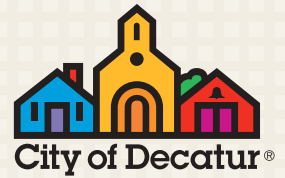


City of Decatur FOCUS



MARCH 2026
Volume 36 • Number 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA



From left: Cynthia Hardnett, 20 years; Claire Miller, 20 years; and David Junger, 35 years.

Years of Service Milestones

During the annual State of the City Address, city employees who have achieved 15 or more years of service milestones were recognized. Read more about the State of the City address on page 11.

The Decatur Fire & Rescue Department is Hiring

The Decatur Fire & Rescue Department is hiring for certified firefighters and EMTs. This role is offering pension and supplemental retirement plans, full benefits package, paid leave, and a \$3,000 signing incentive. You will receive all of this within a department that values safety, professionalism, and community connection. Candidates should be 18+ with a high school diploma or GED and are either firefighter certified, EMT-certified, or both.



If you have one certification but need the other, the City will sponsor your training and pay you while you earn it. Starting pay for Decatur firefighters ranges from \$50,856 to \$53,435, with the chance to earn 2.5% step increases. EMT-A and firefighter certifications may make you eligible for a higher starting pay level. If you're a certified professional looking for stability, benefits, and a department that invests in you, apply now at decaturga.com/jobs.

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, 404-378-4102; email: decaturfocus@decaturga.com.



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Tony Powers.....Mayor
Lesla Fronk.....Mayor Pro Tem
Mark Arnold.....Commissioner
George Dusenbury.....Commissioner
Cheryl Kortemeier.....Commissioner



Decatur Downtown Development Authority®

BOARD

Conor McNally, Chair
Noah Peeters, Vice Chair
Tony Leung, Treasurer/Secretary
Harold Buckley, Jr. • Darren Comer
David Harry • Lisa Turner



Sean Crotty..... President
Caroline Ficken.....President-Elect
Maria Alvarez..... Treasurer
Shannon Lubell..... Secretary
Jill Joplin..... Past President

Decatur Minute Live Episodes Are Airing Now

In January, the podcast featured former Mayor Patti Garrett, who reflected on Decatur's past and shared her hopes for the city's future. The episode then looked ahead with City Manager Andrea Arnold, who discussed priorities for 2026.

In February, Lifelong Community Manager, Julie Smith, joined the podcast to share how the City supports its work as an age-friendly community. In March we will have a conversation about all the ways you can get involved in the budget process with Operations Analyst, Langston Leakes.

Follow the City of Decatur on social media to keep up with new episodes. All Decatur Minute Live podcast episodes are now available for streaming at decaturga.com/decaturminutelive.



SuperFly BJJ, based in Decatur, earned first place in the Team Kids Overall division at the Newbreed Atlanta New Year Open in January. The team also had multiple individual medalists.

- Jake Blair, gold, ages 6-7, featherweight.
- Chinara "Chichi" Willie-Nwobu, silver, ages 4-5, novice lightweight.
- Olivia Norman, silver, ages 6-7, beginner middleweight.
- Wyatt Brandt, bronze, ages 6-7, intermediate lightweight.
- Kaden Pound, bronze, ages 6-7, lightweight beginners (2-1).

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

Limited copies also available at Decatur City Hall, Decatur Visitors Center, and City of Decatur Recreation Centers.

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

What is Electrification and How Can Decatur Homeowners Benefit?

Electrifying means more than just replacing outdated appliances with cleaner, more efficient electrical systems.

Electrifying involves taking a broad approach so that the transition to clean energy is as cost-effective and energy efficient as possible. By embracing home electrification and replacing appliances that are powered by fossil fuels with an electric alternative, homeowners can save money and contribute to a greener future for all of Decatur.

Here are a few ways homeowners can benefit from Electrification:



Health-Boosting

Pre-existing health conditions such as asthma, COPD, heart disease, and diabetes can become further affected by air pollutants emitted from gas appliances. Switching to electric appliances can help reduce indoor pollutant exposure for high-risk groups like children, pregnant women, individuals with pre-existing conditions, and individuals who live in areas with extraordinary air pollutants.

Comfort-Inducing

A home's coziness can be impacted by a variety of factors: the seal and insulation, moisture control and ventilation, and heating and cooling systems. Embracing home comfort strategies, control systems, and related products can help maintain a comfortable home while also saving energy and money.

Money-Saving

Energy-efficient options not only use less electricity but can also lead to savings on utility bills. Electrifying can cut down on electricity and gas consumption, ultimately reducing energy costs. A fully optimized electrified home may save an estimated \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year on energy bills.

Climate-Friendly

Cars, trucks, homes, and factories burn fossil fuels in a variety of engines, furnaces, and boilers, releasing pollution that warms up the planet. To combat climate change, replace them with their electric counterparts. Electrification stands as a crucial strategy in slashing CO2 emissions and reaching sustainability targets.

How you make the switch:

1. Visit Electrify Decatur's website, electrifydecatur.com
2. Create a Home Energy Profile.
3. Explore our contractor listings.
4. Get started on your home improvement project.

Decatur City Commission Elects Mayor Tony Powers and Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Fronk

In January, Tony Powers was appointed as mayor and Lesa Fronk was appointed mayor pro tem by the Decatur City Commission. The City Commission meets on the first and third Mondays of each month in the City Commission meeting room at City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St. In the event of a Monday holiday, the meeting is moved to the first or third Tuesday. To learn more about the City Commissioners and meeting details visit decaturga.com/citycommission.

Tony Powers – Mayor, At-large-Commissioner:

First elected November 2015.

tony.powers@decaturga.com

Lesa Fronk – Mayor Pro Tem, District 2 Commissioner:

First elected November 2019.

lisa.mayer@decaturga.com

Mark Arnold – District 1 Commissioner:

Elected November 2025.

mark.arnold@decaturga.com

George Dusenbury – District 1 Commissioner:

First elected November 2019.

george.dusenbury@decaturga.com

Cheryl Kortemeier – District 2 Commissioner:

Elected November 2025.

cheryl.kortemeier@decaturga.com



From left: Commissioner Cheryl Kortemeier, Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Fronk, Mayor Tony Powers, Commissioner George Dusenbury, and Commissioner Mark Arnold

For the Love of Tennis

Decatur is home to numerous ALTA and USTA teams, including women's, men's, mixed and junior teams. Strong programs require commitment and training and in Decatur, players have access to coaches who can help build skills. In Decatur, players have access to coaches who help build skills and strengthen team partnerships.

Two coaches who have supported the local tennis community are Viktoriia "Vika" Romanovskaia and Daniela "Dani" Ramirez, who coach through Universal Tennis Academy.

Romanovskaia began playing at age 8 in Crimea and later competed in national and international tournaments, including events sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation and Tennis Europe. She came to the United States in 2017 to play at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, where she earned an undergraduate degree in finance. In 2020, she moved to Atlanta to study sports administration at Georgia State University and received a scholarship from Agnes Scott College to serve as an assistant tennis coach. During her time with the program, the team grew its roster and achieved its highest ranking in 10 years. She now coaches private clients ranging from children to adults.

Ramirez grew up in Merida, Venezuela, and began playing tennis at age 4. By age 9, she focused solely on the sport and soon began competing. At 14, she traveled to the United States to train with former Venezuelan professional Nicolas Pereira, who encouraged her to pursue college tennis. Ramirez joined the Georgia State tennis team in 2016, where she studied sports administration. The team won the conference tournament twice, and she was invited to represent Venezuela in the Fed Cup, the highest level of international team competition in women's tennis. She later served as an assistant tennis coach at Georgia State while pursuing an MBA in organizational management, then shifted to private coaching in Decatur, working with adults and adolescents at a range of skill levels.

Together, Romanovskaia and Ramirez have helped players build skills, strengthen partnerships and form connections through tennis in Decatur.

For lessons at the Decatur location, contact Vika (romvlqk@gmail.com) or Dani (danielaramirez02@hotmail.com). For more information, visit utatennis.com.



DHS Celebrates New "Culture of Peace" Mural with Best Buddies Club

Decatur High School celebrated a new "Culture of Peace" mural on Jan. 21 in partnership with the Best Buddies Club. Funded by the Decatur Education Foundation through Zara's Fund, the project honors the creative spirit of Zara Yee Hawthorne. The mural was created in partnership with the Best Buddies Club, Decatur High School and Paint Love, and is intended to reflect connection, belonging and hope through student-led public art.

Students from the Best Buddies Club, which supports friendship and leadership between students with and without disabilities, served as art directors and helped guide the creative vision. Over several days in December, students sketched, painted and collaborated to transform a hallway into a 16-color mural. More than 75 participants, including students, families and faculty, contributed to the project.

For more information, visit paintlove.org and decatureducationfoundation.org.



Detective Sgt. Robert Lindsey Receives DeKalb County Police Officer of the Year Award

In January, Detective Sgt. Robert Lindsey received the 2025 DeKalb County Police Officer of the Year Award from the DeKalb County Chiefs' Association for his investigative work on a homicide that occurred in 2021.

Lindsey served as the lead investigator on the case, which presented challenges because there was no known connection between the victim and the suspect. Following the initial response by patrol officers, Sgt. Lindsey gathered and reviewed surveillance footage from nearby locations. That work helped establish a timeline of events and identify a suspect vehicle, which was traced to a nearby residence within hours.

Sgt. Lindsey coordinated a multi-agency effort that included the DeKalb County Police Department, Georgia State Patrol and other law enforcement partners. Investigators conducted surveillance and tracked the suspect's movements, leading to an arrest later that day. A firearm recovered during the arrest was later linked to the homicide.

Sgt. Lindsey's work supported the documentation and processing of evidence, witness interviews and coordination with prosecutors. The investigation resulted in a conviction on multiple felony charges, including murder, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.



WALK & ROLL SUPERSTAR

Decatur resident Corinne Milien, known as "CM," is a regular presence on the sidewalks around town. CM does not drive and typically walks to daily destinations from her home near Talley Street.

She is often accompanied by her dog, Drake. Many residents recognize Drake from walks around downtown and the Oakhurst area, and neighbors frequently ask about him when he is not with CM.

Originally from Jonesboro, CM has lived in multiple places in the United States and abroad. Before moving to Decatur three years ago, she lived in Cumming with her mother. When she first settled on North McDonough Street, CM noticed how many students walk to and from school each day. This detail stood out to her as a sign of a community designed for daily life on foot. She also recalls meeting neighbors soon

after arriving, including during visits to the Adair Dog Park.

Walking has long been part of CM's routine. She describes herself as active and frequently in motion, and she views walking as more than transportation. For her, it is also a time to observe the community, reflect, and connect with neighbors. During walks through Decatur Square and the Old Depot District, she often runs into local business owners and residents and makes time to stop and say hello.

CM's professional work includes business ownership, leadership coaching and design services, and game day operations for Decatur FC. She has also contributed to City work, most recently serving on the City's charter review committee.

CM appreciates Decatur's pedestrian-focused design and the emphasis on safety and access for people walking. She also values walking as one way to



reduce her environmental impact. For CM, daily travel on foot supports both her lifestyle and her connection to the community.

Do you know a Walk & Roll

Superstar? Nominate someone who inspires you by visiting bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur.

Neighborhood Cleanup Days Have Returned!

Saturdays, March 7-May 30, Beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The City of Decatur is hosting Neighborhood Cleanup Days on Saturdays from March 7 through May 23, to allow residents to dispose of bulky materials that would not normally be placed in Pay-As-You-Throw bags. Every street in the city has been assigned a Saturday — see the schedule here to find the date for your street. Please read carefully as last year’s schedule has changed. Contact Sean Woodson at sean.woodson@decaturga.com or 404-377-5571 if you have questions.

All items to be collected should be placed at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m. to ensure that crews do not need to return for late setouts. Collections run until 3:30 p.m., or until finished.

Acceptable Items

- Yard trimmings
- Building materials (that are not from the work of private contractors)
- Tires
- Furniture
- Appliances (not containing freon)
- Trash that would not normally be placed in pay-as-you-throw bags

Unacceptable Items

- Liquids
- Dirt
- Bricks
- blocks
- Stone, rocks, or concrete
- Motor vehicle batteries or parts

March 7

Oakhurst Neighborhood #1

- First Avenue Second Avenue (100 to 600 Block)
- Third Avenue (400 to 900 Block)
- Fourth Avenue
- North Fourth Avenue
- Fifth Avenue
- Gordon Street
- Northern Avenue (north side only)
- Oakview Road (1000 to 1700 Block)
- Maxwell Street
- East Lake Drive (400 to 600 Block)

March 14

Oakhurst Neighborhood #2

- East Lake Drive (100 to 300 Block)
- Winter Ave (east side only)
- Johnston Place
- Bryan Place
- Beatty Place
- Madison Avenue
- Third Ave. (100 to 300 block)
- Feld Avenue
- Leyden Street
- Cambridge Avenue
- Hood Circle
- W. College (Mead to Cambridge)
- Park Place
- Fair Park Lane

March 21

Oakhurst Neighborhood #3

- Spring Street
- Fayetteville Road
- Underwood Street
- W. Pharr (100 to 500 block)
- Russell Street

- East Lake Drive (700 to 1000 block)
- McKoy Street (500 to 700 block)
- Adams Street (1000 to 1100 block)
- Lenore Street
- Sterling Street
- South McDonough Street (800 to 1000 block)
- Lenore Place
- Oakhurst Common Drive

March 28

Oakhurst Neighborhood #4

- West Hill Street
- East Hill Street
- East Benson Street
- West Benson Street
- McKoy Street (100 to 400 block)
- Adams Street (600 to 700 block)
- South McDonough (600 to 700 block)
- Green Street (100 block)
- Oakview Road (400 to 800 block)
- Mead Road
- Olympic Place
- Jefferson Place

April 4

MAK Neighborhood

- Ansley Street
- Greenwood Avenue
- Greenwood Place
- Evans Drive
- Kings Highway
- Adams Street (100 to 500 block)
- South McDonough Street (100 to 500 block)
- West College Avenue (100 to 700 block)

- West Dougherty Street
- West Davis Street
- West Hancock Street
- East Hancock Street
- East Davis Street
- College Place

April 11

Winnona Park Neighborhood

- S. Columbia Drive
- Commerce Drive (RR Underpass to S. Columbia)
- Conway Road
- Hargrove Townhomes
- Avery Street
- Hilldale Drive
- Winnona Drive
- Poplar Circle
- Bucher Drive
- Derrydown Way
- Heatherdown Road
- Shadowmoor Drive
- Inman Drive
- Missionary Court
- Candler Oaks Lane
- Kirk Road
- Kirk Crossing
- Mimosa Drive
- Mimosa Place
- Missionary Drive
- Oldfield Road
- McKinnon Drive (Decatur Only)
- Midway Road
- Clarke Hill Subdivision

April 18

College Heights Neighborhood

- South Candler Street
- Bruton Street

- Green Street (200 block)
- Buchanan Terrace
- Driftwood Terrace
- Driftwood Place
- Park Drive
- Candler Drive
- East Pharr Road
- McClellan Street
- Garland Avenue
- Griffin Circle
- Brower Street
- Chevelle Lane
- Candler Pointe
- Park Drive
- Overlook Bluff
- West Dearborn Circle

April 25

Decatur Heights Neighborhood

- Barry Street
- North Candler Street
- Pate Street
- East Maple Street
- Village Walk
- Sycamore Street
- East Ponce de Leon Ave. (400 to 1100 Block)
- Ponce de Leon Court
- Hillyer Place
- Sycamore Place
- Oak Lane
- Mountain View Street
- Hillcrest Avenue
- Springdale Street
- Glenn Street
- East Howard Avenue

Check the Jan./Feb. Focus for the full list of Neighborhood Cleanup dates.

Nominations Open for Decatur's Hometown Habitat

The Decatur Hometown Habitat Committee is seeking nominations from community members. This is an opportunity to honor your neighbors for their efforts in creating landscapes that illustrate sustainability using plants, shrubs, and trees. These landscapes support a healthy environment and enhance a home and neighborhood by creating natural habitats throughout the city. Since Decatur is now a recognized U.S. Bird City, these habitats are also important to our native and migrating birds.

An education program of Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board, the purpose of the Hometown Habitat program is to educate and inspire the community through examples of residents' landscapes highlighting sustainable front yard habitats throughout the seasons. As a community-wide effort, residents can explore the seasonal ideas and solutions which their neighbors have in their yards.

Four homes are selected annually that represent each of the four seasons and are then featured, here, in the Decatur Focus. Each winning home receives a permanent plaque for their yard. Nomination criteria include healthy tree canopy, invasive removal enabling more plants or shrubs, ecofriendly maintenance or use of recycled materials, stormwater solutions and the use of native plants and shrubbery (not all plants need to be native).

Scan the QR code and nominate your friends and neighbors for this quarterly award. Additional nomination opportunities will be available on Sat. April 18 at Legacy Park's annual Community and Earth Day Celebration.



WELCOME TO DECATUR

Strand & Vine Hair Co. opened at 308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite E.



Foxtail Coffee Co. opened at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



Fork and Vine Social opened at 910 W. College Ave.



Mellow Mushroom has reopened in Decatur at 340 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



The Facts on Flooding in Decatur

Although the city is located at the top of the watershed, Decatur periodically experiences minor to moderate localized flooding. These conditions are a symptom of the fully developed nature of the city. Documented flooding problems have occurred along Peavine Creek at a condominium complex near Coventry Road. Along Peavine Creek Tributary, two houses on the south side of Garden Lane, and two houses on the south side of Lamont Drive, are subject to occasional flooding. Five houses damaged by flooding at the end of Westchester Drive were purchased by the City of Decatur with help from FEMA and converted to green space.

Two isolated locations in the upper Peavine Creek Basin, Landsdowne Avenue at Hibernia Avenue, and an area along North Candler Street, have some problems with flood damage due to poor localized drainage. Occasional flooding on South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary has been a continuing problem for property owners in the vicinity of Willow Lane just downstream of the Church Street crossing. In 1971, a flood on this tributary resulted in substantial personal property damage near Landover Drive and North Decatur Road. Potential for flood damage appears to be minimal in the southern half of the city, which is drained by Shoal Creek and Sugar Creek Tributary.

The lack of any significant history of flood damage to residences and other buildings along Shoal Creek and its tributaries is due to the absence of development on the floodplains in the southeastern section of the city. Because of extensive storm drainage improvements in the past, no recent flood damage problems have been experienced along Sugar Creek Tributary.

Although damage to buildings generally is limited, ponding behind drainage pipes and culverts and flooding of streets, driveways, parking lots, and yards are a recurring

concern at some locations in Peavine Creek, Shoal Creek, and South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary basins. For example, the Peavine Creek basin often experiences flooding problems. Channel erosion and damage to drainage and bank stabilization structures are also a problem in some areas of these three basins. As a result of basin improvements, areas drained by Sugar Creek Tributary have been relatively free of ponding or erosion problems for many years.

City Flood Services

Decatur's Public Works provides general and site-specific flood and flood-related information on property located within the city limits. To obtain site-specific responses, individuals making inquiries must provide a survey of the specific property and elevation data relating to existing structures and site topography. The Public Works Department and the Decatur Public Library also have reference documents on flooding and flood protection available for review.

A map information service is available from Public Works for a \$10 fee. This service provides inquirers with the current Flood Insurance Rate Map information and identifies whether a property is in a

Special Flood Hazard Area. An accurate street address or DeKalb County/Decatur Tax Parcel number is needed to obtain this information. If you would like more information, contact Public Works at 678-553-6529.

What You Can Do

Several of the City's efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

- Do not dump debris or throw anything into the ditches or streams. Depositing debris, trash, and other items in ditches and streams is a violation of the City's Solid Waste Ordinance Section 82-38. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and clog channels. A clogged channel cannot carry the necessary volume of water. When it rains the water has to go somewhere, usually flooding yards and streets, thus damaging property and endangering public safety. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.
- Individual property owners are responsible for maintenance of the creeks and drainage ditches on their property. Please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. In addition to maintaining the public roadways and public drainage facilities, the City can help remove major blockages from the creeks, such as fallen trees.
- Please report the depositing of debris and trash into streams and storm drains and blockages to Public Works, 678-553-6529.
- Check with the Public Works Department before you build on, alter, re-grade, or fill on your property. Such activities in floodplains are strictly regulated and permits may be needed.
- Report illegal construction activities to Public Works at 678-553-6529.

Floodproofing

There are several different options to protect a building from flood damage. For example, you can re-grade your lot or build a small flood wall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep, and if your property is not in the designated floodway. Please note that permits are required prior to undertaking these and similar activities. Another approach is to waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended for houses with basements or if water will get more than two feet deep.

You can also consider raising the house above flood levels. You may drive by and check out the dwellings at 504 Westchester Dr. and 249 S. Columbia Dr. to see examples of elevated buildings. Many houses, even those not located in the floodplain, have sanitary sewers that back up into the basement during heavy rains. This may be due to stormwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer line. A plug or standpipe can stop this if the water doesn't get more than one or two feet deep. These can be purchased at a hardware store for under \$25. For deeper sewer backup flooding, talk to a plumber. The above measures are called floodproofing or retrofitting.

More information is available from Decatur Public Works or the Decatur Public Library. Please note that re-grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit. Also, any alteration to your building or land may require a permit from Public Works.

If you know a major flood is coming, you should shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs or raise items off the floor. Fortunately, the flooding experienced in Decatur is localized and most floodwaters will recede within a matter of a few hours. However, it is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance will help ensure that you don't forget anything.

Flood Insurance

If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Decatur participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and implements activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at discounted premiums. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded in the past. There is a 30-day waiting period from the time the insurance is applied for until it becomes effective.

Some people have purchased flood insurance because the financial institution required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually, these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. Property owners need to verify with their insurance agent what the extent of contents coverage is available. During a flood in 1990, the damage to the contents of a property near the South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary exceeded the damage to the structure. At last count, there were 202 active flood insurance policies in the city of Decatur. If you are covered, check out the amount and make sure you have contents coverage. Remember: even if the last flood missed you or you have done some floodproofing, the next flood could be worse. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.

Flood Safety

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure the ground is still there. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Georgia Power Company by dialing toll free 1-888-891-0938. If your house or other structure is flooded, contact the power company to turn off the electricity. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried by qualified personnel.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals. Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be slippery. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames, unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Inspections – Repair and Maintenance Activities

Staff from the Drainage Section of Public Works are available to conduct site visits to review flood, drainage, and storm sewer problems and determine if corrective repair or maintenance action is the responsibility of the City or the private property owner. For more information regarding this service or to request an inspection call 678-553-6579.

LEARN MORE

For more information call Public Works or visit decaturga.com and follow the links to the floodplain information at the bottom of the page. Copies of this document can be obtained at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St., or the Leveritt Public Works Building, 1st floor, 2635 Talley Street.

Gael Doyle Earns 2026 Thomas O. Davis Award

During the recent State of the City Address, Gael Doyle was honored as the 2026 recipient of Decatur's Thomas O. Davis Award. The award recognizes a public employee who strengthens the bond between government and the community, serves as a role model in public service, contributes to community well-being, inspires others to get involved, and serves the public with respect. It is named for Decatur's longtime city attorney, Thomas O. Davis, who served from 1968 until his death in 2000.

Communications Coordinator Gael joined the City in 2021 in the Parks and Recreation Department and has made a meaningful impact in a short period of time. Colleagues describe her as a steady, service-minded professional who focuses



on supporting residents rather than seeking recognition. While her work includes writing and producing Parks and Recreation materials, including The Playbook and the

department website, she is also known for stepping in wherever help is needed.

Gael regularly supports City events and programs through outreach, photography, and on-site assistance. Her nominator, Karen Minvielle, highlighted Gael's professionalism, preparation, and calm problem-solving across multiple events, including community tabling, a three-day League of American Bicyclists training, recycling efforts during Decatur FC matches, and the July 4 celebration, where Gael rode a bike in the parade to promote an active lifestyle.

As the 2026 Thomas O. Davis Award recipient, Gael is recognized for her commitment to public service and the thoughtful ways she helps connect residents to Parks and Recreation programs and to one another.

Volunteer for Decatur WatchFest26!

Decatur WatchFest '26 is a 34-day celebration of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, bringing free outdoor match screenings, live music, and community activities to downtown Decatur



from June 11–July 19. This once-in-a-generation event will welcome fans from near and far, and volunteers can help make it happen.

Whether helping with guest welcome, fan engagement, event operations, or on-site support, volunteers will play a key role in creating a memorable experience for our community. You can volunteer for a single shift or multiple days and be part of a high-energy celebration that showcases Decatur at its best.

Meet new people and help bring the spirit of the World Cup to Decatur. Sign up and be part of the team that makes WatchFest '26 unforgettable at tinyurl.com/volunteerwatchfest.

Serenity Within Offers Monthly Self-Compassion Gatherings at Legacy Park

Beginning in February, Compassionate Atlanta and Legacy Park Decatur will offer Serenity Within: The 2026 Legacy Self-Compassion Series, a monthly community gathering focused on restorative practices and community connection. Each session includes a gentle healing modality, followed by conversation, light snacks, and information about a featured Decatur nonprofit. Proceeds support the featured organization.

Most modalities are designed to be accessible and are done resting on a mat or seated. No prior experience is required.

Sessions are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:45 p.m. in the main administration building at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. Attendance is limited to 25 participants, and advance registration is encouraged. Yoga mats and blankets are provided; participants may bring their own.

The March gathering is scheduled for March 19 and will feature L'Arche Atlanta.

To receive updates and registration links, sign up for the Compassionate Atlanta newsletter at compassionateatl.org/signup. Registration for the March session is available at tinyurl.com/mt347dnd.

Serenity Within Healing Modalities

- Restorative yoga and sound bath
- Group Reiki session and sound bath
- Yoga Nidra and sound bath
- Yoga Nidra and gong meditation
- Yoga Nidra and Reiki
- Reiki healing
- Gong meditation
- Guided breath work (pranayama)
- Guided meditation
- Group Bengston Energy Healing
- Ayurvedic-themed yoga

Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Fronk Delivers State of the City Address

Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Fronk delivered the 2026 State of the City address in January, reflecting on the past year and reaffirming the City of Decatur’s commitment to its Strategic Plan. The presentation highlighted work related to housing affordability, equity and racial justice, and sustainability, along with updates on City projects, community initiatives and upcoming events.

Fronk shared construction and infrastructure updates, including the South Columbia Multi-Use Path, which is in its third phase. The address also included updates on engagement, policy and community work. A 2026 community survey has been sent to 3,000 randomly selected households, with results intended to help guide City decisions and service improvements.

Additional remarks from City Schools of Decatur Board Chair Dr. Carmen Sulton highlighted district achievements and priorities for the year ahead. Decatur Youth Council co-chairs

Claire Duvall and Elia Mathew-Lewis highlighted recent projects, including participation in Fair on the Square and public service announcements focused on mental health and voting. The Youth Council also shared plans for Fair Off the Square, scheduled for Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Decatur MARTA Plaza and East Court Square.

Eight City employees were thanked for achieving years of service milestones.

15 years

Jabari Cole, Recreation Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Athletic Services

Durell Coleman, Fire Lieutenant, Fire & Rescue

20 years

Cynthia Hardnett, Codes Enforcement Officer, Community & Economic Development

Claire Miller, Innovation and Strategy Director, General Administration

Anthony Thompson, Crew Leader, Public Works

Darius Wilbern, Auto Mechanic, Public Works-Motor Maintenance

25 years

Antranette Robinson, Communications Officer, Public Safety-E911

35 years

David Junger, Deputy City Manager, City Manager’s Office

A recording of the State of the City address is available on the City of Decatur’s YouTube channel.



March Meeting Preview

March 24 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: TBA

Check decaturbusinessassociation.com for updates

Senior Events

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events for seniors!

RSVP to xaviea.conover@decaturga.com

St. Patrick's Day Party

March 11 • 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Oakhurst Rec Center, 450 E Lake Dr.

Enjoy Irish music, dance, and delightful surprises. Don your green attire and immerse yourself in the festive fun, sláinte! \$5 at the door.

Senior Field Trip –

Let's all go to the Movies!

March 24 • \$25

Let's catch a midday matinee! The Movie Tavern hosts "Young at Heart" specials for those 60+ on Fridays. Choice of movie to be determined but it's sure to be lots of fun regardless of what we see! Movie admission & shuttle bus ride included in price.

Workshops

Dementia 101: Understanding the Disease and How to Help

March 18, 2 p.m. • Free

Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

Not a deep clinical dive, but an approachable session with practical communication tips, safety at home, and local resources. RSVP to demetri.wheeler@decaturga.com.

Optimize your Health: A Nutrition Workshop for Older Adults

March 23, 2 p.m. • Free

Oakhurst Rec Center, 450 E Lake Dr.

Join us for an engaging Health and Nutrition Workshop tailored for older adults interested in healthy aging! Led by Emory Medical Students, this session covers evidence-based health tips, nutrition insights, and discusses the risks of relying on AI for trustworthy health information. Don't miss it!



Youth Events

Lil Kickers

March 9-April 1 • Mon/Wed, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Age: 3-5

Fee: \$80 R/\$105 NR

Ebster Rec Center, 105 Electric Ave.

Kick off your soccer journey with this four week introductory program! Designed for young athletes, the course focuses on developing fundamental soccer skills, building coordination, and growing confidence—all in a fun, supportive environment.

St. Paddy's Day Bash

March 13 • 6:30-9 p.m. • \$25R/\$35NR Grade: 3-5

Ebster Rec Center, 105 Electric Ave.

Get ready to shamrock and roll at our Saint Patrick's Day Dance! Enjoy a night of lively music, fun games, tasty treats, and plenty of dancing with friends. Dress in your best green attire and join us for a celebration full of luck, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on this party!

Spring has Sprung

March 18 • 4-5:15 p.m. • Free

Legacy Park, 500 S Columbia Dr.

Join us for a hike as we listen and look for signs of animals in action, searching for food and mates in their natural habitat. Grade: K-5

Learn to Ride: Bike Lessons

March 28 • \$25R/\$30

Legacy Park, 500 S Columbia Dr.

Build confidence on two wheels in this supportive, small-group clinic designed for new riders. Participants learn balance, pedaling, steering, and safe stopping in a fun, encouraging environment. Riders must bring a bike or directly inquire about a loaner.

Ages/Time: 6-9 yrs / 9-10 a.m.

10-12 yrs / 10:30-11:30 a.m.



Register

for Parks and Recreation programs at register.communitypass.net/cityofdecatur

Athletics

Gators Swim Team

Registration opens: **March 2nd**

Our Gators Swim team is open to swimmers ages 5 and older at the time of the start of the season. All swimmers must be able to swim the length of the pool unassisted. Participation in swim meets is expected. Home meets will be at Ebster Pool.

Youth Baseball/Tee Ball

Hit a home run with Decatur Parks & Recreation! We offer Tee Ball for ages 4-6 and Baseball for 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U. Join us for the Opening Day Parade and games on June 6 at Oakhurst Park.

Adult Softball Leagues (18+)

Play ball this spring with Decatur Parks & Recreation's Men's and Coed Adult Softball Leagues. Each team receives a 10-game season plus an end-of-season tournament. All games are played at McKoy Park. Season: May 18-July 18

Adult CoEd Kickball (18+)

Bring back the playground fun with our Adult Coed Kickball League! Enjoy weekly games, friendly competition, and great team spirit under the lights at McKoy Park. Season: May 18-July 18



Summer Camp 2026

Summer Camp Spots Still Available + Teen Leadership Opportunities

Decatur Parks & Recreation still has limited summer camp openings and now is a great time for families to finalize their plans. Spaces remain available in Legacy Park Adventure Day Camp and iDiscover Camp, both serving rising K-5th graders and running June 1-July 3, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with optional after-care. Daily USDA lunches and snacks are included.

Legacy Park Adventure Day Camp is ideal for kids who love the outdoors. Located at Legacy Park, campers spend their days exploring nature, building outdoor skills, and participating in team-based recreational activities that promote leadership, social-emotional growth, and active lifestyles.

iDiscover Camp, based at Oakhurst Recreation Center, is perfect for curious minds who enjoy variety and creativity. Weekly themes guide hands-on exploration in areas like arts, science, physical activity, and creative problem-solving, with access to indoor spaces, fields, and the pool.

In addition to these camps, spots remain available in several other specialty and recreational camps throughout the summer.

Teens ages 14-15 are also encouraged to apply for the **Leaders-in-Training (LIT) Program**, a unique leadership experience that builds real-world skills such as communication, teamwork, financial literacy, and career exploration while gaining hands-on experience working with younger campers.

Families can explore all camp options in the Summer Camp Playbook at decaturga.com/playbook and register on CommunityPass. Summer spots are limited and filling quickly!



Go to decaturga.com/playbook or scan the QR code to see the latest Playbook, and dozens of programs for active children, youth, adults, and seniors.

Volunteer at Woodlands Garden

Woodlands Garden welcomes volunteers for a range of community projects, from planting native plants and mulching paths to removing invasive species. Projects are available for different ability levels, including options that can be completed in a seated position. Staff can also help organize projects for groups such as school service clubs, faith communities, businesses and neighborhood organizations. Opportunities are also available for Scouts seeking Eagle Scout service projects.

Visit woodlandsgarden.org/come-volunteer or scan the QR code.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Weekly volunteer project

Wednesdays beginning March 4, 9 to 11 a.m.

Community volunteer project

Saturday, March 7, 1 to 3 p.m.

Scout project day

Saturday, March 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

Community volunteer project

Sunday, April 19, 1 to 3 p.m.



Pouring Into Literacy: Supporting Children with Dyslexia

Pouring Into Literacy is a community fundraising event hosted by Building Foundations for Success, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting children with dyslexia and families who cannot afford the specialized help their children need.

Join the event on March 28 from 6-10 p.m. at Sceptre Brewing, 630 East Lake Dr., for an evening of drinks, light appetizers, live music, raffles, and connection all while giving back. The funds raised help provide ongoing tutoring and support for children with dyslexia, and 100% of proceeds go directly to the kids.

By attending, you're not only enjoying a great night with the community but also helping remove financial barriers and create brighter learning opportunities for children who need it most.

Visit derekwoodrealty.com/pouringintoliteracy for tickets.

SAVE THE DATE

Decatur Civic Chorus Spring Concert May 3

Decatur Civic Chorus is already rehearsing for its spring concert, scheduled for Sunday, May 3. The chorus recently presented its Holiday Magic concert and appreciates the community support. Additional information is available at decaturcivicchorus.org.



Girl Scout Programs Have Landed at Wylde Center—Let Your Troop Soar!

Wylde Center invites Girl Scout troops to participate in hands-on, nature-based activities that support badge requirements at one of its four locations. Troops may schedule a visit for a program led by a Wylde Center environmental educator. Programs are available for Girl Scouts of all ages.

Popular badge-focused offerings include the Junior Gardener badge and Eco Camper badge. Brownies may work on the Bugs badge, and Cadettes may explore the Eco Trekker badge. For an updated list of available badges and additional details, visit wyldecenter.org/scouts/.

Registration open for 2026 Wylde Summer Camp

Wylde Center has opened registration for 2026 Wylde Summer Camp, a day camp offered at Oakhurst Garden. Camp is scheduled for six themed weeks from June 1 to July 24, 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Camp activities include outdoor exploration and nature-based play, crafts, and group games. Campers will also use the newly renovated teaching kitchen for hands-on learning activities.

More information and registration are available at wyldecenter.org.



Open Call for Submissions

HOME v.2: Homeland

Application deadline: Sun, March 29

The Decatur Arts Alliance and the Decatur Land Trust are partnering with the Georgia Center for the Book and the Decatur Library to present the art show, “Homeland.” This second volume of the “HOME” exhibition seeks to inspire conversation and consideration for the challenges we face as a community to ensure access to dignified housing options.

The juried multimedia exhibition will be on display in the Fourth Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St., May 29 through July 18. An opening reception is planned for May 29, 6:30-9 p.m. a national, juried multimedia showcase. Artists of all media are invited to submit up to 3 artworks for one \$20 application fee. Fee waived for student artists. Applications accepted exclusively on CallForEntry.org.

Decatur High School Senior Art Exhibition

Fridays and Saturdays, March 25-April 18, 1-5 p.m., Hyatt Cottage in Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

The Decatur Arts Alliance will present the Decatur High School senior art showcase in the Hyatt Cottage at Legacy Park. Join the opening reception to celebrate with the student artists on Wednesday, March 25, 5-6:30 p.m. or on closing day, April 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. as part of Legacy Park’s “Community Day” and meet the professional artists working in Hyatt Cottage during their Open Studio time.

Decatur Arts Alliance’s 4th annual Community Exhibition: “Absurdity”

Friday, March 27-Sunday, May 3

10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairmont Ave.

Opening reception: Fri, March 27, 6:30-9 p.m.

The theme for the 2026 community exhibition invites artists to explore the space between logic and lunacy. “Absurdity” exposes the tension between truth and disbelief, clarity and confusion. Like a funhouse mirror, the distortion of reality can be at times silly and unsettling. This exhibition encourages artists to consider how absurdity can derail genuine intentions, inspire laughter in lightheartedness, and compel strangers to come together to cope, connect, and endure. Beneath its contradictions lies a levity, a reminder that even in chaos, there is room for solidarity, play, and shared understanding.

Join the opening reception on Friday, March 27 from 6:30-9 p.m. for light refreshments and first access to the exhibition. All artwork is for sale unless otherwise indicated. Visit decaturartsalliance.org to learn more.

Trellis Ability Garden Kicks Off New Programming This Spring

Trellis Horticultural Therapy Alliance will offer spring workshops and events at the Ability Garden at Legacy Park. The accessible teaching garden is designed to support connection with nature and welcome adults with disabilities.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Jumpstart Your Garden: Indoor Seed Starting Workshop

Sunday, March 1, 3 to 5 p.m. • Cost: \$25

A hands-on class focused on selecting vegetable and flower seeds, creating growing conditions, and caring for seedlings until they are ready to transplant.

Ikebana: The Art of Japanese Floral Arranging

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • Cost: \$35

For ages 16 and older. An introduction to ikebana, emphasizing seasonal design, simplicity and self-expression.

National Horticultural Therapy Week Celebration with Trellis

Saturday, March 21,

10:30 a.m. to noon • Free

A drop-in gathering to learn about horticultural therapy and how Trellis uses it to support the disability community and veterans with PTSD. Includes opportunities to explore the Ability Garden and tour the historic Nickerson Cottage and the kitchen-classroom.



Trellis Annual Spring-Thyme Celebration and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A plant sale and fundraiser held as part of Legacy Park Community Day.

To register and to learn more about Trellis programs and volunteer opportunities, visit trellishta.org or email at rachel@trellishta.org.

Legacy Park Community Garden Offers Spring Memberships

Spring memberships are available at the Legacy Park Community Garden for gardeners of all experience levels. The garden offers 8-foot-by-4-foot raised-bed plots, as well as elevated garden beds designed to improve access for people with mobility challenges, including wheelchair users.

The garden provides opportunities for gardening, learning and social connection in an outdoor setting designed to support broader participation.

Plots are available at trellishta.org/community-garden. For questions, contact Shelly Roberts at shelly@trellishta.org.

Join Tour deCatur!

Tour deCatur returns for its 24th year with events for runners of all ages and activity levels. The lineup includes a Peachtree-qualifying 5K, a 1-mile fun run, a Tot Trot for children 4 and younger, and a “None Run” option for supporters who would like to participate through a T-shirt purchase.

New this year, Tour deCatur is partnering with the Decatur Bulldog Boosters to offer a Bulldog Jog, which allows runners to participate with their dogs during the 1-mile fun run. The event also introduces team participation. During registration, participants can select a City Schools of Decatur school to represent. The school with the highest percentage of participation will receive a Decatur Education Foundation grant and the Tour deCatur team trophy.

Proceeds from Tour deCatur support Decatur Education Foundation programs that benefit students, teachers and the Decatur community. Registration is available at tourdecatur.com.



Join the Wylde Center for Music in the Garden

Music in the Garden is a collaboration between Snug Concerts and Wylde Center, featuring intimate live concert performances at Oakhurst Garden throughout 2026. The six-concert series offers a relaxed way to experience live music, connect with the community, and enjoy one of Decatur’s urban greenspaces.



The Pussywillows perform March 21

2026 dates and confirmed artists

March 21	The Pussywillows
April 22	LAVAHI (Earth Day Celebration)
June 20	Lola Ladae
July 12	Larry Wilson
September 19	Chris Burroughs

Additional dates and artists will be announced. Music in the Garden is designed for families, friends, and neighbors who want to enjoy live music in an outdoor setting. Learn more, view the lineup, and purchase tickets at wyldecenter.org/music-in-the-garden.

YEA! (Young Emerging Artists) Arts Festival

Sunday, March 22 from 1-5 p.m.

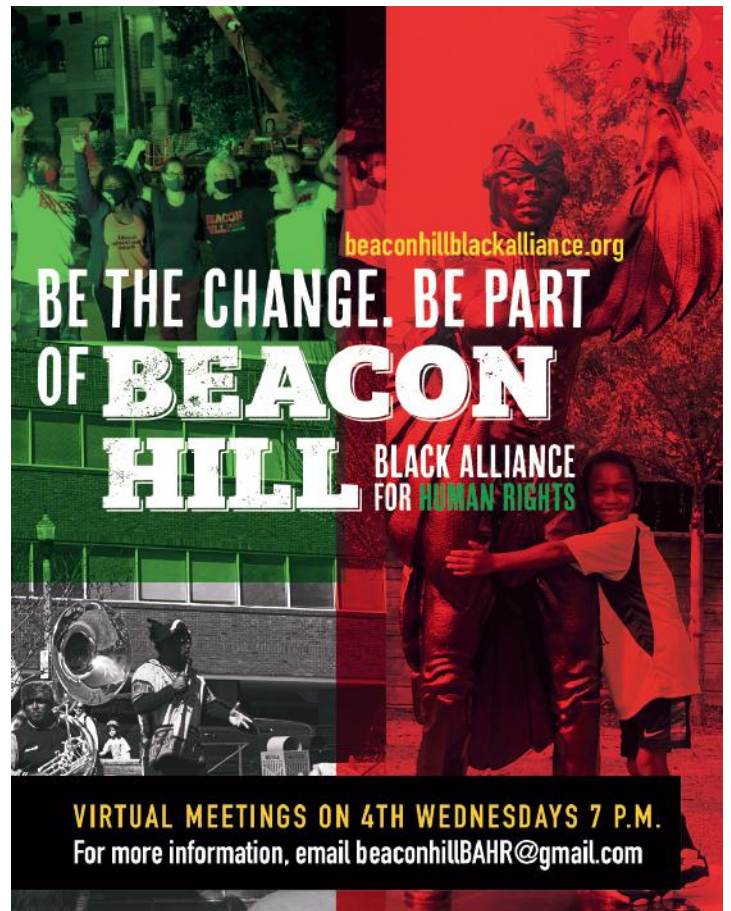
The Solarium in Oakhurst, 321 W Hill Street

YEA! is a youth-led arts festival for students in grades K to 12. Participating students gain experience in event planning, marketing, presentation, and sales while



coordinating the festival. Student artists sell handcrafted goods in an artist market, and young performers present work on a performance stage. Decatur Arts Alliance provides the venue, tables, and event essentials, with student participants organizing the remaining elements of the event.

The Decatur community is invited to attend and support local young artists. Learn more at decaturartsalliance.org/yea.



Oakhurst Wine Crawl: 25 Years of Community, Corks & Fun

Sat, March 7, 4-7 p.m. • Oakhurst Neighborhood
The Oakhurst Wine Crawl returns for its 25th anniversary. For the past 24 years, the event has paired wine tastings with an evening in the Oakhurst neighborhood business district and served as an early-season community tradition.

Attendees can stroll the district with 30-plus pouring stations. The event also includes the Fur Bus party. Proceeds support Oakhurst Porchfest. The Wine Crawl is presented in partnership with the Oakhurst Market and the Decatur Arts Alliance.

Tickets are available exclusively through Freshtix at freshtix.com/events/oakhurst-wine-crawl-2026-03-07. Tickets often sell out.

- \$50 general admission tickets available through March 6 at midnight.
- Limited \$60 tickets available at the gate, based on availability.



GGN's A Meaningful Feast Returns to Decatur Legacy Park

Saturday, April 25 • Decatur Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.
Global Growers' annual fundraiser and culinary event, A Meaningful Feast, will return to Decatur Legacy Park. Executive chefs Terry Koval and Andy Gonzales will lead local chefs and mixologists for a farm-to-table dinner experience.

A limited number of individual tickets will go on sale March 3. This year's theme is Rooted and Rising, highlighting Global Growers' work supporting more than 200 growers across eight farm and garden sites. More information is available at globalgrowers.org/a-meaningful-feast.



JOIN DECATUR FIRST UMC FOR

HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
& LUNCH (12 - 1PM, MON - FRI)

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 2 at 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 3 at 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 at 7:15, 9, & 11am




@decaturfirstumc
@decaturfirst
300 E. Ponce De Leon Ave
Decatur, Ga 30030

decaturfirst.org

DECATUR'S FINEST CUSTOM PICTURE FRAME SHOP

The Great Frame Up

WHERE PICTURE FRAMING IS AN ART.

335 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
404-257-6090
decatur.thegreatframeup.com




LOCALLY-OWNED AND PROUDLY
CELEBRATING OVER 10 YEARS IN DECATUR!

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 **Decatur Lunar New Year**, 1 p.m., Ebster Rec Center, 105 Electric Ave.
- 2 **Active Transportation Committee**, 4 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 2 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 3 **Better Together Advisory Board Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 6 **Safe Routes to School Committee**, 9 a.m., Legacy Park Auditorium, 500 S. Columbia Dr.
- 7 **Touch-a-Truck and Touch -a-Budget**, 10 a.m., Decatur High School, upper parking lot, 310 N McDonough St.
- 7 **Oakhurst Wine Crawl**, 4 p.m., Oakhurst Neighborhood, page 17
- 9 **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 10 **Parks & Recreation Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 10 **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 13 **Annual Retreat of the Decatur Development Authorities**
- 14 **Tour deCatur**, 7 a.m., Decatur High School, 310 N. McDonough St.
- 16 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 17 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 21 **Decatur Youth Council Fair Off the Square**, 10 a.m., Decatur MARTA Plaza and East Court Square
- 23 **Lifelong Community Advisory Board**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

APRIL

- 2 **Jazz Nights at Scottish Rite**, 7 p.m., The Solarium, 321 W. Hill St.
- 3 **Decatur Development Authorities**, 8 a.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 3 **Safe Routes to School Committee**, 9 a.m., Legacy Park Auditorium, 500 S. Columbia Dr.
- 4 **Easter Egg Hunt**, 1 p.m., Decatur First Baptist Church, 308 Clairemont Ave.
- 6 **Active Transportation Committee**, 4 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 6 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 7 **Better Together Advisory Board Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 9 **Jazz Nights at Scottish Rite**, 7 p.m., The Solarium, 321 W. Hill St.
- 13 **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 14 **Volunteer Appreciation Event**, 5 p.m., The Solarium, 319 W Hill St.
- 14 **Parks & Recreation Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 14 **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 16 **Jazz Nights at Scottish Rite**, 7 p.m., Solarium, 321 W. Hill St.
- 18 **Earth Day and Community Day Festival**, 11 a.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr., page 19
- 20 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 21 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 23 **Jazz Nights at Scottish Rite**, 7 p.m., The Solarium, 321 W. Hill St.



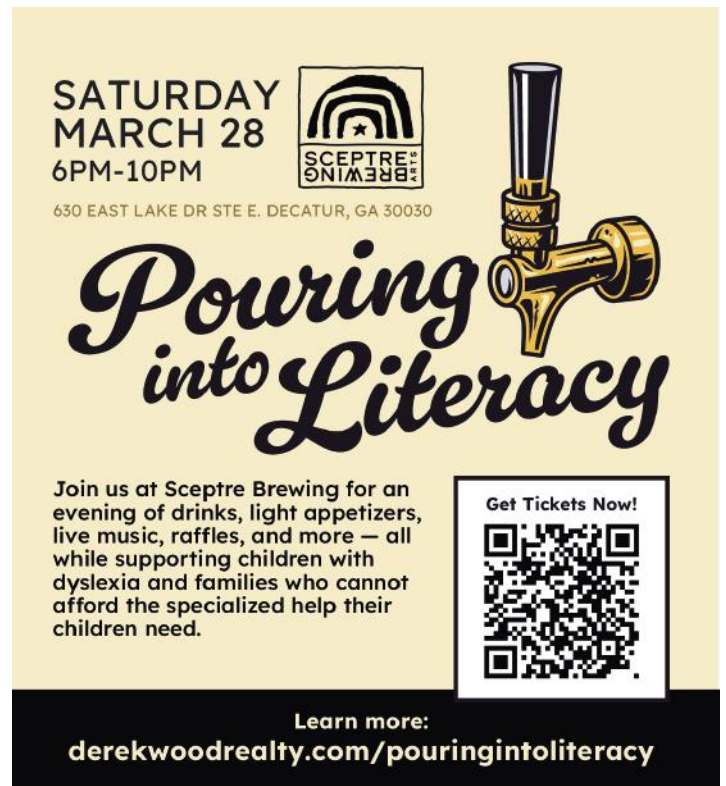
Beech Hollow
wildflower farm

Native Plants!
Thur - Sun 10 - 4
March 12 - June 28
389 North Clarendon Ave.
Scottdale, GA 30079


*Native Plants grown with organic practices
No Neonicotinoids
Safe for wildlife*




www.beechhollowfarms.com



**SATURDAY
MARCH 28
6PM-10PM**


 **SCEPTRE BREWING**

630 EAST LAKE DR STE E. DECATUR, GA 30050

Pouring into Literacy

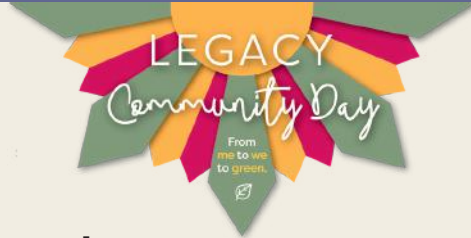
Join us at Sceptre Brewing for an evening of drinks, light appetizers, live music, raffles, and more — all while supporting children with dyslexia and families who cannot afford the specialized help their children need.

Get Tickets Now!



Learn more:
derekwoodrealty.com/pouringintoliteracy

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| SPONSORS | Keller Knapp Realty | Williams Teusink Real Estate and Business Attorneys |
| Lockman Homebuilding Co. | Taquera del Sol | Shelter Home Mortgage Mark Vann Team |



Community Day at Legacy Park to feature the Decatur Earth Day Festival

Save the date for Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. when Legacy Decatur, the nonprofit stewards of Legacy Park, presents Community Day, an afternoon of environmental education and social connection.

The event will include the Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board's annual Earth Day Festival, featuring a variety of participants focused on ways to reduce environmental impacts at home and throughout the community.

Visitors can learn, share information, connect with green organizations and community builders, and discover ways to get involved.

Community Day will also include food, along with the Spring Plant Sale and Open House hosted by Trellis Horticulture Therapy Alliance. Attendees can shop plants, learn about therapeutic horticulture, and explore accessible gardening.

Visit decaturlegacypark.com/community-day to learn more.



March 7, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. • Legacy Park, 500 S Columbia Dr.

The inaugural Community Forestry Day in Decatur is March 7 at Legacy Park. Stop by for a family-friendly educational event and a tree giveaway! Contact kristy@decaturcommunityhabitat.org with questions.



AGNES SCOTT AND OAKHURST/DECATUR

**Year round swim lessons
Classes offered weekdays
and weekends**

**Multiple offerings from
morning to late
afternoons**

**Low student to
instructor ratio**

Contact:

cordarro@dynamoswimclub.com

dynamoswimschool.com



CHRIS AIKEN
404-735-6027
ChrisAikenATL@gmail.com

ALEX SMITH MEIER
404-788-6729
AlexSmithMeierATL@gmail.com

We want to earn trust by focusing on empowering our clients with expert research, communication and experience to make informed home & lifestyle decisions!

Live where you LOVE - we do!



ChrisandAlexATL.com

315 W Ponce De Leon Ave
Ste 100, Decatur GA

KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
404.564.5560
Real Estate Broker

Beacon Hill Middle School Installs New School Crest Designed by Sixth-Grader Duncan Welch

Beacon Hill Middle School unveiled a new school crest designed by sixth-grader Duncan Welch.

Welch's design highlights key aspects of the school's identity, including a musical note representing the performing arts program, a runner representing athletics, a heart reflecting the B.A.R.K. values (Best effort, Accountable, Respectful and Kind) and a globe recognizing the school's International Baccalaureate program and language learning. The crest also includes the motto "Be a Beacon," emphasizing the idea of being a source of light and hope. The design notes Beacon Hill's founding year of 2022 and incorporates the school's main colors.

School leaders and family members joined the community for the unveiling, including Principal Alexis Glenn and Deputy Superintendent Karen Newton-Scott.



Stay Connected with City Schools of Decatur

City Schools of Decatur is highly ranked among Georgia schools and at the heart of a supportive community. CSD invites you to be "All In" and subscribe to receive the latest news and information at tinyurl.com/cdschoolnewsletter, or scan the QR code.



Home Sweet Home

THE DAMMANN TEAM

BORN HERE. RAISED HERE. *Here for you!*

YOUR HOME IS YOUR SANCTUARY, YOU DESERVE TO **LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE!**

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE + INTEGRITY + 5 STAR CUSTOMER SERVICE = HAPPY CLIENTS!

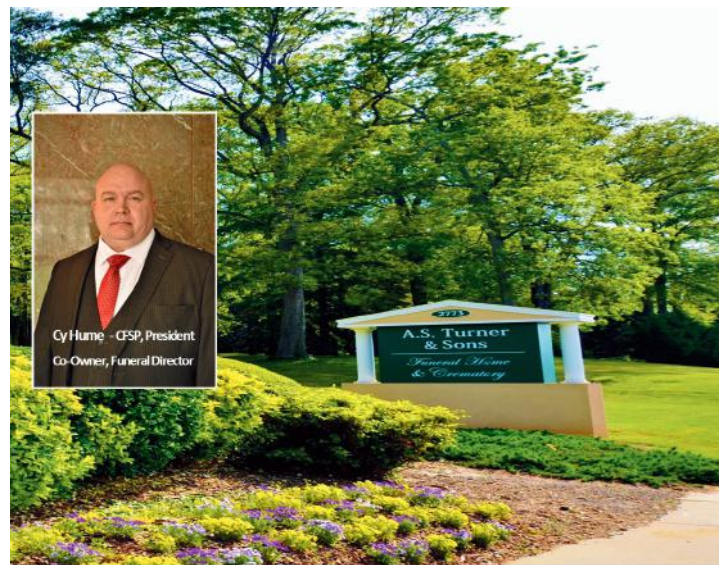
KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

SEAN & SHANNON

READY TO SELL OR BUY AND INVEST IN REAL ESTATE? WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

DOWNLOAD OUR GUIDE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SALE!

SCAN HERE



DEDICATION, INTEGRITY, HONOR AND RESPECT ARE THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THE FAMILIES WE SERVE. FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1903, WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A TRUSTED RESOURCE FOR GUIDING FAMILIES THROUGH ONE OF LIFE'S MOST CHALLENGING EVENTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN US THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

A.S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home & Crematory
2773 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033
404-292-1551
www.asturner.com



CONTACT US

CALL OR TEXT US! 404.377.9000 • THE DAMMANN TEAM.COM

Reverón Piano Trio Brings Award-Winning Latin American Artistry to Agnes Scott

March 2 to 4

Agnes Scott College
141 E College Ave.

The Kirk Fund at Agnes Scott College will host the Reverón Piano Trio as the 2026 International Artists in Residence, March 2 to 4. The residency will include a public performance at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, in Winter Theater on the Agnes Scott College campus. The performance is free, but seats must be reserved eventbrite at tinyurl.com/ReveronPianoTrio.

The Reverón Piano Trio performs chamber music and highlights Latin American repertoire. The ensemble's work also includes researching, cataloging, editing and recording Latin American compositions, commissioning new music and collaborating with composers. Learn more about the trio and watch performance videos at reverontrio.org.




Icing On The Cake
IOT-CAKE.com

678.664.4901
Atlanta, GA
IOfthecake@gmail.com

Baker
IG: iotccolumbus

Law Office of Milton Green
Guiding Communities Through Life's Transitions

Legal Services:
Personal Injury
Wills & Trusts
Bankruptcy

Scan the QR code to schedule a free consultation



120 N Candler St., Suite 14
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 922-2725

info@mgreen-law.com
miltongreenlaw.com



Experience is not Expensive...It's Priceless!




Bringing years of experience as your go-to neighbor and REALTOR®!

PAM HUGHES
REALTOR®

Cell: 404-626-3604
Office: 404-897-5558
Pam.Hughes@HarryNorman.com



Personalized Service and an Exceptional Experience 

WELLSPRING HEALTH & WELLNESS
Serving Decatur since 2007

"Helping Decatur women thrive through every stage of midlife naturally."

What we do

- Specializing in Midlife & Menopause Wellness
- Natural, hormone free solutions for Perimenopause & Menopause
- Chiropractic Care for joint & musculoskeletal health
- Functional Medicine for energy, stress & balance
- The 28-Day Hormone Reset Program



Dr. Sheila T. Payton
Board-Certified Chiropractic Physician |
Functional Medicine Practitioner
27 Years of Clinical Experience

235 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.
Suite 109, Decatur, GA
404.377.263

www.Wellspringdecatur.com
www.Smallchangeswithdrshelia.com

CSD Spelling Bee Hosts Nine Students for 23 Rounds

City Schools of Decatur (CSD) hosted a spelling bee for students in grades 3 to 8. Nine students from across the district competed in 23 rounds testing spelling, vocabulary and word meanings.



Sixth-grader Ryan Zhou (pictured center) won the competition after correctly spelling hydrophobia. Eighth-grader Aizah Zafrullah (left) placed second, and sixth-grader River Siegler (right) was named alternate.

Participants included Isla Andre, Kenji Bhatt, Charlie D'Avis, Kathryn D'Avis, Kaitlyn Harris and Inaya Kazi. Staff members who supported the event included spelling bee coordinator Elizabeth Walker, along with Nikki Brown, Lindsey Combs, Vivian Dawson, Ian Gillham, Ashley Long and Angelina Prophet.

City Schools of Decatur Swears In Board of Education Members

City Schools of Decatur held a swearing-in ceremony before the Jan. 13 board meeting for Dr. Carmen Sulton, Hans Utz and Lorraine Irier. DeKalb County Magistrate Judge Matthew J. McCoyd administered the oath of office. Sulton and Utz began their second terms on the board. Irier was sworn in to begin her service as a newly elected board member.



Lorraine Irier



Dr. Carmen Sulton



Hans Utz



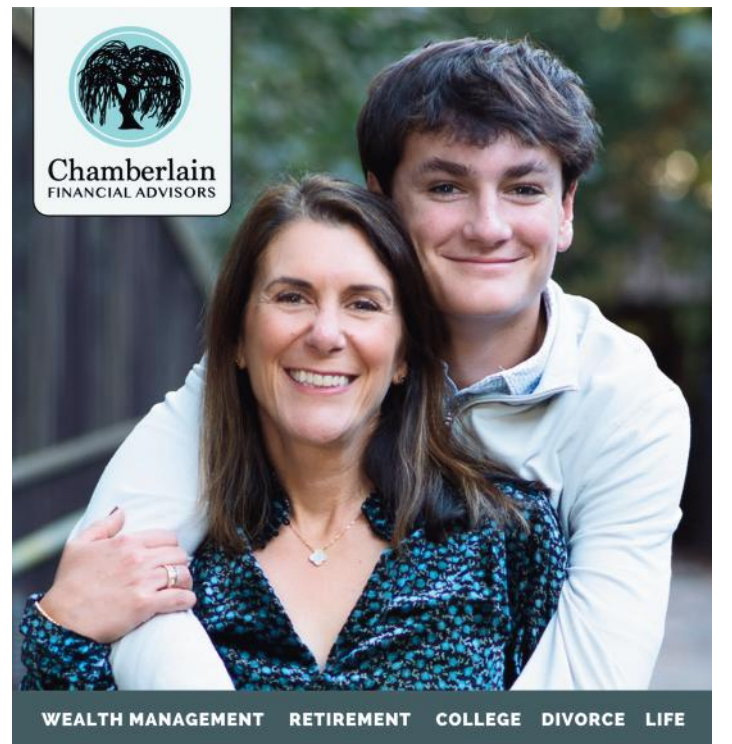
YOUR DREAM IS OUR DREAM, TOO.

[CHAD & CHRISTINA]
CARTER REAL ESTATE

#1 Team Keller Williams
Metro Atlanta
2018 - 2023

Top 3 Teams:
Atlanta Board of Realtors
2021, 2022, and 2023

C: 404.944.6577 | O: 404.564.5560
ccarter@chadchristinarealestate.com
101 W Ponce de Leon Ave Suite 200, Decatur, GA 30030
ChadChristinaRealEstate.com



Chamberlain
FINANCIAL ADVISORS

WEALTH MANAGEMENT RETIREMENT COLLEGE DIVORCE LIFE

Helping Decatur families reach their goals

ChamberlainFA.com 678-938-0372

Decatur High School Swim Teams Place First and Second at County Championships

The Decatur High School boys swim team placed first at the 2025-26 DeKalb County Championships. The girls team placed second. Swimmers who finished on the podium include Emily Deeb, Sidney Cape, Charlotte Hoppin, Tobias Hysten, Melanie Joyner, Isaiah Lewis, Albert Li, Calla Lockwood, Will Sauer and William Sollie. Senior Liza Tell earned a state meet qualifying time in the 100 breaststroke.

The teams are coached by head coach Molly Randall, along with Kimberly Anderson, Kim Buckley, Beth Lewis and Ani Painter.





DEREK WOOD
DEREKWOODREALTY.COM



KELLER KNAPP
REALTY

Your Partner in Real Estate

Over \$100 million in real estate
Top 5% Individual Volume
Top 5% Individual Units




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







Leasing **creative** and **inspiring** office space in prime **Decatur** locations





Designed for creators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and growing businesses. Warehouse properties, too.

For more information about available space, contact Kerry Chapman, kerry@eastdecaturstation.com | 404.377.3095

Estate Planning Wills & Trusts • Probate

As your family grows, or you prepare for retirement, it's important to have a plan.



246 Sycamore Street, Suite 150, Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 793-2510 • Brooks@Mackintosh.law
www.mackintosh.law

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 199
Decatur, GA 30031



Decatur
Focus

P.O. Box 220
Decatur, GA 30031-220

DATED MATERIAL MARCH 2026

Atlanta Fine Homes | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Giving You the Time and Attention You Deserve

LISA CRONIC, REALTOR®

Decatur resident since 1989



Lisa Cronic

c. 678.641.4325 o. 404.874.0300
lisacronic@atlantafinehomes.com
atlantafinehomes.com | sir.com

Atlanta Fine Homes, LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each franchise is independently owned and operated. Intown office: 1555 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

Go for the Gold



WORTHMORE
jewelers

where y'all means all

117 East Court Square . Decatur . 404/370-3979
500 L-3 Amsterdam Ave . Atlanta . 404/892-8294

www.worthmorejewelers.com



AMERICAN GEM
SOCIETY
Consumer Protection Since 1934®