

Historic Decatur Association
Letter from Your President
April 10th, 2019

Greetings Neighbors,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Brenda Henson. I live in Historic Decatur's Old Decatur neighborhood in the Gibson House. The reason I am writing to you today is to introduce myself, to let you know I am your 2019 Historic Decatur Association President, and to begin sharing information. I hope this first letter from me finds you well and enjoying the blossoming of Spring. As we launch 2019, your new board and I are excitedly celebrating events surrounding Alabama's Bicentennial. We will keep you updates as bicentennial events are announced. This year, our goal is to get to know each other, get involved, and make a difference in our beloved historic district.

On behalf of the 2019 HDA Board of Directors, I would like to thank our outgoing 2018 board members Larry Freeman, D Hall, Julia Roth, and Shannon DeFazio.

We would also like to congratulate last year's Christmas Tour committee, lead by Justin Hall, on another successful year. Thank you to the homeowners who volunteered their homes. Many of you have donated time and worked countless hours on this event in the past. For volunteering, thank you. Please join me in congratulating Justin and his committee for a great 2018 Tour. Speaking of Christmas Tour, I am proud to introduce our 2019 Tour Chair, Harriette Mathews of Albany. Let's work with Harriette to make Alabama's Bicentennial year a great tour year.

Last year, we restarted the neighborhood-wide tree planting project. Unfortunately, the aftermath of the spring storms impacted our ability to plant 100% of the trees planned for 2018. The good news is we managed to plant 10 trees in Albany. We are currently working our plan for 2019 which includes reidentifying locations in Old Decatur and Albany where trees have been lost. We are collaborating with the City of Decatur and their arborist to ensure we plant the right trees in the right places. Our expectation is that additional trees will be planted this fall.

We will keep you up-to-date on the goings on in and around the historic district throughout the year. If you have information you'd like to share, please pass it along to a board member. Can you tell I am excited to be part of the historic district? I hope you are too! We have so much going on, lots of great things planned – and we want all of you to be a part of it.

Brenda Henson
HDA President 2019

Historic Decatur Association
2019 Officers / Board Members

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Judge David Breland	Email: dbreland@decatur-al.gov	Telephone: 256-565-3788
Wade Dinsmore	Email: wdinsmore100@gmail.com	Telephone: 256-616-7025

Welcome New Neighbors

We would like to take a moment to **Welcome New Residents** to our wonderful Historic neighborhood. If you are a new resident, we would love to hear from you! First, we invite you to join HDA. A membership form is attached to this newsletter. We utilize several forms of communication and welcome your participation throughout this year. A great way to keep up to date on current events is through our website historicdecatur.org, NextDoor and FaceBook. If you have not yet joined or would like more information on how to join the HDA, please contact any member of the HDA board and or email me at bhenson4@wm.com for help. We would love to get to know you and your family.

A message from Decatur's Historic Preservation Commission:

The HPC has finalized the fast-track system. Dozens of things that once required full commission review can now be fast tracked, often in just a couple of days. By the end of this week, the Commission will roll out a new, clearer and more thorough application with instructions. And, per Caroline, there is a lot more in the works!



Historic Decatur's 2019 Garden Tour is planned for Sunday, May 19th from 1-5pm. This tour has traditionally been our gift to the community. Events such as this keep people excited about visiting our beautiful neighborhoods and returning to support of our annual Christmas Tour of Homes. Participation in the Garden Tour is simple. If you love gardening, please consider opening your gate to allow visitors to stroll through on May 19th. Our headquarters location will be Westminster Presbyterian Church and will offer guests Tour information and refreshments. Volunteers are needed to work HQ and to bring refreshments. More information is coming soon. Our first need is Gardens. Please contact Cindy Upton, Garden Tour Chair, at 256-566-3344 if you are willing to share your garden as part of this year's Garden Tour. We must finalize the Tour sites by April 14th to finish the flyer and distribute.

_____ I am interested in sharing my garden on tour.

_____ I am interest in volunteering on garden tour day.



Historic Decatur's Christmas Tour of Homes will be here before we know it. As mentioned in my letter, it takes an army of volunteers to make the event successful. Our Tour Chair this year is Harriette Mathews. **We are presently in need of homes for tour and volunteers.** Please help us make this year's Christmas Tour the best one ever!

_____ I am interested in being part of the Christmas Tour committee.

_____ I am interested in having my home on tour.

_____ I am interested in volunteering for Christmas Tour.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR INTEREST FORM TO BRENDA HENSON AT bhenson4@wm.com

Community Events

Bank Street Players presents Crimes of the Heart

Apr 18, 2019 - Apr 20, 2019, Princess Theatre; \$10 Student and Senior Tickets (fees included)
\$12 Adult Tickets (fees included)

Forrest Gump- Film Apr 26, 2019 - Apr 28, 2019 Princess Theatre General Admission, Decatur, AL
Tickets \$7. Rated PG13

Erin Enderlin- RFCU® Listening Room Loft@ the Princess Thursday May 09, 2019 7:00 PM, Contact the Princess Theatre for ticket information.

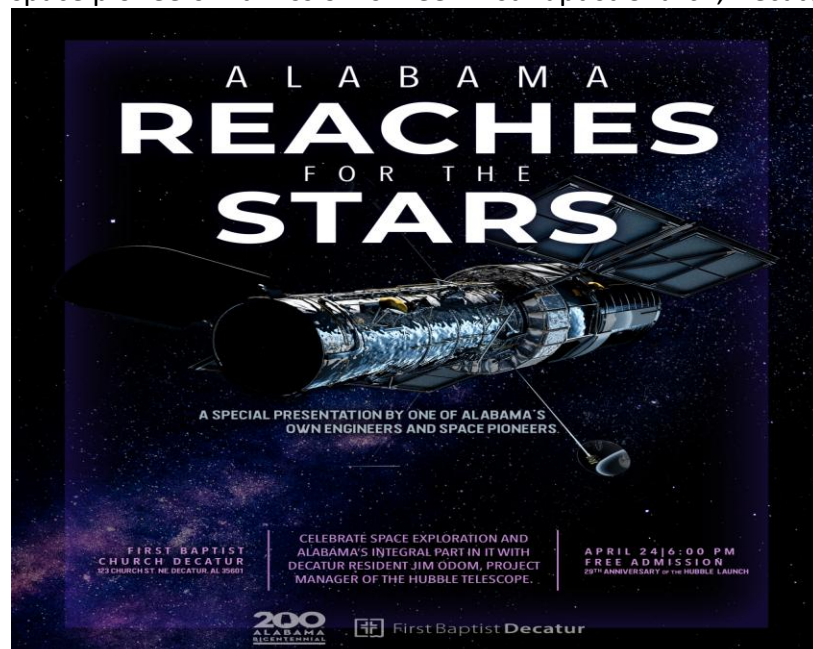
Selah Concert May 11th 7pm Tickets \$17.50

Bridge on the River Kwaii- Film May 24th-26th Tickets \$7. Rated PG 13

Larkin Poe May 30th 7pm Contact Princess Theatre for ticketing information

Robin Grant and the Standard June 7th 7 pm Contact Princess Theatre for ticketing information

Alabama Reaches for the Stars A special presentation by one of Alabama's own engineers and space pioneers. Admission is Free. First Baptist Church, Decatur, AL at 6 pm on April 24th.



HISTORIC WALKING TOURS Decatur, Alabama

April 13 Phil Wirey *Decatur City Cemetery Tour* begins at City Cemetery 1001 Wilson Street (AL Hwy 20) NW

April 20 Caroline Swope *Architectural Tour of Old Decatur* begins at Old State Bank, 925 Bank Street

April 27 Phil Wirey *Churches of Old Decatur Tour* begins at Old State Bank 925 Bank Street
All tours are free, family friendly and involve easy walking. All tours begin at 10 am and last until about noon. The *Historic Decatur Railroad Depot* will be open each of these Saturdays from 9:30 until noon.

Historic Decatur Association:

Neighborhood Social, April 28th, 2019 2pm-4pm Cross Eyed-Owl (bring a snack to share)

Garden Tour, May 19th, 2019

Christmas In July, Christmas Tour Kickoff, July 18th 5:30 pm until 8 pm

Neighborhood Decorating Challenge, December 10th (first judging 3pm, second judging dusk)

Christmas Tour Date: December 14th

Decatur Mall: Currently on exhibit (on the walls) of Decatur's Mall (on the Beltline) is a wonderful display of Historic Decatur's History. Be sure to visit the mall, take in some shopping, and be fascinated by the history that is DECATUR!

Carnegie Events:

"Embracing Art" Exhibit Current exhibit

Historic Preservation Commission:

Location: Depot, 5:30 p.m.) Apr. 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

Downtown Merchants and Business Association:

3rd Friday is returning to downtown April 19th

Q2 Social April 22nd 5:30 pm Mellow Mushroom

River Clay Festival, Historic Downtown Decatur, September 27th-29th

Decatur Parks and Recreation

Rhodes Ferry Park – Alabama Hwy. 20 at Oak Street

May 6 Replay Oldies & Gospel

May 13 The Beasley Brothers Pop/Rock

May 20 PapaRox Modern Flair Oldies

May 27 *No Concert Memorial Day*

June 23 Bimini Road Southern Folk & Blues

June 10 Taylor McLain & Firewater Classic Country & Rock

June 17 Jeff Whitlow & The Old Barn Band Classic Country

June 24 Dorothy Cole & Friends 70s/80s outfits Tina Turner Tribute

July 21 Al Keith Band Smooth Jazz/Pop/Blues

July 28 Reginald Jackson & Friends Smooth Jazz

Daikin Amphitheater at Founder's Park – Alabama Highway 20 at Canal Street

July 15 Madison Community Band Summer Band

July 15 Decatur Youth Symphony Classical

July 22 Sophisticated Swingers Big Band

July 29 Michael Dean & Memphis Elvis Tribute

All concerts are free and begin at 6PM. Bring a picnic and your favorite seats or blanket. For more information call 256-341-4818 Weather information - cancellations, moving to another venue - will be posted on the Decatur Parks & Recreation Facebook page

Membership/Change Form Historic Decatur Association

Print Clearly & Complete In Full

Mail To:

Brenda Henson
305 Lafayette Street NE
Decatur, AL 35601

Annual Dues :

\$25.00 Per Household

**Make checks payable to:
Historic Decatur Association**

Adults (will be alphabetized by last name in Directory)

Last Name 1. First Name 2. First Name
(Names will be listed in above order)

Others in household (include other adults and/or children)

First & Last Name _____
First & Last Name

First & Last Name _____
First & Last Name

Address

House or Apartment Number Street

Home Phone Work Phone

First Name: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Second Name: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Additional Contribution: \$ _____

(All contributions above dues payment are tax deductible)

Thank You! If you are completing this form as a change in your personal information only, please circle the following: This is a Change of Personal Information Only.

Note: The information on this form may be used for publication of a new HDA directory.

Please highlight any information that you wish to be excluded from the directory.



Share your love for Decatur's unique historic character with the #iHeartDecatur social media photo contest.

Print the #iHeartDecatur Logo, take a picture holding it in front of your favorite Decatur historic building or landscape. Post the photo to the Decatur AL Historic Preservation Commission Facebook page with the text #iHeartDecatur.

Contest runs from **April 1-30, 2019**. Prizes will be awarded to the three most "liked" photos.

For more information, complete contest rules, and a printable #iHeartDecatur Logo, visit <https://www.facebook.com/DecaturALHistoricPreservationCommission/>



#iHeartDecatur Contest Rules

1) Valid entries are photographs that are posted directly on the **DecaturALHistoricPreservationCommission Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/DecaturALHistoricPreservationCommission/>). If you do not have a Facebook page, you may email your digital .jpg image to direland@decatur-al.gov; the image will then be posted to the Facebook page.

If emailed, send only one image per email with all required details. Email size cannot exceed 5 MB.

- 2) Each image entry must include the #iHeartDecatur contest graphic in the photo.
- 3) Please use the hashtag #iHeartDecatur with your post to Facebook.
- 4) Include a one-sentence explanation of why you love the building/site.
- 5) There is no limit to the number of entries.
- 6) It is first come, first served on submitting buildings/sites.
- 7) Buildings (or landscape, as in Delano Park or the cemetery) must be at least 50 years old and located within the city limits of Decatur, Alabama, to be eligible.

• Winners will be announced in May 2019 at the HPCV Preservation Month event.

• Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be determined by the number of likes per entry.

• Chances of winning are dependent on the number of entries and votes.

Historic Spotlight presented by Caroline T. Swope, M.S.H.P., Ph.D
Style Guide: Tudor Revival (1890-1930)

While many people may envision a classically columned house or an ornate Victorian as the ubiquitous “southern” house, the Tudor style was extraordinarily popular as well. The Tudor style is a revival of medieval European forms, and its design components were easily manipulated for both large-scale mansions and smaller speculative houses. The style began in England and publications such as *Building News* and *American Architect and Building News* showcased designs for large country estates with irregular massing, multiple gabled rooflines, extensive half timbering, and multiple, articulated chimneys.

The Tudor Revival emerged in part from the English Arts and Crafts Movement, which favored Tudor architecture for its Picturesque elements. The American public at large were introduced to the style at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia where the British government constructed two Elizabethan style buildings. Both were favorably discussed in the journal *American Builder*. The style was so pervasive that even Frank Lloyd Wright experimented with a Tudor design for the Nathan G. Moore house of 1895. By the 1920s the style was popular with middle and upper classes. The style was associated with nobility yet had a less formal arrangement than a Colonial or Neo-Classical design. Use of the Tudor style declined during the 1930s, although it has seen a renewed interest in recent years.

Tudor design generally includes irregular massing, a steeply pitched roof, prominent front and side gables, articulated chimneys and decorative façade treatments. Half timbering (decorative, not structural) can be present in stucco and brick examples. Tall narrow multi-paned windows, sometimes in a diamond pattern, or with small stained-glass insets appear. Chimneys are large and articulated with decorative brickwork or chimney pots. Tudor homes accentuate the chimneys by pulling the entire brick structure outside the main wall, using it as a design feature which is often featured on the front of the house. Brickwork is often patterned, either by using color or irregularly massed clinker bricks. Some homes even have crenelated brick or stone work, where pattern is added through repeated square indentations, much like those seen in medieval defense battlements. An unusual and charming design feature of Tudor homes is the frequent use of rounded top doors, reminiscent of fairy tale cottages. These doors often have small inset windows, allowing the homeowner to view visitors, and some are even designed to open, allowing discussion or the passing of letters.

