

2020
2021 | **Newcomers Guide**
& Membership Directory



DeKalb



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cdcfcu.com
404-325-3270

Table of Contents

4	About DeKalb
6	Moving In
7	Quality of Life
8	Atlanta Hawk's Nest
9	Quality of Life
10	Government & Communities
11	DeKalb County TV
12-18	Community Spotlights
19	Healthcare
22	Education
25	Economic Development
27-31	Business Profiles
34	Member Directory



Welcome To DeKalb County

The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and members of the Chamber extend a warm welcome to you and your family. DeKalb County offers an incomparable quality of life, whether you are moving here as a new resident, a new business owner, or an established company.

Throughout this guide, you will find valuable information that will acquaint you with our welcoming communities, our exemplary government, our world-class healthcare system, and our strong education system.

As one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the Southeast, we embrace our cultural differences and work together to use our experiences to strengthen our businesses and communities.

The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce works in conjunction with the Decide DeKalb economic development office to expand business opportunities, develop the economy in DeKalb County, and assist

businesses interested in locating their operations here.

The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce also puts great value in our small business sector. We help small businesses grow, develop and succeed by fostering seminars and workshops. We also collaborate with other business development agencies to use their many contacts and connections.

Since 1938, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce has been "the voice of business in DeKalb County." We recognize that when the business sector is thriving, DeKalb County prospers. We invite you to join us in our efforts to make DeKalb County a great place to live, work and play.



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DeKalb County

Past, Present & Future

DeKalb County is a growing international community with a robust labor pool.

In fact, DeKalb is the most ethnically diverse county in the Southeastern United States. It is home to innovative industry leaders, highly respected colleges and universities, and exceptional workforce training programs – all culminating to create an environment where businesses and residents thrive.

Starting as an agrarian community almost 200 years ago, DeKalb County has grown from a sleepy community of 2,500 to Georgia's fourth largest county. Rooted in the heart of Metro Atlanta, DeKalb has four major interstates and sits minutes away from the world's busiest airport – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The county ranks second in total labor force with proximity to 1.4 million people from six counties, and the median household income is well above the state average. DeKalb County's strong economy and employment base continue to expand, driving growth throughout the region.



SPLOST

Improving Transportation & Public Safety

In 2017, voters approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The current SPLOST will run until 2024, during which it is expected to generate \$636 million for capital improvements for the county and city governments of DeKalb County. DeKalb's SPLOST is unique in that it exempts unprepared food and prescription medication from the additional sales tax. DeKalb also requires 85 percent of the SPLOST monies be spent specifically on transportation and public safety-related projects.



Check it OUT!

- As the only county in Georgia with a chief executive officer, DeKalb County's CEO works independently of the legislative branch and represents all districts.
- The county includes 12 wholly encompassed municipalities and parts of the City of Atlanta.
- More than 43% of DeKalb County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher

The History of DeKalb County

TIMELINE

1822

DeKalb becomes the 56th county in Georgia.

1853

Fulton County was created – until then, the entire city of Atlanta was in DeKalb County.

1864

Much of the Battle of Atlanta takes place around the DeKalb County Courthouse and along DeKalb Avenue.

1865-1900

Subsistence farmers become businessmen, and agriculture becomes a major economic force in the county, along with granite quarrying.

1900-1950

DeKalb County is mostly agrarian and known for granite quarries and dairy farms.

1960s

Farmland disappears as the county transitions into a more urban area, eventually having more miles of interstate than any other county in Georgia.

1960-2010

Population increases rapidly and becomes more racially and ethnically diverse.

2019

DeKalb County is a commercial, cultural, industrial, and educational hub with a population of more than 740,000 and 13 municipalities.

Moving In?

Let us be your guide.



Welcome to DeKalb County! We are happy to have you join our community and want the transition to be as smooth as possible. We know that relocating can be filled with both the excitement of beginning life in a new place and the anxiety of navigating an unknown area. With the hope of making your move a little easier, we have compiled this list to help guide you through the process.

Electricity Providers

- **Georgia Power Company** 888-660-5890
- **Snapping Shoals EMC** 770-786-3484
- **Walton EMC** 770-267-2505

Natural Gas Providers

For a list of approved marketers contact:
Georgia Public Service Commission
psc.state.ga.us • 800-282-5813

- **Atlanta Gas Light Company** 800-427-5463
- **Gas South** 866-429-2213
- **SCANA Energy** 877-467-2262
- **Walton EMC** 770-267-2505
- **Georgia Natural Gas** 770-850-6200



Water & Sewer Services

- **Avondale Public Works** 404-508-4531
- **DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management** 770-621-7200
1580 Roadhaven Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
dekalbwaterops@dekalbcountyga.gov
- **Water & Sewage Services** 404-546-0311

Driver's License & Registration

New residents have 30 days to apply for a Georgia driver's license.

- **Department of Drivers Services** 678-413-8400
www.dds.ga.gov
- **DeKalb Department of Drivers Services Locations**
8040 Rockbridge Rd., Lithonia, GA 30058
2801 Candler Rd., Ste. 82, Decatur, GA 30034
- **Vehicle Tag Locations**
1358 Dresden Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30319
4380 Memorial Dr., Ste. 100, Decatur, GA 30032
2801 Candler Rd., Ste. 66, Decatur, GA 30034

Register to VOTE!

4380 Memorial Dr., Ste. 300
Decatur, GA 30032
voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-298-4020

DeKalb County Voter Registration & Elections Mission:

- Serve the public and register all eligible citizens.
- Assign voters to respective precincts in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Maintain accurate registration records.
- Conduct all primaries and federal, state, county, and municipal elections with integrity, and in accordance with Georgia election code.
- Serve candidates and the public by providing information regarding elected officials, election districts, election statistics, and other registration/election related matters.
- Operate all polling locations including advance voting locations and an absentee poll, for federal, state, county, and municipal elections.

Quality of Life

Captivating Culture, Arts & Entertainment



DeKalb County is one of the most ethnically diverse in the Southeast. More than 64 languages are spoken in DeKalb County by residents who hail from across the globe. This diversity has given DeKalb County a rich and varied cultural environment, including art centers, museums, theaters, and other attractions.

A sampling of the cultural assets in DeKalb County include:

- **ART Station in historic Stone Mountain Village.** This multi-disciplinary arts center is home to its own professional equity theatre company, five art galleries, a cabaret theatre presenting Atlanta's music legends, two gift shops, and space for arts classes.
- **Callanwolde Fine Arts Center**, housed in a Gothic-Tudor style mansion built in 1920 by Coca-Cola heir Charles Howard Candler near Decatur. Callanwolde offers concerts, gallery exhibitions, and outreach programs in addition to classes in visual, literary, and performing arts.
- **Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Decatur.** This museum has the Southeast's largest collection of ancient art, with objects from ancient Egypt, Africa, Greece, Rome, the Near East, Asia, and Americas.
- **Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Decatur.** Explore ancient fossils, science interactives, and the largest dinosaurs ever discovered, all at this family-friendly museum where science, culture, and nature come alive.
- **Fernbank Science Center in Decatur.** Explore our world and the universe itself at Fernbank Forest and the Fernbank Observatory, which houses the largest telescope in the Southeast.
- **Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) in Dunwoody.** Theatre and art that reflect history and Jewish life are mainstays at MJCCA, as well as fitness, wellness, and sports programs for members.
- **Oglethorpe University Museum of Art in Brookhaven.** This museum houses a collection of Japanese porcelain from the 17th-20th century, and nearly 700 drawings, prints, and paintings from 19th-20th century France.

- **On Stage Atlanta, in Decatur.** This professional theater ensemble has been producing compelling, relevant and entertaining theatrical productions in Atlanta since 1971.
- **Porter Sanford III Performing Arts & Community Center**, located in the historic Candler Road district of Decatur. This 500-seat theater brings diverse programming to southern DeKalb County.
- **Rail Arts District (RAD)**, at the rail line where Avondale Estates meets Decatur. This collection of art studios and shops is a great place to find pottery making, glass blowing, paper arts, leather crafts, sewing and more.
- **Eddie's Attic, in Decatur.** Eddie's Attic draws both fans and artists from all over the world, and continues to be one of the premier music venues in the nation.



The Atlanta Hawks' Nest in Brookhaven is designed for the future

By Bonnie Hunter

Emory University and the Atlanta Hawks Basketball Club have a partnership that is forging the future of sports medicine in Brookhaven.



PHOTO: SCOTT WANG

Within the walls of the 90,000-square-foot Emory Sports Medicine Complex is the home of the Atlanta Hawks training and practice facility, as well as the Hawks Basketball Operations

Team. Emory's state-of-the-art health and sports medicine complex is a juggernaut of innovation. It sits on a 5-acre campus, and as home to the Hawks, it is playfully referred to as the Nest.

Since 1968, the NBA team has been based in Atlanta and since 2017, they have perfected their skills in Brookhaven. The Complex is also the hub of Emory's Sports Medicine program and Sports Science and Research division, giving the Hawks immediate access to Emory's world-class physicians.

The Nest features two full-length basketball courts, performance training areas, a film room, and a fully dedicated recovery area with

cryotherapy, sensory deprivation tanks, and in-ground hydrotherapy. Offering the most advanced treatments in preventative and rehabilitative sports performance training, the privately funded complex is the product of HOK – a global design, architecture, engineering, and planning firm. HOK did not take on the project alone. The international firm, which also designed the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Downtown Atlanta, worked with local firms to create and complete the complex.

By drawing on the strengths of the community, such as the highly respected Emory University School of Medicine, to support and improve the performance and health of the Atlanta Hawks, the complex shows that great innovation takes teamwork. Coming together for the greater good can create advances and operations that are truly exceptional. This speaks to the spirit of DeKalb County, where the future is bright, collaborative, and state-of-the-art

It's easy to Get Outside and Stay Active



The DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Department

offers exciting activities for all ages and skill levels and is an invaluable resource for residents and visitors.

Thousands of the county's youth participate in organized sports programs each year, including softball, baseball, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, and football. DeKalb County Parks and Recreation operates two public golf courses, Mystery Valley Golf Club in Lithonia and Sugar Creek Golf and Tennis Center in Atlanta, both of which are open year-round and seven days a week.

DeKalb County's municipalities work to serve all county residents with parks and trails within each city that are free and open to the public.

Other prized recreational assets in DeKalb County are the three branches of the Metro Atlanta YMCA – two in Decatur and one in Stone Mountain – which provides low-cost recreational programs to its members.



Naturally Wonderful Outdoor Attractions

• **Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve in Lithonia and Stonecrest.** This quiet preserve is a great place to hike, bike, and explore the fantastic natural wonders of a granite monadnock.



• **Dunwoody Nature Center in Dunwoody** includes 22 acres of wetland, woodland, and streamside trails, display gardens, a picnic meadow, and a playground.



• **Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain** offers 3,200 acres of natural beauty, a wide variety of family-friendly activities and recreational options, and many natural and historic sights.

A COZY STAY in Stone Mountain Just 4 miles from Stone Mountain Park!



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1737 Mountain Industrial Blvd., Stone Mountain GA 30083

hilton.com

770.934.0004



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@kay_cpa

Those Who Serve

DeKalb County Government Officials

DeKalb County CEO

- **Michael L. Thurmond**
mlthurmond@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-2881

CEO Michael L. Thurmond was sworn in January of 2017 as the first African American ever elected to a statewide office without prior appointment. Thurmond is a former Georgia General Assembly member and is known for transforming the culture and enhancing operations of complex organizations.

DeKalb County Board of Commissioners

The legislative branch of DeKalb County government is the Board of Commissioners, which consists of seven part-time commissioners, all elected to a four-year term. One commissioner represents each of DeKalb County five districts. The county is also divided into an east and west super district. Each super district elects a commissioner, meaning every DeKalb County citizen is represented by two commissioners.

- **District 1 – Nancy Jester**
nancy@nancyjester.com
404-371-2844
- **District 2 – Jeff Rader**
jrader@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-2863
- **District 3 – Larry Johnson**
larryjohnson@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-2425
- **District 4 – Steve Bradshaw**
sbradshaw@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-4749
- **District 5 – Mereda Davis Johnson**
mdjohnson@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-2159
- **Super District 6 – Kathie Gannon**
kgannon@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-4909

- **Super District 7 – Lorraine Cochran-Johnson**
lcjohnson@dekalbcountyga.gov
404-371-2899

U.S. Senators

- **John “Johnny” Isakson (R)**
3625 Cumberland Blvd., #970, Atlanta, GA 30339
770-661-0999
DC Office – 131 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3643
- **David Perdue (R)**
3280 Peachtree Rd. NE, Ste. #2640
Atlanta, GA 30305
678-248-6444
DC Office – 455 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3521

U.S. Representatives

- **Henry C. “Hank” Johnson (D)**
4th Congressional District
5240 Snapfinger Park Dr., Ste. 140
Decatur, GA 30035
770-987-2291
DC Office – 2240 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-1605
- **John Lewis (D)**
5th Congressional District
100 Peachtree St. NW, Ste. 1920
Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 659-0116
DC Office – 300 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3801
- **Lucy McBath (D)**
6th Congressional District
1860 Sandy Plains Rd., Ste. 204
Marietta, GA 30060
770-750-4209
DC Office – 1513 Longworth House Office
Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4501

State Senators

- **Emanuel Jones (D)** – 10th District
P.O. Box 370244, Decatur, GA 30037
emanj@mindspring.com
770-964-8888
- **Sally Harrell (D)** – 40th District
P.O. Box 941365, Atlanta, GA 31141
sally@sallyharrell.org
404-463-2260
- **Steve Henson (D)** – 41st District
5404 Pheasant Run
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
stevehenson@mindspring.com
678-907-2723
- **Elena Parent (D)** – 42nd Dist.
1250 Oakdale Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307
elena.parent@senate.ga.gov
404-490-3762
- **Tonya P. Anderson (D)** – 43rd District
P.O. Box 1026, Lithonia, GA 30058
tonya.anderson@senate.ga.gov
404-463-2598
- **Gail Davenport (D)** – 44th District
P.O. Box 1074, Jonesboro, GA 30237
gail.davenport@senate.ga.gov
678-215-9971
- **Gloria Butler (D)** – 55th District
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
gloria.butler@senate.ga.gov
404-656-0075

State Representatives

- **Michael Wilensky (D)** – 79th District
P.O. Box 88533, Dunwoody, GA 30356
mike.wilensky@house.ga.gov
404-463-6381
- **Matthew Wilson (D)** – 80th District
2719 Buford Hwy. NE, Atlanta, GA 30324
matthew.wilson@house.ga.gov
678-631-8820
- **Scott Holcomb (D)** – 81st District
2306 Briarcliff Commons, Atlanta, GA 30345
scott.holcomb@house.ga.gov
404-656-6372

- **Mary Margaret Oliver (D)** – 82nd District
150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Ste. 260
Decatur, GA 30030
mmo@mmolaw.com • 404-377-0485
- **Becky Evans (D)** – 83rd District
P.O. Box 15074, Atlanta, GA 30333
becky.evans@house.ga.gov • 404-656-0109
- **Renitta Shannon (D)** – 84th District
2107 N. Decatur Rd., #717, Decatur, GA 30033
renitta.shannon@house.ga.gov • 404-656-7859
- **Karla Drenner (D)** – 85th District
P.O. Box 348, Avondale Estates, GA 30002
dren16999@aol.com • 404-656-0202
- **Michele Henson (D)** – 86th District
4140 Creek Stone Ct., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
michele.henson@house.ga.gov • 404-656-7859

- **Viola Davis (D)** – 87th District
P.O. Box 831592, Stone Mountain, GA
viola.davis@house.ga.gov
404-656-0109
- **Billy Mitchell (D)** – 88th District
P.O. Box 88, Stone Mountain, GA 30086
billy.mitchell@house.ga.gov
404-656-0126
- **Bee Nguyen (D)** – 89th District
611-G Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Sq. SW, Atlanta, GA 30334
bee.nguyen@house.ga.gov
404-656-0314
- **Pam S. Stephenson (D)** – 90th District
4262 Clauseell Ct., Ste. C, Decatur, GA 30305
pam.stephenson@house.ga.gov
404-656-0126

- **Vernon Jones (D)** – 91st District
P.O. Box 723, Lithonia, GA 30038
vernon.jones@house.ga.gov
404-656-0287
- **Doreen Carter (D)** – 92nd District
P.O. Box 2186, Lithonia, GA 30058
doreen.carter@house.ga.gov
404-656-0220
- **Dar’shun N. Kendrick (D)** – 93rd District
P.O. Box 630, Lithonia, GA 30058
dkendrick@kendrickforgeorgia.com
404-656-0109
- **Karen Bennett (D)** – 94th District
6909 Springbank Way
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
karen.bennett@house.ga.gov
404-656-0202

DCTV

Emmy Award-winning, Engaging, Invaluable **By Bonnie Hunter**



DeKalb County is a diverse and interesting place.

It has many assets, amenities, and an array of atmospheres across its 12 municipalities and portions of the City of Atlanta. One of its most engaging and most valuable resources is DeKalb County Television or DCTV, Channel 23.

DCTV launched a full programming roster more than 15 years ago and produces county-related programs and major features. With the mission of informing and entertaining the more than 750,000 DeKalb residents, DCTV has earned

more than 10 national awards for excellence in programming, including an EMMY for its 2006 coverage of the funeral services of the late Coretta Scott King, the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors

“Station of the Year,” as well as a host of Pegasus, Telly and Communicator Awards.

Tune in to DCTV on Comcast Cable within DeKalb County or watch a live stream at DCTVchannel23.tv to view events, programs, services, and activities that impact the lives of DeKalb residents and visitors. DCTV also provides a live stream of the Board of Commissioners’ regularly scheduled committee meetings through USTREAM on the DeKalb County website. Archived videos of those meetings are also available on the county’s Video on Demand webpage.

Through the launch of additional electronic and new media platforms, DCTV has broadened its reach to include regular public education and community outreach notifications via a YouTube channel, and regular Twitter and Facebook announcements, as well as dedicated live streaming of events and additional VOD content on the official DeKalb County Government and DCTV webpages.

In late 2016, DeKalb County began managing DeKalb’s Public Access Channel, “DeKalb 25.” DeKalb 25 provides broadcasting accessibility to the public to foster communication, education, and stimulate community dialog.

Avondale Estates

Where Tradition Meets Progress

Founded in 1924, Avondale Estates was planned to mimic Stratford-upon-Avon, England. The founder, George Francis Willis, was inspired by the Tudor-Revival style architecture of the English town and aspired to recreate its majesty in Georgia. Avondale Estates City Hall, along with other main street buildings, serves as a wonderful example of Willis' vision.

Community Events

The **Avondale Farmers Market** takes place on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., typically from early April to late October. Shoppers will find local, farm-fresh products, including baked goods, cheeses, eggs, handmade jellies, meats, natural grain pasta, and produce. The market is sponsored by the City of Avondale Estates' Community Promotion Program. For more information visit avondaleestatesfarmersmarket.org.

Avondale Estates also hosts **Second Saturday Art Walks** in the spring and fall each year, Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks, tree and menorah lightings each December, children's Egg Hunt and Dog Parade, annual Pig Roast, Mayhem Fest, Community Yard Sale, and a Labor Day 5K.

• **City Hall**
21 N. Avondale Plaza
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
avondaleestates.org • 404-294-5400

Community Characteristics

- Population of 3,500
- 1.23 square miles
- Centrally located
- Close-knit community
- Beautiful setting with diverse architectural styles
- Home to the first Waffle House, which opened in 1955
- Thriving arts district
- Wonderful amenities
 - Lake Avondale
 - Avondale Community Club
- Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places

• **Parks & Recreation**
166 Locust St., Avondale Estates, GA 30002
404-508-4531

• **Public Works Department**
166 Locust St., Avondale Estates, GA 30002
404-508-4531

Chamblee

Global Appeal, Community Feel

Chamblee began as a small rail town known as Roswell Junction and incorporated as Chamblee in 1908. The city originally was made up of dairy farms, railways, and Camp Gordon – a military operations site that served 40,000 military service members during WWI and WWII.

The next phase of the Chamblee's identity was industrial, but as manufacturing and industry faded from the area, Chamblee's affordable home prices and proximity to Atlanta attracted

refugees and immigrants who repopulated the city's neighborhoods and continued its growth.

Community Events

Each October, the eclectic epicenter of downtown Chamblee hosts a community and food festival known as the Taste of Chamblee. In addition to amazing food, the event features the SEC college football games on two giant LED screens and a family friendly kid zone. Visitors can reach the festivities via MARTA by taking the Gold Line to Chamblee Station and heading north on Peachtree Road. For information, visit tasteofchamblee.net.

• **City Hall**
5468 Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341
chambleega.com • 770-986-5010

• **Parks & Recreation**
3540 Broad St., Chamblee, GA 30341
770-986-5010

• **Public Works Department**
3210 Cumberland Dr., Chamblee, GA 30341
770-986-5010

Community Characteristics

- Population around 30,000
- Over 7 square miles
- Urban city with international flair
- Restaurants feature cuisine from around the world
- I-285 and I-85 border the city
- MARTA rail station and several MARTA bus stops
- Home to DeKalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) – the second busiest in Georgia
- Home to Atlanta's Chinatown
- Nine parks host a wide array of events

• **Chamblee Police**
3518 Broad St., Chamblee, GA 30341
770-986-5005 (non-emergency)

Brookhaven

A Blooming Community

Brookhaven gained its named from a large plantation that was on the site in the early 1800s.

Before that, the area was home to descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. At the turn of the 20th century, Atlanta residents began to build summer homes here, which led to the incorporation of Brookhaven Country Club in 1910. Development continued from there toward Brookhaven becoming an official city in 2012.

Community Events

The **Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival: A Music and Arts Extravaganza** is an annual spring event that features big-name music acts, art, great food, a kids' zone, and a car show. Taking place the last weekend in March makes it the first event in the metro Atlanta festival season. The festival is pet friendly and the perfect time for every member of the family, even the furry ones, to connect with the community. Festivities begin the weekend before the festival with the Cherry Blossom 5K run. For more information visit brookhavenga.gov/festival.


• **City Hall**
4362 Peachtree Rd. NE
Brookhaven, GA 30319
brookhavenga.gov • 404-637-0500

• **Parks & Recreation**
3360 Osborne Rd. NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319
404-637-0500

• **Public Works Department**
4362 Peachtree Rd. NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319
404-637-0500

Community Characteristics

- Population around 50,000
- Approximately 12 square miles
- Walkable
- Large international community
- 14 parks with excellent trails and facilities
- Easy access to MARTA with direct MARTA link to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport
- Vibrant business community
- Home to Oglethorpe University – a private liberal arts college
- Home to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Center for Advanced Pediatrics
- Named 2019 "Best Suburb of Atlanta" by Atlanta Journal Constitution voters



COME & SEE CHAMBLEE

A diverse and vibrant community. Full of life. Full of activity. A place where businesses thrive. From bustling parks to busy streets to innovative and award-winning restaurants to unique boutiques.

Come and See Chamblee.
www.chambleega.gov



WELCOME TO LITHONIA
CITY OF GRANITE

Lithonia Municipal Complex
6920 Main St.
Lithonia, GA 30058

770-482-8136
cityoflithonia.city

Decatur

DeKalb County Administrative Center

Founded in 1823, Decatur is on the former site of two Native American trails. One of the trails was known as the Shallowford, which today is Clairmont Road. The city was named for Stephen Decatur, a 19th century U.S. Naval hero.

small-town atmosphere as well as the benefits of a sophisticated major metropolitan area.

Community Events

Decatur hosts events year-round. From craft beer and wine festivals to the Decatur Arts Festival and the Decatur Beach Party, there is always something fun, festive, and interesting on the horizon in Decatur. For a list of festivals and events, go to visitdecaturgeorgia.com.

• City Hall

509 N. McDonough St., Decatur, GA 30030
decaturga.com • 404-370-4100

• Decatur Recreation Center

231 Sycamore St., Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-0494

• Public Works

2635 Talley St., Decatur, GA 30030
404-378-4153

Community Characteristics

- Population around 24,000
- Approximately 4 square miles
- About 6 miles from Downtown Atlanta
- Festival town
- Thriving music scene
- Culinary hub
- High-ranking independent school system
- More than 200 local shops, eateries, salons, galleries, and businesses
- Walkable
- Home to Agnes Scott College – women's liberal arts college
- 3 MARTA stations
- Award-winning brew pubs
- Outdoor art installations

Clarkston

Where Possibilities Grow

Originally established as a railway stop between Atlanta and Athens and the rest of the Eastern Seaboard, Clarkston was incorporated in 1882. The city evolved into one of Atlanta's pioneer suburbs. Over the last 35 years, the city has welcomed refugees from more than 50 countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Vietnam, and Nepal.

During the late 1990s, the city was identified by the United States' Asylum Program for Refugees as an ideal destination for resettlement because of trends of relocations to the area, affordable housing, and transportation options.

Today, the cultural landscape of Clarkston represents the accuracy of this distinction.

Community Events

Clarkston is one of America's most diverse communities. Since 1994, the Clarkston Community Center has served as a gathering place for people of more than 50 nationalities to come together as one community. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Clarkston's diversity and strengths through education, recreation, and the arts. The nonprofit provides unique experiences along with valuable resources to new and longtime residents. For more information visit clarkstoncommunitycenter.org.

• City Hall

1055 Rowland St., Clarkston, GA 30021
clarkstonga.gov • 404-296-6489

• City Hall Annex

1055 Rowland St., Clarkston, GA 30021
404-296-6489

• Public Works

3620 Montreal Creek Ct., Clarkston, GA 30021
404-296-6489

Community Characteristics

- Population around 13,000
- Just over 1 square mile
- Home to Georgia Piedmont Technical College
- Home to Georgia State University's Clarkston Campus
- 75% of the population is under 40
- Over 80% of businesses are immigrant owned
- Wonderful amenities
 - Clarkston Community Center
 - Clarkston's Friendship Forrest Park
 - Forty Oaks Nature Preserve
 - Milam Park, Pool, & Tennis Courts
 - Dog Park

Warm Welcomes, Good Times.
That's a Stay in Decatur

BUSKING on
CHURCH STREET

In the heart of
DeKalb County

VISITORS CENTER

113 Clairmont Ave., Decatur 30030

[f](https://www.facebook.com/visitdecaturga) [i](https://www.instagram.com/visitdecaturga) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@visitdecaturga) | visitdecaturga.com

HAMPTON
INN and
SUITES

COURTYARD
by MARRIOTT

VISIT
DECATUR
GEORGIA
City of Decatur

Doraville

Diversity, Vitality, Community

Originally little more than a whistle-stop on the Southern Railway, Doraville was founded in the 1830s as an agricultural settlement. Dairy, poultry, and produce farms once covered present-day Doraville.

After surviving the Civil War, it was a typical small town with hardware stores, lumber yards, pharmacies, and grocery stores when Doraville incorporated in 1871. A General Motors manufacturing facility changed the city drastically in the late 1940s. From 1947 to 1962, the city grew more than it had in the previous 100 years. Over the last 20 years, Doraville has become an international community that is proud of its diversity, vitality, and community.

Community Events

Every October, the **Center for Pan Asian Community Services** holds a TEA Walk. TEA stands for "together empowering all". Residents come together to celebrate the diversity of Doraville with a two-mile march on a section of Buford Highway. More than 3,000 people from more than 20 countries share and show the strength of this inclusive community. At the end of the TEA Walk, attendees from an array of ethnic groups, schools, and religious organizations share refreshments, dance, enjoy live music, and listen to inspiring speeches from local leaders. For more information visit teawalk.org.

• City Hall

3724 Park Ave., Doraville, GA 30340
doravillega.us • 770-451-8745

• Parks & Recreation

3037 Pleasant Valley Dr., Doraville, GA 30340
770-936-3850

• Public Works

3883 Flowers Rd., Doraville, GA 30360
770-936-3855

Community Characteristics

- Population around 10,000
- Approximately 3.6 square miles
- Centrally located
- 10 miles northeast of downtown Atlanta
- Convenient access to I-85, I-285 and MARTA rail
- Diverse
- Progressive leadership
- Welcoming to immigrants
- Historic neighborhoods
- Active civic organizations
- Citywide nondiscrimination business ordinance
- More than 100 independently owned international restaurants
- Parks with playgrounds and picnic areas
- Film production hub that is home to Third Rail Studios
- Assembly Yards mixed-use development
- Corporate headquarters of Serta Simmons Bedding

Lithonia

Global Appeal, Community Feel

Lithonia started as a trading post for a community of rural farmers. Surrounded by granite, Lithonia means “stone place,” and the local granite varietal has been used throughout the U.S. since the late 1800s.

The introduction of the railway to the area in 1845 enabled Lithonia to become the epicenter of the regional granite industry. The architecture and historical structures of Lithonia placed the city on the National Register of Historic Places and tell the story of the area's development and relationships with granite and the railroad.

Community Events

September in Lithonia means The Original Collard Greens Cultural Festival. The event celebrates the traditions and culture of historical contributions of African Americans while promoting family unity, the importance of healthy eating, and the value of living for the wellbeing of future generations. Every fall the festival takes place at Lithonia City Park and Amphitheater. Thousands attend and enjoy vendors, entertainment, and cook-offs, including the category Most Creative Collard Greens. For more information visit collardgreenculturalfestival.com.

• Municipal Complex

6920 Main St., Lithonia, GA 30058
cityoflithonia.city • 770-482-8136

• DeKalb County Parks & Recreation

1300 Commerce Dr., #200, Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2711

• DeKalb County Parks & Recreation

1300 Commerce Dr., Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-4778

Community Characteristics

- Population around 2,000
- Approximately 1 square mile
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Great architecture
- Thriving downtown
- Strong community leadership
- City-run farmers market
- Great amenities
 - Lithonia Park
 - Lucious Sanders Recreation Center
 - PATH trail & Arabia Mountain
 - Lithonia Amphitheater

Pine Lake

Arts' Natural Habitat

During the 1930s, the Pine Lake Corporation began selling small lots for \$69.95 as weekend retreats for Atlantans.

The tents and trailers that once populated the lots over time made way for cabins. Next, two or three lots would be combined, and homes began to replace cabins.

Water, sewer, and gas lines were run, and people started to reside in Pine Lake year-round. Today, Pine Lake is an incorporated city with an elected mayor and council, a city hall, police force, and court.

Community Events

Second Saturdays at the Lounge is a musical event hosted – you guessed it – every second Saturday of the month by the Pine Lake Lounge at the city's iconic beach house. Sponsored by

the Municipal Arts Panel, the monthly jam includes jazz, blues, folk, and many other music performances from songwriters, solo musicians, and full bands. Entry is a suggested donation of \$10 and questions and comments can be directed to pinelakelounge@gmail.com.

• City Hall

462 Clubhouse Dr., Pine Lake, GA 30072
pinelakega.sophicity.com • 404-999-4901

Community Characteristics

- Population around 800
- Less than 0.25 square miles
- Centered around Pine Lake
- Certified City of Ethics
- DeKalb's smallest city
- Located within a forest
- 12 miles east of downtown Atlanta
- Inspiring art
 - Municipal Arts Panel
 - Pine Lake Lounge
 - Public Art
- Environmentally Conscious
 - Beautiful lake fed by Snapfinger Creek
 - Wetlands engineered to clean downstream waters
 - SEED – Stewards of Environmental Education and Design
 - Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Bee City

Dunwoody

A Connected Community

Dunwoody was named for Charles Archibald Alexander Dunwoody (with just one “o”), the son of one of the founders of a nearby cotton mill. During the 1850s, the area had two cotton mills, which made it the largest cotton factory complex in North Georgia. A post office error added a second “o” to the name, and it's been Dunwoody ever since.

Dunwoody incorporated in 2008 after experiencing unprecedented growth that inspired a three-year, citizen-led initiative to become an official city. Growth continues in

Dunwoody where residents can experience urban amenities in a suburban setting.

Community Events

For more than 20 years, **Dunwoody** has hosted a five-day springtime festival called the Lemonade Days Festival. This annual event is designed to welcome new residents to Dunwoody and celebrate community. Families and friends come together to enjoy carnival rides, festive food and drink, stage performances, and the sweet and tangy drink itself – lemonade. The event is organized by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust. For more information visit dunwoodylemonadedays.org.

• City Hall

4800 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE
Dunwoody, GA 30338
dunwoodyga.gov • 678-382-6973

• Parks & Recreation

4800 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE
Dunwoody, GA 30338
678-382-6853

• Public Works Department

4800 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE
Dunwoody, GA 30338
678-382-6863

Community Characteristics

- Population around 49,000
- Approximately 13 square miles
- Engaged community
- Active hospitality center
- MARTA station
- Commercial hub
- Recognized as an Atlanta business district
- Home to Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church-1829
- Vibrant arts, theatre and entertainment scene
- Great greenspace
 - Dunwoody Nature Center
 - Brook Run Park
 - Dunwoody Trailway
 - Donaldson-Bannister Farm
- Respected education and workforce training institutions

Stone Mountain

Unique, Historic, Beautiful

Stone Mountain was incorporated in 1839.

Originally known as New Gibraltar, the village had a post office, a general store, a hotel, and an observation tower at the summit of the mountain.

In 1847, the name was officially changed to Stone Mountain. During the Civil War, Stone Mountain Village was destroyed during the March to the Sea. The railroad track is the oldest structure burned by Sherman to remain in use today.

Community Events

Stone Mountain has a deep and interesting history. Experience the area's heritage by

stopping in at the Stone Mountain Depot Welcome Center, housed in the historic Train Depot on Main Street. Just like the city, the Train Depot has an extensive history, with the south side being built in 1857 and the north in 1914. It served as the city hall and city jail from the early 1960s until 2012. Today, the building holds the Welcome Center, the Tourism office, and Downtown Development Authority office. Visit the recently renovated depot at 922 Main Street in Stone Mountain Village.

• City Hall

875 Main St., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
stonemountaincity.org • 770-498-8984

• Parks & Recreation

875 Main St., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770-936-8984

• Public Works Department

875 Main St., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
770-498-8984 ext. 134

Community Characteristics

- Population around 6,000
- Approximately 17 square miles
- Historic Village and Train Depot – listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Stone Mountain Park
- ART Station
 - Small theater
 - Five galleries
 - Gift shop
 - Rehearsal space
 - Dance, music & ceramic studios
- Biking trails
- Local parks
 - Leila Mason Park
 - McCurdy Park
 - Medlock Park
 - V.F.W. Park
- Unique small businesses

Stonecrest

DeKalb's Newest and Largest City

Arabia Mountain is a granite monadnock – an isolated and exposed rock outcropping - located in Stonecrest. The mountain is the crown jewel of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, a preserve filled with unique topography and geology as well as unusual animal and plant species.

During the 1970s, 500 acres of the mountain and the surrounding area were donated to DeKalb County by the Davidson family. Davidson Granite Enterprises was the largest producer of granite in the world at one point. The city's name was inspired by this amazing landscape.

Tucker

Live, Work, Play, Pray

Originally known as Browning's District, the Tucker community was established in 1892. It didn't gain its current name until the arrival of the Seaboard Line Railway bought the railroad track in 1907.

During the acquisition, the unincorporated town was surveyed and named for Captain Tucker, an officer of the Seaboard Line Railway. As the city grew, a strong community developed. Officially incorporated in 2015, today the city uses an advanced public-private partnership to deliver services to residents and business owners.

Development of the area was sparked by The Mall at Stonecrest, a two-story shopping complex whose name references the local rock formation. Houses, hotels, restaurants, and a community grew around the mall and became the city of Stonecrest in 2017.

Community Events

The first Stonecrest Fest took place in 2017 as the city's inaugural event. It was so successful that Stonecrest Fest is now an annual fall celebration that attracts an increasing number of Stonecrest residents and visitors from neighboring cities and states. As the city grows, so does the festival. Stonecrest Fest includes live entertainment, softball and soccer games, food, merchandise, a car & bike show, and much more. The festival also features pre-events and activities throughout the city that explore nature, health, culture, and live entertainment. For more information visit stonecrestfest.com.

• **City Hall**
3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038
stonecrestga.gov • 770-224-0200

• **Parks & Recreation**
3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038
770-224-0191

Community Characteristics

- Population of 54,439
- Approximately 37 square miles
- Vibrant community
- Small-town atmosphere
- Affordable housing
- Excellent healthcare options
- Great educational opportunities
- Arabia Mountain High School – one of the top schools in the area that provides an environmental, energy, and engineering magnet program for grades 9-12
- Flat Rock Archives – tells the story of one of DeKalb County's oldest African American communities
- Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area
- The Jerk Festival – a Jamaican food festival held in September

• **Public Works**
3120 Stonecrest Blvd., Stonecrest, GA 30038
770-224-0200

Community Characteristics

- Population around 36,000
- Approximately 20 square miles
- Tucker Recreation Center
- Vibrant Main Street
- Family-focused
- Weekly farmers market
- Rich faith community
- Genuine small-town
- New residential communities in development
- Diverse housing options

• **DeKalb County Public Works**
1300 Commerce Dr., Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2000

Healthcare

Feeling Well in DeKalb County



Residents of DeKalb County benefit from the region's most comprehensive academic health system, Emory Healthcare, as well as one of the top pediatric hospitals in the nation. A network of public health and clinical services address the day-to-day healthcare needs within the county.

Emory Decatur Hospital: Advancing Patient Care in DeKalb County

DeKalb Medical joined Emory Healthcare in 2018 and was rechristened Emory Decatur Hospital. The hospital has a medical staff of 800 physicians in 55 specialties, including more than 100 of *Atlanta Magazine's* Top Doctors for 2019. The facility is a full-service hospital with centers of excellence in surgical weight loss, joint replacement, and orthopaedics. The Emory Decatur cancer program is accredited by the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.

Emory Decatur Hospital's maternity center is the first in Georgia to receive the international "Baby-Friendly" hospital designation and the

hospital is also home to Georgia's only certified medical fitness center.

Emory Decatur Hospital
2701 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033
emoryhealthcare.org/decaturhospital
404-501-1000

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta: Making Kids Better Today and Healthier Tomorrow

For more than 100 years, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has been 100 percent dedicated to kids. The main offices of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta sit in the heart of DeKalb County, giving DeKalb residents access to Children's more than 60 pediatric specialties and programs.

The Task Force for Global Health

The Task Force for Global Health is an independent, nongovernmental organization that focuses on eliminating diseases and protecting populations against health threats. Based out of Decatur, The Task Force reaches people with programs in more than 150 countries. The organization only takes on large-scale health problems they know can be solved.

Through partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit organizations, The Task Force leverages resources and expertise for an extraordinary impact. Among its roles, the organization manages some of the world's largest drug donation programs for the elimination of neglected tropical diseases. Collaboration, global health equity and social justice, stewardship, and consequential compassion, are values that guide its work. By taking on some of the world's most intractable diseases, the Task Force for Global Health aims to ensure all people have opportunities for healthy, productive lives.

The Task Force for Global Health
330 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
taskforce.org • 404-371-0466

Children's is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to making kids better today and healthier tomorrow.

Managing more than 1 million patient visits annually at three hospitals, Marcus Autism Center, the Center for Advanced Pediatrics, and 26 neighborhood locations, Children's is ranked among the top children's hospitals in the country and is the only freestanding pediatric healthcare system in Georgia.

As an employer, Children's is truly exceptional, earning a place on *Fortune* magazine's elite list of "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" for the 14th consecutive time in 2019. If you are looking to join Children's mission without becoming an employee, volunteering is a great option. At Children's, volunteers assist with everything from patient care to customer service and administrative support. Visit choa.org and click Donors & Volunteers to see how you can



get involved in the amazing mission of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation
University Office Park
Dartmouth Building
3395 NE Expressway, Ste. 100
Atlanta, GA 30341
choa.org

DeKalb County Board of Health: Promoting, Protecting and Improving Health

The nationally accredited DeKalb County Board of Health envisions safe, healthy communities through high-quality and affordable services. The organization is committed to protecting and improving the health of those who live, work, and play in DeKalb County. Services are available for children, adults, and seniors and range from vision and hearing screenings to school and travel immunizations and Medicaid enrollment via four locations throughout the county.

The Board of Health works with the people of DeKalb County in many ways, including:

- partnering with neighborhoods, PTAs, civic groups, faith organizations, and others to improve health
- tracking health trends so that resources can be focused on the most pressing concerns
- raising public awareness of local health issues
- stopping the spread of disease through education and early detection

DeKalb County Board of Health
445 Winn Way, Decatur, GA 30030
dekalbhealth.net • 404-294-3700

Clinical Services: Day-to-Day Care in DeKalb
Routine medical care and wellness check-ups in DeKalb County are available and easy to



arrange. Primary healthcare services can be accessed through such entities as Oakhurst Medical Centers' clinics in Stone Mountain, Northlake, Decatur, and Lithonia; Kaiser Permanente's medical offices in Decatur, Lithonia, Stonecrest, and Tucker; Grady Hospital's community health centers; and a plethora of family medical practices, imaging and diagnostics facilities, and specialty medicine offices.



The Emory Difference Is All Around You



You can find us in your neighborhood and nearby areas.

At Emory Healthcare, you'll find the expertise, specialists and technology you'd expect from Atlanta's most comprehensive academic medical system. So whether it's simple or serious, we have the care you need right in your own backyard.

Emory's doctors, along with a nursing staff that's earned the highest national honors, do more than practice medicine. They advance it through research, clinical trials and the development of new and better ways to prevent and treat disease. That's the Emory Difference.

Emory has more than 40 locations throughout the region, including, Emory Hillandale Hospital, Emory Decatur Hospital and Emory University Hospital. Specific services near you include cardiology, oncology, orthopaedics, primary care, family medicine and urgent care, through our partnership with Peachtree Immediate Care.

Let us help you find an Emory Healthcare provider or location near you.

Call **404-778-7777** for assistance, or visit emoryhealthcare.org/nearyou.

EMORY
HEALTHCARE



Healing our community, one home at a time

Scope of Services

- Family Practice
- Pediatric Health
- Behavioral Health
- Dental
- Podiatry
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Prescription Assistance Program
- Medicaid Certification
- Gastroenterology
- Infectious Disease
- Vision

Multiple locations to better serve you:

- **Stone Mountain**
- **Northlake**
- **Decatur**
- **Conyers**
- **Lithonia (Hillandale)**
- **AbsoluteCare**
- **Atlanta**

We accept most insurances.

Sliding fee scale available.

404-298-8998
www.oakmed.org

Oakhurst Medical Centers, Inc. is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC) Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Providing an integrated and coordinated approach to care with a focus on quality and safety.

We are an active member of the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce.

FREE
Prescription
Delivery
Service
Available

Education & Workforce Training



Preparing our children to become productive citizens of DeKalb County starts in preschool and continues through elementary/secondary school, career training, and higher education. Our workforce pipeline is robust, and our programs are responsive to the needs to area employers.

DeKalb County School District

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) is Georgia's third-largest school system. Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. R. Stephen Green and the Board of Education, the District prepares students for college and careers through rigorous, relevant classroom instruction that speaks directly to each child's needs.

The District serves nearly 102,000 students, 140 schools and centers, and 15,500 employees, including 6,600 teachers. Students and parents speak more than 140 languages and represent more than 180 nations. DCSD is a leader in STEM curriculum with 10 certified schools and programs in more than 90 schools. With nearly 50 specialty schools, from magnet and IB to charter and Montessori, families have many options.

The vision of the DeKalb County School District is to inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence. Their mission is to ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning. This vision and mission are becoming a reality – every day, in every classroom throughout the District.

The District uses performance measures, targets, and initiatives to ensure success. A monitoring and data collection process was developed, and rigorous progress check procedures were implemented. At the local level, ongoing training sessions are offered to all principals to support the work of aligning, refining, monitoring, and evaluating the improvement efforts of each school.

The DeKalb County School District is focused on teaching and learning, and committed to:

- Ensuring that a highly qualified, effective teacher instructs every class.
- Providing a safe and orderly 21st Century instructional and working environment infused with emerging technologies.
- Embracing our District's cultural and linguistic diversity and using it to create an environment of educational excellence.
- Improving organizational effectiveness, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and supplying exceptional school and District leadership.
- Communicating openly and accurately with all stakeholders.
- Cultivating a community of learners in which all individuals are valued, respected, encouraged to contribute, recognized for their efforts, and held accountable for their actions.

City Schools of Decatur

City Schools of Decatur serve approximately 5,700 students who live within the four-square-mile area of Decatur. The school system operates nine schools: one Early Childhood Learning

Center, five K-2 primary lower elementary schools, two 3rd-5th grade upper elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Students perform above state and national averages on standardized tests at all grade levels.

Each year City Schools of Decatur has ranked in the top ten districts in Georgia for SAT performance. Decatur High School has been named an AP Challenge and AP Merit school in Georgia. Over 70% of the system's teachers hold advanced degrees, and a number of them hold multiple certifications. The average years of experience among teachers across the district is 13 years.

DeKalb County's Higher Education

Georgia Piedmont Technical College is one of Georgia's oldest and most respected colleges in the technical field. The college prides itself on preparing its students with the education, training, and skills needed to enter the workforce and make positive impacts on the community.

Perimeter College at Georgia State

Other major colleges & universities in DeKalb

	Location	Description
Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur	Presbyterian seminary
DeVry Atlanta	Decatur	For-profit career-oriented college
Georgia Military College	Stone Mountain	Public military, liberal arts junior college
Interactive College of Technology	Chamblee	Private occupational education to associate's degree
Luther Rice College & Seminary	Lithonia	Private Christian college and seminary
Mercer University Atlanta	Chamblee	Private, undergraduate liberal arts to doctoral-level
Oglethorpe University	Brookhaven	Private, liberal arts college

University is a gateway to higher education for DeKalb County residents. Students can earn a career certificate up to an associate degree, and then may transfer seamlessly to Georgia State University's downtown Atlanta campus to pursue a four-year degree and higher.

Agnes Scott College is a private liberal arts women's college in Decatur that offers 34 undergraduate majors and 32 minors, as

well as programs in pre-law and pre-medicine. Dual-degree programs are available in computer science, engineering and nursing, and graduate programs include writing and digital communication. The campus sits on 100 acres shaded by some of the state's oldest trees, and MARTA stops three blocks from campus. With a deep history and an innovative spirit, Agnes Scott College educates women to think deeply,

Check it OUT!

- **DeKalb County School District** was established in 1873 when residents raised \$4,200 to open public schools.
- **The District covers 257 square miles within DeKalb County, excluding the areas served by Atlanta Public Schools and City Schools of Decatur.**
- **DeKalb County Schools offer 15 different high school athletic participation sports including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, girl's gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, fast-pitch softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling.**

GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
IS YOUR WAY FORWARD!
Nine career pathways offered **tuition-free** through Georgia's HOPE Career Grant and **50+ programs available 100% online**
Plus, GED® Test prep and English as a Second Language classes
TWO CAMPUSES RIGHT HERE IN DEKALB COUNTY
495 North Indian Creek Drive in Clarkston & 2460 Wesley Chapel Road in Decatur
404.297.9522

THE WAY FORWARD
gptc.edu

GPTC is an Equal Opportunity Institution and a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia.

live honorably, and engage the intellectual challenges of their times.

Emory University is a top-ranked private institution recognized internationally for its outstanding liberal arts colleges, graduate and professional schools, and one of the world's leading healthcare systems. Located in the historic Druid Hills neighborhood of DeKalb County, Emory carefully cultivates a creative blend of old and new.

Career Training in DeKalb County

DeKalb County Career, Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs are known as some of the best around metro Atlanta. CTAE's work-based learning programs give high school students opportunities to begin their career preparations and enable employers to play an active role in shaping the quality of their future workforce. Students experience the connection between education and real-life

work skills, earning wages while learning from professionals, increasing their career options, and strengthening their academic skills.

Cutting-Edge Workforce Training

DeKalb County supports area employers in improving worker productivity, employee retention and work-life balance, while encouraging employees to live, work, and play in DeKalb.

WorkSource DeKalb (WSD) is on a mission to increase occupational skill attainment by participants, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation. WSD administers various employment/training programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth ages 14-24. WSD aligns partnerships with the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce and Decide DeKalb, studying projections and work-related trends, promoting lifelong learning for high-demand occupations, and building recruitment.

Quick Start helps companies assess, select, and train the right people at the right time for success. Georgia Quick Start's services are free to any qualified company, whether new to Georgia, expanding a workforce here, or adding new technology to stay competitive. The program evaluates workers and trains new employees on each company's processes and develops customized job-specific training using the most current techniques and media.

DeKalb County's Learn & Earn On-the-Job Training Initiative provides employers with a subsidy/reimbursement of up to 50% of an employee's wages for on-the-job training. The subsidy covers training costs for up to 90 days. Employers must agree to hire eligible individuals, provide them with skills training for a specific time period, and pay wages at the same rates as similarly situated employees.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) provides funding to train existing, full-time employees. This helps businesses to effectively retain employees and stay competitive, averting layoffs and possible business closings. Businesses may use public or private training providers, or approved in-house training providers, based on the type of training. Consequently, businesses gain a more skilled workforce, increase efficiency, and pay higher wages for existing personnel.

Economic Development DeKalb is Rising



Some businesses choose DeKalb County for its prime location. Some relocate for the highly skilled workforce, or the favorable economic conditions that exist in DeKalb County. Some pick DeKalb for its vast cultural diversity. Most businesses probably select DeKalb County for a combination of these reasons and more. See why so many enterprises – small and large – already call DeKalb County home.

Location

Major arteries through DeKalb County include Interstates 20, 85, 285, 675 and many state highways, which provide easy access to Interstate 75 and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world.

Business Climate

DeKalb's business climate is characterized by available, affordable buildings and developable sites, a well-educated workforce, and a comprehensive array of business services and benefits.

There are more than 81,000 active businesses in DeKalb County. Among the largest employers are: Emory University (the largest employer in Metro Atlanta), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Emory Healthcare, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, State Farm Insurance, and InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG). Additionally, the county hosts at least 27 internationally based companies.

Decide DeKalb experienced a stellar year in 2019, facilitating capital investments of more than \$1.14 billion, which was eight times the

amount invested in 2018. With the help of its partners, Decide DeKalb helped generate 748 new full-time jobs in the county as well as 747 expansion jobs, and helped retain more than 6,000 jobs.

Demographics

According to the U.S. Census, the population of DeKalb County increased 7.3% between 2010 and 2018, adding more than 51,200 residents. DeKalb County's 2018 estimated population of more than 740,000 residents is one of the most culturally diverse in the U.S. with 140 languages spoken by either staff or students in the DeKalb County School System. DeKalb's estimated median household income in 2018 was \$59,280. The income per capita, which includes all adults and children, was \$34,100.

Available Qualified Workforce

The quality of DeKalb's labor force is unrivaled. In addition to drawing the best from surrounding counties, DeKalb's workforce is highly educated: 68.1% of the entire population attended college, while 43.4% attained a four-year or post secondary degree.

High Quality of Life

Another reason for DeKalb's popularity is the high quality of life compared to the low cost of living. DeKalb has the highest quality level of government services at the lowest tax rate for counties of comparable size. With DeKalb's plentiful housing, healthcare, education, and recreational opportunities, businesses know this is a place their employees will want to live.

For more information about DeKalb County and business relocation opportunities, contact:

Decide DeKalb Development Authority
Two Decatur Town Center
125 Clairemont Ave., Ste. 150
Decatur, GA 30030
DecideDeKalb.com • 404-687-2730



Stay at Agnes Scott's Alumnae House



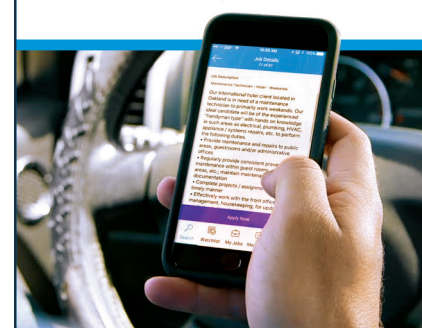
Located on the east side of Agnes Scott College's beautiful campus, the Anna I. Young Alumnae House offers contemporary guest rooms and attractive event spaces for rental to alumnae, friends and the greater community. The Alumnae House's five cozy, modern rooms sleep 10 guests comfortably. The elegant parlor, tea room and dining room event space, filled with museum-quality art by alumnae, holds 75 guests for a reception or 32 for a seated dinner.



Guests can walk to the thriving Decatur Square to enjoy award-winning restaurants and shops or catch MARTA (metro Atlanta's public transportation system) to visit the many popular attractions in the greater Atlanta area.

For more information about reserving the Alumnae House, visit: agnesscott.edu/alumnae/alumnaehouse. Interested in hosting your next event or film shoot on campus? Call us at 404.471.6700 or visit us online to learn more: agnesscott.edu/eventrentals.

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Meet DeKalb's Innovators Arantza Peña Popo



Claim to Fame: Winner of the 2019 Doodle for Google Competition

Education: Arabia Mountain High School

Hometown: Stone Mountain, Georgia

How long have you lived in DeKalb County?
For about 14 years

Occupation: Student / Artist

Organization/School:
University of Southern California

Description of your current mission as an artist or a student:
I am still deciding what I want to do with my life, but for now, I want to help the environment and fix the harm mankind imposed on nature.

What is your vision for the future of DeKalb County?
I hope that DeKalb becomes a place that has more artistic activities for the public. I hope that we can become more of an artistic hub inside of the state of Georgia.

What is your favorite aspect of DeKalb County?
I really appreciate trees we have, it's like you are always surrounded by nature wherever you go.

What is distinct or exceptional about Dekalb County?
I think what makes Dekalb County truly distinctive is our mix of both the natural and urban landscapes. One minute you're in the forest, the next on a mountain, and in the next the metropolis of Atlanta. It's the variety that fosters excitement and allows you to see something new every day.

What did the Google Doodle Contest mean to you?
It meant a lot to me to have my art on public display, but even more importantly, it was very motivating and heartwarming to know that I had an entire community rooting me on.

Meet DeKalb's Innovators David A. Ross, ScD



Occupation: President & Chief Executive Officer

Organization: The Task Force for Global Health

Description of the organization's mission:
People around the world suffer needlessly from debilitating diseases and other large-scale health threats. The Task Force for Global Health exists to eliminate these diseases and protect the health of populations.

What is your vision for the future of DeKalb County?
DeKalb County is home to the richest concentration of international public health organizations in the world with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the anchor. Efforts are underway at both the state and local levels to spur more economic development around global health. We anticipate DeKalb County will play a bigger role in international public health as more organizations realize the extraordinary value of locating and operating here.

What role do you or does your organization play in that future?
DeKalb County has been a valued partner for us in our growth. In particular, the support of county leadership and the Decide DeKalb Development Authority enabled us to acquire our new headquarters facility at 330 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. As we build out this facility in the coming years, we will be bringing more economic development to the community and further heighten the county's visibility on the international stage. We also intend to do more to help support public health in DeKalb County.

What is your favorite aspect of DeKalb County?
DeKalb County leadership recognize the importance of a strong nonprofit sector to a thriving community. They have stepped up in many ways to ensure nonprofits like The Task Force are successful.

What is distinct or exceptional about Dekalb County?
DeKalb County has a diversity of cultures that mirror the populations that we serve at The Task Force. This helps distinguish the county as a welcoming home to people from all over the world.



The Gateway to Atlanta.

Brookhaven's distinctive neighborhoods are its hallmarks.

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Meet DeKalb's Innovators

Leocadia I. Zak



Hometown: Lynn, Massachusetts

Moved to or began working in DeKalb County in: July 2018

Occupation: President

Organization: Agnes Scott College

Description of the organization's mission:

The mission of Agnes Scott College is "educating women to think deeply, live honorably and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their times."

What is your vision for the future of DeKalb County?

I envision a county full of public-private partnerships and creative ways to enhance its already bustling economy. I also envision introducing more DeKalb County residents to Agnes Scott College and its beautiful campus. Many of our facilities and spaces are available for film shoots, weddings, conferences, and other events.

What role do you or does your organization play in that future?

Agnes Scott occupies a very special space as a women's college in DeKalb County. As such, we play an important role in educating our students to live out our mission, and ideally to remain in Atlanta, applying what they've learned to make a difference in the larger community. We are also a community partner, meaning that we welcome opportunities to

work together with individuals, foundations, non-profits, governmental sectors, and businesses to make improvements.

What is your favorite aspect of DeKalb County?

I live in Decatur, so I am spoiled by all of its different cultural and culinary options. Of course, I have to say that Agnes Scott College is my all-time favorite! However, I have been exploring all of DeKalb County as I continue to settle into my presidency. One of my favorite Decatur events is this community's annual Book Festival. Agnes Scott College hosted Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor as part of the 2019 AJC Decatur Book Festival.

What is distinct or exceptional about DeKalb County?

DeKalb County is composed of so many distinct communities. All of these different areas comprise a whole that is exceptional and attractive to individuals, businesses, and other entities already residing in DeKalb or considering moving here. This year and last, Agnes Scott has had the two largest classes of first-year students in the college's history. Our location – in DeKalb County – is definitely an asset we use to recruit and retain our students.

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Meet DeKalb's Innovators

Ebonie Carzo



Education: Master's in business administration

Hometown: Greenwood, Delaware

**Moved to or began working
in DeKalb County:** 2010

Occupation: Founder & Lead Cake Designer

Organization: Scrumptious Cakery

Description of the organization's mission:
Scrumptious Cakery is a luxe wedding cake bakery that creates magical and memorable experiences. Our mission is to provide job growth within our local communities and inspire our employees to think and act as business owners. We give our employees the autonomy to make business decisions through providing a work

environment that always operates with integrity, honesty, hard work, foresight, and fun! We believe in diversity and inclusion and foster an open-door policy among the management team. Scrumptious Cakery's driving force is to inspire the growth of small businesses throughout the world.

What is your vision for the future of DeKalb County?

I'd like to see an increased involvement and transfer of power to young professionals in DeKalb County between the ages of 30-40 years old.

What is your favorite aspect of DeKalb County?

It is a major metro county, but it has a small hometown feel.

What is distinct or exceptional about DeKalb County?

The small business community is exceptional and thriving in DeKalb County, and I can't wait to watch those businesses grow and employ more of the community.

Meet DeKalb's Innovators

Ryan C. Millsap



Description of the organization's mission:

The mission of Blackhall Studios is to provide world-class film assets to the global production marketplace. Part of that mission is to aid in the development of talented film makers and film crew through the education of our youth in this specialized field. We work closely with The Georgia Film Academy, The Georgia Film Foundation, and DeKalb County Schools to create programs that train the future film leaders of DeKalb County.

What is your vision for the future of DeKalb County?

DeKalb County has incredible geographic desirability. We are the natural growth corridor for the Atlanta metropolitan area, both as the city grows outward and as the suburbs fold back in. DeKalb is poised to capture that tremendous growth born from a city like Atlanta growing so big that it must fold back inward and expand vertically. My vision for DeKalb is that we will become an entertainment hub for movies, television, e-sports gaming, and augmented reality experiences. These growth industries give us the opportunity to accelerate into greater prosperity.

Education: Master of Real Estate Development from Southern California University; Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Literature from Biola University

Hometown: Springfield, Missouri

**Moved to or began working
in DeKalb County:** 2014

Occupation: Chairman & CEO

Organization: Blackhall Studios

What role do you or does your organization play in that future?

Blackhall Studios is one of the premier movie studios in the world. Our expansion plans will place us as the largest studio in North America in sound stage space. All of this is happening right here in DeKalb County. The production partners on our lot include Disney, Sony, Warner Brothers, HBO, Legendary, Lionsgate, Paramount, and Universal. They are employing thousands of Georgians at Blackhall. Blackhall can play a very important role in DeKalb's growth and continued success.

What is your favorite aspect of DeKalb County?

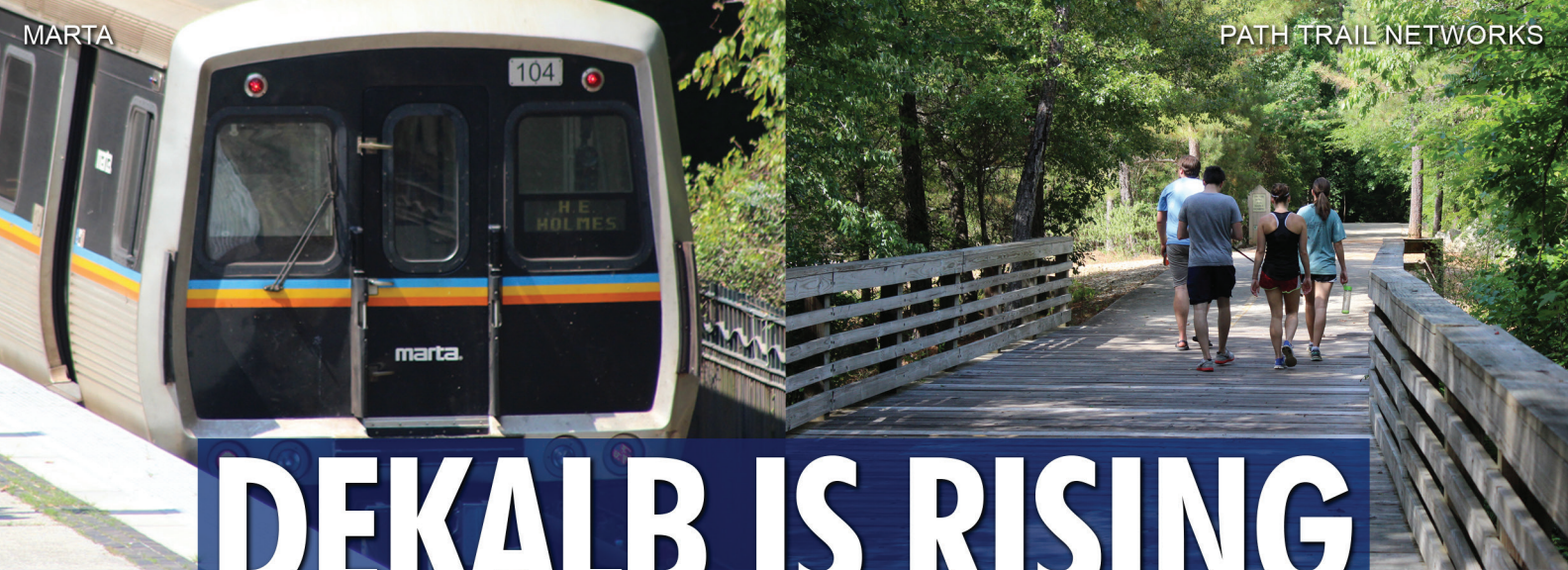
I love the diversity of DeKalb. It is filled with people from every tribe, color, creed, and seed, and that glorious diversity creates flavor and uniquely blended experiences.

What is distinct or exceptional about DeKalb County?

DeKalb County is uniquely positioned to capitalize on the Metro Atlanta desire to fold in upon itself and grow vertically. We have incredible untapped land resources, and we have the right leadership in place to have a decade or more of unprecedented growth and transformation!

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Image: Cooper Carry



DEKALB-PEACHTREE AIRPORT (PDK)



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DeKalb County Government thanks the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce for being a major sponsor of the SPLOST and EHOST education campaigns. Thanks to its contribution, DeKalb voters overwhelmingly said “yes” to referendums that are improving roads, parks and libraries and saving homeowners \$119 million in property taxes each year.

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