

remarkable



Decatur has a history of pushing forward and meeting new challenges. The fact that others are remarking on our efforts and our success is just one measurement that we are moving towards the vision set by our citizens and achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Plan.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Long-time Mayor Bill Floyd
steps down from public office

Thanks, Bill!

Commissioner Fred Boykin shakes hands with Bill Floyd at the annual State of the City Address. The meeting served as an opportunity to thank the former mayor for his 22 years of service to the city.

When Mayor Jim Baskett cut the ceremonial ribbon to re-open the Decatur Recreation Center after its renovation and expansion, he also announced that the gym had been named the “William F. Floyd Gymnasium” with hopes that it will come to be known simply as “The Bill.”



Mayor Pro Tem
Kecia Cunningham
with Bill Floyd



Congratulations Jim and Kecia

When Bill Floyd retired from public office, the city commission elected Jim Baskett to serve as mayor and Kecia Cunningham to serve as mayor pro tem. The city commission elects a mayor and mayor pro tem from its members each year. In addition, Scott Drake was elected by the community to serve Bill Floyd's unexpired term and was sworn in on April 1. Pictured at left are Commissioner Drake (right), retired Georgia Supreme Court Justice and Decatur resident George Carley (center), who administered the oath of office, and Scott's father, Walt Drake, who served as mayor in the 1970s.



Mayor Jim Baskett delivers the State of the City Address.



... and welcome aboard, Scott



Commissioner
Fred Boykin

Commissioner
Scott Drake

Commissioner
Patti Garrett

Mayor Jim Baskett

Mayor Pro Tem
Kecia Cunningham



GO 60+ Shuttle for Seniors

Oakhurst to Downtown Decatur and Back

Seniors across the city took advantage of the launch of the first Go 60+ shuttle in March. The free Wednesday shuttle is designed to help Oakhurst residents over age 60 take advantage of services in Decatur's commercial district. Visit the grocery store, the pharmacy, the library, and the Post Office as well as entertainment and cultural opportunities at the Recreation Center and on the square.



DECATUR
GO60+
SHUTTLE



Justice, Decatur Style

Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Carol Hunstein swore in Decatur's newly appointed Municipal Court judges Tom Stubbs and Tisha Tillman. Pictured above, front row (from left) State Representative Stacey Abrams, new Judge Tisha Tillman; second row, Judge Berryl Anderson, Hunstein, former Judge Andrew Rogers, new Judge Tom Stubbs; back row: Chief Municipal Court Judge Robert Leitch, Rhathelia Stroud, Lindsay Jones.

Renovated! Fire Station Number 1 Reopens



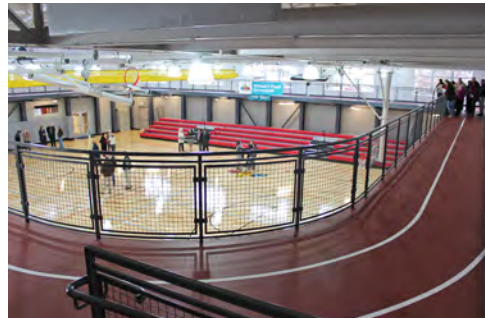
Firefighters and city staff invited citizens to drop by Fire Station Number 1 at 230 E. Trinity Pl. last summer for the official ribbon cutting ceremony, and to tour the newly renovated facility. It features geothermal heating/cooling, a rooftop garden, new kitchen and dormitories, and numerous features that increase sustainability.

Recreated



Decatur unveiled the \$7.2 million Recreation Center Renovation early in 2013. The project was designed to qualify for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver designation, and is home to Decatur's Active Living and Children and Youth Services divisions. Among the "new" facility's features:

- Modern gymnasium bleacher seating for 200
- A divider to separate the gym into two basketball or volleyball courts
- An elevated track (16 laps to the mile) around the gym
- Skylights to reduce lighting costs
- Modernized meeting and activity rooms
- A new multi-purpose studio with a "sprung" floor and an innovative mirror wall
- New kitchen for cooking classes and catering
- Upper-level office space for Active Living and Children and Youth Services
- Paneling and ceilings utilizing repurposed wood from the old bleachers and gym floor
- Universal access
- Wi-Fi throughout
- Plenty of bicycle parking



Obama!

President Barack Obama spent Valentine's Day in Decatur's newly renovated recreation center, saluting the teachers and administrators at City Schools of Decatur's College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center, holding it up as a model Pre-K for the nation.



Decatur Offers Free Wi-Fi Hotspots

Decatur Free Wi-Fi
ALL AROUND. ALL THE TIME.
Downtown • Oakhurst Village
Glenlake, Oakhurst, McKoy & Adair Parks

- 1 Use your laptop, tablet or smart phone to search for wi-fi networks.
- 2 Select "DecaturFreeWiFi."
- 3 Open your browser.
- 4 When the DecaturFreeWiFi portal opens, click Agree and Join Network.

free Wi-Fi
Coverage map ▶

Decatur now offers free public Wi-Fi throughout downtown Decatur and the Oakhurst business district, and in Oakhurst, Glenlake, McKoy and Adair parks. These spaces are ideally suited for work and play, and now users can count on a reliable Wi-Fi signal free of charge.

This new resource means residents and visitors can stay connected with their smartphones, tablets and other Wi-Fi-enabled devices while in these community spaces.

smart 911

Decatur began offering Smart911 last winter, providing detailed information to first responders, including: how many people live in a structure, medical and health issues, number of pets in the home, and so on. Residents can opt to provide the city's emergency management officials and responders with additional details that may be used in disaster planning, evacuation and recovery efforts.

To participate, visit www.smart911.com and create a Safety Profile, or update your existing profile. It is immediately made available to 9-1-1 when a resident places an emergency call. Within the profile, residents can also grant permission for emergency management officials to see specific rescue-related details for use in a disaster situation.

Congratulations to the graduates of the 20th Citizens Police Academy: Gwyneth Butera, Ralph Ellis, Sarah Flynn, Brent Holt, Jennifer Lloyd, Alan Natanagara, and Deanne Thomas. They are pictured after the ceremony with Police Chief Mike Booker and Deputy Chief Keith Lee.

20

Holiday Ornament Series Launched

For the 2012 holiday season, Decatur Tourism Bureau launched an ornament series for the holidays. The new hand-crafted ornaments for 2013 will be available in December at Wild Oats and Billy Goats, 112 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., or at the Decatur Visitors Center at 113 Clairmont Ave. and other local businesses.



Only in Decatur...



would a Kids Activity Book designed to help elementary-age children learn about city government be distributed to every household in the City. The publication has been recognized for excellence by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association.

1,000,000 lbs

Decatur Electronics Recycling

In September 2012 Decatur reached this important milestone. Decatur's Public Works Department conducted the first Electronics Recycling Day in October 2005.



MLK Jr. Service Project

RECORD NUMBERS FOR 2013

- 1,100 volunteers
- 35 homes
- 3 days

Accolades for Decatur Volunteer Project from ARC

Decatur's Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project received the Community Involvement and Collaboration award this year from the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Volunteer! Decatur, the city's volunteer program, was honored with the Innovative Program Award given by NAVPLG (National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government) in recognition of the ongoing MLK Jr. Service Project.

Pictured at left is Robert Soens, one of the MLK Service Project's earliest organizers

Decatur Mayor Pro Tem Kecia Cunningham, Oliver House resident Rita Linder, and Housing Authority Board Chair Mary Boyd cut the ribbon at the grand opening.



OLIVER HOUSE OPENS



Downtown Decatur's new 80-unit senior housing community with affordable rents opened last fall as part of the ongoing revitalization of Allen Wilson Terrace at 1450 Commerce Dr. It was named a "Multifamily Project of the Year" by Southface and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association.



GO TEAM!



Congratulations to the 2012 Team Decatur Grand Slam Fitness Challenge Champions! They participated in three local run/walk events as well as the Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk to earn their title. They received a certificate and a choice of a Team Decatur jacket or duffel bag.

Adult Playground Equipment Installed

Decatur's Active Living staff has installed new playground equipment designed for active adults at Glenlake Park. This equipment offers fun, outdoor exercise options, proving that park fitness equipment isn't just for kids. The department plans to add this type of equipment to other city parks in the future as part of our annual playground maintenance and replacement budget.

Cemetery Managers Visit Decatur



Decatur hosted the Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association conference in September. The three-day event provided seminars at the Marriott Courtyard conference center and tours of the historic Decatur Cemetery, as well as Oakland, Harmony Grove, Mt. Olive, and Clay cemeteries.



GMCA Annual Conference 2012
Best Practices For Cemetery Management

YEAR ONE

Decatur's Kitchen Garden (DKG) marked its first anniversary in March at the United Methodist Children's Home, 500 S. Columbia Dr. Gardeners have been developing the foundational infrastructure for sustaining the garden, including a permaculture design for water management, an irrigation system, a vegetable wash station and water line, a tool shed, a bamboo deer fence and electricity.



Little Free Libraries All Around Decatur



A dozen of these were painted by well-known artists, illustrators and craftspeople and auctioned at the 2012 AJC Decatur Book Festival, and more are popping up all around town.

Heroic



Squaresville!

According to TravelandLeisure.com, Decatur has one of the 15 most beautiful town squares in the U.S.A. (among towns with populations less than 50,000).

Also, *Where to Retire* magazine profiled Decatur as a top retirement destination, citing it as one of eight "Dynamic Locales for Walkable Living." The article pointed out that many retirees are looking for retirement destinations where automobile ownership is avoidable, and where "walking is not only a health benefit, but a way to connect with neighbors."

Walk There!

Scan Destination	Where to Go	Walk time (minutes)
	Marriott Courtyard Hotel	12
	Agnes Scott College 144 E. College Ave.	12
	Decatur Cemetery 299 Bell St.	13
	Decatur Library 225 Sycamore St.	6
	Decatur Recreation Center 231 E. Sycamore St.	7
	Mary Gay House/Adair Dog Park 716 W. Trinity Place	9
	Oakhurst Business District Oakhurst Road at East Lake Drive	27
	Old Courthouse Square 101 East Court Square	3
	Woodlands Garden 300 Scott Blvd.	15

www.decaturga.com/walkthere

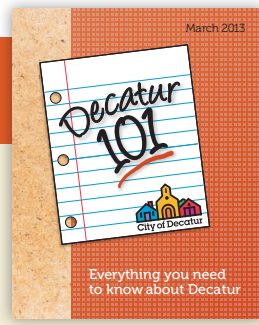


Since the 1996 Olympic Games, Decatur has annually saluted individuals whose volunteer efforts make Decatur a better place to live, work and play. After adding 18 new names to the roster in 2012, there are now 263 designated Decatur Hometown Heroes. All of the honorees are featured in photographs hanging outside the City Commission Meeting Room at City Hall.

Only in Decatur . . .

At press time, more than 90 names were on the waiting list for **Decatur 101**, the annual workshop that explains (and demonstrates) how City of Decatur government functions. Residents participate two to three hours one day a week for seven weeks, for the inside scoop on how the city manages its resources

and interacts with the public. The program accommodates 90 participants each year, 40 in a morning class, and 50 in an evening class. To date, more than 800 citizens have completed the course. In 2012, to meet popular demand,



the City developed a **Decatur 101 Encore** class for those who've graduated Decatur 101, but want to learn more. The inaugural class featured emergency management, police and fire, emerging trends, and City Schools of Decatur.



Awareness and Achievements



- ★ Decatur has been named a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. The award recognizes the city's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investing in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.
- ★ Because of its Safe Routes to School program, Clairemont Elementary School was named Georgia Resource Center Partner of the Year.
- ★ City buildings were awarded Design Awards from City of Decatur and Decatur Preservation Commission. The Decatur Recreation Center (231 Sycamore St.) and Fire Station No. 1 (230 E. Trinity Pl.) were both recognized for design excellence.
- ★ Decatur was featured in a National League of Cities report: "Municipal Leadership for Children and Families in Small and Mid-sized Cities."

★ Active Living Staff welcomed President Obama to the Recreation Center (after being open for five days).

★ City of Decatur became Platinum Partner of the Clean Air Campaign.



Decatur's Public Works and Fire departments supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month last year by wearing special pink T-shirts emblazoned with the Breast Cancer Awareness and City of Decatur logos. Public Works Department employees are pictured here.

PINK!



Kaiser Permanente confirms it (three years running)

Decatur is Most Fit City



Spencer
Jameson Brown

New Blue!

Three new Decatur Police officers joined the force after graduation from the police academy in August. Pictured are Sgt. Ross, Capt. Richards, Chief Booker, new Officer Jameson, new Officer Spencer, new Officer Brown, Deputy Chief Lee, Captain Hipple, Lt. Matics, and Lt. Woodward.

Admini-tastic



Former Mayor Bill Floyd presents City Clerk Janet Kindleberger with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2010-2011. The certificate is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association.



The International City/County Management Association recognized the City of Decatur at its annual conference in October for demonstrating superior performance management efforts. Here, former Mayor Bill Floyd recognizes Budget Performance Measurement Manager Meredith Roark with the commemoration. Decatur is among 26 jurisdictions receiving this highest level of recognition this year.

Excellent!

The Atlanta Regional Commission awarded its 2012 Development of Excellence **Great Place Award** to Decatur, citing the city's long-term commitment to a vision of making its downtown an inclusive, vibrant place to live, work and play. The jury commented on the downtown area's mix of incomes and housing options (public/affordable, market-rate, senior); offerings of services, shopping, recreation and entertainment; transit accessibility; commitment to compact, in-town school siting (DHS campus); commitment to community engagement; high-quality programming (Decatur Book Festival, Craft Beer Festival, etc.); and its adaptability in terms of historic resources.

Gold!

The Decatur Visitors Center at 113 Clairemont Ave. earned gold-medal recognition from the American Society of Interior Designers as part of 2013 Design Excellence Awards. Rabaut Design Associates received recognition in the Singular Space: Part of a Larger Project category.

Beautiful!

Congratulations to **Cakes & Ale Restaurant**, which received the Georgia Downtown Association Award for excellence in the category of Outstanding Sensitive Rehabilitation/Restoration.



Local!

Decatur launched its “Keep it Indie-catur” promotion last summer. Its purpose: to remind the community to strengthen our local economy by shopping and dining within the city limits.

The community submitted more than 250 slogan ideas and suggestions. A committee of shop and restaurant owners selected their top four entries, which were posted online and on local blogs for public feedback.

The overwhelming favorite – Keep It Indie-catur, with the tagline “spend your money where your heart lives” – was submitted by local merchants.

KEEP IT
INDIE-CATUR
SPEND YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR  LIVES

Outstanding!

City of Decatur workers are earning notice all around town, the state, and the nation



Jabari Cole (pictured above with Team Decatur friends at the K-P Corporate Run/Walk), program supervisor for Tennis/Aquatics, received the GRPA (Georgia Recreation and Park Association) Young Professional award at the 2012 GRPA Annual Conference in Athens last fall.



Milestones!

It is customary for the mayor to present long-time city workers with certificates of appreciation as they reach employment milestones. This year, certificates went to (front row, l-r) **Tylas Stephens**, 15 years; **Andrea Arnold**, 15 years; **Glenda Lee**, 30 years; **Lori Bell**, 25 years; **Janet Kindelberger**, 15 years; (back row) **Wilber Woodard**, 30 years; **Chris Clark**, 15 years; **Tim Karolyi**, 15 years.



Lee Ann Harvey is serving as president of the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government. The organization serves to strengthen volunteer programs through leadership, education, advocacy, networking, and information exchange. Decatur's Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project received the Innovative Program award.



Felix Floyd is serving this year as secretary/treasurer of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the American Public Works Association



Sean Woodson graduated in the 2013 Class of Leadership DeKalb

Linda Harris earned Communicator of the Year recognition at last year's annual 3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association) conference. Linda is chief of civic engagement, education and communication.



Linda also received the 2012 Alma Fleetwood Spirit Award for "embracing and maintaining an overwhelmingly positive spirit" in her work and in her interactions with citizens and the public. She's pictured at left with Alma's family, Past DBA President Wendy Watkins, and Tammy Washington, winner of the 2011 Fleetwood award.

Thomas O. Davis Award

This annual award recognizes a City of Decatur employee who best embodies the generous spirit and work ethic of long-time city attorney Thomas O. Davis.

For 2013, the award went to **Glenda Lee**, a program supervisor with Decatur Children and Youth Services. She is pictured at right with City Manager Peggy Merriss during the award ceremony at the July DBA meeting.



Glenda!

Davis Award Winners

- 2001 Family of Thomas O. Davis
- 2002 Virginia Atchison
- 2003 Willie Shoemake
- 2004 Jennifer Ross
- 2005 Alma Fleetwood
- 2006 Charles A. Hammonds
- 2007 Lee Ann Harvey
- 2008 Patrick Grier
- 2009 David Fisher
- 2010 Deborah Strawn
- 2011 Gregory White
- 2012 Wilbur Woodard
- 2013 Glenda Lee



Salute!

Two Decatur staffers are serving this year as officers in the DeKalb Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Tammy Washington (second from left) is serving as secretary and Bertha Hunt (center) is president. They're pictured with other City of Decatur staff who attended the installation ceremony.



Active!

Cheryl Burnette, assistant director of Decatur's Active Living Department, won first place in her age category at the Oakhurst Arts & Music Festival 5K.

Only in Decatur...



Decatur resident (Natasha Trethewey) was named poet laureate of the United States. Just a few months later, we won an award for bad "Burma shave" poetry signs.

Get out and run

Around Decatur

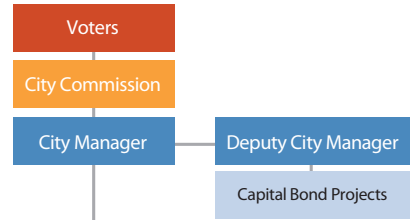
You must not be

A couch pertater!

Editor's note: this poem was NOT written by the U.S. poet laureate



Government



Decatur operates under the commission-manager form of government. The City Commission determines the policies of the local government and enacts local laws necessary for the protection of public health, safety and welfare.

Five city commissioners are elected in nonpartisan elections for overlapping four-year terms. At its organizational meeting in January each year the commission elects one of its members to serve as mayor and commission chair.

Jim Baskett was elected Mayor in 2013. He was elected to the City Commission in 1995 and served as Mayor Pro Tem for ten years from 2002-2012. Kecia Cunningham was elected to the City Commission in 1999 and was elected Mayor Pro Tem in 2013. The other commissioners are Fred Boykin, Patti Garrett and Scott Drake.

The City Commission appoints the Municipal Court judges and a city attorney, who provides legal counsel for the government. Decatur Municipal Court consists of four judges who are attorneys and residents of Decatur. The current judges are Berryl A. Anderson, Robert N. Leitch, Lindsay R.M. Jones and Rhathelia Stoud; and two substitute judges, Tom Stubbs and Tisha Tallman in the absence of the regular judges. The city attorney is Decatur resident Bryan Downs.



Mayor Jim Baskett and Mayor Pro Tem Kecia Cunningham.

**Assistant City Manager
Administrative Services**

- Finance
 - Revenue
 - Accounting
- Budget
- Technology
- Insurance
- Personnel
 - Payroll
 - Wellness
- Records Management
- Municipal Court
- Fire

**Assistant City Manager
Community & Economic
Development Services**

- Development Authority
- Civic Engagement, Education & Communications
 - Public Information
 - Special Events
 - Volunteer! Decatur
- Children & Youth Services
 - Afterschool
 - Summer Camp
- Active Living
 - Athletics
 - Parks
 - Safe Routes to School
- Planning
 - Historic Preservation
 - Strategic Planning

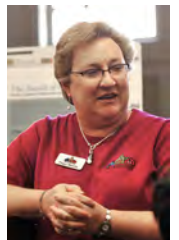
**Assistant City Manager
Public Works Services**

- Public Works
 - Solid Waste & Recycling
 - Motor Maintenance
 - Building & Grounds Maintenance
 - Cemetery
- Design, Environment & Construction
 - Engineering
 - Streets
 - Stormwater
 - Permitting & Inspections
 - Codes Enforcement
- Police
 - E-911

City Manager

The City Commission appoints the City Manager, a professional administrator who serves as the city's chief executive officer and chief administrative officer. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the commission's policies and ordinances and for overseeing day-to-day operations of the government and the appointment of all employees, with the appointment of department heads subject to confirmation by the City Commission.

The current City Manager, Peggy Merriss, has served as City Manager since May 1993 and has been employed with the city since 1983.



About Decatur

Decatur was incorporated Dec. 10, 1823, and named after Stephen Decatur, a U.S. Naval hero. Commodore Decatur was killed in 1820 and Congress decreed that his name be honored throughout the nation. As a result, more than 40 U.S. cities and counties bear the name Decatur in his memory.

Decatur is the second oldest municipality in the Atlanta metropolitan area and the seat of DeKalb County. It adjoins Atlanta's city limits six miles east of Atlanta's central business district.

The Old Courthouse on Decatur's downtown square sits on a rise of land where two Indian trails once crossed and is the fourth courthouse building to occupy the site. Historically, the square has served as a gathering place and is still the focus of festivals and other community events today.

Decatur has evolved into a vibrant small urban city that values its history and enjoys the sophistication and excitement of a college town along with all the benefits of being in a major metropolitan area. Its tree-lined streets, strong sense of community, high quality of services and nationally recognized public school system continue to draw residents. Its balance of urban amenities and small-town character make Decatur an attractive option for creative business owners, entrepreneurs and individuals seeking to live and work in the same community.

By the Numbers

44% of citizens have lived in Decatur five years or less

64% have never attended a public meeting.

35% live with a child under the age of 17.

18% share their home with someone 65 years or older.