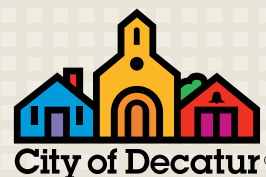


City of Decatur FOCUS



OCTOBER 2026
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

Calling All Ghouls and Goblins

2026 Decorate Decatur Halloween Contest

Get ready to transform Decatur into a spooktacular showcase of lights, frights, and eerie delights. Residents and businesses are invited to participate in the 2026 Decorate Decatur Halloween Contest and compete for the coveted Commissioner's Cauldron.

How to Participate

- **Decorate:** Transform a home, yard, or storefront into a hauntingly fun Halloween display.
- **Register:** Submit a decorated location for inclusion in the contest at decaturga.com/decorate.
- **Tour:** Gather friends, family, and neighbors for a self-guided tour of Decatur's most festive and frightful spots.
- **Win:** Enter for a chance to take home the Commissioner's Cauldron and earn the title of Best Halloween Decor in Decatur for 2026.

How to Register

Visit decaturga.com/decorate and complete the submission form, including an address, a brief description of the display (or a nomination of a neighbor's), and photos, by Oct. 19.

Residents are encouraged to help fill the city with creative, creepy, and fun displays for everyone to enjoy.

Visit decaturga.com/decorate or contact jacqueline.moore@decaturga.com for more information.

*A spooky display on Avery Street in Winnona Park.
Photo courtesy Pete Shannin.*



Better Together Advisory Board Presents 2026 Welcoming Business Awards

The Better Together Advisory Board (BTAB) presented the sixth annual Welcoming Business Awards to five Decatur businesses at the Decatur Business Association Holiday Party in December: Oakhurst Market, Oakview Coffee, Green Office Golf, Kemper Pelvic Physiotherapy, and Trellis Horticultural Therapy Alliance.

The Decatur City Commission established the BTAB in 2016 to guide and advise the Commission and the community on issues of equity, inclusion, and engagement. BTAB created the Welcoming Business Award to recognize and publicly reward Decatur businesses whose leadership creates a welcoming and inclusive environment, and to encourage other businesses to adopt inclusivity as a best practice.

The City will spotlight one 2025 recipient each month in the issues ahead. This month's honoree is Green Office Golf. Watch the monthly video features on Instagram at @cityofdecaturga.

Green Office Golf, a Black-owned, woman-owned, and veteran-owned business, opened in the City of Decatur earlier this year. The indoor golf club is designed to inspire personal and professional growth and shares its mission of inclusivity, joy, and connection through the game of golf.

Owner Corrine Milien (who goes by CM) is a lifelong golfer, leadership coach, and civic leader who is committed to creating a welcoming environment where everyone feels connected and inspired. Her outreach includes women, people of color, and youth who have been historically underrepresented in the golf community, and she welcomes participants of every experience level.

CM currently employs a Decatur High School student who has helped launch and operate the business. Through CM's mentorship, the student is gaining business skills and experience. CM's dog, Drake, accompanies her to the office and is well known and loved by Decatur youth and residents, serving as a welcoming presence alongside Green Office's creative signage inviting residents and visitors to pick up a club and be part of the community.

To learn more about the Welcoming Business Award, visit decaturga.com/wba.



**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.

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, 678-553-6540; email: decaturfocus@decaturga.com.



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Neighbors Team Up to Improve Glenlake Park Entrance

A group of neighbors with the Glenlake Neighborhood Garden Group recently completed a beautification project at the Glendale Avenue entrance to Glenlake Park, replacing invasive plants and overgrown vegetation with native landscaping, mulch, and stone features.

The project continued the group's ongoing beautification efforts, which included renovating the triangle near the Glenlake Estates entrance sign in 2024.

Working with Decatur Urban Naturalist Allison Ericson, volunteers secured funding through the City's Neighborhood Beautification Program to purchase native plants. Ericson also helped coordinate delivery of boulders for a planting border, while residents raised additional funds to support the project.

Over several work days, volunteers removed invasive plants, added topsoil, installed new plantings, and spread mulch. Glenlake resident Don Lang estimated the effort involved 35 to 40 volunteer hours, describing it as a genuine neighborhood effort, with neighbors frequently stopping to thank volunteers and compliment the transformation. Lang credited Ericson's support as instrumental to the project coming together.

Residents interested in neighborhood beautification projects can contact Ericson at allison.ericson@decaturga.com for information and assistance.



Marker honors Muscogee (Creek) people on Decatur Square

On Aug. 21, DeKalb County and the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights' Decolonize Decatur Committee unveiled a new historical marker on the Decatur Square. City and county officials, along with community members, gathered for the ceremony honoring the Muscogee (Creek) people.

The marker, written by retired Emory University professor and Muscogee citizen Craig Womack, recounts the forced removal of the Muscogee (Creek) people from their Georgia and Alabama homelands in the 1820s and 1830s and the 750-mile journey that followed to Oklahoma.

It also marks the 2021 removal of a Confederate-era cannon that stood on the square since 1906, an effort led in part by Decatur High School students.

A related permanent art installation honoring the Muscogee (Creek) people is planned for Agnes Scott College as part of Beacon Hill's "Art for the People" initiative.



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City of Decatur®

Cross-Pollination on Coventry

Leading by example is one of the most effective ways to influence others, a theme that has repeated throughout the Hometown Habitat program and is especially true on Coventry Road. It started with neighbor Lyn Menne leaving extra plants on her curb and has grown into neighbors freely sharing plants, knowledge, and resources. The result is a group of neighbors enthusiastic about purposeful, sustainable landscapes. Two of these families, the Qadri family and the Bernau family, are being recognized for their Hometown Habitats this fall.

Laura Qadri learned about the importance of native plants and creating ecosystems as a botanical illustrator, work that required botany courses and piqued her interest. It was not until her son, Jonathan, chose a swamp milkweed, the host plant for monarch butterflies, at a local nursery that the idea fully took hold: the monarchs came, and the plant was soon covered with caterpillars. That experience solidified for Laura that anyone can create habitat and make a difference, and her yard has since become an ongoing project. With a science

background, she treats her yard as a lab, constantly adding, moving, and editing plants and features as a learning experience. In her view, there are no failures, only experiments.

That approachable, experimental style is part of what led Ann Bernau to reach out to Laura for guidance when they faced erosion and an unsustainable lawn. A stormwater issue forced the family to start from a blank slate in part of the yard, which became an opportunity to build their own bit of habitat. A shady front yard also made maintaining a traditional lawn nearly impossible, so the family replaced it with plants suited to shade. With a new baby, a low-maintenance yard has been especially welcome. Ann recommends starting with small projects and lowering expectations, embracing the evolution of a yard rather than striving for perfection.

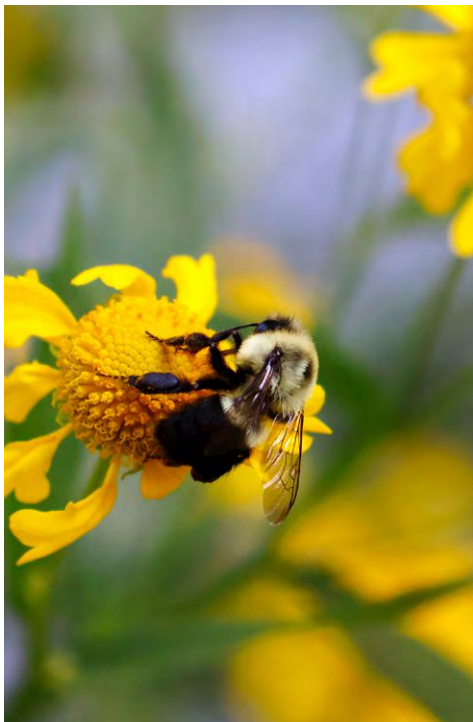
Congratulations to the Qadri and Bernau families for creating landscapes that are beneficial, inspiring, and beautiful.

Decatur Hometown Habitats is a program sponsored by the Decatur Environmental



Sustainability Board. Residents may nominate a Decatur resident for Decatur Hometown Habitats by scanning the QR code above. The committee is looking for yards that display at least one of the following qualities:

- Native plantings and invasive removal
- Stormwater solutions
- Recycled and reused materials
- Healthy tree canopy
- Eco-friendly maintenance and stabilizing infrastructure



The Bernau family



The Qadri family

Induction Cooking How Magnets Made Your Stove Cooler

Induction cooking is the kitchen upgrade everyone seems to be buzzing about. It boils water like it has somewhere to be, it will not singe your eyebrows, and it is basically powered by science-fair magic. Here is the scoop.

What Is It?

Forget flames and slow-heating coils. Induction cooktops use electromagnetic energy to heat a pan directly. A coil beneath the glass surface creates a magnetic field that gets cast iron or stainless steel practically vibrating with heat. The cooktop stays cool to the touch, while the pan goes from zero to sizzling almost instantly.

Why So Efficient?

Induction cooktops funnel about 85% to 90% of their energy straight into food, compared to 65% to 70% for standard electric coils and just 30% to 40% for gas, which loses most of its heat to the surrounding air.

The Benefits

- **Speed:** Water boils significantly faster than on gas or standard electric.
- **Precision:** Temperature adjustments are immediate, similar to gas but often more accurate.
- **Safety:** The cooktop surface does not stay hot to the touch, reducing burn risk.
- **Cleaner air:** No combustion means no indoor emissions of nitrogen dioxide or other pollutants associated with gas cooking.

- **Easy cleanup:** A cool, smooth glass surface means spills do not bake on.

Induction vs. Gas

Giving up that dramatic blue flame feels like a big ask, but induction responds just as fast without pumping combustion byproducts into kitchen air. The one catch: cookware needs to be magnetic. Cast iron and most stainless steel qualify; the fridge-magnet test can confirm it.

Incentives for Decatur Residents

Consult each incentive program directly for requirements, and consider signing up for a free Home Energy Navigator appointment.

- **City of Decatur Community Energy Rebate Program:** Point-of-sale rebates through a participating contractor. For residents who also qualify for state funding, the City coordinates so total savings never exceed the project cost. The maximum rebate for an electric stove is 50% of the final project cost, capped at \$500.
- **Georgia Power Home Energy Improvement Program (HEIP):** A rebate on a new cooktop, no installer required. Pairing it with other easy swaps, like a smart thermostat, can add extra savings.
- **GEFA's Georgia Home Energy Rebates:** Up to \$840 toward the purchase of an electric stove, range, or oven. Recent changes restrict rebate amounts depending on whether a household currently cooks with

gas or electric, so it is worth checking the fine print for individual situations.

Residents unsure what applies to them can use Electrify Decatur's rebate calculator to see how the programs stack up, and schedule a free Home Energy Navigator session.

Electrify Decatur

This article comes courtesy of Electrify Decatur, the City of Decatur's push toward cleaner, smarter homes: induction cooktops, heat pumps, and everything in between. The program is here to help Decatur households save money, boost comfort, and cut emissions, one appliance at a time.

Induction Cooking Webinar

Wednesday, Oct. 21, noon

Join the Home Efficiency Series' Induction Cooking webinar, where local experts will cover cost, installation, and picking the perfect induction stove or cooktop. Register and bring questions (and a magnet).

Visit letsgoelectric.com/electrify-decatur to register.

**Scan the
QR code
to register**



Stormwater Management Series Know Your Flow

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6:30-8 p.m.

Legacy Park

**Administration Building Auditorium
500 S. Columbia Dr.**

Join Eric Byrne, senior civil engineer for the City of Decatur, for an interactive workshop on addressing stormwater runoff on residential properties. The presentation will cover the City's current infrastructure along with a case study on how homeowners can manage stormwater on their property.

This is the second of four sessions in the "Know Your Flow" stormwater management workshop series, hosted by the City of Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board and Climate Resilience Task Force. The series combines quarterly hands-on workshops with speaker presentations.

Those interested in getting involved with the Decatur Climate Resilience Plan Task Force may email resilience@agnesscott.edu. The task force hosts bimonthly meetings and includes subcommittees focused on flooding and extreme heat.



Nominate Your 2026 Decatur Hometown Hero

Nominate a friend, neighbor, coworker, or community member who volunteers, often behind the scenes, to make Decatur a better place to live, work, and play.

Decatur began recognizing Hometown Heroes at the close of the Hometown to the World Festival during the 1996 Summer Olympics. The award is now an annual tradition honoring a new group of Hometown Heroes each year. Nominations are reviewed by an independent panel of professionals who work with volunteers and who do not know the nominees.

Nominations are accepted through Oct. 19. Visit decaturga.com/hometown-heroes for nomination details.

Submit completed nomination details along with a short essay describing the nominee and their contributions to the Decatur community to sherry.jackman@decaturga.com, or by mail to Decatur Hometown Heroes, Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

Nominations may also be dropped off at the Decatur Visitors Center. For more information, call Sherry Jackman at 678-615-0915 or email sherry.jackman@decaturga.com.

Decatur Land Trust Seeks New Board Members

The Board of Directors of the Decatur Land Trust (DLT) is accepting applications for new board members who will assist in implementing its mission through community outreach, funding

opportunities, and establishing more affordable home ownership through the DLT. The DLT is a nonprofit entity whose mission is to contribute to the building and preservation of owner-occupied housing for moderate-income residents within the City of Decatur. The DLT is committed to establishing programs that minimize displacement of existing residents and preserve the quality and affordability of housing for future generations.

Visit decaturlandtrust.org/get-involved to complete and submit an application online. Questions may be directed to info@decaturlandtrust.org.



Lifelong Decatur:

Voter Resources for Seniors and Disabled Persons

Being an informed voter takes effort. These resources make it easier.

Absentee by Mail

Residents 65 or older, or residents with a disability, may choose to receive an absentee ballot for every election in the year by checking the opt-in box in line 12 of the Absentee Ballot application. This option is not available for special elections. Visit DeKalbVotes.com and click "How to Vote" for details.

Accessibility Apps for Voters

Voters may use a personal screen-reading app to verify ballot text but must delete any photos taken of the ballot. Microsoft and Google offer free apps in this category, including Google Lookout and Seeing AI.

Ballot and Candidate Information for the November 2026 Election

- mvp.sos.ga.gov (MyVoterPage): Georgia elections only.
- Ballotpedia.org: search Georgia elections, 2026.
- Vote411.org: search Georgia elections, 2026.

These websites offer nonpartisan information.

DeKalb County

- DeKalb County Voter Registration and Elections, 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300.
- DeKalbVotes.com: election guidelines, links, and frequently asked questions.
- DeKalb County Registrar: voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov.
- Phone: 404-298-4020. Fax: 404-298-4038.

Georgia.gov

This official digital portal for Georgia government services and information lists services from A to Z. For absentee voting information, visit georgia.gov/vote-absentee-ballot, which includes a direct link to the State Guide for Absentee Voting.

Free Rides to the Polls

Ride services are typically organized as nonpartisan community outreach or through volunteer groups associated with a political party or religious organization. Ride services are listed online closer to early voting and general election dates.

RideToThePoll.com is a nonpartisan transportation service operated by the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, based in Atlanta. Call 1-877-524-8683.

Voter Hotlines

These services help resolve voting issues, report irregularities, and navigate the process. The ACLU of Georgia recommends the Election Protection Hotline at 866ourvote.org, which operates in multiple languages. Call 866-687-8683.

Voter ID

Georgia law requires valid photo identification when voting, in person or absentee. Visit mvp.sos.ga.gov and click "Georgia Voter ID" to learn which forms of ID are acceptable for in-person and absentee voting.

Learn more about the Lifelong Community Advisory Board at decaturga.com/bc-lcab. LCAB promotes the goals of the Decatur Age-Friendly Community Action Plan. LCAB meetings are open to the public and take place on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Lifelong Decatur

Voting Tips for Decaturites

What is on the November ballot? Can voters receive accessibility assistance at the polls? Which voter websites should residents use? Below are answers to these and other voting questions.

2026 Voting Dates

- Early/Advance Voting: Oct. 13-30.
- Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Polling Sites and Voter Registration

- Confirm early/advance voting and Election Day sites specific to a residential address at mvp.sos.ga.gov (MyVoterPage).
- Check voter registration status at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

Is There Enough Time to Vote Absentee in This Election?

The last day in Georgia to apply to vote absentee by mail is Oct. 23. Applicants are encouraged to apply well before that date, since completing the absentee-by-mail process takes time.

What Are the Steps?

- DeKalbVotes.com: Click the Frequently Asked Questions link and scroll to Absentee Voting for links to apply online. Additional resources are available under the How to Vote link.

- Georgia.gov: the official digital portal for Georgia government services and information. For complete information on absentee voting, visit georgia.gov/vote-absentee-ballot.

What Is on the November Ballot for Decatur and DeKalb Residents?

- Visit mvp.sos.ga.gov to read the November general election ballot.
- The ballot includes the District 3 Public Service Commission (PSC) race. The PSC regulates Georgia's utility companies and helps set energy prices for Georgia Power customers.
- Three statewide ballot measures amend the Georgia Constitution, including one that would provide dedicated state funding for the 9-1-1 response system.

Looking for Nonpartisan Information on Candidates and Ballot Questions?

- Ballotpedia.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan website providing objective voter information and political data for political races across America.
- Vote411.org is sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Need Assistance at the Polls?

Voters with physical disabilities or those 75

and older do not need to wait in line. A poll worker can provide assistance upon request.

- **Mobility issues:** A poll worker can escort a voter to a station of their choosing and provide a chair. Voters with more extensive mobility issues may bring a friend or relative to assist. Plan ahead by checking the location for handicap parking and staff available to help navigate entrances and exits.
- **Visual issues:** Poll workers can increase the font size on the screen. Every poll location has one station available for voters with decreased visual acuity, equipped with headphones so the ballot can be read aloud.
- **More support:** Before voting, a poll worker can walk a voter through the process. A magnifying glass is available for clearer reading of the printed ballot. Voters may use a personal screen-reading app to verify ballot text but must delete any photos taken of the ballot.

Need Complete Information on Voting Assistance for People With Disabilities?

Visit sos.ga.gov and search "Accessibility and Voting."

Decatur Youth Council Selected for 2026-2027

The City of Decatur congratulates the 16 high school students chosen to serve on the 2026-2027 Decatur Youth Council (DYC). Sponsored by the City, the council nurtures community-based leadership among high school students residing within city limits. Members gain firsthand experience with local government while sharing the perspectives and aspirations of Decatur's youth with City leaders.

Returning students: Malachi Bataille, Allie Hogan, Izayn Umlani, Sonoma Oster, Tatum Herman

New students: Naveen Sabnani, Beatrice Prinkey, Norah Bell, Maxwell Davis, Greer Madsen, Samuel Gyuricza, Grayson Martini, Keeton Humphries, Devon Chandra, Saraiya Das, Katrina Kolesnikova.

Learn more about the Decatur Youth Council, at decaturga.com/bc-dyc.



Senior Events

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events for seniors!

Ready for the Unexpected: Emergency Planning for Older Adults

October 21, 2 p.m. • Free

Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

Emergencies can be especially challenging for older adults. Learn practical ways to prepare for storms, power outages, extreme heat, and other unexpected events while protecting safety, health, medications, and peace of mind. RSVP to kahlissa.murrah@decaturga.com.

Halloween Party

October 14 • 11 a.m. • \$5 at the door

Join us for lunch at our annual Halloween party. Come as you are or wear your favorite costume! RSVP to patrick.white@decaturga.com.

Oktoberfest

October 16 • \$25 • Senior Trip

Travel to Germany without leaving Georgia with a visit to Helen! Stroll through downtown Helen, which features Bavarian-style buildings filled with shops and restaurants while also admiring the beauty of Anna Ruby Falls. Shuttle bus ride included in price, lunch on your own before returning. Register on CommunityPass.



Youth Events

Register on CommunityPass.

International Walk & Roll to School Day

October 7

As part of the Safe Routes to School initiative, Decatur schools will participate in this annual event. Parents, school staff, and community members join students to walk or bike to school, promoting physical activity and highlighting the benefits of reduced traffic and improved air quality. Let's also celebrate our dedicated Crossing Guards during Crossing Guard Appreciation Week, November 8-14. If you'd like to volunteer or become a parent champion, please contact Gael Doyle at gael.doyle@decaturga.com



Register

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

Parents' Night Out: Halloween Edition

**October 23 • 5:30-9 p.m. • \$35 R/\$45 NR;
\$20 Siblings • Ages 5-12 • Oakhurst Rec Center,
450 East Lake Dr.**

Parents, enjoy a spooky night out while the kids dive into a frightfully fun evening of Halloween excitement! From creepy crafts and thrilling games to festive activities and nonstop fun, there's something for every little ghoul and goblin to enjoy. Costumes are highly encouraged! Dinner and snacks are included, along with discounts for siblings.

Nature Hike: Nighttime Nature

**October 28 • 4-5:15 p.m.
Free • Grades K-5
Legacy Park
500 S. Columbia Dr.**

Discover the nighttime world and learn about the unique adaptations of nocturnal animals. We'll examine skulls and feathers and explore the woods in search of nests and other signs of wildlife.



Halloween Bash

**October 30 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
\$25 R/\$35 NR • Grades 3-5
Ebster Rec Center
105 Electric Ave.**

Come dressed and ready for a spooky night of fun! Kids can enjoy themed games, dancing, karaoke, music, food, treats, and more while celebrating Halloween with friends in a fun, welcoming environment.



SIDEWALK SCOOP

Did you know? A 30-minute walk can burn calories while boosting your mood and energy and supporting your heart and immune health. Short on time? Two 15-minute walks can add up, too!

Visit beactivedecatur.com to learn more.

Brought to you by the Active Transportation Committee.

Community Events

October is the perfect time to get moving! Biketober and Walktober are month-long challenges that encourage everyone to ride, walk, and roll more often—for fun, fitness, and sustainability. Whether you're exploring a new trail, commuting to work, or joining a group activity, it's all about making active transportation a part of your daily routine.

Check out the events listed below and follow us on social media @decaturparksandrec for more ways to get involved this October!

Beacon Hill History Ride

Celebrate the rich Black history of Decatur with this special family-friendly community bike ride. Begin the afternoon by exploring the exhibits in the Ebster Recreation Center lobby, which highlight the history of Decatur's Beacon Hill community. Then, join us for a one-hour ride through Decatur for Biketober.

Meet: October 24, 12:30 p.m. at Ebster Recreation Center (105 Electric Ave.)

Ride begins: 1 p.m.

Walk & Talk Decatur

October 3 • 1 p.m. • Free • Clarity Fitness, 1 West Court Square

Join us for an uplifting afternoon of walking and talking in the beautiful city of Decatur! This in-person event is perfect for those looking to improve their fitness while connecting with like-minded individuals.

Hometown Habitat Garden Tour of Homes

**October 4 • 2 p.m. • Free
Glenlake Park, 1121 Church St.**

Join the Environmental Sustainability Board for the first Hometown Habitat Garden Tour of Homes, featuring front yard gardens recognized through Decatur's Hometown Habitat program. Participants may choose to explore with a bike tour led by Decatur Parks & Recreation. The tour will take place from 2-5 p.m., beginning at 2 p.m. at Glenlake Park. To preregister, email gael.doyle@decaturga.com.

Bikes & Brews

**October 16 • 6:30 p.m. • Free
Guild+Journeyman, 115 Clairemont Ave.**

Join us for our monthly Bikes & Brews ride on the third Friday of each month! Get ready to pedal through the city and experience the thrill of exploring Decatur on two wheels.

This is your chance to connect with fellow riders, embrace the joy of cycling, and discover new corners of our beautiful city. This is a ~6 mile, adult ride. Make sure to bring your helmet for a safe and enjoyable ride.



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.

DBA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join the Decatur Business Association for its monthly membership meeting. The gathering offers

a chance to hear announcements, connect with fellow business owners, and share ideas. Meetings are open to the public. More details are available at decaturbusinessassociation.com.



DBA Member Highlight

Meet **Dr. Sarah Juul**, a board-certified adult psychiatrist who graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed a psychiatry residency at Emory University. She has an established private practice in Decatur serving adults throughout the life span, with a specialty in women's mental health. As a psychiatrist, she offers tailored medication management, and her many years of training in depth-oriented psychotherapy allow her to work with patients at the root of their struggles with compassionate, knowledgeable care.



New Season for Decatur Civic Chorus

The Decatur Civic Chorus has started a new season and is hard at work preparing music for its holiday concert on Dec. 5. There is still time to join; visit the chorus's website for details and follow on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on events.

Visit decaturcivicchorus.org for more information.



Meaningful Conversations in Decatur

"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."

Guild+Journeyman hosts a community event every Saturday from 2-4 p.m. called "Meaningful Conversations in Decatur." This free event, organized by the Decatur Bahá'í community, is meant to spark meaningful dialogue. Inspired by writings from the Bahá'í Faith, the event is open to everyone and welcomes every perspective.

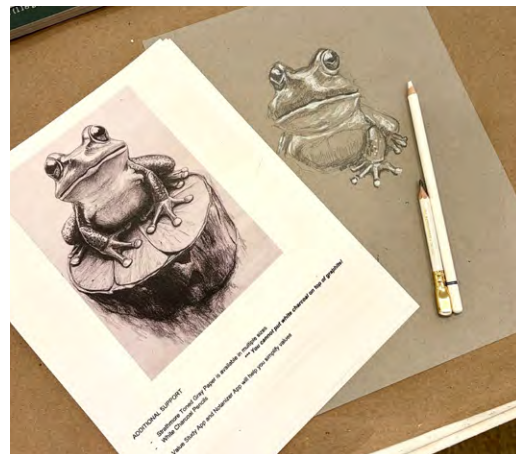
Go to facebook.com/meaningfulconversationsdecatur to learn more about upcoming topics.



Fall Session Art Courses

New intergenerational art courses from the Decatur Arts Alliance are open for registration this fall, including two new class offerings alongside returning favorites: Drawing, Acrylics, Quilting, Printmaking, and Collage. Small class sizes allow for focused instruction, and all skill levels are welcome. Ages 15 and older.

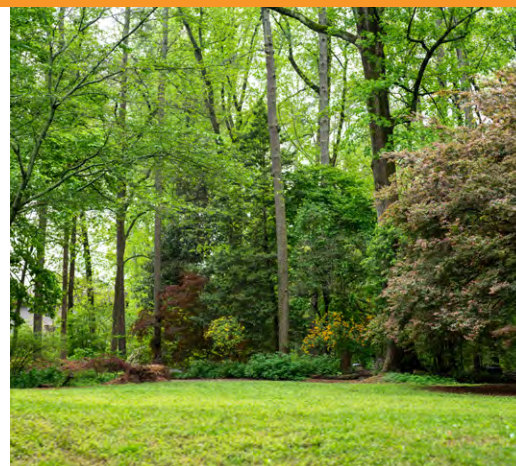
Visit decaturartsalliance.org/art-classes for more information.



Woodlands Garden Thanks You

Woodlands Garden thrives with the help of its dedicated community. Thank you to the following business sponsors for supporting the Fall Plant Sale: Humble Harvest Sustainable Landscapes, Piedmont Azalea level; Arboguard Tree Specialists, Gill Tree Care, and Tai Chi 4 Life Co-op, Oakleaf Hydrangea level; and NealScape Landscape Design, Glenncrest at Decatur, and Lawrence Sharp Realtors, American Beautyberry level. All proceeds from the sale support the preservation and maintenance of Woodlands Garden.

The 14th annual Fairies in the Garden runs Oct. 10-24. Visitors are invited to explore the garden and enjoy this magical experience. Fairies in the Garden would not be possible without these business sponsors: A.S. Turner & Sons, White Oak level; HLM Financial Group, Bigleaf Magnolia level; and Glide Pizza, Jessica Lily Watercolor, Glenncrest at Decatur, and Smarties Academy, Flowering Dogwood level.



Placita Latina v.6: Puentes (Bridges)

Sept. 18-Oct. 23

**Decatur Visitors Center,
113 Clairemont Ave.**

Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Closing Reception: Friday, Oct. 23,
6-9 p.m.**

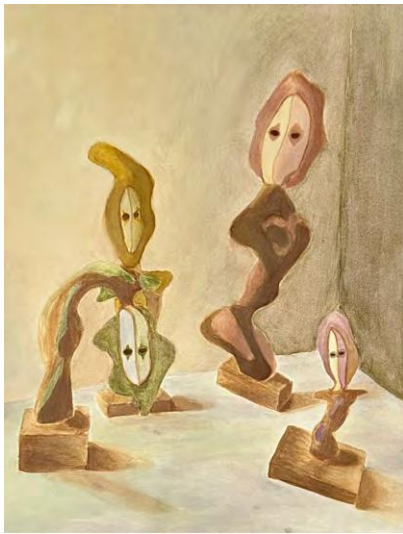
Placita Latina v.6: Puentes (Bridges) celebrates the many ways Latin artists build understanding, preserve cultural heritage,

and create new pathways for dialogue. Through painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and other forms of creative expression, the exhibition explores how art serves as a bridge between past and future, tradition and innovation, homeland and new home, and individual stories and collective identity.

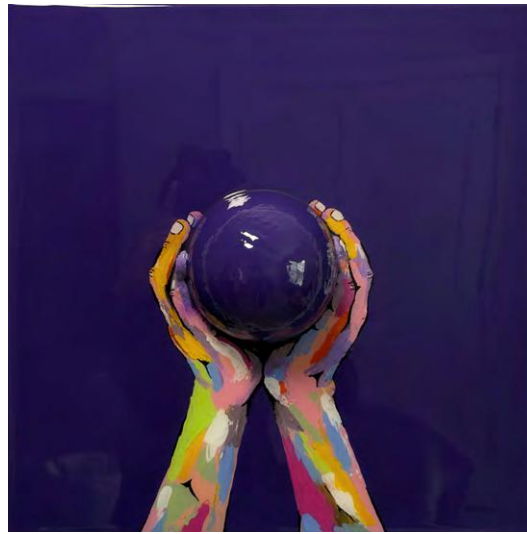
At a time when communities can feel

divided, art reminds viewers of shared humanity. Puentes invites artists to reflect on connection, belonging, resilience, and cultural exchange, highlighting the role of creativity in bringing people together.

Visit decatursartsalliance.org/placita-latina for more information.



"Arlequines" by Gabriela Landaverde,



"Holding" by Raúl Martínez



"basta-del-borde" by Michelle Kimmons

The Book As Art v.14: Ghosted

Sept. 11-Oct. 24

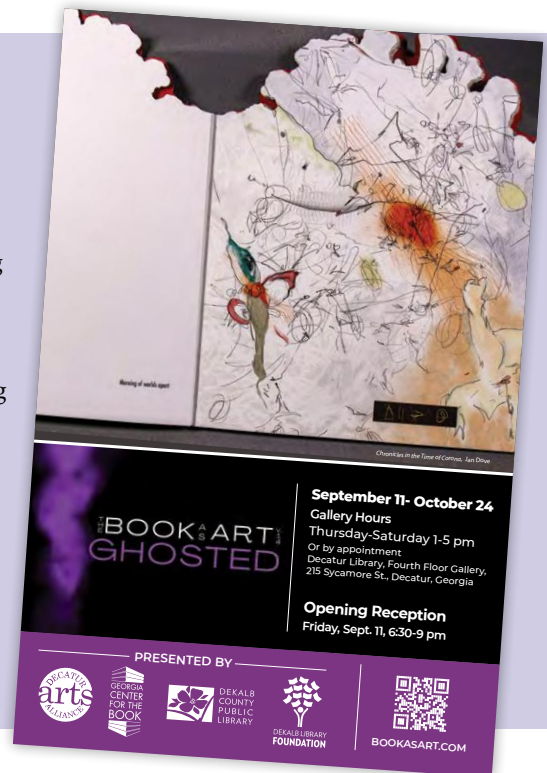
Thurs.-Sat., 1-5 p.m.

Fourth Floor Gallery, Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore St.

In stories and folktales, ghosts are harbingers, haints, and often horror-inducing specters tied to places and sometimes people. In modern times, being "ghosted" refers to a sudden disappearance from social media or digital connections. Unlike the phantoms of old, who return because they refuse to break their connection to the physical world, people now retreat from contact, disappearing instantly or fading away.

The Book As Art: Ghosted is the 14th edition of an art show celebrating books, objects that, in an increasingly digital world, stubbornly survive. Works in the exhibition interpret the concept of the book and invite viewers to look beyond the printed page to where ideas, words, and symbols are transformed. Artists are challenged to embrace the dualities and paradoxes of communication, celebrating the macabre and the mysterious, the familiar and the fantastic, and the clear and the cryptic.

Visit decatursartsalliance.org/book-as-art for more information.



Decatur Wine Festival Tickets on Sale

Discounted early bird tickets are on sale now for the 24th annual Decatur Wine Festival on the newly renovated Decatur Square. The festival features 70 pouring tables, more than 350 wines from around the world, a live DJ on the new stage, and plenty of room for dancing.

Tickets are available exclusively at [Freshtix.com](https://freshtix.com). The festival is presented in partnership with Decatur Package Store.

Visit freshtix.com/events/decatur-wine-festival-11-08-2026-2 for tickets.



Free Climate Film Festival

Friday, Oct. 23, 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center,
3181 Rainbow Drive

Commissioner Ted Terry and Resilient DeKalb will host a two-day Free Climate Film Festival featuring the films Groundswell and The Tree Economy, alongside a series of Georgia-made short films addressing environmental justice and climate change.

The event will include panels, community partners, interactive art elements, and light refreshments. Admission is free and open to the public; RSVPs are requested.

Visit commissionertedterry.com/climate-film-festival to RSVP.



Inaugural Decatur Baby Village

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
308 Clairemont Ave.

Pregnancy and the early years of parenting can feel like figuring it all out alone. The Decatur Baby Village is designed to help build a support network, connecting families with local doulas, lactation consultants, pelvic floor physical therapists, and other perinatal specialists, all in one place.

The event is free and open to all; no registration is required.

Visit musictogetherofdecatur.com/decatur-baby-village.html to learn more.



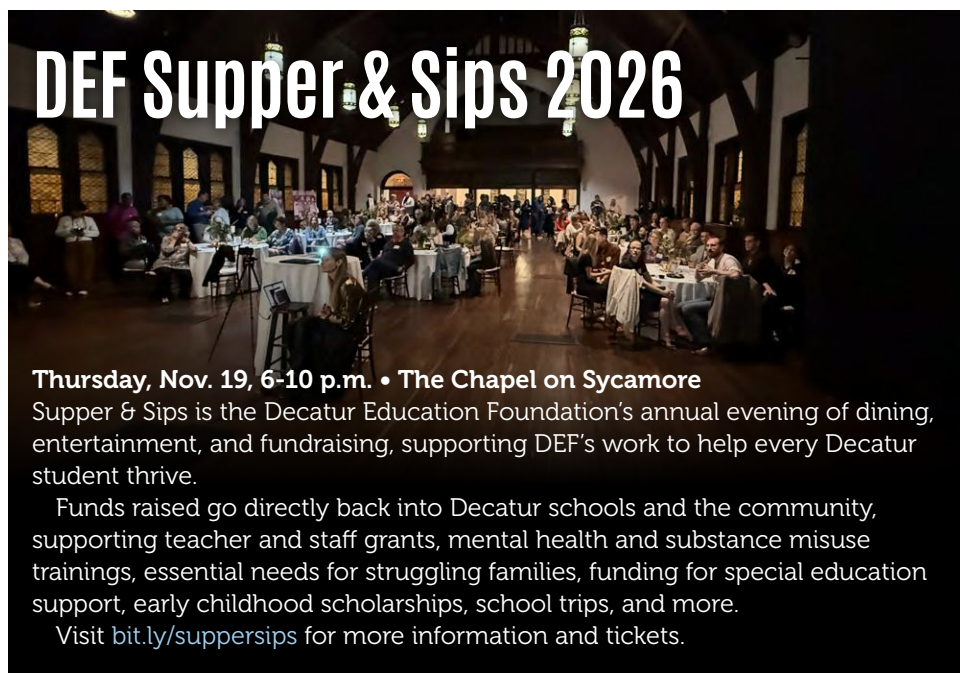
DEF Supper & Sips 2026

Thursday, Nov. 19, 6-10 p.m. • The Chapel on Sycamore

Supper & Sips is the Decatur Education Foundation's annual evening of dining, entertainment, and fundraising, supporting DEF's work to help every Decatur student thrive.

Funds raised go directly back into Decatur schools and the community, supporting teacher and staff grants, mental health and substance misuse trainings, essential needs for struggling families, funding for special education support, early childhood scholarships, school trips, and more.

Visit bit.ly/suppersips for more information and tickets.



EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 2 Safe Routes to School Committee**, 9 a.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.
- 2 Decatur Book Festival Keynote Conversation**, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave.
- 3 Decatur Book Festival**, 10 a.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square
- 5 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 6 Better Together Advisory Board Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 10 Oakhurst Porchfest**, 12 p.m., Oakhurst Neighborhood / Harmony Park, Oakview Rd.
- 12 Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 13 Parks & Rec Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 13 Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 17 Decatur BBQ & Bands**, 12 p.m., Harmony Park, Oakview Rd.
- 19 City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 20 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 23 Decatur Amplified**, 7 p.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square
- 24 Decatur Square: Showing Our Colors**, 10 a.m., Decatur Square, 101 E. Court Square
- 24 Madison Avenue Derby**, 11 a.m., Madison Ave.
- 25 Decatur Diwali**, 12 p.m., Ebster Rec Center, 105 Electric Ave.
- 25 Haints & Saints – Day of the Dead Halloween Parade**, 6 p.m., Decatur Cemetery, 299 Bell St.

- 26 Lifelong Community Advisory Board**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 26 Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting**, 4 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 30 Scream on the Square**, 7 p.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square

NOVEMBER

- 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, 500 S. Columbia Dr.
- 9 Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 10 Parks & Rec Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 10 Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.
- 13 Screen on the Square**, 7 p.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square
- 14 Semi-Annual Electronic Recycling Event**, 9 a.m., ChaRM DeKalb, 1225 Columbia Dr.
- 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.
- 23 Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting**, 4 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.
- 23 Lifelong Community Advisory Board**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

Please check decaturga.com/calendar for any meeting changes or cancelations and visitdecaturga.com/events for more event information.

Come Race, Cheer, and Celebrate at the Madison Avenue Derby

Saturday, Oct. 24 • Madison Avenue, Oakhurst

The Madison Avenue Derby returns to Oakhurst, bringing one of Decatur's most colorful community traditions back to Madison Avenue. Racers of all ages will compete in creative homemade soapbox cars for speed, creativity, and design awards.

The 2026 Derby will feature an optional 1980s-themed design category, with retro-inspired cars, classic references, neon flair, and throwback fun encouraged.

Proceeds support the Decatur Education Foundation's Lighten the Load program, which helps provide food, clothing, emergency assistance, and other essential resources to City Schools of Decatur students and families in need.

Volunteers are needed for setup, course support, and other roles throughout the event. Visit madavederby.org for event details and volunteer opportunities.



Scream on the Square

Friday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

Decatur Square, 101 E. Court Square

Decatur will host a family-friendly Halloween evening downtown, with residents encouraged to dress in costume for trick-or-treating and community engagement activities with City of Decatur departments. The evening will conclude with an outdoor showing of Casper. Attendees should bring chairs and blankets and grab treats for a Halloween classic under the stars.

Decatur Amplified

Friday, Oct. 23 • Decatur Square, 101 E. Court Square

Amplify My Community and the City of Decatur are teaming up for Decatur Amplified, a new free concert series bringing local music to the new downtown Decatur stage on the fourth Friday of each month. Boxcar Radio will perform Oct. 23. Families are encouraged to bring dinner or drinks downtown and gather at the new stage for an evening of music and community.



Decatur First Drama Presents Matilda the Musical

Decatur First Drama invites the community to experience the magic of Matilda the Musical, live on stage. Based on the beloved story by Roald Dahl, Matilda tells the story of an extraordinary young girl with a brilliant mind, a vivid imagination, and the courage to stand up for what is right. Packed with humor, heart, unforgettable music, and larger-than-life characters, the high-energy production celebrates courage, kindness, and the idea that even the smallest person can make a big difference.

Performances will be held Oct. 15, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m., with an additional matinee on Oct. 17 at 2 p.m., at Decatur First United Methodist Church, 300 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Tickets are free and open to the public. Seating is first come, first served.

Visit decaturfirst.org/drama for more information.



Pick-A-Sweet at Agnes Scott College

Friday, Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m.

Alston Campus Center, Agnes Scott College, 141 E. College Ave.

The Decatur community is invited to join Agnes Scott students for an all-ages All Hallows' celebration featuring indoor trick-or-treating, inflatables, games, and costume contests. Pick-A-Sweet brings the Agnes Scott and Decatur communities together for classic Halloween fun, and families, friends, and costumed guests of all kinds are welcome. The event is free and open to the public.

Free event parking is available in the S. McDonough parking deck and at Charis Books & More, 184 S. Candler St. Additional limited on-campus parking is available in marked lots.

Contact cles@agnesscott.edu for more information, or go to tinyurl.com/pickasweet to register.



DEKALB HISTORY CENTER EVENTS

DeKalb History Center • 101 East Court Square

Lunch and Learn

Cemeteries of Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area

Wednesday, Oct. 14, noon • Free

Cultural landscape specialist and story coach Andrew Kohr and author and journalist Jeff Dingler will discuss historic cemeteries in the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and volunteer opportunities to help maintain these irreplaceable burial places. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

Visit dekalbhistory.org/programs/lunch-and-learn-cemeteries-of-arabia-mountain-national-heritage-area for more information.



Workshop

Discovering and Preserving Family History

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-noon

Author Murray Browne and Tamika Strong will lead a four-part workshop on discovering and preserving family history.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Visit dekalbhistory.org/programs/workshop-discovering-preserving-family-history.

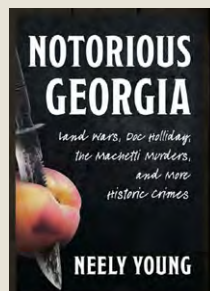


Hops at the History Center Notorious Georgia with Neely Young

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Veteran journalist Neely Young investigates the Peach State's most chilling stories of crime, corruption, racial violence, and injustice in this work of Georgia true crime history. Blending narrative journalism with historical research, the book reveals a hidden side of Georgia history, where power, prejudice, and profit have often collided with law and conscience.

Visit dekalbhistory.org/programs/hops-notorious-georgia-with-neely-young for more information.



Decatur Square Showing Our Colors

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Decatur Square, 101 East Court Square

A new fall festival celebrating local businesses, community, and everything that makes Decatur Square special is coming to the Square. Each retail space will showcase its own personality outside its storefront, with some spaces offering artist demonstrations, pop-ups, festival setups, refreshments, and music.

Participating retailers are each donating an item valued at approximately \$25 or more; the donations will be combined into a Decatur Square prize basket to be given away as part of the event.

Participating stores include Wild Oats & Billy Goats, Little Shop of Stories, Odd Bird, Squash Blossom, Homegrown, Olive Branch and Wellness, and Rooftop Trails, with more to be announced.



Used Book Sale at Decatur Library

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Decatur Library, ground floor, 215 Sycamore St.

The Friends of the Decatur Library will host a used book sale featuring fiction, mystery, and nonfiction categories including history, biography, sports, health, and cooking, as well as a wide selection of books for children and young adults. Proceeds support Decatur library programs for children, youth, and adults.

Most hardback books are \$2 and most paperback books are \$1. Credit cards, cash, and checks are accepted, and shoppers should bring their own bags. Because of building security updates, shoppers will enter on the main floor and use the elevator to reach the sale on the ground floor.

SACHA Celebrates Decatur Diwali

Sunday, Oct. 25, 12-3 p.m.

Ebster Recreation Center, 105 Electric Ave.

The South Asian Cultural Heritage Association (SACHA) will host Celebrate Decatur Diwali on Oct. 25 at Ebster Recreation Center. The event will feature food, henna, crafts, and cultural performances.

SACHA is a group of parents who have organized community events through local schools and are working to build a broader presence in the city and beyond. The organization's mission is to advance, educate, and build community awareness of South Asian culture in the Perimeter area.

RSVP at sacha-atl.org/events-1. For more information, visit sacha-atl.org or follow @sacha_atl_ga on Instagram.

Bread and Puppet Political Theatre Returns to Decatur



Friday, Oct. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. • Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr., front lawn

The Bread and Puppet Circus returns with The Upside Down World Circus, described by the company as an urgent spectacle of protest and celebration confronting what it calls society's upside-down situation. In its own words:

"Is it or is it not? Am I asleep or am I awake? Am I a cockroach or am I a me? Possibilitarians! We must demonstrate humanity's upside-down situation in the face of the government's depraved falsehoods. Luxury silence and despair must be replaced by revolt orchestras that radically oppose the radically wrong system. It is time to unforget the revolution-in-progress and aim for the evermore on the universe's shore."

The performance features stilt dancers, paper mache creatures of all sizes, and a live brass band.

Thirty community members (high school seniors and older) may register on a first-come basis for a puppetry workshop the Thursday before, then perform alongside the troupe during Friday's show. Details and registration are at decaturartsalliance.org/2026-bread-puppet-participant-registration.

Tickets: zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/bandp-in-decatur-ga-the-upside-down-world-circus.

NOTE: Only handicap parking is available on-site; all other parking must use Columbia Seminary or Talley Street Elementary.

Come As You Are: Decatur Is Invited to CompassionCon

Sunday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • Legacy Park

Compassionate Atlanta will welcome neighbors of every age, background, and belief to Legacy Park for CompassionCon, the organization's flagship community celebration of kindness, connection, and belonging.

Compassionate Atlanta was founded in 2015 on the belief that compassion is not just a feeling but a practice, one that can shape how a city treats its people.

This year, Compassionate Atlanta continues its partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting for Be My Neighbor Day, bringing Daniel Tiger to Legacy Park for a morning of music, hands-on activities, and gentle reminders about kindness for young children and their grown-ups. Families can expect live performances, community resource tables, food, art, and ways to connect with organizations doing compassionate work in Decatur. Local nonprofits, faith communities, and civic groups will line the park as well, offering a look at the compassionate work already happening throughout DeKalb County.

Local business owners are invited to take part as vendors. Any local business may sign up, and Decatur Business Association members receive a discount on vendor registration. Visit compassioncon.org to learn more or apply to be a vendor.



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Upcoming Admissions Events at Saint Thomas More Catholic School

Families considering school options for the coming year can get a closer look at Saint Thomas More Catholic School during two upcoming admissions opportunities.

Saint Thomas More offers a close-knit school community where Pre-K4 through eighth-grade students are known by their teachers, supported as they grow, and challenged to do their best. The school combines a strong academic program with the personal attention that can come with a smaller school setting. Although Saint Thomas More is a Catholic school, families do not need to be Catholic to join the community.

Upcoming Admissions Events

- Open House, Nov. 2: The principal's welcome begins at noon, followed by campus tours.
- Touring Tuesdays and Thursdays, by appointment: Families who prefer a more personal visit can schedule a tour on a Tuesday or Thursday to see the school in action and get answers to their questions.

Both the Open House and personal tours require registration. Visit stmga.org/admissions/visit-us.cfm to learn more and reserve a visit.



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Shout-Out to Our Schools and Teachers Who Made Niche's 2026 Top 25 of Georgia

Oakhurst, Westchester, and Glennwood were all named among the top 25 K-5 public schools in the state, according to school ranking site Niche.com. Oakhurst ranked No. 14 in the state, Westchester ranked No. 20, and Glennwood ranked No. 22. Talley Street Upper Elementary came in at No. 26, FAVE Upper Elementary at No. 27, Clairemont at No. 31, and Winnona Park at No. 55. Niche.com gave all of CSD's elementary schools an overall grade of A or better.

Niche.com also recognized CSD's teachers, ranking Westchester's faculty No. 6 in the state for best public school elementary teachers, while FAVE's teachers ranked No. 13 statewide. Teachers at Clairemont, Oakhurst, and Winnona Park also ranked among the top 50 in the state. The rankings are derived from reviews and data from the U.S. Department of Education, encompassing test scores, student-teacher ratios, and overall school quality.

Congratulations to all students, teachers, and staff for this recognition.



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Glennwood Takes Home Back-to-Back Wins in CSD Mascot Run

The Glennwood Eagles claimed back-to-back victories in the CSD Mascot Run, held during halftime of a recent football game. Rain held off for both the game and the race, as SOARin' the Eagle sprinted to the front to take home the trophy while the crowd, the DHS cheer squad, and Superintendent Dr. Gyimah Whitaker cheered the runners to the finish line. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Mascot Run and the DHS Bulldogs.




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F.AVE Staff and Students Collect Over 800 N95 Masks for Colombia Earthquake Relief

Following the 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Colombia on Aug. 10, the F.AVE G.E.N.T.S. program launched a rapid-response drive to provide N95 masks to those in Colombia in need of critical supplies. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the Decatur community, G.E.N.T.S. collected more than 800 N95 masks in less than 24 hours to send to Colombia.

Thank you to F.AVE Spanish teacher Lina Peñuela for spearheading this effort, and to F.AVE Principal Derrick Thomas and Dr. Charlie McAdoo for leading G.E.N.T.S. as they stepped up to the challenge.



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Learning Together: Agnes Scott Faculty Helps Career Changers Transition Into Health Professions

Dr. Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy's office at Agnes Scott College is intentionally vibrant, filled with photos of family and former students and a large metabolism map that often serves as a conversation starter. Students frequently react strongly to the map, finding it intimidating on their first encounter.

Hurst-Kennedy teaches career changers in the post-baccalaureate and medical sciences programs at Agnes Scott. She holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in applied biology from Georgia Tech.

She has said she especially enjoys working



with career changers because of the range of stories and perspectives they bring, describing the learning as reciprocal. One student who had spent years as a data scientist contributed data-analysis skills that were never part of her own training, creating a relationship she has described as closer to peers than a typical hierarchy.

Hurst-Kennedy has reflected on the importance of community and collaboration among faculty and students in the demanding post-baccalaureate program, describing a shared commitment to supporting students through what she has called a very hard process. Over the course of a semester, students'

early apprehension, including around the metabolism map, tends to give way to growing confidence as they recognize how much they have learned.

The 12-month program concludes with a Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Ceremony honoring students for earning the graduate-level certificate. This year, Hurst-Kennedy served as the Faculty Achievement Speaker, addressing the 2026 cohort. She has spoken about her confidence in the future of health care given the enthusiasm, curiosity, and compassion she has seen in these students, and has said she hopes to one day count a former student among her own doctors.

Hurst-Kennedy is approaching her fourth year as a faculty member in the Medical Sciences and Post-Baccalaureate programs at Agnes Scott College.

Visit agnesscott.edu/grad to learn more about changing careers into the health professions fields.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR

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Decatur High School Kicks Off First-Ever DHS Firefighter Cohort

Decatur High School Career Academy, led by CTAE Director Terra Smiley, officially kicked off its dual-enrollment firefighter program with a field trip to the City of Decatur Fire Station, where students met with Chief Washington, Captain Byrd, and several other firefighters. Students toured the station, took part in exercises, and learned about on-the-job operations.

The DHS cohort looks forward to a great year in partnership with Atlanta Technical College and the City of Decatur Fire Department.



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Talley Street Green Team Debuts Compostable Trays

Talley Street Upper Elementary is making meals more environmentally friendly by using compostable trays at breakfast and lunch, thanks to the efforts of Talley Street's Green Team and teacher Kathryn Roberts. Students have helped each other learn a few extra steps when disposing of mealtime trash, contributing to the program's success.

Over the past two years, Talley Street's Green Team has tripled in size, with students, teachers, and parents contributing to the school's sustainability efforts.



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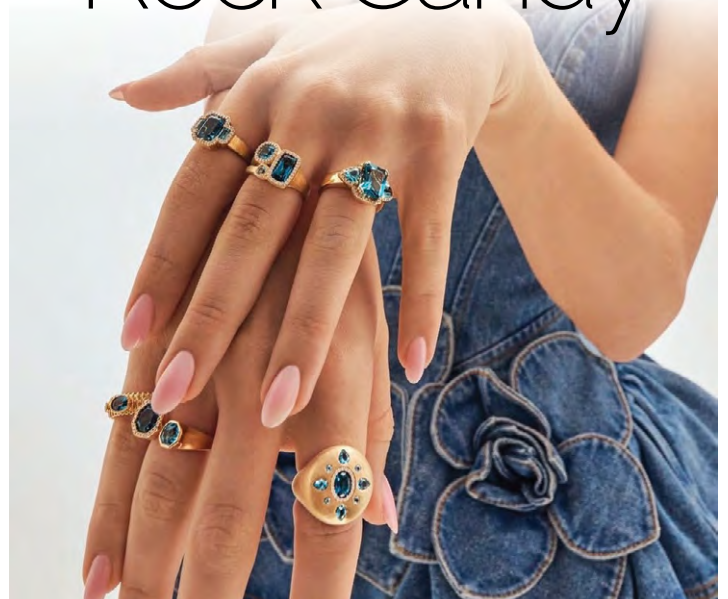


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