City of Decatur FOCUS

City of Decatur®

NOVEMBER 2026
Volume 37 • Number 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DECATUR, GEORGIA

WALK & ROLL SUPERSTARS

Jenny Shannin and the Women Who Run Together

Jenny Shannin began running in 2009 and often came to Decatur to run with friends who lived here. When she and her family moved to Winnona Park in 2012, some of her first neighborhood connections began on the walk to school. Parents walking their children made it easy to meet neighbors and spend time together.

Those walks led to runs, and the circle gradually grew, bringing longtime friends and new neighbors together. Today, Shannin leads a welcoming running group built around regular exercise, an open invitation to join and friendships that have deepened over time.

About a dozen women form the group's core, and roughly 30 participate as their schedules allow. Between the 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. groups, someone is usually running six days a week. That consistency gives the women frequent chances to connect. They have become a familiar sight around town, their runs punctuated by chatter, laughter, high-fives and the occasional whoop.

continued on page 2







Help Shape Season 2 of Decatur Minute Live

The City of Decatur is inviting community members to help plan the second season of Decatur Minute Live, the City's first official podcast. Decatur Minute Live launched earlier this year. Each month, the podcast features conversations with City staff, elected officials and community members, offering a closer look at the work happening across the City, the plans leading them and the people behind it.

Season 1 episodes have covered capital projects such as the Square transformation and West Howard Avenue, along with affordable housing, Public Works, Decatur Cemetery and lifelong community practices.

Community members can suggest City services, initiatives or programs they want to know more about, local projects they are curious about or people in the community they would like to hear from.

Suggestions for topics and guests can be emailed to communications@decaturga.com by Dec. 1.

Walk & Roll Superstars *continued from page 1*

Members credit Shannin with creating an atmosphere that makes room for new people. Her openness and ability to bring others together have helped the group grow while keeping its close connections. The women describe one another as funny, positive, motivated and supportive.

Over time, the group has become a trusted sounding board, a source of parenting wisdom and an important part of members' emotional well-being. Several women say these friendships help them thrive in other areas of their lives. During an especially difficult year, one member found support in the group's encouragement, humor and meals.

Their care extends to people they meet in the neighborhood. Through their morning outings, the women came to know a local crossing guard. When they learned she was having a particularly difficult day, they showed up in festive outfits with hot chocolate to cheer her up and let her know they were thinking of her.

The friendships reach beyond Decatur, too. One woman who moved away two years ago remains on the group text, and reading the women's messages still gives her a sense of support and connection.

A walk to school became a running group, and that running group became a community of women who care for one another and the neighbors they meet along the way.

Readers who know a Walk & Roll Superstar can submit a nomination at bit.ly/Walk-and-Roll-Decatur.

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.

City of Decatur 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.

City of Decatur®

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Tony Powers.....Mayor
Lesa 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
David Harry, Treasurer/Secretary
Harold Buckley, Jr. • Darren Comer
Lisa Turner • Kelly Walsh

Decatur Business Association

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

Design and layout: Lampe-Farley.com

Sales tax proceeds reduce Decatur's property tax bills

Proceeds from the equalized homestead option sales tax (EHOST) are dedicated to property tax relief. If any proceeds remain after reducing countywide taxes, the remainder of the proceeds are used to roll back taxes at an equal and uniform rate for cities in DeKalb (as well as unincorporated areas).

Resident homeowners who have exemptions with DeKalb County have had EHOST deductions on their county bills in prior years and in 2026.

For Decatur's 2026 second installment billing, resident homeowners who have one or more exemptions with the City of Decatur will automatically qualify for an EHOST deduction on their City bill as well.

For City homeowners, the EHOST proceeds on the county tax bill may be less in 2026 than prior years. However, the savings to the homeowner from the EHOST proceeds on the City's 2026 bill will help to offset the difference.

Separately, the State of Georgia has authorized the homeowner tax relief grant (HTRG) for 2026, resulting in additional savings for resident homeowners. The HTRG was last authorized in 2023. The EHOST deduction is calculated after other exemptions and the HTRG are taken into consideration.

For qualifying homeowners, the EHOST proceeds reduce the property taxes owed for the City's General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Downtown Development Authority Fund by 2.84 percent for the City's 2026 bills. If applicable, the savings from the EHOST deduction will be printed on the tax bill.

HTRG funding and EHOST proceeds may or may not be available in future years. For individual tax planning, it is probably best to assume that these programs will not be available in 2027.



City of Decatur®

SANITATION AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 2027

Thanksgiving Holidays
Thursday, Nov. 26-Friday, Nov. 27, 2026
Service for both days will be Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Christmas Holidays
Thursday, Dec. 24-Friday, Dec. 25, 2026
Service for both days will be Wednesday, Dec. 23.

New Year's Day
Friday, January 1, 2027
Thursday route will run on Wednesday, December 30.
Friday route will run on Thursday, December 31.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 18, 2027
Monday route will run on Tuesday, Jan 19.
Tuesday route will run on Wednesday, Jan 20.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 15, 2027
Monday route will run on Tuesday, Feb. 16.
Tuesday route will run on Wed, Feb. 17.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31, 2027
Monday route will run on Tuesday, June 1.
Tuesday route will run on Wednesday, June 2.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

Juneteenth Day
Monday, June 21, 2027
Monday route will run on Tuesday, June 22.
Tuesday route will run on Wednesday June 23.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

Independence Day
Monday, July 5, 2027
Monday route will run on Tuesday, July 6.
Tuesday route will run on Wednesday, July 7.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

Labor Day
Monday, September 6, 2027
Monday route will move to Tuesday, Sept. 7.
Tuesday route will move to Wednesday, Sept. 8.
No changes to Thursday & Friday routes.

City of Decatur®

Set-Out Time

All garbage, trash, recyclables, yard trimmings, bulky items and appliances for collection must be ready for pickup by 7:30 a.m. on collection day. Pickup times will vary, but collectors will not arrive before 7:30 a.m.

Containers on the Curb

Refuse and recycling containers may be placed at the curb after 5 p.m. the day before collection and must be removed from the curb by midnight on collection day.

Recyclable Materials

Decatur's curbside recycling program accepts paper products, plastic, glass and metal. Glass must be separated in its own bin. For a complete list of items visit decaturga.com/recycling.

For more tips on items that are hard to recycle, visit livethrive.org.

Bulky Items Reminder

Decatur accepts bulky items like furniture and appliances as a part of your regular sanitation pick-up. Just set them at the curb. There is no additional cost for this service except for a $50 collection fee for items containing freon.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Saturday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Jan. 9

Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

Drop off live Christmas trees at Decatur Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. Look for signs indicating the drop-off area. Please do not leave Christmas trees anywhere else on the Legacy Park property.

For more information about solid waste and recycling services, call 404-377-5571, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., or visit decaturga.com/sanitation.

Clip this and save it on your refrigerator

Anthony Jones Named Decatur's Firefighter of the Year

Decatur Fire Rescue has named Fire Apparatus Operator Anthony Jones its 2025 Firefighter of the Year. The award is a longstanding fire service tradition that recognizes members for exceptional heroism and service.

Jones is known within the department as a leader who gives his best both on and off the fire truck. He takes the initiative to train others, provides high-quality emergency medical care and makes sure both his peers and his patients feel heard. He recently completed peer support training so he can better assist fellow firefighters dealing with challenges and stress.

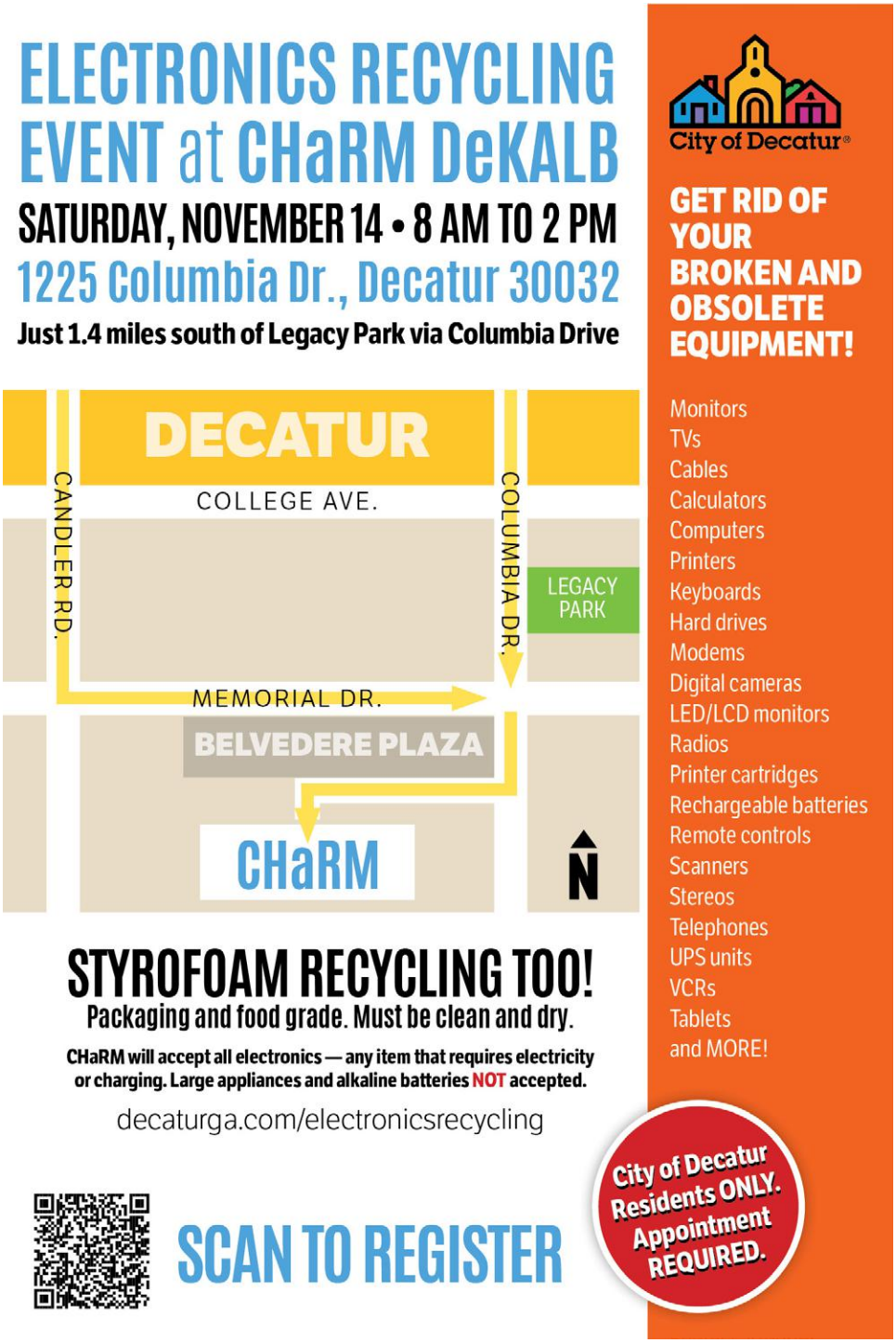
Colleagues describe Jones as someone who embraces every opportunity to learn and to teach, sharing his knowledge and experience with a warm, welcoming manner. The department credits him with embodying the Decatur spirit and its "We Care" commitment in his daily work.



Semi-annual Electronics Recycling Event

The City of Decatur's semi-annual Electronics Recycling Event will take place Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at CHaRM DeKalb, 1225 Columbia Drive. Please note that this year's event will be by appointment only and is open exclusively to City of Decatur residents. Residents can recycle electronics, batteries, cables, styrofoam, and more.

Learn more and register at decaturga.com/electronicsrecycling.



Protecting Those Who Protect Us:

Free Skin Cancer Screenings for Decatur Fire Rescue

Decatur Dermatology & Aesthetics has completed a series of three free skin cancer screening events for Decatur Fire Rescue personnel. The events were held on three consecutive Thursdays so that each of the department's 24-hour shifts could take part with minimal disruption to daily operations.

Across the three events, the practice screened most of Decatur Fire Rescue's personnel. Each participant received a private skin exam and individualized guidance from Dr. Kelli Baender, founder and medical director of Decatur Dermatology & Aesthetics.

The idea grew from a conversation at Decatur WatchFest '26, where the Decatur Dermatology & Aesthetics and Fire Rescue teams were neighboring event participants. When Baender suggested offering free screenings to department personnel, Fire Rescue leadership supported the idea and worked with the practice to make the screenings available to all three shifts. Baender credited the department's leadership with acting quickly on the proposal, saying their response showed how seriously they take the health and well-being of their personnel.

Fire Marshal Ninetta Violante and Capt. Kelvonte Byrd coordinated the schedule and on-site logistics to turn the idea into a workable program.

The screenings have already made a difference. During his exam, Deputy Fire Chief Dominic R. Orlando learned he had an area of concern that was later determined to be precancerous. Orlando said he would not have known without the program, and he thanked Fire Chief Toni Washington, Byrd and Violante for making the partnership possible.

About Decatur Dermatology & Aesthetics

Founded by Baender, an Atlanta native and longtime Decatur resident, Decatur Dermatology & Aesthetics is an independent dermatology practice in downtown Decatur. Baender and her team have 20 years of experience and provide medical, surgical and aesthetic dermatology care to patients across Decatur and metro Atlanta.

Learn more at decderm.com.

WELCOME to DECATUR!



Tous Les Jours, a bakery, is open at 112 Trinity Place.

Exhale Piercing opened at 340 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.





Delirium Vinyl has opened at 308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Aging in Place: What Families Need to Know

The Atlanta Chapter of the National Aging in Place Council (NAIPC) and the City of Decatur Lifelong Community Advisory Board will host a free panel discussion on aging in place on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Auditorium at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Drive.

A panel of local professionals will discuss the home, health, safety and planning considerations that can help older adults stay safely and comfortably at home as their needs change. The panel will also cover how families can make informed decisions before a crisis. The evening will include a moderated discussion followed by an audience question-and-answer session.

The event is free and open to the community. Registration is requested. To RSVP, contact Jane Lomas at jane.lomas@decaturga.com or 678-553-6548.

Learn more about NAIPC Atlanta at ageinplace.org/atlanta.



Lifelong Decatur

Who Takes Care of the Caregiver?

November is National Family Caregivers Month. As a family caregiver, balancing your personal schedule and responsibilities while caring for a loved one is demanding.

The resources below can help caregivers avoid burnout, connect with other caregivers and find services for their loved ones.

Connect with other caregivers online or in person.

- **Trualta, empowerline.trualta.com:** This free online Caregiver Portal provides caregivers with a dependable online community where caregivers can join discussion forums, gain insight from support groups, and ask questions of industry professionals.
- **Adult Children of Aging Parents (ACAP) Decatur-DeKalb Chapter, acapcommunity.org:** This is a national community whose chapters host free monthly educational programs and an annual conference relevant to adult children navigating the challenges of caring for their aging parents. They include any caregiver of an older adult. Sign up for the Decatur-DeKalb chapter which meets at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. The chapter offers Apple Podcasts on "The Caregiver Community."
- **BRI-Care Consultation**: This is a telephone-based information and support service for adults with health challenges and their caregivers. BRI-Care Consultation serves individuals with memory impairment and their caregivers. This series is sponsored by Atlanta Regional Commission, the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and the Georgia Division of Aging Services. Call 844-557-1686 or email careconsultation@atlantaregional.org.

Local social and health services for loved ones

Visit dekalbcountyga.gov and click on the Senior Services icon.

- Ask about homemaker, personal care or respite services, and home delivered meals for your loved one. Confirm the services offered at DeKalb County Senior Centers-mid-day meals or opportunities for social interaction.
- Speak with an Information and Referral Specialist at 770-322-2950 or email your questions to casemanagement@dekalbcountyga.gov.
- Need Transportation options for your senior? Talk to DeKalb County Division of Transportation at 770-322-2967 or email transportationhs@dekalbcountyga.gov.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

This Department licenses adult day centers which provide either day care or health care services. Adult Day Health includes licensed nursing care.

- Compare day health providers serving Decatur/DeKalb County at medicare.gov/homehealthcompare/search. Medicare explains home health services on this website and ranks the agencies.

Adult Day Care or Respite Care providers offer social interaction.

- Speak to a counselor at empowerline.org call 404-463-3333: select option 1 for general information. Ask for a pdf of adult day care providers licensed in DeKalb County.
- Call an Information Specialist at DeKalb County Senior Line at 770-322-2950.
- Search the internet with the terms "respite care Atlanta" or "adult day care Dekalb County GA". Review the listings.
- Visit the communities listed in person to assess services offered and their cost.

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 on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

A Season of Giving

There Is Still Time to Make the Season Brighter

The holidays are approaching, and there is still time to support Decatur children and older adults through A Season of Giving.

Sponsors receive a personal wish list for a child or older adult, then shop for about $150 in gifts chosen especially for that person. Sponsorship offers a personal way to give and bring extra joy to a neighbor in the Decatur community.

Gift cards and financial contributions are also welcome. Volunteers are needed as well.

- **Sponsor:** aseasonofgiving.org/sponsor
- **Donate:** aseasonofgiving.org/donate
- **Volunteer or learn more:** aseasonofgiving.org
- **Questions:** aseasonofgivingdecatur@gmail.com





Senior Events

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events for seniors!



Eat Well, Move More & Still Enjoy the Pie

November 18, 2 p.m. • Free
Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

Enjoy the holidays while staying energized and feeling your best! This practical, guilt-free session covers simple strategies for balanced meals, hydration, staying active, and enjoying favorite foods without deprivation. Learn how to incorporate "movement snacks" and get back on track after an indulgent day—no dieting, restriction, or guilt required. RSVP to kahlissa.murrah@decaturga.com.

Thanksgiving Potluck

November 11 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m. • $5 without dish
Oakhurst Rec Center, 450 E Lake Dr.

Join us for a lively Thanksgiving Potluck filled with delicious dishes, laughter, music, and warm fellowship! Bring your favorite recipe, bring your appetite, and most importantly—bring your smile! Let's celebrate friendship, community, and the joy of being together! RSVP to patrick.white@decaturga.com.



Senior Health Fair

November 10
11 a.m.-1 p.m. • Free
Oakhurst Rec Center
450 E Lake Dr.

Join us for a free Senior Health Fair! This special event promotes healthy living for seniors with health screenings, expert tips, and more. Come explore resources and take steps toward a healthier lifestyle. Don't miss this exciting event! RSVP to patrick.white@decaturga.com.

Register

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

Youth Events

Register on CommunityPass.

Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

November 6 • 7-9 p.m.
$15 R/$20 NR
Oakhurst Rec Center, 450 E Lake Dr.
Light up the court and join us for Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball! This unique event transforms a classic game into a high-energy neon experience with black lights, glowing dodgeballs, and vibrant team colors. Whether you're playing to win or just for fun, it's a night of unforgettable action, laughter, and glowing memories.

Parents' Night Out – Neon City

November 20 • 5:30-9 p.m.
Ages 5-12
$35 R/$45 NR; $20 Siblings
Oakhurst Rec Center, 450 E Lake Dr.
Lights Off. Glow On. Fun Starts Here! Our Neon Edition is packed with glowing adventures, epic games, music, and unforgettable memories—While the kids light up the night, parents enjoy a well-deserved night out!

Community Events

Walk & Talk Decatur

November 7 • 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.

Youth Thanksgiving Camps at Ebster Rec Center

105 Electric Ave. • Register on CommunityPass.

Small Fry Sports Clinic

November 23-25 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • $40 R/$45 NR/day • Grade K
Participants will enjoy a week of movement, games, and skill-building activities, focusing on developing motor skills essential for success in any sport. Each day, they'll also get to learn and explore a new sport, making it a fun and dynamic experience!

Kids Yoga & Mindful Art Camp

November 23-24 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
$60 R/$65 NR/day • Ages 5-9
Playful yoga poses, mindfulness games, and calming techniques help campers build focus and self-regulation. Campers will also enjoy crafts, meditation, and breathing exercises they can use at home. Mats are provided. Please send a healthy lunch and water bottle.



Backyard Sports Camp

November 23-25 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • $60 R/$65 NR/day • Grades 1-5
This engaging sports-based camp gives participants the chance to explore a variety of games and activities while building fundamental skills, teamwork, and confidence. Through active play and skill development, participants will make new friends, stay active, and have fun learning in a supportive setting.

SIDEWALK SCOOP

Did you know? E-bikes come in three classes! Class 1 provides pedal assistance up to 20 mph, Class 2 adds a throttle with speeds up to 20 mph, and Class 3 provides pedal assistance up to 28 mph. Knowing your e-bike's class can help you understand where you can ride and which rules apply.

No matter which e-bike you ride, wear a helmet, follow traffic laws, yield to pedestrians and ride at a safe speed. In Georgia, Class 3 e-bike riders must be at least 15 years old, and helmets are required for all Class 3 riders.

Let's keep sidewalks safe for pedestrians. Georgia law prohibits riding bicycles on sidewalks for anyone over age 12. When riding, be alert, be visible, share the road responsibly and look out for others.

Let's make every ride a safe and enjoyable one for everyone in Decatur.

Visit beactivedecatur.com to learn more.

Brought to you by the Active Transportation Committee.

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

The DBA joins the Community Center of South Decatur for its annual grant-giving ceremony, celebrating the local nonprofits receiving this year's awards. Join DBA at The Solarium, 319 W. Hill St., on Tuesday, Nov. 17, as we kick off the giving season and honor this year's recipients. More details at decaturbusinessassociation.com.

Second Annual DBA Awards

Member voting for the 2026 DBA Awards will take place Nov. 4-11. Winners will be recognized at the DBA Holiday Meeting in December. Public nominations were accepted from Sept. 29 through Oct. 27. Finalists and full details are available at decaturbusinessassociation.com/dbaawards.

DBA Member Highlight: Compassionate Atlanta

Iyabo Onipede and Leanne Rubenstein are co-executive directors of Compassionate Atlanta, an organization that works to build a culture of compassion across Georgia. Drawing on decades of combined experience, they work with faith communities, nonprofits, businesses and neighborhoods to create welcoming, inclusive and equitable environments.

As facilitators and storytellers, Onipede and Rubenstein use narrative to amplify underheard voices and build empathy, healing and action. They practice shared leadership and approach philanthropy with an emphasis on thoughtful giving and building systems that serve everyone.

Onipede spent 20 years practicing law before turning to work as a public theologian. Rubenstein brings more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience.

Onipede can be reached at iyabo@compassionateatl.org, and Rubenstein at leanne@compassionateatl.org.

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 to 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.

WYLDE WREATHS: An Annual Tradition at Wylde Center



Wylde Center's annual Wylde Wreaths event invites participants to create a festive wreath and kick off the holiday season. For many families and friends, making a wreath together has become a yearly ritual and a chance to slow down and create something for the season.

At in-person sessions at Oakhurst Garden, participants choose a Fraser fir or grapevine wreath and decorate it with natural materials and a bow. The Oakhurst Garden Community Building will offer a festive atmosphere with a Wylde gift market, seasonal food and beverage options and plenty of materials to personalize each wreath.

Take-home wreath kits are also available for those who prefer to craft at home. Each kit includes the chosen wreath, a bow and a bag of natural decorating materials.

- In-person sessions: Nov. 29 to Dec. 12, with morning and evening options
- Take-home pickup: Nov. 24 and Dec. 5
- Location: Oakhurst Garden, 435 Oakview Road
- Cost: Fraser fir wreaths are $75 and grapevine wreaths are $55. An optional food and beverage add-on is $25.

Visit wyldecenter.org/event/wylde-wreaths-2026 for the full schedule and registration information.

Open Studios and Opening Receptions at Hyatt Cottage

The eight studio artists of Hyatt Cottage in Legacy Park will open their workspaces to the community on Friday, Nov. 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. This is the first Open Studios event of the 2026-27 lease term. Visitors can meet the artists and learn about their creative processes.

The evening will also include opening receptions for two exhibitions. The first, "Portals," is a group show of local artists curated by 404FoundATL that explores the idea of a symbolic or energetic gateway connecting different dimensions, states of consciousness or places. The second is a solo show by Larry Holland. Light refreshments will be served.

Both exhibitions will be on view through Dec. 19, Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Hyatt Cottage will be closed Thanksgiving weekend.

Learn more at decaturartsalliance.org/event/open-studios-11-13-26.

Volunteers Needed for Lunar New Year Festival

The Decatur Lunar New Year festival is seeking volunteers for its sixth annual celebration, which will mark the Year of the Goat. The festival will take place on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2027, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ebster Recreation Center. The event is run entirely by volunteers.

To sign up, visit decaturlny.com/volunteers.



A Fresh Face and a Fresh Look at Decatur CoWorks

Since joining Decatur CoWorks as community manager, Angelica Estrada has worked to breathe new life into the longtime Decatur coworking space. Her goal is a place that feels as creative and welcoming as the community it serves.

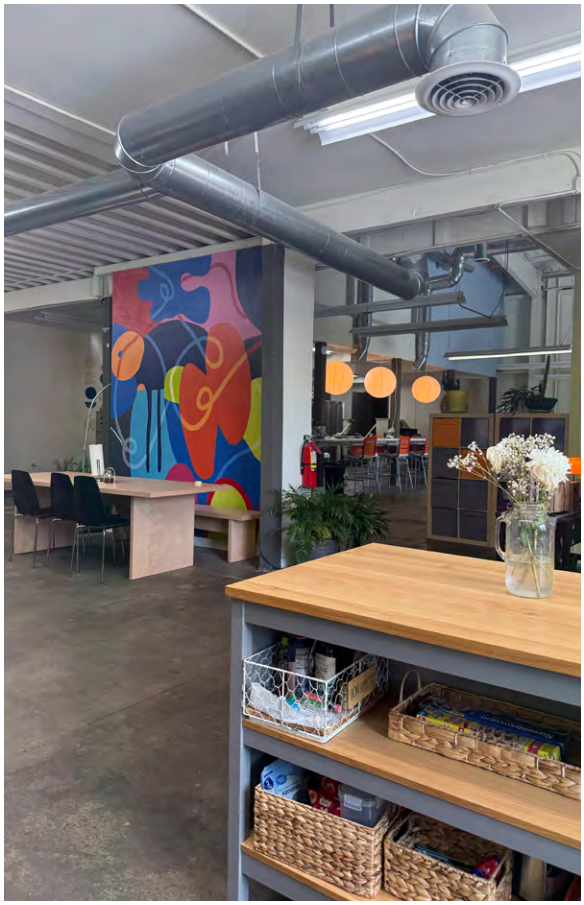
An artist herself, Estrada has taken a hands-on approach to the transformation. She has reimagined the work and common areas and designed and painted the colorful murals now found throughout the building. New furnishings, refreshed spaces and pops of color have given Decatur CoWorks new energy while keeping the relaxed, community-focused atmosphere at its core.

The refresh is about more than appearance. Estrada wants Decatur CoWorks to be a place where local remote workers, freelancers, entrepreneurs and small businesses can find both a productive workspace and a sense of community.

Decatur CoWorks has desk memberships and private offices available, along with conference rooms for meetings, a podcast room for recording and business mailing services. Flexible options allow members to use the space regularly or simply step away from the home office for a change of scenery.

Estrada hopes the recent changes give people who have passed by but never stepped inside a reason to visit. She wants newcomers to feel right away that they have found a place to be productive, creative and comfortable. She also encourages anyone unsure whether coworking is a good fit to spend a day in the space and see for themselves.

Decatur CoWorks is ready for its next chapter, and there is room for more of the Decatur community to be part of it. Learn more at decaturcoworks.com.









Furnish With Love Holiday Pop-Up Sale Set for Nov. 13-15

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Furnish With Love, 508 E. Howard Ave.

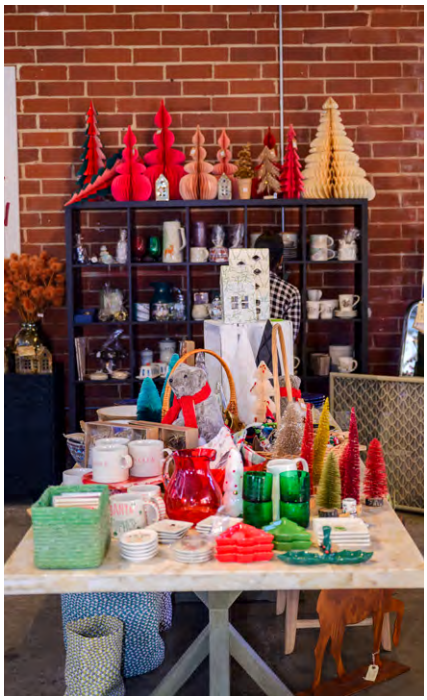
Furnish With Love (FwL), an Atlanta-based nonprofit that transforms empty spaces into fully furnished homes for families transitioning out of homelessness, will hold its 2026 Holiday Pop-Up Sale Nov. 13-15 at its headquarters in Decatur.

Shoppers can buy high-end home goods at deep discounts, including designer furniture, tables, chairs and fabric, along with holiday decor, festive dishware and ornaments. Proceeds support FwL's mission.

Visit furnishwithlove.org/pop-up-sale for more information.









Youth Voice at DEF

The Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) has named the members of its first Student Advisory Board: Amanuel A., Brie B., Ava B., Samira C., Rowan C., Nadia D., Stefan F., Levi H., Lea K., Maya L., Sanai M., Grace M., Theo N., Drew N., Hunter S. and Sarah W.

The board will help DEF identify the programming most needed by City Schools of Decatur students so that its programs are shaped by the students who use them. Members will share their perspectives to help DEF address the barriers that keep Decatur students from finding success.

Learn more at decatureducationfoundation.org/sab.



holidays in decatur



Holiday Magic Every Week

Get your jingle on in Decatur! The holiday season brings **festive family fun and extra cheer downtown, weekdays and weekends.** Santa is coming to town (more than once!), and the Grinch is, too. The renovated Square will glow with twinkling lights each night and sparkle with seasonal favorites, from our annual marshmallow roast to tree and menorah lightings. Add in stress-less shopping and special in-shop festivities during Terrific Thursdays, and Decatur is the place to have yourself an elfin' good time!



Shop Local! Shop Early!
November Shopping Deal

Spend $200 at City of Decatur retail shop (or shops) between Nov. 1–30 and **receive a $20 gift card** to a local Decatur restaurant!

Bring your receipts to the Decatur Visitors Center (113 Clairemont Ave.) any day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to claim your reward. Limit three cards per person. Details at visitdecaturga.com/holidays.



Letters to Santa

Have you written to Santa, yet? Send your letter straight to the North Pole! We will have a Santa Mail station on the square Nov. 28 during Santa on the Square and Shop Small Saturday. We also have **three special delivery drop-offs** in Decatur. Parents, make sure your kids include a return address. Santa might write back this year!

Letter Drop-off Locations:

- Decatur Visitors Center, 113 Clairemont Ave.
- Kelly's Market, 308 E. Howard Ave.
- Oakhurst Market, 650 East Lake Dr.

Hello to Holly Honk



THE GOOSE IS LOOSE! Holly Honk has flown south for the holidays and found a friendly roost in Decatur. She claims she's Santa's newest helper. She hasn't shown us the paperwork, but who are we to question a feathered friend with festive flair?

Follow along @VisitDecaturGA as she explores local shops, spreads a little silliness, and makes herself right at home.

Holiday Calendar →

november

THURSDAY
5

Decatur Annual Holiday Ornament Unveiling

Squash Blossom Boutique,
113 E. Court Square
6 p.m. | FREE!

Decatur kicks off the holiday season with the big reveal of the 2026 City of Decatur holiday ornament! Join us for the unveiling at Squash Blossom Boutique at 6 p.m. A limited number of ornaments will be available for sale at local shops.



THURSDAY
12

Grinch Alert!

All Around Downtown Decatur
6-8 p.m. | FREE!

The Grinch is slinking around town, sneaking into shops and restaurants. Can you catch the curmudgeon in his holiday hijinks? Take a pic and tag @VisitDecaturGA. Who knows, by the end of the night, his heart may even grow a few sizes. Brought to you by DBA.







SATURDAY
21

Santa Pictures With Pets

Harmony Park
10 a.m.-Noon | FREE!

Bring your **furry, feathery, or scaly pets** and snap a photo with Santa. Remember your camera or smartphone! Treat your pup and yourself! Decatur's Taj Ma Hound will be selling holiday-themed, puppy treats. Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and apple wassail, courtesy of Oakview Coffee, while supplies last. All pets must be well-behaved, properly restrained, and up-to-date with vaccinations.

SATURDAY
28

Small Business Saturday + Santa on the Square

Downtown Decatur Square | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Shop small" at Decatur's local businesses and see Santa! **It's a win-win for wish lists and gift lists!** Grown-ups can check off their holiday shopping while kids enjoy festive fun.

After you shop, bring your City of Decatur purchases to the Square for **free gift wrapping**, and enter the raffle for a splendiferous gift basket packed with Decatur-branded goods and local treats.

Snap photos of your little ones with Ol' St. Nick, then enjoy **warm cookies and cold milk**. Stick around for holiday music, make-and-take **ornament crafting** and Santa mail stations. All activities are free. Remember to bring your camera or smartphone.







december

THURSDAY

3

Tree Lighting

Downtown Decatur
6 p.m. | FREE!

Light up your week at the annual tree lighting in Downtown Decatur! This year the tree will take center stage on the renovated Decatur Square. The fun starts at 6 p.m. with **holiday carols, hot cocoa, and mini gingerbread cookies** by the tree. The F.AVE Chorus will perform, and we'll have a community sing-along too.

At 7 p.m. sharp, Santa himself flips the switch to light the tree! Afterwards, there'll be **"snow!"**

Sponsored by the Little Shop of Stories.











SUNDAY

6

Menorah Lighting

Downtown Decatur Square
4:30 p.m. | FREE!

Enjoy hot drinks, **latkes, music**, photos with **Mr. Dreidel**, and the **gelt drop** by the Decatur Fire Rescue at the Chanukah celebration in downtown Decatur. Hosted by Chabad Intown, chabadintown.org.

THURSDAY

10

Bonfire + Marshmallow Roast

Downtown Decatur Square
6 p.m. | FREE!

Join us for a **giant, roaring bonfire** and **roast yourself a marshmallow** (or two). Hot cocoa, marshmallows and roasting sticks provided while supplies last! (Yes, you can bring your own.)

Decatur Fire Rescue lights the bonfire at 6 p.m. The Talley Street Chorus performs holiday classics at 6:30 p.m. Marshmallow roasting is from 7-8 p.m.

THURSDAY

17

Naughty and Nice Holiday Hijinks

All Around Downtown Decatur
6-8 p.m. | FREE!

Santa's Out. The Grinch Is Too. Join the Terrific Thursday holiday fun as these two holiday icons roam around downtown, spreading holiday cheer, and plotting mischief... No schedule, no stage, just unexpected pop-ups. Keep your camera ready as you shop and dine downtown. Tag @VisitDecaturGA in those selfies and group pics!

Terrific Thursdays

Nov. 5, 12, 19 • Dec. 3, 10, 17

Sip and shop! Snag snacks and sales! Live DJs, trunk shows, pop-ups, and more! Beyond the special events outdoor, you never know what special offerings and events you might find in stores on Terrific Thursdays.

holidays in decatur

VisitDecaturGa.com/Holidays ▶
@VisitDecaturGa #HolidaysInDecaturGa

DEKALB HISTORY CENTER EVENTS | DeKalb History Center 101 East Court Square

Lunch and Learn: Answering the Call, the Donut Dollies

Carolyn Clinehens Chandler will share her experiences as a young college graduate who volunteered as a civilian to serve alongside U.S. troops in Korea and Vietnam during the 1960s. She will speak at a DeKalb History Center Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at noon.

Chandler served as a Donut Dollie in Korea from 1963 to 1964, first at Camp Red Cloud and then as unit director at ASCOM (US Army Logistics Command City). In Vietnam from 1965 to 1966, she opened four units, in Da Nang, Nha Trang, Dong Ba Thin, and Cam Ranh AFB.

Chandler later worked as a high school librarian and after retiring, she volunteered at the 1996 Olympic Games and at Cumberland Island National Seashore. She also volunteered four times in Spain as a native English speaker, helping Spanish professionals strengthen their English for international business.

The program will take place on the second floor of the DeKalb History Center. Admission is free, and attendees are welcome to bring lunch.

Learn more at dekalbhistory.org/programs/lunch-and-learn-answering-the-call-the-donut-dollies.

Hops at the History Center Heroic Gems of the Red Clay

The DeKalb History Center will present "The Heroic Gems of the Red Clay: Honoring the Untold Valor of Georgia's WWI African American Talented Tenth" on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. The program highlights the heroism and achievements of Black Georgians of the World War I era.

Featured figures include Buffalo Soldiers who became World War I heroes, a Vienna-trained physician and a U.S. congressman connected to the return of Emmett Till's body to Chicago. The program also highlights honors graduates of Atlanta, Howard, Harvard and Yale universities and the University of Michigan. Others featured include Georgia's first Black pharmacist and two of the state's only Black attorneys from the 1930s to the 1950s. The list also includes chaplains, dentists, educators, historians, inventors, musicians and millionaires.

The program will take place on the second floor of the DeKalb History Center. Tickets are $5 for DeKalb History Center members and $10 for nonmembers.

Learn more at dekalbhistory.org/programs/hops-heroic-gems-of-the-red-clay.

EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

2 **Lifelong Community Advisory Board Work Session**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough 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, 500 S Columbia Dr.

7 **Decatur Wine Festival**, 12:30 p.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square

10 **Parks & Rec Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

13 **Screen on the Square**, 7 p.m., Decatur Square, 101 E Court Square

14 **Semi-Annual Electronics Recycling Event**, 8 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.

DECEMBER

1 **DBA Holiday Meeting,** 5 p.m.

4 **Safe Routes to School Committee**, 9 a.m., Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

7 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

8 **Parks & Rec Board Meeting**, 6 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

8 **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

14 **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

15 **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

21 **City Commission Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

28 **Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting**, 4 p.m., Decatur Rec Center, 231 Sycamore St.

Visit pages 13-15 for holiday event dates and details.

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

Make the Season: Fourth Annual Decatur Makers Holiday Market

Decatur Makers will hold its fourth annual Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 605 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. Admission is free.

Shoppers can browse one-of-a-kind gifts from local artists and makers, including paintings, fabric arts, fine woodwork, jewelry, LED decor, 3D-printed toys and artisan self-care products. Visitors can also turn their own holiday ornament in the Wood Turning area. The Children's Zone will offer maker activities, face painting, train rides, a bounce house and mechanical animals.

Food vendors will offer tacos, frozen custard, Brazilian chocolates, blended juices and baked goods, and live karaoke will return.

Proceeds support Decatur Makers, a nonprofit community makerspace dedicated to hands-on learning for all ages. Learn more at decaturmakers.org/holidaymarket.





For more than 120 years we have served families in Decatur and Metro Atlanta with compassionate, innovative care. Now, we are offering new state-of-the-art technologies with the opening of Georgia's and the Southeast's first and only Terramation (Natural Organic Reduction) Center right here in Decatur. So, in addition to our traditional burial, green burial, and cremation services, we can offer a more eco-friendly option that promotes sustainability for future generations.

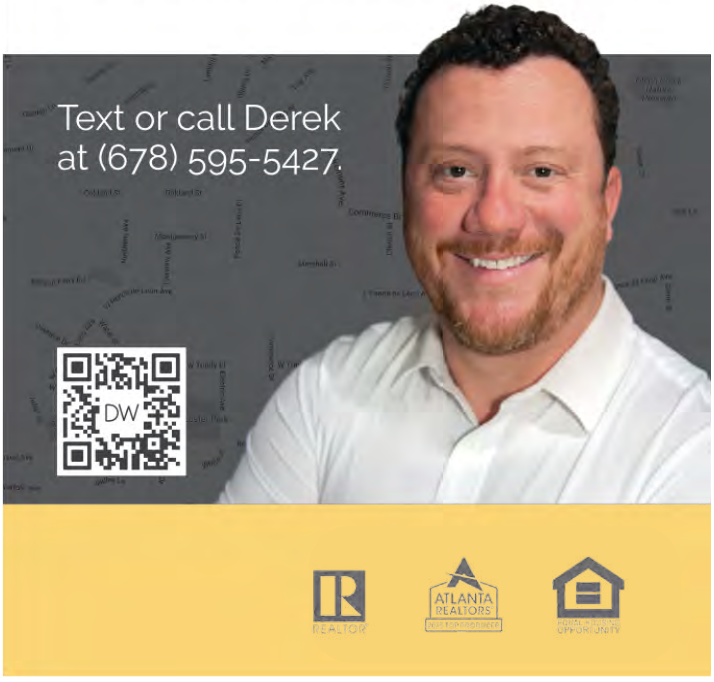
A.S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home & Crematory
2773 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033
404-292-1551
www.asturner.com

CONTACT US

DEREK WOOD
DEREKWOODREALTY.COM

knapp
REALTY

Your partner in Decatur real estate.



The Grief House Hosts Grievers Faire

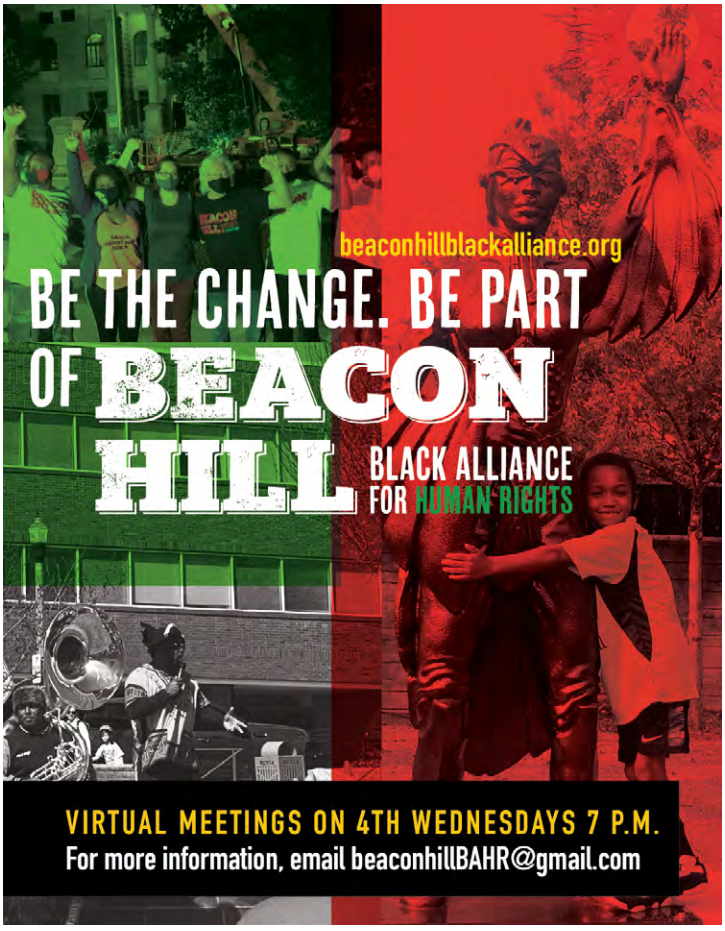
The Grief House, a nonprofit, community-led grief support organization in Decatur's Legacy Park, will host a family-friendly Grievers Faire on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Waller's Coffee Shop. The fundraiser invites attendees to meet The Grief House's collaborators and learn about its programs while enjoying live music, storytelling and community building. Activities will include tarot readings, energy work, a vendor village, a silent wellness and art auction, children's activities and more.

Learn more at griefhouse.org.











Decatur Wine Festival

Saturday, Nov. 7, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

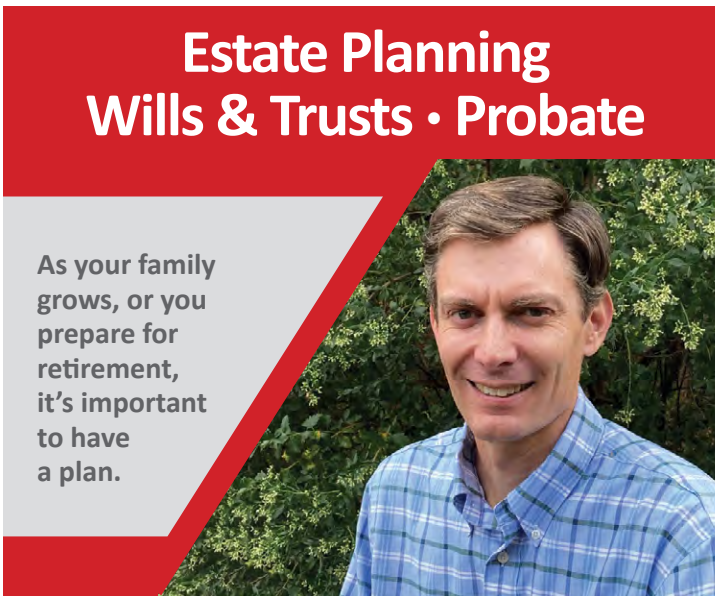
The 24th annual Decatur Wine Festival will take place on the newly renovated Decatur Square on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The festival will feature 70 pouring tables with more than 350 wines from around the world, plus a live DJ on the Square's new stage and room for dancing. The festival is presented in partnership with Decatur Package Store.

Tickets are available only at freshtix.com/events/decatur-wine-festival-11-08-2026-2.











Decatur Cemetery Walking Tour

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m.

Friends of Decatur Cemetery will host a guided walking tour of Decatur Cemetery, the largest green space in downtown Decatur, on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. The tour will visit the gravesites of notable figures from Agnes Scott College and trace the shared history of the college and the City, including how the two have grown together since the college was founded in 1889. Today, Agnes Scott's mission centers on educating students from around the world to think critically, act with integrity and take on the intellectual and social challenges of their time.

Participants will meet at the Decatur Cemetery office, 229 Bell St. No RSVP is required. The route includes some uneven surfaces, so comfortable shoes are recommended. More information is available at legacydecatur.org/friends-of-decatur-cemetery.

Decatur Civic Chorus Prepares for "Ringing in the Holidays"

The Decatur Civic Chorus is preparing for its holiday concert, "Ringing in the Holidays," on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church Decatur. The program features a mix of festive holiday favorites, including a one-of-a-kind "Jingle Bells" mashup. Concertgoers are encouraged to wear their favorite holiday sweaters.

For more information, visit decaturcivicchorus.org or follow the chorus on Facebook and Instagram at Decatur Civic Chorus, Georgia.



North Decatur Presbyterian Church Hosts Alternative Gift Market

North Decatur Presbyterian Church will host its Alternative Gift Market on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market features fair trade, environmentally sustainable and locally made gifts from local artisans, vendors and emerging social entrepreneurs, with affordable options for a range of budgets. Most vendors accept cash, checks and credit cards.

For more information, visit ndpc.org/agm.





Talley Street Upper Elementary School Named 2026 GaDOE Title I Reward School

Congratulations to Talley Street Upper ES, which was named to the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE) 2026 list of Title I Reward schools, which recognizes the top 5% of Title I schools in the state that are making the most progress in improving the performance of all students.

This distinction is based on a comparison of content mastery scores from the most recent two years of reported data on our statewide assessments. Thank you to the Talley St. teachers and staff for creating the conditions for high achievement for all students.

CSD Four-Year Grad Rate Increases to 96.6%, Ranks Second in Metro

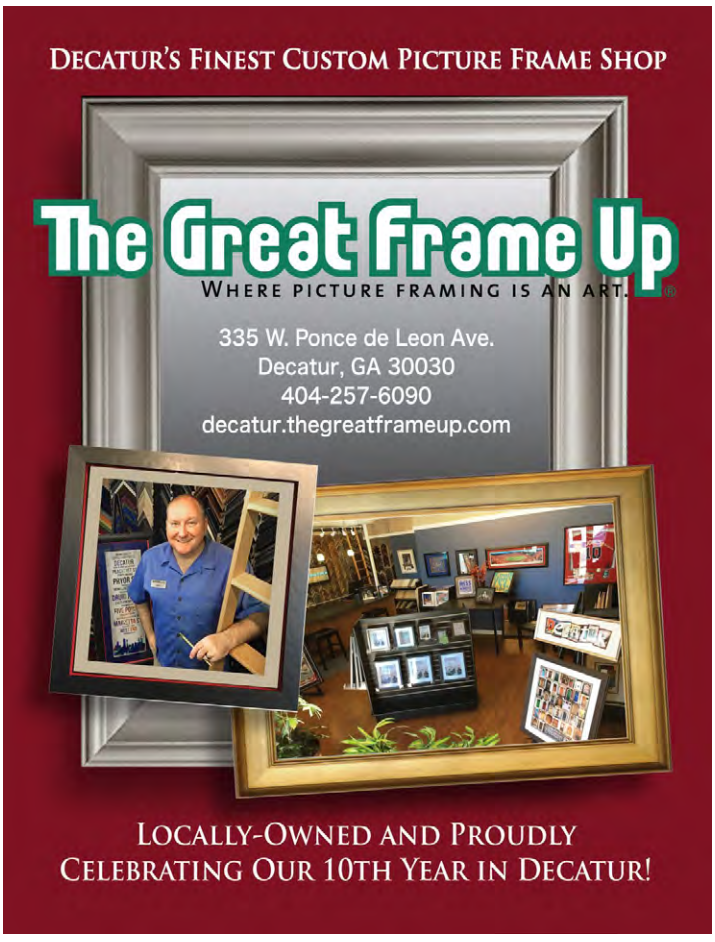
City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is proud to announce that Decatur High School's four-year graduation rate increased to 96.6% in 2026. This represents a 0.56 percent increase from 2025 and more than a 2.5% increase over the previous four years. The five-year graduation rate is 96.7%.

CSD's graduation rate ranks second among districts in the Metro RESA region, and the district continues to graduate its seniors at one of the highest rates in the state, outpacing the 2026 state average of 88.5% and ranking 39th among the 178 public school districts statewide that reported results. The 2026 DHS graduates also made up the largest class in the school's history, with nearly 500 seniors contributing to the 96.6% graduation rate.

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/csdschoolnewsletter, or scan the QR code.





City of Decatur, Mayor Tony Powers Swears in Oakhurst Students as Good Citizens at Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Just before the Fall break, Oakhurst ES hosted its annual schoolwide Hispanic Heritage Month celebration during Community Circle, which included a student parade, songs and dance performances and welcomed families and community members. To kick off the celebration and reinforce the schoolwide learning about Public Safety and Service, City of Decatur, Mayor Tony Powers shared insights into his role in public service and officially swore in Oakhurst students as good citizens.

Muchas gracias to Señor Frank Valerio for his continued efforts to raise awareness of Hispanic culture within the Oakhurst school community.











City of Decatur home sales average $400/sqft.

Our listings consistently achieve $495–$530/sqft* (at or above asking).

Let's get your house sold!

CHAD & CHRISTINA
CARTER REAL ESTATE

404.944.6577 | CCarter@ChadChristinaRealEstate.com

kw KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY METRO ATLANTA



Helping Decatur families reach their goals

ChamberlainFA.com 678-938-0372

CSD Middle and Upper Elementary Schools Earn 2026 GaDOE John Hancock Awards for Cursive Writing

City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is pleased to share that Beacon Hill Middle School, Fifth Avenue Upper Elementary School (F.AVE) and Talley Street Upper Elementary School have all earned the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE) John Hancock Award Banner and Proficiency Ribbon for excellence in cursive writing instruction for the 2025-2026 school year. Both F.AVE and Talley St. also earned this award during the 2024-2025 school year, the inaugural year of the award.

The John Hancock award aims to promote cursive writing to strengthen student confidence, connect learners to history, and support essential cognitive development. Schools with over 90% of students able to write their name in cursive are eligible for the John Hancock Banner and Proficiency Ribbon.

CSD Hosted CSD Reads and Dyslexia Awareness Week



City Schools of Decatur hosted CSD Reads and Dyslexia Awareness Week, September 28-October 8, in observance of September as National Literacy Month, Georgia Reads Week (September 21-25), October as Dyslexia Awareness Month, and World Dyslexia Day on October 8. Highlights included an invitation to participate in Georgia Reads for America 250 at the public library, a special read-aloud of Aaron Slater, Illustrator with Superintendent Dr. Whitaker, guest readers at schools, and a student Dyslexia Awareness Art & Design Competition & Showcase to celebrate literacy and the enjoyment of reading.

east decatur station

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
eastdecaturstation.com | 404.377.3095

Love the Blues



The Montana Sapphire Collection

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



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

Decatur Focus
City of Decatur®

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

DATED MATERIAL NOVEMBER 2026



