

NEWS

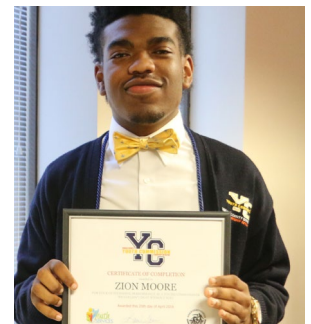
TIME OF THEIR LIVES!



With bellowing “woo-hoo’s”, a few tears and high-fives, students from the DeKalb County Youth Commissioners were celebrated Tuesday, April 26th for their completion of the Youth Commission (YC) program. A long line-up of family and friends were on hand to cheer them on as they ran to be presented with a certificate, The program celebrated its ninth year and seven more graduates at DeKalb County Board of health on Tuesday evening. The Youth Commission is a year-long program to empower today’s youth to lead and participate in local volunteer program and raise awareness of community issues countywide. The Office of Youth Services hopes to expand the program next fall by providing more boys and girls with the opportunity to participate.

The following graduates were recognized: Kalen Campbell, Jasmine Barber, Yizra Ghebre (Georgia Institute of Technology), Kobie Jones (Western Georgia University), Laura Kelly (Earlham College), Savannah Edmondson (Brandeis University), Kourtney Mathis, Makayla Mitchell (Fort Valley State University), Nicholas Weddington (Emory University), Kimberly Brown, Brianna Kemp, Darius Barnett, Malik Thomas, Gillum Owens, Mya Millen, Unique Lewis, Ryan Vaughters, Ahmaad Daniel, Yasmine Meadows, Patience Bigby, Zion Moore and Jordan Holmond

For more information contact Jashawn Williams (404-687-7108)



What's Inside?

Youth Commissioners	Page 1
Keep DeKalb Clean	Page 2
2016 Dream Symposium	Page 3
Stem, Workshops & Fieldtrips	Page 4

DeKalb Family Fun Day	Page 5
New Commissioners Are Here	Page 6
Life Changing Breakfast	Page 7
DeKalb Neighborhood Summit	Page 8

NEWS

Keeping DeKalb Clean Together!



Students working together to help clean up DeKalb!



Nothing is too big or too small for this crew!



YLA HELPS CLEAN UP DEKALB COUNTY!

Each year, the Youth Leadership Academy students participate in several community service events. On May 7, Residents and volunteers came together to support the Brannon Hill condo community near Clarkston with a cleanup day. The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) was the largest volunteer group to attend. In addition to trash removal, the students helped to plant a community garden. Youth Leadership Academy participant Najlaa Moumaris said, "This day really makes you feel grateful for what you have." The students also helped to remove tires from a giant sinkhole in the center of the community. Kendall Smith, YLA participant said that he was surprised to see the community so close to home in such disarray. At the end of the cleanup day, the students helped to break down the event and spent time with community residents and other volunteers.



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The 2016 Dream Symposium



Actor/comedian Chris Tucker told 500 youths attending the Dream Symposium hosted by DeKalb Interim CEO Lee May that they, too, can dream big and succeed in the entertainment industry with hard work. The symposium, attended by hundreds of children enrolled in the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation summer program, was held at the Porter Sanford Performing Arts Center in Decatur on June 29. Tucker, a native of DeKalb, was among a panel of media and entertainment professionals who told the youths, ages 12 to 15, how rewarding the entertainment industry can be and steps they can take to make their own dreams come true. Other invited panelists included Kandi Burruss-Tucker, a Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter; Karmetria Burton, director of supplier diversity for Delta Air Lines; Shanti Das, founder/CEO of Press Reset Entertainment; Darian "Big Tigger" Morgan, host of The Big Tigger Show" on V-103 and Byron Wright, senior director of writer-publisher relations at Broadcast Music Inc. The event was moderated by Rashan Ali, a freelance sports anchor for CNN and HLN's Weekend Express, and founder of the nonprofit Sporty Girls. Glamour, an all-female R&B trio, performed for the audience. "These panelists have realized their dreams and what made them successful is that they kept going, despite the failures," said DeKalb Interim CEO Lee May told the youths in attendance. "Don't be afraid to fail. You can have this big dream, but you've got to do something. You've got to work hard."

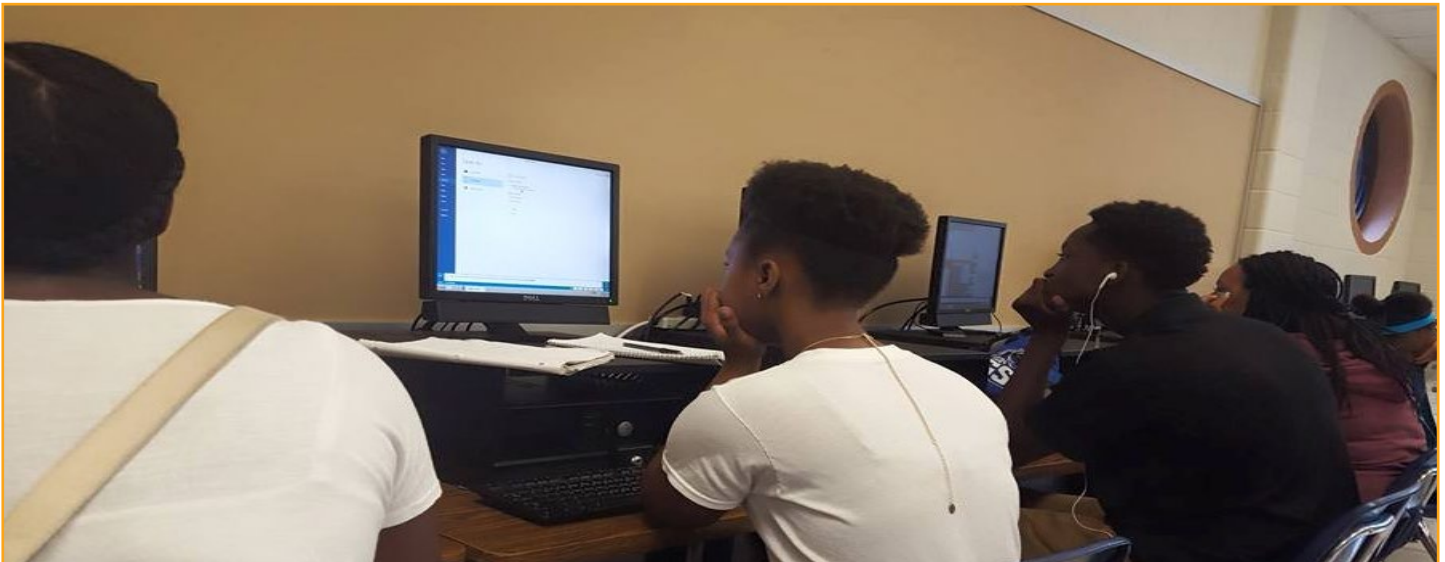


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STEM, Workshops & Fieldtrips



The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) finished its 8th summer session on July 15, 2016. The summer was packed with STEAM academics to prepare for the upcoming school year, field trips, workshops, and community service. This summer, Youth Leadership Academy instructor Allen Johnson was able to get all students Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certified. Some students hold up to 4 certifications. The students also enjoyed fieldtrips to Art and Soul, Stone Mountain Park, and the Bodies Exhibit. Each Monday the students took swim and golf lessons. This was the second summer session for YLA's 3rd cohort. The summer ended with the students attending the Youth Empowerment Breakfast which is an annual event to raise funds for the Academy.



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2016 DEKALB FAMILY FUN DAY!



Students working together to help clean up DeKalb!



Nothing is too big or too small for this crew!



2016 DEKALB FAMILY FUN DAY!!

Family Fun Day is an outreach event designed to engage DeKalb County residents in a day of family fun! This event provided bookbags and school supply giveaways, free food and entertainment. Our goal was to offer a fun, engaging, and safe event for families throughout DeKalb County. Organizations from all over the county participated to share literature with our residents on the programs and services they offer to strengthen DeKalb families.

Hundreds of families can out and had a good time with servcices ranging from voter registration to face painting, bounce houses, swimming, horse back riding, and live music! For more information and to join in next years' fun contact Vanessa Amos in the Office of Youth Services at vaamos@dekalbcountyga.gov.



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FRESH FACES MAKING CHANGE!



New Commissioners are ready to go!

The DeKalb County Youth Commission Kick-Off Celebration was held on Tuesday, August 16 at 5:30 at the Clark Harrison Building in Downtown Decatur. The 2016-2017 Youth Commission (YC) is comprised of 20 Youth Commissioners between the ages of 15-

18 years old. Each Youth Commissioner represents one of the 7 Districts in DeKalb County. At the beginning of our meeting District 1 Commissioner Nancy Jester made a surprised visit and spoke with participants and family members about their experiences with the Youth Commission. Our 2nd year Youth Commissioner Yasmine Meadows for Columbia High School stated "The DeKalb County Youth Commission is a remarkable opportunity for us young people to demonstrate our strong commitment to service, volunteerism, and mobilizing our peers to solve youth challenges." The DeKalb County Youth Commission is meant to empower today's youth to lead and participate in local volunteer programs and raise awareness of community issues countywide, through innovative programs, events and campaigns.



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LIFE CHANGING BREAKFAST



Students and community members at the YLA breakfast



YLA speakers engage the crowd!



District 4 Commissioner Sharon Barnes-Sutton hosted the 6th Annual Youth Empowerment Breakfast on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at the Atlanta Marriott Evergreen Conference Resort in Stone Mountain. The Youth Empowerment Breakfast draws nearly 300 DeKalb businesses, community leaders, elected officials, parents and students from across the County. Barnes-Sutton established the Youth Leadership Academy in 2008 as a holistic approach to community development focusing on families and their children. The empowerment breakfast provides an opportunity for students to network, empower and educate through networking with elected officials, business leaders, and community members.



Picture time!



Meet the YLA students!



Meet the YLA students!

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DEKALB NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT



Hundreds came together for an opportunity to participate in DeKalb County's 2016 Family Fun Day on July 9, 2016. This year's theme was centered around Public Safety and Code Enforcement working together for a cleaner and safer DeKalb. Participants enjoyed

live music, bounce houses, popcorn, face painting, and free giveaways. Community leaders and county employees joined forces to provide workshops, exhibits, and panel discussions to address opportunities for sustaining and improving the quality of life in DeKalb County neighborhoods.



Share Your Experiences!

We want to hear from you! Share your stories and photos of you helping youth in the DeKalb County community and have your experience featured in our next issue! Send your amazing experience and photos to youthservices@dekalbcountyga.gov or contact our office at 404-687-7123.



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