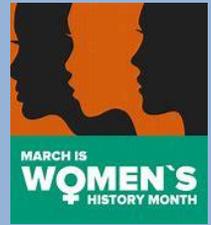




# Lithonia News

March, 2022 Volume 8, Issue 3  
6920 Main Street, Lithonia GA 770-482-8136  
[www.lithoniacity.org](http://www.lithoniacity.org)



## COMMUNITY TO GATHER, PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO SHAPE FUTURE OF DEKALB'S FIRST BLACK PUBLIC SCHOOL *Effort to Activate Landmark of Black Education Continues*

On **Sunday, Feb. 27, from 1-4pm**, community members will gather to shape the future of the remnants of DeKalb County's first Black public school, the [Bruce Street School](#). The event will take place at the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, **3350 Klondike Road, Stonecrest, GA 30038**. Free parking is available onsite. This event is the third in a series designed to gather community feedback and direct the reactivation of the school site. The event will be led by Martin Rickles Studio, an Atlanta-based interdisciplinary design studio; staff from the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance; and volunteers.

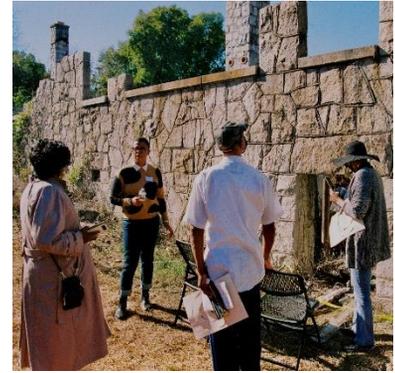
Also known as the Lithonia Negro School and the Lithonia Colored School, the Bruce Street School was built and run by Lithonia's Black community prior to integration. The school's first graduating high school class (around 1943) included three pupils. By 1968, when the Bruce Street School was closed, there were over a dozen elementary and eight high school classrooms – several outbuildings, now lost, had to be constructed in order to support the growing student body. The school building contains a rich history, and now people have an opportunity to determine how this space can become an active part of the community once again. Outreach events for this phase of the project will continue throughout spring of 2022 and culminate in June.

The focus of this session is to begin the process of mapping out what community members would like to do at the Bruce Street School site in the future – once planners understand the community's needs and expectations, they will adjust their recommendations for renovating, preserving and otherwise activating the site accordingly. Planning is underway to include a virtual component for people who cannot attend in person; more information about the virtual component will be forthcoming.

This project is a collaboration between the City of Lithonia, DeKalb County, and the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance. Funding has been provided by DeKalb County District 5 Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson.

Anyone with artifacts related to the Bruce Street School – including photos, records, yearbooks and stories to use in potential exhibits – is especially encouraged to join the community engagement sessions.

For more information, please visit [arabiaalliance.org/brucestreet](http://arabiaalliance.org/brucestreet).



*Participants in the November 2021 community engagement session discuss the history and importance of the Bruce Street School.*

## LITHONIA MAKES WOMEN'S HISTORY EVERY DAY!



# WELCOME BACK! GREEN LOVE KITCHEN IS BACK ON THE BLOCK!



Congressman Hank Johnson visited Lithonia business, Pride Road, to meet with its owners and Mayor Reynolds to discuss their USDA grant in support of their business.

**COMMISSIONER MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON**  
in partnership with  
**DEKALB SECTION NCNW**  
PRESENTS:



**FOOD DISTRIBUTION &  
VOTER REGISTRATION  
IN HONOR OF  
BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2022  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE**

*Bethune Middle School  
5200 Covington Hwy.  
Decatur, GA 30035*

The event is being organized by the Political Empowerment and Voter Registration Committee of NCNW-DeKalb Section in collaboration with the following partners:



## Manifest Your Financial Independence

Join us for our 4th Virtual Moneywise Seminar  
Presented by Charles Schwab  
Hosted by  
Ethnic College Counseling Center, Inc.

**For Black Youth in  
Grades 8-12**

4.0  
MYFI

**March 5th and March 12, 2022  
11:30am - 2pm**

**You must attend both sessions  
Punctuality is Required  
Space is Limited to 25 students who will be selected  
based on the merit of their application.**

**Apply by 5pm MST on February 27, 2022 @  
[www.ethniccollegecounselingcenter.org](http://www.ethniccollegecounselingcenter.org)**

Awardees will be notified by March 2, 2022  
Upon completion of classes, each will receive a \$100  
investment donation to Charles Schwab,  
to jump start their Financial Independence.



4.0  
MYFI

## MENTAL HEALTH 101: TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

Commissioner Larry Johnson in partnership with the National Association of Counties and the National Council on Mental Wellbeing is piloting the National Council's Mental Health First Aid training with DeKalb County.



You will learn:

- How to define and increase your awareness of mental wellness, mental illness and recovery.
- How to identify common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges in the workplace.
- Explore strategies to help reduce stigma, build resiliency, and make wellness a priority so we can move forward together.

**Monday, February 28, 2022  
6:00 - 7:00pm ET**

**RSVP:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/266889643107>**



# conserve attract connect



## The DeKalb Beloved Naturalist Program

Supporting the next generation of DeKalb's environmental stewards.

**IMAGINE.....**a community of naturalists empowered to restore, protect and advocate on behalf of the beloved natural and human environments of DeKalb County and beyond.

**SUPPORT.....**science-based education about the natural environment, revealing social inequities and celebrating the diverse ecology and people of DeKalb County.

### A Diverse Coalition of Partners

The DeKalb Beloved Naturalist Program (DBN) will facilitate a unique and exciting Nature-based learning experience for people representing diverse ages, cultures, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Our proposed partners include the Amphibian Foundation, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Awali Agricultural Center, Chattahoochee Nature Center, DeKalb County, Georgia Audubon, South Fork Conservancy, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and public and private universities.



DeKalb's Beloved Naturalists filled the room at Arabia Mountain with twenty eager naturalists, diverse in age, gender and color, and united in listening with fresh ears to stories of their environmental heritage.

Leslie Edwards, author, Ph.D. and professional educator, started with a look out the window. Bare February trees, empty bushes, a stretch of exposed rock with little to see. Do you know how rare this sight is? She challenged the room. This common Dekalb County scenery she called rare in the whole world, temperate deciduous piedmont forests, filled once a year with a priceless nutritional bath from dropping leaves. A global map of habitat zones proved her right. Only tiny portions of the world hold this unique combination. And then she smiled in triumph. Even better, our very own temperate deciduous forest has NEVER BEEN SCoured BY A GLACIER! Just like that, the common was elevated. Her hike expose discoveries on the quarry surface and in the woods.

Many ideas came from class members sharing their own knowledge, naming birdsong by ear, and tadpoles by sight. The class took hints from Dr. Edwards about lectures ahead from other scientists and leaders, including urban agriculture, indigenous botany, lichens, stream banks, birds and amphibians.

The once a month field trips and lectures are sponsored by partnerships with conservation organizations working together with DeKalb County park rangers in concert with Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area.

**Sally Sears**  
Founding Director, South Fork Conservancy

## Tenth Annual MONADNOCK MADNESS



Exploring Georgia's Granite Mountains

### THREE MOUNTAINS: ONE AMAZING LANDSCAPE!

Go mad with excitement as you discover mountaintop views, lunar landscapes and protected ecosystems around Atlanta in the 10th and final year of this March outdoor extravaganza. Complete the Triple Hike Challenge by hiking Arabia, Kennesaw and Panola Mountains and earn a prize. Don't miss outdoor yoga, nature photography workshops, and more.

Register online at:

**MonadnockMadness.com**

**Mo • nad • nock** (noun): A mountain or rocky mass that has resisted erosion and stands isolated in an essentially level area. Also known as a unique ecosystem that offers fantastic places to hike, bike, and camp with friends and family.



**ARABIA  
MOUNTAIN**  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SEE 400 MILLION YEARS FROM HERE.

This hiking adventure is presented by the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance in partnership with DeKalb County's Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, Panola Mountain State Park and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Special thanks to our partners, participants and instructors.



**CITY OF LITHONIA**  
**OPEN DISCUSSION**

- JAN 20
- FEB 17
- MARCH 17
- APRIL 21
- MAY 19
- JUNE 16
- JULY 21
- AUG 18
- SEP 15
- OCT 20
- NOV 17
- DEC 15

HOSTED BY:  
COUNCILWOMAN  
**AMELIA INMAN**

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:  
BUSINESS DISTRICT | RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY NEW IDEAS TO SHARE  
APP (ABANDONED PROPERTY PROJECT) UPCOMING EVENTS

BY PHONE: 1929 205 6099 ZOOM MEETING ID: 894 8361 3814 PASSWORD: 690911



**AmeriCorps Week**

March 13-19, 2022  
#AmeriCorpsWeek




Lithonia is grateful for the work that its AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers have done in the city for the past seven years, contributing to our quality of life and City improvements. We recognize our current VISTA members, Charles Anderson, Gladys Pruitt, and Denise Warfield.



Lithonia's Motorcycle Officers are patrolling the Johnson Road Trail on Four Wheelers to make sure that the paths are safe for hikers and those riding their bikes. Chief Pollard expresses our gratitude for the volunteer service that the Reserve Officer Program provides to the citizens of Lithonia. They provide this service whenever they can get away from their full-time job obligations.




# CITY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**March 7<sup>TH</sup> and 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**MEETINGS WILL BE HELD BY CONFERENCE CALL DUE TO THE PANDEMIC**

**Call 770-482-8136 for dial-in information.**

City Hall  
Council Chambers  
6920 Main Street  
Lithonia, GA 30058

**Mayor**

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Nathan Pollard, Chief of Police  
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Quinton Monson, Dir. of Public Works  
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**LITHONIA!**

**A City With PURPOSE!**