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Powerhouse picks for the AJC Decatur Book Festival

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Fall’s Best of the Fests

AS THE SIZZLE of summer settles, I find the outdoors welcoming with crisp beginnings and ends to its days of sunny delight. It’s the perfect time for the indoors to come out and neighbors to mingle together with shared interests. This issue we’ve curated our own collection of some of the best happenings indoor and out for all the members of the family, even the furry ones (page 16).

The AJC Decatur Book Festival still has home-town appeal, so I’m often surprised to remember that it’s the largest independent book festival in the country. We asked local book enthusiasts for their picks among the powerhouses presenting this year – see some of their favorites (page 9). And we’ve scoured the city for other book-worthy events and come up with a list of impressive offerings and outside-the-box takes on the traditional book club (page 28).

Decatur and the greater area are a hotbed of big names this fall. The new exhibit featuring some works of the great Andy Warhol at Emory (page 14) is a must-see for anyone who thinks they already know this modern icon or anyone who wants to – that’s everyone, right? There are a host of activities by the Carlos Museum to suit all ages and interests.

Those in-tune with fall sounds welcome the crisp crunch of leaves and the whistles blowing at sporting events. Our local music scene is in full swing as well. See a preview of Oakhurst Porchfest as it continues to grow. Maybe one day it becomes the Halloween of music in the neighborhood (page 20). And one of my favorite friendly bars in Decatur, Big Tex, will be celebrating a one-year anniversary of its re-opening (page 26).

Beauty is in the eye and ear of the beholder this fall, it’s the perfect time to curate your own season.

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS
by Jill Joplin and Kelly Caudle

Think Global, Read Local
Decatur Book Festival

Decatur also deserves recognition as a book town, a haven for readers and writers alike. Every Labor Day weekend the AJC Decatur Book Festival—the nation’s largest independent book festival—lures readers and writers out of the library, the classroom and the living room to talk about books and ideas.

This year marks the 13th return of the festival. During the three days of events, more than 600 authors will share their stories, novels, screenplays, poems and cookbooks with an estimated 80,000 attendees. Julie Wilson, the new director of the festival, believes its success can be credited to the community’s collective, curious nature.

“We like to read, learn and explore,” she says. “I love that at the festival someone can listen to a famous mystery writer, a poet, a scientist and a civil rights journalist all within a three-hour window. We’ll have new and old voices that will move, challenge and inspire us, and make us laugh and cry.”

One of those voices is the keynote speaker, Kenny Leon, the Tony Award-winning Broadway and film director who has just released his memoir Take You Wherever You Go.

Another exciting voice belongs to Harry and the Potters, hailed as the founders of wizard rock—a sub-genre of music boasting nearly 1,000 bands playing songs about the Harry Potter books. They will be a part of the children’s lineup.

Decatur Mayor Patti Garrett sums up the value of the festival saying, “Events and festivals in Decatur make our town a special community—and the annual AJC Decatur Book Festival ranks right at the top! We welcome writers, readers, artists, creators, and people of all ages.”

In fact, because of the city’s commitment to civic engagement, Decatur received an All-America City 2018 award.

Decatur Authors at the Festival
Many of local neighbors are acclaimed or emerging writers, and the festival is an important vehicle for connecting writers with their audiences. Here are some of Decatur’s own to check out:
Joshilyn Jackson

Decatur resident Joshilyn Jackson has been to every single Decatur Book Festival as a presenter, panelist or moderator.

“This year,” says Jackson, “I’ll be in conversation with Gin Phillips, an author I greatly admire. We will discuss our newest books, *The Almost Sisters* and *Fierce Kingdom*, which are two very different stories that explore motherhood.”

She enjoys the festival because it gives her a chance to connect with readers. “It’s strange and beautiful to ‘gossip’ with folks who have loved, hated, rooted for and cried with people I invented,” she said.

*The Almost Sisters* was nominated for the Townsend Prize and won a Books All Georgians Should Read Award from the Georgia Center for the Book at DeKalb County Public Library (DCPL).

Of this honor Jackson notes, “I hope it will make more readers aware of my work. My books are a fun ride, but a fun ride that is intended to make people think and talk about the stuff that really matters.”

David Peisner

Each year local freelance writer David Peisner walks down to the Decatur Book Festival to check things out, but this year he will discuss his book *Homey Don’t Play That!: The Story of “In Living Color” and the Black Comedy Revolution*. A detailed history of the early ‘90s sketch comedy show *In Living Color*, the book also explores a “hinge moment when black culture was moving from the fringes of the mainstream to being at the very center of it.”

Peisner believes the Festival focuses attention on books at a time when everything else in our culture is telling us communication needs to be shorter, faster and flashier.

“It establishes Decatur as a place that cares about books, about reading, about deep thinking, all of which seem particularly important in this day and age,” he said.

Peisner also received a Books All Georgians Should Read Award from the Georgia Center for the Book at DCPL.

“Knowing that someone who isn’t related to me thinks highly of something I spent so much time on is incredibly validating,” he said.
Tony Grooms

Area resident Tony Grooms will speak about his book *The Vain Conversation* with Emory professor Hank Klibanoff, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist (*The Race Beat*) and director of the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project. Inspired by true events, *The Vain Conversation* reflects on the 1946 lynching of two black couples in Georgia from the perspectives of three characters. Grooms explores “with complexity, satire, and sometimes levity, what it means to redeem, as well as to be redeemed, on the issues of America’s race violence,” and he aims to speak “to the broader issues of oppression and violence everywhere.”

Grooms has also participated in the festival since its inception as a moderator or presenter. “The festival gives me the opportunity to speak to readers who might not otherwise engage with my work,” he says. “It buoys my confidence by allowing me to associate with members of a broad reading and writing community.”

Grooms’s novel has also been named a Book All Georgians Should Read by the Georgia Center for the Book at DCPL.

Cheryl Reid

First-time author and Decatur-ite Cheryl Reid has been a dedicated festival attendee, though 2018 is her first time presenting as an author.

“It is so amazing how this Festival brings people to our city to celebrate books and writing,” she said. “I always leave with several nuggets of wisdom about other authors’ writing processes.”

Her novel, *As Good As True*, is described as a powerful and haunting tale of a woman’s broken past and the painful choices she must make to keep her family and her home. The DeKalb Library Foundation will feature a set of copies of *As Good As True* and a chance to have Reid attend a book club as an auction item at its annual A Novel Affair event on September 27.
The Power of a Local Book Club

One of the best ways to connect to your community is to look for or start a book club. In the Lamont-Vidal neighborhood, one book club started in 2004 with several new mothers looking to engage with other adults. The group still meets nearly every month with many of the original members as well as new voices who have joined over the years.

Co-founder Angie Witz recalls that the initial group brainstormed a set of ground rules, such as meeting frequency, size and food and beverage plans. Having a few rules “allowed everyone to have similar expectations about participating.” Over the years, the group has read a variety of books which have been chronicled by member Beth Burmester. In addition, the women have planned outings to movies based on books they read, attended plays and enjoyed visits by local author Lynn Cullen after the group read her books *Twain’s End* and *Mrs. Poe*. Most recently, the book club read Joshilyn Jackson’s *The Almost Sisters*. Members plan to attend her talk at the Decatur Book Festival to learn more about the characters and plot of the story.

Another co-founder, Jill Fossett, reflects on the group’s longevity. “Of course we socialize when we meet, but we always talk about the book. And discussing a book with a group of women helps you get to know each other in ways you might not otherwise,” she said.

More than likely you have a neighbor in a book club, or can find one through the DeKalb County Public Library, which offers numerous book clubs at its various library locations, or at Little Shop of Stories bookstore, which hosts book clubs for both children and adults.

**The AJC Decatur Book Festival takes place at the Decatur Square on Labor Day weekend, August 31 to September 2. Check out the full schedule at [www.decaturbookfestival.com](http://www.decaturbookfestival.com).**

Karin Slaughter

Local resident Karin Slaughter will present her novel *Pieces of Her*. She is an internationally best-selling author as well as a dedicated philanthropist. Her fund, Save the Libraries, has raised more than $300,000 with more than $150,000 directly benefitting the DeKalb Library Foundation. In 2016 she hosted a concert with The Indigo Girls. All profits benefitted the fund. In March of this year, Slaughter held a Facebook Live Fundraiser at the Decatur Library, which raised more than $16,000 for the DeKalb library system.

**LOCAL DECATURE AUTHORS**

- Joshilyn Jackson, *The Almost Sisters*
- Karin Slaughter, *Pieces of Her*
- Cheryl Reid, *As Good As True*
- Laurel Snyder, *Charlie & Mouse & Grumpy*
- Joseph Crespino, Emory University historian, *Atticus Finch: The Biography*
- Susan Puckett, food journalist, *Turnip Greens & Tortillas: A Mexican Chef Spices Up the Southern Kitchen about the chef behind the wildly popular Taqueria del Sol.*
- Tony Grooms, *The Vain Conversation*
- David Peisner, *Homey Don’t Play That!: The Story of “In Living Color” and the Black Comedy Revolution*
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Think you know Warhol?

Think again with new exhibit at the Carlos Museum

ANDY WARHOL. THAT ONE name likely conjures images of Campbell soup cans and brightly colored Marilyn Monroe prints—a visual testament to his ability to play upon American culture's hunger for commercialism and pop culture.

Warhol’s talent spans beyond his iconic silkscreens, a point Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum hopes to showcase with its new exhibit, Chimera: Andy Warhol through the 1980s. According to Andi McKenzie, Carlos Museum Curator of Works on Paper, this original exhibit aims to go beyond what we typically think about Andy Warhol by exploring process, his lesser known works, and how he conceived of himself in life and as an artist.” The museum, which owns most of these pieces, hopes the collection will inspire viewers to “see the many facets of Warhol.”

On review is a collection of Warhol’s Polaroids, silver gelatin prints and screenprints in various working stages. And on November 3, McKenzie will introduce the exhibit. Following McKenzie’s insights and remarks will be a screening of Warhol’s Velvet Underground films featuring Lou Reed led by Atlanta film scholar and founder of Film Love, Andy Ditzler.

These modern works are expected to draw not only Emory students and faculty, but the larger community within Metro Atlanta. The exhibit supports an expanded view of the Carlos Museum’s breadth; its collections include more than ancient works and artifacts.
New this fall, the museum will also offer a line-up of children's and teen programming coinciding with the exhibition's run, including Artful Stories: Uncle Andy's Cats, in which children will read a book together, experiment with printmaking, and then make their own cat books.

The exhibition and its programming provide a unique opportunity for adults, teens and kids to enjoy one of America’s most-talented artists in a new way at an affordable price, according to McKenzie. Admission prices are intended for the whole family to be able to enjoy an artistic adventure and learn more about an American icon.

Chimera: Andy Warhol through the 1980s runs August 25 to November 25. Michael C. Carlos Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. Admission is $8 for adults; $6 for seniors, students and children; free for children 5 and under.

MORE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE WARHOL

**Warhol Art Factory**
Sunday, September 23
2 to 4 p.m.
Ages 6 to 8
After viewing the exhibition Chimera: Andy Warhol through the 1980s, children will work together to produce a series of repeated images based on the idea of Warhol's famous factory with artist and illustrator Ande Cook.

Fee: $15 for Carlos Museum members, $20 for nonmembers. Registration is required by contacting Alyson Vuley at 404-727-0519 or avuley@emory.edu.

**Iconic Warhol**
Sunday, September 30
2 to 4 p.m.
Ages 9 to 12
Children will see several of Warhol’s silkscreen images from his Cowboys and Indians series in Chimera: Andy Warhol through the 1980s before heading to the studio to experiment with the screenprinting process with artist and illustrator Ande Cook.

Fee: $15 for Carlos Museum members, $20 for nonmembers. Registration is required by contacting Alyson Vuley at 404-727-0519 or avuley@emory.edu.

**Artful Stories: Uncle Andy's Cats**
Saturday, October 13
10 a.m.
Ages 3 to 5
Surrounded by brightly colored Andy Warhol silkscreen prints, children will hear James Warhola’s tall tale about his uncle Andy’s famous cats. Children will experiment with printmaking and make their own cat books. For ages 3-5 with an accompanying adult. This program is free, but registration is required by contacting Alyson Vuley at 404-727-0519 or avuley@emory.edu.

**Exhibition Viewing and Screening**
Saturday, November 3
7:30 p.m.

Fee: $15 for Carlos Museum members, $20 for nonmembers. Registration is required by contacting Alyson Vuley at 404-727-0519 or avuley@emory.edu.

**Warhol Superstars**
Sunday, November 4
2 to 5 p.m.
Teens
Curator of Works on Paper Andi McKenzie leads teens on an exploration of Warhol’s Polaroid portraits in Chimera: Andy Warhol through the 1980s before handing them their own Polaroid camera. Playing with framing, poses and expression, teens will make portraits of each other and themselves in the studio. Each teen will get to keep their camera.

Fee: $55 for Carlos Museum members, $65 for nonmembers (includes the cost of the Polaroid camera). Registration is required by contacting Alyson Vuley at 404-727-0519 or avuley@emory.edu.
CALLING ALL ATL pups: When your family gets some time away from the hustle of human life, take them out for a special day trip. You may be on the leash, but by bringing the people in your life to these pet-friendly places, you’ll be leading the way.

Taj Ma-Hound
Taj Ma-Hound is a bakery in Oakhurst Village designed just for pups. Not only does Taj Ma-Hound serve unique, customizable treats made in-house for your dog, but you can pick up a new leash or collar to really treat your pup like royalty. Keep your eye out for specials such as free ice cream. Bonus points for bowls of water available to pups walking the village.

Fetch Park and Ice House
Fetch is the epitome of fun with your best friend and one of the latest innovations in beating the dog days of summer. Sign up for a membership to the outdoor bar and dog park so you can meet plenty of furry friends while sipping beer, wine or a cocktail with fellow dog lovers. Make sure to bring your pet paperwork to prove your pup is safe to play on the first visit, and feel comfortable with new doggos knowing that Bark Rangers are on-duty, protecting you, your family and your fun.
Freedom Barkway
Freedom Barkway is a dog park connected to both Atlanta's BeltLine and Freedom Parkway trail, giving you plenty of places to roam after your time at the park. Feel totally at ease as you play, knowing the park is safely sealed off from traffic, and there are separate play stations for big and little dogs. Top it all off with outdoor seating for your family and plenty of beautiful trees for a perfect Atlantan outing.

Starbucks Puppuccino
Want to take your family and friends out to celebrate? Grab a Puppuccino (and a few drinks for the humans, of course) from any Starbucks near you. The free, espresso-shot-sized cup of whipped cream is on the secret menu, so you'll impress your peer pups with your insider trade secrets.

ParkGrounds Coffee House
If you're looking for a more hefty snack or coffee experience unique to Atlanta, head to ParkGrounds Coffee House. Located on Flat Shoals Avenue, the coffee shop features house-made coffee and food, a new, vibrant mural, and a dog park. While your people wait for their food, they can hang out on the patio, all the while watching you show off in the park and maximize their puppy time.

Splish Splash Doggie Bash
The Splish Splash Doggie Bash at the Piedmont Park pool is the ultimate event for Atlanta dogs. Just before the pool closes for the winter, pups are invited for a pool party to jump in the pool, treat their humans to a snack or a drink, and dance their hearts out to the DJ's beats. All this excitement financially supports the park and dogs, with revenue from the concessions put towards the Piedmont Park Conservancy. Win-win!

Barking Hound Village
On the rare occasions where the humans and pups can't travel together, it might take a village - Barking Hound Village. Offering boarding, daycare and grooming, The Village offers lodging that caters to the pup that needs space as well as the social canine. Swimming pools, tented play areas and even playgrounds are on tap for the guests. And humans can interact by chatting with their pet from anywhere.

Atlanta BeltLine Trails
The paved footpaths connecting all the hippest part of Atlanta, make Atlanta BeltLine trails a choice spot for walks. Even better, the BeltLine has something for everyone. Scattered along the path are skate parks for skater pups, locally-sourced art (including murals, pianos and sculptures) for artistic animals, and plenty of room to run for the most athletic pairs. Because it's such a prime spot for a day out, you'll meet dozens of other local pups on your trip. Pup parents can opt to stop by Ponce City Market for a bite to eat without an extra trip home - Barking Hound Village has a dog valet. Your fuzzy friend will be munching on treats in a luxury dog suite before heading back out.

Atlanta Dog Spa
The height of puppy luxury, Atlanta Dog Spa in West Midtown is ready to spoil your furry friend for a special occasion or just a day of relaxation. Celebrating more than dog years, the spa offers birthday parties for up to ten of your closest pup friends (and their humans). Enjoy a healthy, dog-friendly cake in a private yard, be surrounded by thoughtful decorations, and check out photos from your personal photographer. No matter what doggie-care you need, Atlanta Dog Spa has your back.

Staycation at Artmore Hotel
Take a staycation at the Artmore Hotel, where dogs are family too. While humans get to enjoy the luxuries and quirkiness of the Artmore Hotel, the Barkmore Package gifts the furry friend a dog bowl, pillow, treats and a toy.

Morningside Nature Preserve
Known among locals as "Dog Beach," Morningside Nature Preserve is full of luscious forest, foot trails and 30 acres of outdoor exploration. A day of hiking, jogging or swimming in the sun can be found in this urban secret garden. Not enough adventure to satisfy you? Try going across the rope bridge. All in all, Morningside promises a thrilling day of outdoor excitement.
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Fall 2018 DECATUR LIVING 19
Oakhurst Porchfest Then and Now

Festival takes steps toward founder’s big vision

HALLOWEEN HAS NO organizing committee, corporate sponsor or formal sign up for participation. Even without any central guiding authority, households choose the level they participate in the event by turning out their lights, or dolling out candy, or even creating a haunted house.

Now imagine neighbors experience live music and not candy, and you’ll see the vision of Oakhurst Porchfest founder Scott Doyon.

The grassroots music festival celebrates its fourth year in October and is making great strides toward Doyon’s ultimate goal of a completely community-driven event, just like Halloween.

The Beginnings of Porchfest

While Oakhurst, Decatur is an early adopter in 2015, Porchfest originally dates back to an idea developed in Ithaca New York by Lesley Greene and Gretchen Hildreth in 2007. Their concept was porches becoming stages for bands to play as neighbors gathered to listen and connect. As of 2018, there are 117 neighborhoods holding a Porchfest in North America.

Doyon heard about the event from a friend in Ithaca several years earlier, but it wasn’t until the Decatur Arts Alliance requested ideas from the community in 2015 that he took action. That year, the Oakhurst Arts and Music Festival was canceled due to construction in Harmony Park.
The need stirred Doyon from thought to action. "I thought Oakhurst had the same kind of funky sort of vibe [as Ithaca] with lots of musicians," he said.

While he had always thought it would be a "slam dunk" in Oakhurst, even Doyon was surprised at the reaction the community had. They had been reading about Ithaca’s first year and thought a "super ambitious" goal would be 30 bands.

Doyon reports 130 bands had signed up by the beginning of that first festival in 2015. "There was pent up demand. Ithaca doesn’t have the benefit of a huge, metro area. Once word got out, we got bands from all over metro Atlanta. We didn’t see it coming."

"The event’s guiding principal is radical generosity. There is no meaningful profit incentive for anyone, it’s just neighborly. That’s what we’re about," said Doyon.

That sentiment is shared by the performers as well. Paul Melancon’s band, Paul Melancon and the New Insecurities, has been playing Porchfest since its inception.

“What most surprised me was how big a crowd showed up the first year and yet all of the individual shows still felt intimate and personalized. It came across as a completely spontaneous kind of happening, even though I knew that, behind the scenes, a lot of work went on to bring it about,” Melancon remembers.

No Boss, No Problem
The festival breaks the conventional model of festivals where a central organizing entity works to put on an event for the benefit of the attendees. The end goal for Doyon is for Porchfest to become an event done not for the neighborhood and audience, but by the neighborhood.

When asked how the event is progressing toward that end, Doyon says, “We chip away at it every year. We’re getting people to embrace what’s counterintuitive.”

For 2018, the festival took another step in that direction with the institution of block captains, a minimal role that will provide on-the-scene accountability in facilitating the bands and keeping streets accessible. The event secured volunteer participation from more than 80 percent of the 32 zones it created within Oakhurst.

That level of involvement by the community took Doyon from feeling "pretty good to really good" about this year’s development.

Melancon looks forward to the experience again this year. "I know the crowds grow every year and somehow they still manage to create that friendly, intimate atmosphere. I can’t imagine the amount of work that goes into pulling that off and making it seem effortless. There’s something really magical happening here," he said.

The antidote to disconnected neighbors
Doyon sees Oakhurst, like other neighborhoods experiencing change in Atlanta, separating into two different vantage points – newcomer and long-time resident. He considers Porchfest one of many events that keeps this dichotomy a positive. The antidote to the separation this can sometimes bring, according to Doyon, is "getting people out on the streets. The bonds of neighborhood bridges the divide."

One of Doyon’s favored stories comes from a woman who told him she ran into her childhood friend at Porchfest. As they reconnected, she said it became apparent that they lived on opposite ends of the same block and never knew it until the event.
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Third Grade

How much is 99 plus 99 plus 99?

Fourth Grade

Count by 1/2 from 0 to 7.

Fifth Grade

Which is greatest: 17/18, 23/30, or 18/19?

(Explain how you got your answer.)

Sixth Grade

Halfway through the second quarter, how much of the game is left?

Seventh Grade

How much is 6 1/2 % of 250?

Pre-Algebra

On a certain map, 6 inches represents 25 miles. How many miles does 15 inches represent?

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On a certain map, 6 inches represents 25 miles. How many miles does 15 inches represent?

For answers and explanations visit: mathnasium.com/answers

Mathnasium of Decatur

404-974-4690 • decatur@mathnasium.com

1248 Clairmont Road, #3C, Decatur, GA 30030
MOST PARENTS INVEST a lot of time and energy looking for the latest and greatest ways to help their children succeed. There are gadgets galore and no shortage of activities to engage in. What if you were told there was something that helps to build comprehension and vocabulary skills, stimulates the imagination and expands interests, provides topics for family discussions, and encourages a love for life-long learning? Let’s add that it was easily accessible, widely available and often free.

Does it sound too good to be true? It’s as simple as picking up a book!

Reading for fun and pleasure at all ages promotes all of the above and much more. Studies have shown that reading improves memory, focus and critical thinking skills. Reading fiction has been shown to help children better understand and express their emotions. Children and teens gain knowledge and expand their horizons by choosing different genres and subjects to read about. Social skills and decision making have been shown to be stronger in teens who read for pleasure.

As the school year begins and busy schedules fill each day, it’s more difficult to make time for reading a priority.

Tips for success
Start young and be a good role model: Snuggle and read to infants and young children, make books readily available in the home, let your children see you reading and freely discuss what you’ve read. Consider organizing a book club for older children and teens.

Visit the library and local bookstores regularly: Attend story times and special events and be sure your child signs up for a library card. Make trips to the library a fun event.

Encourage your child to pick any age appropriate material to read: Books, e-books, magazines, comic books, fiction, and non-fiction all “count.” Let the choice be something your child finds engaging.

Consider a reward system for reluctant readers: For example, reading to earn screen time or special treats.

Put aside the technology: It’s so easy these days to get caught up in TV, computer games, video games, phones, and social media. Books can be just as entertaining and much more beneficial.

Visit the Decatur Book Festival this year for inspiration to make reading a priority. Nurturing a love of reading can be the best gift you can give a child of any age. You may be surprised how much you enjoy it also.
Growing Family? Need More Space?  
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#OURKIDS Get Local Help

Decatur Education Foundation Works with Community on Current Issues

ACROSS OUR NATION, children are dealing with serious issues including lack of access to opportunities, racial bias and an increase in mental health challenges. For 16 years, Decatur Education Foundation (DEF) has partnered with City Schools of Decatur, local businesses and other nonprofits to meet the needs of Decatur’s kids, #OURKIDS. The nonprofit is addressing several current issues and is encouraging others to join to ensure every child can reach their full potential.

Opportunity Partnership

Nationwide, students from high-income families have substantially more opportunities than their lower-income peers. DEF created the Opportunity Partnership to address this disparity in Decatur. Third-grade students are paired with adult mentors who help connect them to the vast educational and enrichment opportunities that exist in our community. This fall, 10 more students will join the program for a total of 30. As this program grows, so does the need for mentors.

“The Opportunity Partnership is so much more than just connecting kids with opportunities,” said OP mentor Erin Guerrieri. “It’s connecting us all as a community, and that’s the real value.”

Learn more about making a big impact in a student’s life by visiting decatureducationfoundation.org/mentoring.

Equity Circle

Last year, City Schools of Decatur (CSD) hired Dr. Lillie Huddleston as Equity Director to address the disproportionality that exists in educational outcomes based on race. Shortly thereafter, DEF created Equity Circle, a group of Decatur residents committed to supporting district-wide initiatives related to educational equity. Initial funding allowed 80 school employees to attend “Courageous Conversations,” a two-day training session examining inherent racial bias.

“This training provided an opportunity for deep self-reflection and was an important step toward our goal of increasing cultural proficiency,” said Dr. Huddleston. DEF will continue to work with CSD in the effort to promote equity in Decatur schools and community.

Find more information at decatureducationfoundation.org/equity.

Decatur Student Center

Decatur High School recently established the Decatur Student Center to address the mental health challenges that teens face including anxiety, stress, depression and substance abuse. The center is funded in part by Joe’s Fund, a DEF fund created to honor the life of DHS graduate Joe Bodine who lost his battle to addiction in 2016. Last spring, Joe’s Fund paid stipends to 25 teachers attending “Mental Health First Aid.” They learned to recognize “red flag behaviors” that could signify mental health challenges in their students to get the support they need.

More info can be found at www.decatureducationfoundation.org/joe.
Amped Up Revamp

Big Tex v2 brings live music and sports to its menu

DEEPLY MISSED SINCE its 2014 closing, this fall marks one year since a team of original and new owners brought Big Tex back to the Decatur scene. It’s become the perfect venue for watching sports games, jamming to live music and munching on mouth-watering, Texas-style food.

Sean Dammann, one of the new owners, credits the success of the resurrected restaurant to preserving iconic menu favorites and enhancing the entertainment platform. They’ve just brought on a new chef who will be adding fall specials to the menu.

“Big Tex is really about great food, cold cocktails and good times in a family-friendly environment,” he said. “I like to think we are Decatur’s friendliest bar.”

Eat, Drink, Play!
The entertainment platform hallmarks the upgrades for Big Tex. There are 12 large, flat screens with stereo sound and a dedicated stage for performances.

It’s no surprise this was the direction given Dammann’s own background - Sean and his wife Tammy are founding members of the rock band The Dammages. Dammann is excited about
bringing live music and televised sports games to Big Tex’s iconic menu and coveted downtown Decatur location.

“At the end of the day we want to be in the regular rotation for lunch and dinner and a special destination for live music and sporting events,” he said. “We are not a sports bar or ticketed music venue, but we are a great place to watch your favorite game and provide free live music several nights per week.”

A new energy adds to the long-missed legendary menu items such as the smoked wings, chicken fried steak, meatloaf and catfish. For instance, traditional Big Tex Blue Grass Brunch with live blue grass still happens every Sunday. The difference is now the bands perform on a stage with state-of-the-art sound.

“There are no boundaries in live music and no two performances are the same,” Dammann said. “The interaction between the performer and crowd is hard to catch in a studio. It is about living in the moment.”

The place for parties inside and out
Special events have become a mainstay for the restaurant. With limited places in the city for large groups, Dammann says the

“We are not a sports bar or ticketed music venue, but we are a great place to watch your favorite game and provide free live music several nights per week.”

– Sean Dammann

“Emergency Drinking Bar” in the back of the restaurant can be closed off for corporate and private events.

Dammann and his partners share strong local ties as Decatur residents who run other successful businesses here. As such, Big Tex has big plans outside of the restaurant as well.

“We are also working with the city to bring back the street parties for a cause,” Dammann said. “The idea is to have a full day of music and raise money for local charities.”

“We live here, love here and will always remain a committed partner to our community,” he says.
Celebrating Book Worms
Hot spots to create your own never-ending book festival

NOT HERE FOR the Decatur Book Festival on Labor Day? Didn’t get enough book-ness even when you were there? Here are some of the hot spots for those who love the written word.

**Atlanta History Center Author Programs:**
The Atlanta History Center hosts a plethora of events related to the written and spoken word. It could be Kevin Kwan, who penned the international bestselling *Crazy Rich Asians,* or a StoryCorps listening event.

Find more at atlantahistorycenter.com/programs/category/author-programs.

**Decatur Writers Studio:**
Fulfill your secret mission to write the next best-selling book, screenplay or free-lance article by taking a class on Humor Writing, Narrative Non-fiction, or Novel Writing. These classes are taught by an impressive line-up of acclaimed writers.

Sign up at decaturwritersstudio.com.

**Eat this Poem:**
If you want to experience a truly creative outlet that pairs poetry, food and travel, check out local author Nicole Gulotta’s website and blog. Her new cookbook with the same name makes a great gift for your fellow bookie or foodie.

See more at eatthispoem.com.
Java Monkey Speaks: It’s a different kind of open mic than you expect at a local bar with a stage. Relax before the upcoming week every Sunday night by enjoying coffee or wine as you listen or participate in open mic poetry.

Get the latest details at javamonkeymusic.com/f-a-p-q-frequently-asked-poetry-questions.

Lit: A revolutionary way to think about book club, enjoy “books, booze and beats” each month at Monday Night Garage in Southwest Atlanta. Here, selected guests read an excerpt from a book of their choice related to the theme, for August it was #GOALS. It’s like karaoke for books. The events are free, though a gently used book to donate is requested as a cover charge.

RSVP for the next event at litatlanta.com.

Lit & Bruised: Enjoy a weekly podcast and great literature at the same time with this Atlanta-based literary podcast that includes conversations with local authors. Bonus - the podcast’s website also keeps you in-the-know about literary events in the Atlanta area.

Check it out at litandbruised.com

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library Author Programs: Throughout the year, the library hosts lectures and book signings, most of them free. Even President Jimmy Carter himself was the featured author recently. These events are great opportunities to delve deeply into favorite books and hot topics, while glimpsing authors behind their magic curtains.

Find the next event at jimmycarterlibrary.gov/events

Writers @ the Wrecking Bar: This wildly popular program combines authors, book critics, book lovers, food and spirits once a month. Contemporary fiction authors engage in conversation with book critics before answering audience questions and then signing books.

Register at acappellabooks.com/writers-at-the-wrecking-bar.
AJC Decatur Book Festival
August 31 to September 2, 2018
The festival for every book lover! The AJC Decatur Book Festival is the largest independent book festival in the country and one of the five largest overall. Since its launch, more than 1,000 world-class authors and hundreds of thousands of festival-goers have crowded the historic downtown Decatur square to enjoy book signings, author readings, panel discussions, an interactive children’s area, live music, parades, cooking demonstrations, poetry slams, writing workshops, and more. Find schedules, presenting authors and more festival information: decaturbookfestival.com

Avondale Estates Farmers Market
Every Sunday through October 28
The Avondale Estates Farmers Market (AEFM) is an outdoor farmer’s market with various local vendors selling fruits, veggies, eggs, cheese, meat, baked goods, prepared foods, coffee, pasta, jam, sweet treats, handmade goods and more. Located in the parking lot of My Parents’ Basement, 22 North Avondale Road, and will continue to be open each Sunday through October 28.

Midsummer Night’s Dream
September 5 to October 21
It’s a date-night trifecta with Shakespeare, the Alliance Theatre and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Take in one of Shakespeare’s best comedies with one of Atlanta’s finest theatre companies outdoors at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Get tickets at alliancetheatre.org/production/2018-19/a-midsummer-nights-dream.

Candler Park Movie Night
September 8
7:30 to 10 p.m.
Watch Coco under the stars at Candler Park with your family and friends. This is a free, community-building event. Arrive early with your picnic blanket and basket and enjoy an al fresco dinner before the movie begins.

Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade
September 22
7 p.m.
Walk the BeltLine from Krog Street Market to Piedmont Park in the glow of thousands of paper lanterns. Don’t be fooled by the call to bring your “homemade” lantern, this is an event you can join with or without your own lantern. If you fall into the “bring your own” camp, join one of the many lantern workshops around the area. These lanterns are akin to New Orleans Mardi Gras floats drifting in the Atlanta night air. Get details at art.beltline.org/lantern-parade/#overview.

Fall Fest in Candler Park
September 29 to 30
This festival kicks off with a Saturday morning 5K and 1-mile Fun Run and continues with two days of live music, local food and art. Join the fun and see a full list of events at fallfest.candlerpark.org.

AES Runs the World 5K
September 29
8 a.m.
Have fun while supporting the Avondale Elementary School Education Foundation (AESEF). Register now for the 2nd annual AES Runs the World 5K and (new!) Fun Run. This year’s event also includes a one miler for little legs and those who want to run or walk, just not too far. Runners and walkers are welcome! Funds raised will continue to build STEM programming and outdoor spaces (Chromebooks, STEM garden, etc.) and to help build a new playground. Register at runsignup.com/Race/GA/AvondaleEstates/AESRunstheWorld.

Decatur Tiny House Festival
September 29 to 30
Tiny House Atlanta, MicroLife Institute and the City of Decatur are excited to bring the Decatur Tiny House Festival back for its 3rd year. Tour more than 25 tiny houses, listen to guest speakers, bring your little ones to visit the Kids Corner, see local and national vendors and enjoy food from local restaurants and food trucks. The event is held in downtown Decatur at 105 Electric Avenue. VIP and General admission tickets can be purchased at tinyhouseatlanta.com.

YEA! Event for Young Emerging Artists 2018
Sunday, September 30
2 to 6 p.m.
This wildly popular one-day arts event has been embraced by local students grades K-12 as a way to showcase their creativity and talent to the public. Shop at the juried outdoor artists market or enjoy live performances at a stage in Harmony Park at Oakhurst Village! Tents line Harmony Park, packed with student artists showing off a bounty of jewelry, paintings, photography, drawings, culinary delights, and handcrafted goods, all for sale. On a stage in the center of the area is a nonstop line-up of high energy performances from wild-and-wooly rock combos to blues acts, singer-songwriters, soloists and more. Find more information at Decaturartsalliance.org
Porchfest, the ultimate grassroots music festival, is an afternoon when porches all over the neighborhood become stages and people meander from yard to yard, listening, hanging out and connecting with their neighbors. It’s the largest organic, free-range, crowd-sourced music festival in Georgia, and is what Georgia’s music tourism bureau called “very likely the most diverse lineup of any festival” in the state. This unique and not-to-be-missed experience boasts of 445 performers on 185 porches. To learn more about Porchfest, the lineup or to get involved as a host or performer, check out oakhurstporchfest.org.

Decatur Craft Beer Festival
October 20
12 to 5 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon of beer tasting and music on the square in downtown Decatur, Georgia. Each general admission ticket includes a special tasting glass and unlimited sips from more than 80 breweries. Rock out to live music throughout the festival, while a DJ keeps you moving between sets. Get the ultimate beer festival experience with a VIP ticket. Tickets on sale in September and sell out fast. Check out Decaturbeerfestival.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

2018 Open Streets Emory Village
October 28
2 to 6 p.m.
Walk, bike, skate or roller board to the place where North Decatur and Oxford Roads meet in Emory Village. No cars allowed. This is the annual active gathering of people taking over the streets. Among the festivities, enjoy the Halloween costume parade (including a renowned pet competition), Glenn Church’s Trunk or Treat, circus acts, games to play, music and much more. This free event is organized by Emory Village Association in partnership with neighborhoods and local businesses.

ArtWalk | Decatur Wine Festival 2018
Friday, November 2
Wine and art belong together. That’s why the Decatur Wine Festival kicks off with ArtWalk. Each art spot features the work of one (or more) artists. Visit any or all of the participating locations. The event is free and open to the public. Updated locations for this year’s Art Walk will be available closer to the date of the event. Get more details at decaturwinefestival.org.

Decatur Wine Festival 2018
November 3
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
On the square in Downtown Decatur • Rain or Shine
Taste wines from around the globe, sample delicious food from Decatur-area restaurants, and enjoy tunes at metro Atlanta’s largest outdoor wine festival. Proceeds benefit the Decatur Arts Alliance, which produces the Decatur Arts Festival and many other arts events, free to the community each year. Tickets available at ticketalternative.com. Check out the wine list and find out more at decaturwinefestival.org.

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors
November 18 to February 17
Social media is already buzzing about this exhibit. The High Museum of Art features the most comprehensive exhibit to date of this world-renown Japanese artist. Sell-out crowds flock to see her art, which includes transportive mirrored rooms. Tickets go on sale to members August 27 and the general public September 17. Purchase your tickets early because they are sure to sell out! Find more information at high.org/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors.
Continuing the Legacy

Strong beginnings inspire new owner

LYNN PASQUALETTI AND Laura Bevins opened the doors to HLM 32 years ago from the den of our home. I can remember falling asleep to the sound of Lynn’s 10-key calculator softly buzzing until the wee hours of the morning. Lynn and Laura started this business in a time when the profession was male dominated. After an encounter with a boss who refused to let Lynn go see her father-in-law after he had a massive heart attack, she determined she could be only half as good and half as nice and still do many times better. On September 15, 1986, HLM Financial Group was born.

Over the years, the HLM client base has become like my family. They have seen me grow up, and I have seen their families shift, change and grow. I hold this lasting connection to our clients dear to my heart. I never imagined that I would be the legacy for the firm. In fact, I hated tax season. It meant long hours for Lynn and Laura and hard work in short periods of time. However, in 2001, I moved home, and Lynn offered me a temporary position in the front office answering phones. I fell in love.

Thus began my longest relationship to date. I cherish my anniversary here at HLM every November as a reminder of my growth and commitment. Lynn taught me the relationship we have with our clients is truly the most valuable source of strength in our firm. We hold those relationships with great responsibility. Several years ago, I became a licensed Enrolled Agent, and Lynn began sharing some of her relationships with me. This transition has made my life full.

After 32 years, I am ready to take the torch and carry on the tradition of HLM Financial Group. I knew I could not do this alone as Lynn and Laura have big shoes for me to fill. We were lucky enough to bring Deloyd Johnson-Jones, CPA, into the firm two years ago. Deloyd comes to us with over 20 years of accounting and controller experience. The two of us have many of the same philosophies about life and relationships and we both value the relationships with each HLM client. We are so excited to announce that we have purchased the firm and will be continuing its legacy. We are ready to take HLM into the next 32 years! We invite you to celebrate this transition with us and look forward to a continued relationship with all old and new HLM clients.

Deloyd Johnson-Jones, CPA
NATALIE GREGORY
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

244 INMAN DRIVE, DECATUR
Gorgeous new construction by Nick Beaudry. This immaculate two-story painted brick Tudor mingles an expansive open floorplan with thoughtful details inspired by neighboring Winnona Park historic bungalows. An entry foyer opens to a fireside living room with adjoining dining room and sunroom. A luxe chef’s kitchen with walk-in pantry and breakfast room overlooks a spacious family room with screened porch access. Upstairs, flex landing space borders three bedrooms and a central laundry room. A spectacular master bedroom boasts his-and-her walk-in closets and spa-bath with dual vanity, frameless glass shower, and free-standing soaking tub. A finished basement with guest suite and media room, coupled with a detached two-car garage, completes this Decatur dream home.

$1,250,000

1090 BERKSHIRE ROAD, MORNINGSIDE
Overlooking Atlanta’s most coveted street, this handsome English Tudor boasts three bedrooms and three full baths in the main house, plus a bedroom and full bath in the pool house. A foyer entryway unveils a fireside living room with plaster trimwork and built-in bookshelves. Curved archways frame an inviting sunroom off a large formal dining room. Exposed wood beams mirror hardwood floors in the gorgeous Terracotta-designed kitchen, complete with stainless-steel appliances, working island, and breakfast alcove. The main floor offers a spacious guest bedroom and full bath, plus an office that could be a fourth bedroom. Upstairs, a master suite delivers a fireplace, sitting room, walk-in closet, and spacious bath. A second guest bedroom and bathroom upstairs also provide more living space. A tiered outdoor oasis offers bluestone patio, spa-like pool, and a pool house.

$1,189,000

471 CHELSEA CIRCLE, DRUID HILLS
Nestled on a serene street, along the edge of private woodlands, this handsome architect-designed craftsman boasts five bedrooms and four-and-a-half bathrooms. A formal dining room with custom trimwork and window seating lies opposite a main-level guest suite and office. Stainless steel appliances shine in the stunning heart-of-home kitchen with an oversized granite island and adjoining keeping room with floor-to-ceiling stone hearth. A sun-filled family room offers built-in shelving and a fireside reading nook. French doors open to a gorgeous wrap-around screened porch with a protected, tree-lined view. A flex landing space anchors the second level, with two bedrooms connected by a Jack-and-Jill bathroom. Overlooking the treetops, a lush master suite delivers walk-in closet, dual vanity, and jetted tub. A full, finished basement provides ample storage, den, and drive-under two-car garage.

$1,049,000

NATALIE GREGORY, Your Home Marketing Specialist
404 550 5113 direct • 404 564 5560 office
Natalie@NatalieGregorySOLD.com • NatalieGregorySOLD.com
315 West Ponce de Leon, Suite 100, Decatur, Georgia 30030
304 RIDGELAND AVE., DECATUR

Overlooking Atlanta’s most coveted street, in sought-after Morningside, this handsome English Tudor boasts four bedrooms and three bathrooms on an idyllically landscaped lot. A foyer entryway unveils a fireside living room with original plaster trimwork and built-in bookshelves. Curved archways frame an inviting sun room off a large formal dining room. Exposed wood beams mirror hardwood floors in the gorgeous Terracotta-designed kitchen with stainless steel appliances, stone countertops, working island, and breakfast alcove. Featured in Better Homes and Gardens Kitchen issue, this showstopping space is perfect for chefs and entertainers alike. French Doors lead to an outdoor oasis with bluestone patio, spa-like pool, and pool house. Upstairs, a master suite delivers sitting room, walk-in closet, and spacious bath. A detached two-car garage complete this Morningside manor.

$839,000 – UNDER CONTRACT

144 MOCKINGBIRD LANE, DECATUR

Perched atop a scenic bend in social Chelsea Heights, steps from acclaimed Westchester Elementary, this renovated brick and shingle home boasts four bedrooms and three-and-a-half bathrooms. A towering two-story living room welcomes you, showcasing a stone hearth fireplace. Hardwood floors lead into a central kitchen with stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar, and walk-in pantry. A separate dining room extends to a sun-soaked den with large, level backyard access. Upstairs, a flex landing space borders a spacious master suite with walk-in closet, dual vanity, soaking tub, separate shower, and private balcony. A detached one-car garage and playhouse complete this intown escape.

$725,000

246 WOODVIEW DRIVE, DRUID HILLS

Perfectly positioned between Emory and downtown Decatur, this sprawling mid-century modern offers six bedrooms, four bathrooms, and multiple levels of living and entertaining space. A custom, walnut Borano door welcomes you into an open-concept living area. A gourmet kitchen with oversized island, dining room, and fireside living area converge across hardwood floors, creating a striking main level open to a spacious screened porch and deck. A sun-drenched master suite delivers spa-bath with heated floors, dual vanities, jetted tub, steam shower, and his-and-her closets. Unwind in the separate den with adjoining gym, wet bar, and walk-out, covered patio. A terrace-level office, mudroom, and two-car garage with workshop complete this Druid Hills hideaway.

$715,000
1717 N. DECATUR RD. UNIT T20, DRUID HILLS

This luxury condo is located within The Clifton, a coveted building conveniently located within walking distance to Emory Village. This fully renovated two-bedroom, two-bath unit contains a chef’s kitchen with stunning upgrades: Viking and Wolf stainless-steel appliances; oversized stainless-steel farmhouse sink; marble countertops with waterfall-edge island; wine chiller; and wet bar. Extra storage abounds with custom cabinets throughout. Gorgeous crown molding accentuates soaring ceilings in this terrace-level home. Walk-out private patio from the master and living room provides a picturesque respite from the day. In addition to two reserved parking spaces, The Clifton boasts numerous building amenities, including gated access, club room with catering kitchen, fitness center, business center, and on-site guest suite.

$549,000

203 WILTON DRIVE, DECATUR

Classic perfection. This historic brick two-bedroom, one-bathroom bungalow oozes Southern charm and is located only three short blocks from downtown Decatur. Beautiful picture molding adorns the interior, along with a cozy white brick fireplace. This house has plenty of flex space that would be perfect for a sunroom and master sitting area. Bring the outside in and create more space by sliding open the back doors to entertain or relax on your back deck. And don’t forget to catch up on your hobbies or store your garden tools in the great workshop/garden shed located in the fenced backyard. This house truly has it all—complete with driveway and carport!

$519,000 – UNDER CONTRACT

324 MONTGOMERY STREET, DECATUR

Offering prime walkability, this historic Decatur cottage mingles period finishes with stained glass accents across three bedrooms and one-and-a-half bathrooms. A spacious sun porch welcomes you with double doors opening to a fireside family room with built-in bookshelves and plantation shutters. Through a striking dining room with wainscoting, a sun-filled kitchen showcases original farmhouse sink, stainless steel appliances, and pantry. An adjoining mudroom leads to a rear screened porch and a large, fenced backyard with detached garage.

$500,000
METROPOLITAN STYLE
NEIGHBORHOOD APPEAL

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All information is believed to be accurate but not warranted. Oral representations cannot be relied upon as correctly stating representations of the seller. For correct representations, reference should be made to the purchase agreement. See agent for details.

Marshall Magaro  |  Brian Taylor

ONLY 2 POOLSIDE TOWNHOMES REMAIN

LIGHT + BRIGHT
» 11’ ceilings
» Floor to ceiling glass on main level
» Rooftop entertainment area
» Screened porches and balconies
» Saltwater swimming pool
» Custom designer finishes
» Elevator included

LIGHT + BRIGHT
» Pantone 7584C
» Pantone 7473C
» Pantone 447C
» Pantone 7408C

CMYK: 18 / 77 / 100 / 7
» CMYK: 80 / 19 / 52 / 2
» CMYK: 68 / 60 / 65 / 55
» CMYK: 2 / 26 / 100 / 0

HEX: #C15727
» HEX: #1E988A
» HEX: #373934
» HEX: #F8BE15

LOGO STYLES

Here is an example of how the logo should be in its normal state.
Here is an example of how the logo should be used reversed.
Here is an example of how the logo should be used in black and white.

FONT USAGE

HEADING 1
Montserrat Bold UPPERCASE
Montserrat Bold
Montserrat Semi Bold
Montserrat Light

PARAGRAPH

CTA

MONTSERRAT BOLD UPPERCASE
Montserrat Bold
Montserrat Semi Bold
Montserrat Light