are welcome.

Learn more about the practice at lotusoflifechiropractic.com, or call 404-377-7743.



Decatur Education Foundation Unveils Updated Programming for New School Year

The Decatur Education Foundation is kicking off a year of programs this month with the debut of several improved offerings. Established in 2002, the organization has consistently evolved during its 20+ years to help every Decatur student thrive. This summer, new executive director Ricky Hyde guided the DEF staff to evaluate and update DEF's programs, with the goal of inspiring innovation in education, promoting equity by expanding opportunities, and supporting positive mental health for all students:

Teacher Innovation Grants: Last year, the Decatur Education Foundation awarded more than \$35,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants to launch new projects in all 10 City

Schools of Decatur schools. This year, DEF plans to double that amount. And for the first time, students can apply for Student Innovation Grants, which will empower them to think creatively, solve problems, and make their voices heard.

College Counseling Partnership: After a pilot program last year, DEF's college counseling partnership with College Avenue Consulting is ready to triple in size this year. The program provides opportunities for students with financial need and supports them through the college research, application, acceptance, and scholarship process.



ASIST Trainings through Joe's Fund: One of DEF's behavioral health initiatives with the most profound community impact is ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). Supported

by Joe's Fund, more than 150 CSD employees have completed the training, and the two-day training sessions are now being offered to anyone in the community. To sign up for the training, please visit decatureducationfoundation.org/behavioral-health.

For more information, visit decatureducationfoundation.org and find them on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) for frequent updates on these initiatives.
















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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

- 5** City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 7** Oakhurst Jazz Nights Page 15
- 8** Book as Art Volume 11 Opening Reception Page 16
- 8** Rock the Mic Karaoke Night Page 17
- 9** Decatur Library Used Book Sale Page 20
- 9** West Ponce Music Stroll Page 17
- 14** Oakhurst Jazz Nights Page 15
- 14** Anti-Racism Speaker Series Page 3
- 16** Salsa on the Square Page 16
- 18** City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 21** Oakhurst Jazz Nights Page 15

23-24 Woodlands Garden Fall Plant Sale Page 15

- 26** DBA Meeting Page 10
- 28** Oakhurst Jazz Nights Page 15
- 30** BBQ and Bands Festival Page 18

OCTOBER

- 2** City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
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NOVEMBER

- 6** City Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 4** Decatur Wine Festival
- 16** Anti-Racism Speaker Series
- 25** Small Business Saturday

Fall Concert Series at Oakhurst Jazz Nights

The Solarium, 321 West Hill St.

The Oakhurst Neighborhood Association presents the Fall 2023 Oakhurst Jazz Nights Concert Series on the Solarium lawn from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays in September. This is a picnic-style event, so bring your blankets and chairs (no high back chairs) to enjoy the event, rain or shine.

Bistro tables can be reserved on a limited basis for \$25 by emailing concerts@oakhurstjazznights.com. For more information, visit oakhurstjazznights.com.

Thanks to Jazz Night sponsors: Chad Carter & Associates, Arlene Dean Homes, DoubleDome Digital Marketing, Decatur Development Authority, Oakhurst Realty Partners and especially the host: The Solarium – Community Center of South Decatur.

OAKHURST JAZZ NIGHTS PERFORMERS

- Sept. 7 **Tray Dahl & the Jugtime Ragband**
- Sept. 14 **Matt Wauchope Trio**
- Sept. 21 **Gwen Hughes Band**
- Sept. 28 **Bonaventure Quartet with Amy Pike**

Fall Plant Sale at Woodlands Garden

Sept. 23-24 • 932 Scott Blvd.

Shop the fall plant sale at Woodlands Garden featuring a robust selection of native plants with the the most unique plant-shopping experience. Shoppers (pre-registration required online) can explore a selection of native Piedmont plants, hard-to-find specimens dug from Woodlands, and pass-along plants shared by local gardeners. The two-day fundraiser is organized with the help of volunteers to support maintenance of the garden. A special thank you to Tandem Bank and HGOR for sponsoring the sale.

Visit woodlandsgarden.org for more ways to support the garden, sign up to shop or learn, and volunteer.

Curious to craft a shopping list in advance based on your landscape needs? Join an educational Plant Walk on Saturday, Sept. 16, led by Steve Sanchez, environmental specialist and landscape architect with HGOR, where participants will learn about selecting the right plants for their home landscapes. Details and registration online.

Woodlands volunteer Patty Hepburn waters plants ready for new homes in nearby gardens.



Placita Latina Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month in Decatur

Placita Latina is back for a third straight year in Decatur. Once again, the city will be hosting a series of events during (and after) Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 16-Oct. 29), and this year, it's bigger than ever!

Saturday, Sept. 16 • 4:30-10:30 p.m.

Salsa On the (Decatur) Square Co-sponsored by Decatur Business Association

- 4-10 p.m.: Marketplace with more than 30 Latinx vendors, including authentic food, drink and merchandise
- 6-8 p.m.: Salsa performance by Atlanta Show Band, with instruction by Salsatlanta
- 8-10:30 p.m.: "After-Dance-Party" by La Choluteca

Friday, Oct. 13 • 6:30-9:30 p.m.

"Rooted in Our Latin Heritage," a Latinx Artists Showcase – Closing Event

Beginning Monday, Sept. 15, works by Atlanta-based Latinx artists will be shown daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairmont Ave., with a closing event on Friday, Oct. 13, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The show is presented in partnership with the Decatur Arts Alliance and the Carlos Museum at Emory University.

Sunday, Oct. 29 • 6 p.m.

Day of the Dead / Haints and Saints Parade

The Day-of-the-Dead-style parade begins at the Decatur Cemetery and ends on the Decatur square. The parade includes "Day of the Dead" imagery, along with fun Halloween vibes, making it a truly multi-cultural event for everyone.

As in years past, the event team is also working with local businesses to create their own Placita Latina specials and mini events.

Learn more about Placita Latina at:

- Placitalatinaga.com
- Facebook: Placita Latina Georgia
- Instagram: [placitalatinaga](https://www.instagram.com/placitalatinaga)
- Twitter: [@PlacitaLatinaGA](https://twitter.com/PlacitaLatinaGA)



Day of the Dead /Haints and Saints Parade

Salsa on the Square

The Book As Art, Volume 11: Myth & Magic

**Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 7-Oct. 30
1-5 p.m. or by appointment**

4th Floor Gallery at the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St.

The Decatur Arts Alliance presents the 11th edition The Book as Art, a juried exhibition that showcases beautifully made volumes, sculptural and conceptual interpretations, and one-of-a-kind approaches to the book format. This year's theme, "Myth & Magic," challenged artists to interpret classical myths and tales, to explore and expose modern myths and myth-making, and to create new, magical tales. Don't miss the 50 artworks comprising this exhibition, made possible by the Decatur branch of the DeKalb County Public Library, the DeKalb Library Foundation, and the Georgia Center for the Book.

Join us for an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 8, in the gallery 6:30-9 p.m. Learn more at decaturartsalliance.org.



West Ponce Music Stroll Celebrates 5 years

Saturday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

West Ponce de Leon Avenue

Businesses along West Ponce de Leon Avenue announce the return of West Ponce Music Stroll for 2023. Hours have been extended this year, when businesses along West Ponce will open their patios, sidewalks, and parking lots, transforming them into "mini-stages" for a full day of free live music and fun. The day kicks off with a 5K run hosted by Fleet Feet. Throughout the day attendees can participate in or just stroll through chalk art, a Makers Market with local makers selling homemade products, or join in one of the scheduled yoga or fitness classes hosted by Clarity Fitness. Listen and enjoy many different genres of live music throughout the day and then gather at the main stage at the Marlay for a series of performances to close out the event.

Proceeds benefit the all-ages non-profit makerspace, the Decatur Makers. For more information, and to register for the 5K, visit gowestponce.com.



Rock the Mic Karaoke Night

Friday, Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m.

Decatur Square

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



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TRUCKIN' TUESDAYS RETURN

500 S. Columbia Dr.

Legacy Park's weekly Truckin' Tuesdays return in September from 5-8 p.m. You'll find good eats, fresh air, music, and plenty of room to spread out with friends and family. Come hungry and discover trucks and vendors of all types ready and waiting to serve you. Get fed and have fun while funding ongoing operations at the park.

Check the Decatur Legacy Park Facebook page for weather-related cancellations.



Save The Date for BBQ & Bands

Saturday, Sept. 30, 12-6 p.m. at Harmony Park

The Community Center of South Decatur Board is bringing back the BBQ & Bands community event. Returning to Harmony Park, near The Solarium at Historic Scottish Rite, this year's festival will feature a variety of barbecue and food options, beer, live music (until 5 p.m.), a vendor marketplace, and more. The event is free. Tasting and sip tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

BBQ & Bands is brought to you this year by presenting partner, Ford's BBQ. Proceeds from the festival will benefit the grant program of Community Center of South Decatur. Interested in volunteering, meeting neighbors, and being a part of the action? Email your contact information to events@fords-bbq.com. All volunteers will receive an exclusive volunteer shirt.



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Oakhurst Porchfest Returns Saturday, October 14

What began in 2015 as a quirky effort to connect neighbors through a shared love of music has since grown to become the southeast's largest grassroots array of performances on any single day.

It all happens again, Saturday, Oct. 14, from noon to 7 p.m.

Totally free and open to all, this year's Porchfest will feature more than 200 performers spread across the Oakhurst neighborhood. Characterized as a day of "radical generosity and good will," the event is made possible by the voluntary contributions — as block captains, hosts, performers, artists and other volunteers — of more than a thousand people.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to walk, bike, rideshare, e-scooter, or take MARTA to the East Lake station.

Visit oakhurstporchfest.org for the latest news, including the late-September release of the map and performance schedule.



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Register Now for the Madison Avenue Soapbox Derby

Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Madison Avenue Derby on Saturday, October 21. The event supports non-profit organizations serving local youths and has raised nearly \$300,000 in its first 11 years. This year, Derby organizers are pleased to announce Urban Recipe as the primary beneficiary, supporting them in the mission of, “creating food security, building community, and providing a platform for personal development while affirming dignity.” Visit madavederby.org to learn more about what the Derby will be supporting this year.

Derby Drivers: Register Now!

Build a “soapbox derby” style car to race and be a part of one of Decatur’s most iconic neighborhood events. Registration for drivers under 18 and the adult fun run is open now and closes Oct. 5, or when driver spots are filled. Spend time with family and friends building a car, support a cause, and be a part of an amazing day.



Attend The Race

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

For more information and to register, visit madavederby.org



Decatur Library Used Book Sale Set Sept. 9

The Friends of the Decatur Library is holding a used book sale on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the ground floor of the library at 215 Sycamore St. Proceeds will support Decatur library programs for children, youth and adults.

Shoppers will find fiction and mystery titles for all ages as well as a variety of non-fiction categories, including history, sports, health and cooking. Most hardback books are \$2; most paperback books are \$1.

Shoppers are asked to bring their own bags. Payment is by cash or check only.

Cocktails in the Garden at Legacy Park

Decatur-based nonprofit Global Growers Network will host Cocktails in the Garden in Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr., on Saturday, Sept. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. This fundraising event will feature signature cocktails from Decatur mixologists, hors d’oeuvres, and general merriment. Secure your ticket today and be a part of the garden soirée.

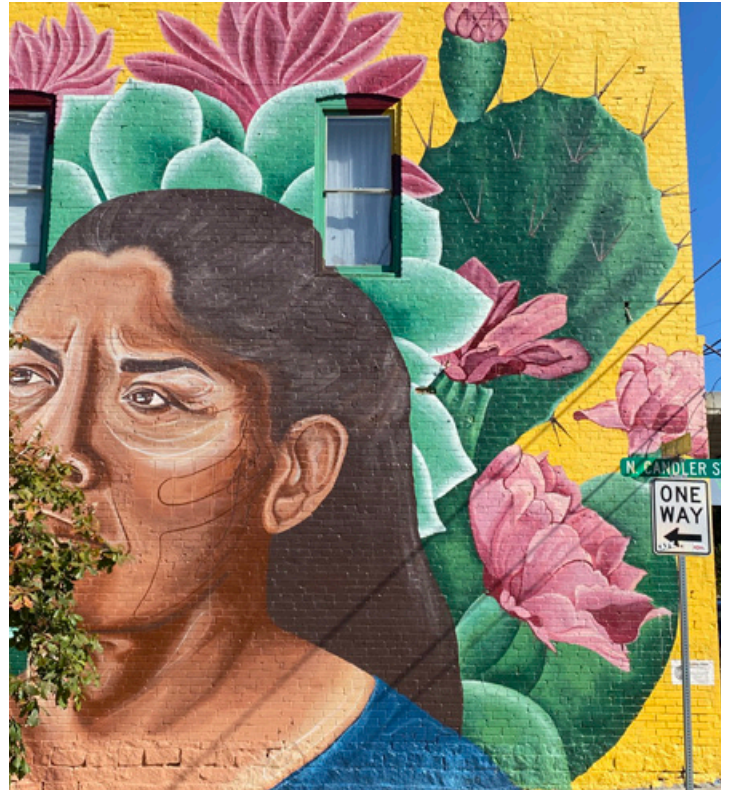
Tickets can be purchased on the Global Growers website, globalgrowers.org/events. Proceeds will support the nonprofit’s mission working in partnership with new American growers to provide access to land and other resources, enabling immigrants and refugees to grow healthy, culturally familiar foods.

Decatur Presbyterian Presents Second Samuel

Decatur Presbyterian Church presents the play, *Second Samuel*, Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. each night, in the chapel of the church at 205 Sycamore St. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children up to 12 years. Reserve by calling the church at 404-378-1777.

Art Walks in Decatur

Learn the backstory of the public art in Downtown Decatur on Sunday, October 1 and 8 at 2 p.m. during free walking tours of public art. On Oct. 1 the group will explore the east side of downtown Decatur and the west side of downtown Decatur on Oct 8. Co-sponsored by the Decatur Pedestrian Advisory Committee, these walks will be led by Angie Macon of the Decatur Arts Alliance. Meet at the Community Bandstand on the square for these informative walking tours.



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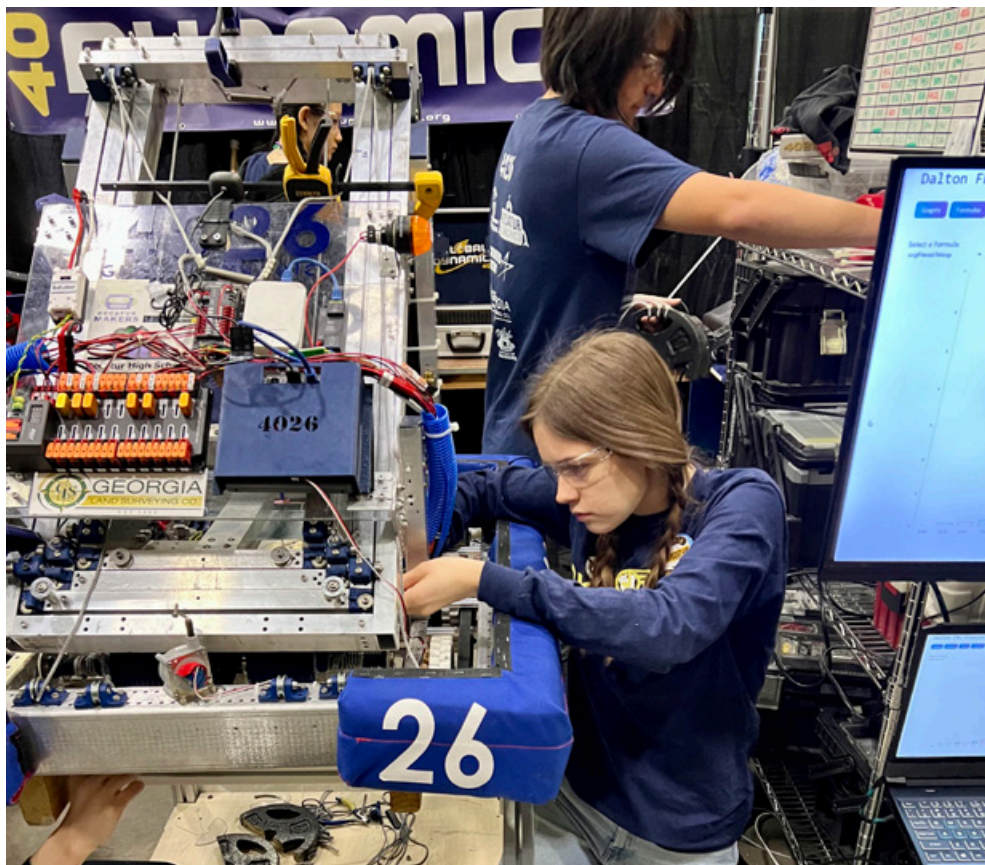
Decatur High School Robotics Team Recruiting New Members and Mentors

Decatur High School's competitive robotics team, Decatur Robotics FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition), is recruiting new members for the 2023-2024 school year. Students with varied backgrounds and experience are organized into sub-teams with different specialties, working collectively to prepare for the competitive season. Technical teams, such as design, mechanical, and programming, develop, build, and program a sophisticated robot for competitions. Non-technical teams include outreach, business, marketing, and more. These teams focus on organizing community outreach events, fundraising, managing social media and branding, and developing presentations to compete for team awards.

Decatur Robotics FRC participates in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program, the world's leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM education. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams are challenged to build and program industrial-size robots to play an exciting field game against other teams. Students learn valuable trade skills while getting hands-on experience through collaboration and teamwork.

The team is recruiting mentors as well. While Decatur Robotics is student-led, mentors are key for advising and supporting team members. Mechanical engineers, programmers, CAD experts, business leaders, fundraising gurus, and marketing professionals are wanted. You don't need to have a student on the team or at the school to get involved.

The team is open to current DHS students, including incoming 9th graders. No experience is necessary. Curious minds, problem solvers, team players, and above all, individuals who share a love for innovation and learning are needed. The team meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at DHS. For more information about joining the team or serving as a mentor, visit decaturrobotics.org or email 4026@decaturrobotics.org.



DHS Student Selected for Paid Internship with East Lake Foundation

Decatur High School student Elsa Mathew-Lewis is one of five Metro Atlanta high school students selected as Bank of America Student Leaders to work with East Lake Foundation this summer, while building essential workforce experience and leadership skills.

Since 2004, the program has connected high-achieving teens from diverse backgrounds to a paid summer internship with a local nonprofit organization, helping them gain employment experience and critical job skills. Students also participate in an all-expense paid week-long leadership summit in Washington, D.C.



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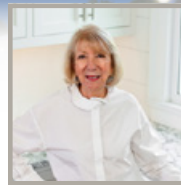
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