SMARTLY DRESSED

Ralph Lauren has unveiled a first-of-its-kind limited-edition Spelman College and Morehouse College collections. (Photo courtesy of Ralph Lauren)
Ralph Lauren Collaborates with Spelman and Morehouse Colleges

BY MADELINE THIGPEN
Report for America

Ralph Lauren has unveiled a first-of-its-kind limited-edition Spelman College and Morehouse College collections. This is the first time Ralph Lauren has partnered with an institution of higher education and the first time they have produced a campaign with an entirely-black cast and team.

The concept and design was created by Ralph Lauren’s Director of Concept Design & Special Projects James Jeter (Morehouse ’13) with Dara Douglas (Spelman ’03), the company’s Director of Inspirational Content.

Spelman College President Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell told The Atlanta Voice how glad she was to see the entire project executed by an all-black creative team, including acclaimed British fashion photographer Nadine Ijewere.

“Something we say here often is, ‘look to your left, look to your right, make sure both students are with you when you graduate,” Campbell said.

Similarly, the wool blazers models are seen wearing in front the historic Graves Hall reference the Morehouse blazer. A traditional maroon jacket given to each Morehouse man on his first day at school.

In addition to the cultural significance of the collaboration there is the financial. Campbell said the schools also have arrangements with Ralph Lauren for licensing and the number of products sold. The Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation also made a $2 million donation to the United Negro College Fund for scholarships at 10 HBCUs including Spelman and Morehouse.

“What is important to us is to keep Spelman College affordable to our students,” Campbell said. One way the college does this is from revenue from corporate partnerships, she added.

Accompanying the collection is a film that will premiere on Ralph Lauren social media channels on March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

“Our portrait of American style and our vision of the American dream would be incomplete without Black experiences like these,” said Ralph Lauren, the company’s Executive Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, in the film’s trailer.

A full digital yearbook will be available on the Ralph Lauren website March 29, the same day as the collection drops online and at the Spelman and Morehouse bookstores.
‘Hard Truths’ were on the menu at first Axios round table breakfast discussion

The white table cloth, mood lighting, clinking of glasses, forks, knives and spoons set the scene for a breakfast with friends rather than for a discussion about a very serious topic.

Topics like voter suppression, voters rights and expanding voter access and voter education dominated discussion during the first of what will be a series of collaborative roundtable discussions hosted by Axios, WURD Radio and URL Media. The first Hard Truths discussion took place at StChurch Midtown in Colony Square Wednesday morning. A cold and rainy morning did nothing to keep the invited guests and assorted media members from making it to Midtown.

Local experts and leaders from all walks of political life took their seats at a table in the center of the dining room floor. There was a little bit of every walk of political life at the table. Atlanta City Council, Black Voters Matter, Georgia General Assembly, New Georgia Project and lesser known, but equally as focused organizations like Galeo Impact Fund and the New North Carolina Project sent representatives to speak on their behalf. Atlanta City Council president Doug Shipman and Congresswoman Carolyn Bourdeaux represented the elected officials, while LaTosha Brown and Cliff Albright were on hand to speak on the behalf of grassroots organizations like Black Voters Matter. Tom Hicks of the Election Reality Check, kept the topics flowing as the focus of the event remained the same: Voting.

New Georgia Project Chief Legal Officer Aldima Khondoker said that as the black and brown voting registration drives grew in the south, more legislation began popping up in order to slow the momentum. “More Black and brown turnout means more voter suppression,” she said. The New Georgia Project is known all over the country for its work in educating and registering voters. Khondoker believes there is much more work to be done. “We need to make sure new voters are registered to vote,” she said. “If you are a Black person in Georgia it is more difficult for you to vote than anybody else.”

How to get voters to the polls and voter education were also topics that garnered the attention of the 20-plus experts and leaders on hand. That said, no other topic generated passion from all who were assembled like voter suppression. Though from many different corners of the election map, all of the invited guests had similar feelings about SB 202 and other voter suppression tactics.

Galeo Impact Fund community organizer Andres Parra had a very simple, yet poignant view on voter suppression: “We just assume that it is what is going to happen,” he said. Parra’s point was to understand that it exists and be ready for it when you head to the polls.

“Voter suppression is nothing new,” said Hicks. “So we ask people to be prepared, make a plan. Know if you’re registered, know where your polls are.”

Dixon asked the panel if they thought Georgia was going to continue being a national focal point for election results and process. All in attendance simultaneously answered yes. Amy Steele of the New North Carolina Project said Georgia wasn’t the only southern state suppression is taking place. “We are literally facing the same thing,” she said. “We are gerrymandered with surgical precision. Polling places have closed at a record pace.”

There were some positive outlooks during the one-hour discussion. LaTosha Brown, an organizer with Black Voters Matter, has high hopes for the voter turnout for this year’s midterm and general elections. “I anticipate that we will have a high turnout despite the acts of voter suppression,” she said.

The dates and times for other Hard Truths discussions have not yet been announced.

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I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them.  — Madame C.J. Walker

**It Shouldn’t Have Taken So Long for Congress to Pass an Antilynching Bill**

Those are the words immortalized by Billie Holiday when she sang “Strange Fruit” for the first time in 1939. It became a protest song that captured the wicked reality of hate in America. What is hate? While it is an emotion, it is also an act. An act that has come to define so much of what we see in the day to day of life here on earth. We see the outcroppings of hate all around us — the everyday reminders that, although we have come very far, we still have even farther to go. But this week, hate lost one battle. Finally, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act awaits President Biden’s signature.

In February, the bill passed in the House with a 422-3 vote, and on Monday, it was unanimously passed by the Senate. And now it just needs the president’s signature.

Over 200 anti-lynching bills have been introduced and failed over the last century. We came close in 2020 when H.R. 35 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, but it went no further.

H.R. 35 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, but it went no further. But the fact that it took this long begs the question as to why? We can’t say it is too little, too late. But we can say it is late. So very late. So late that thousands of our brethren have been slain by the hand of hate mongers killed with rarely any reprimand or retribution, so many times behind the shield of a badge.

Maybe with this passage of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, we will see a change. Maybe we will see justice. Maybe now, maybe...
How Foreclosure Works

The loan a person takes out to to buy real estate such as a house or condominium is called a mortgage and requires monthly payments. In Georgia, if the property owner falls behind in making those payments, the lender, such as a bank, can sell the property at auction to settle the debt. Doing so is known as foreclosing on a property.

These auctions take place the first Tuesday of every month (or the first Wednesday if the first Tuesday falls on a holiday) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the steps of the county courthouse. The auction of properties in Fulton County takes place in downtown Atlanta on the front steps of the Fulton County Courthouse at 136 Pryor St.

Georgia law allows lenders to conduct an auction without going before a judge on one condition: The lender must give the borrower—and the public—proper, legal notice of its plans to foreclose. Proper notification means advertising in the county’s official legal newspaper. In Fulton County, that official newspaper is The Fulton County Daily Report. The lender must advertise its intent to foreclose once a week for the four consecutive weeks leading up to the “first Tuesday” sale date. To auction off a property the first Tuesday of March, for example, a lender must have published a foreclosure notice during each of the four weeks of February.

How to Use the Information

• Property Owners: Protect Your Interests

During the weeks leading up to the auction date, many property owners are able to work things out with their lenders, seek bankruptcy protection or line up other arrangements to prevent the bank from selling off their homes. If your lender has started foreclosure proceedings against your property, these listings provide you with an extra alert—over and above the official notice published in full in the Daily Report—to take action.

User’s Guide:

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

Introduction

from the publisher

Get behind on your mortgage, and you could lose your home. Don’t pay your property taxes, and you might similarly find your house auctioned off on the courthouse steps. Both types of forced sale, known as foreclosure, involve complicated legal procedures. We’ve designed FCDR Consumer Alerts to take some of the mystery out of the process and to alert consumers to how and when to take action.

We can provide this service because, by law, no foreclosure can occur unless properly announced in the official legal newspaper of the county. That’s required for the benefit of the property owner but also for the community at large. The publication requirement is founded upon the same notions of due process, open government and community awareness that underlie American democracy, and it’s a practice at least as old as the country itself.

Since 1890, the Fulton County Daily Report has served as Fulton County’s newspaper of record for public notices. Each day, important public information courses through our pages in the form of hundreds and hundreds of official notices. We’ve designed FCDR Consumer Alerts to present that information in an easy-to-understand and easy-to-use format.

Thanks to a partnership between the Fulton County Daily Report and The Atlanta Voice, FCDR Consumer Alerts will reach tens of thousands of county readers each month. We’ve also made a database of the information available on the Internet, expanding the utility and reach of county information even further. At www.fcdr.com, members of the public can make intelligent searches and link to the full text of official public notices as originally published in the Daily Report.

On the following pages you’ll find this month’s FCDR Consumer Alerts, along with user’s guides that help explain the legal procedures at work, the different forms of public notice, and how to make the most of the information.

As always, we welcome your thoughts. If you have any suggestions or comments about how we can improve FCDR Consumer Alerts, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Fulton County Daily Report
136 Pryor St, CB14,
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 521-1227

User’s Guide:

TAX FORECLOSURES

Local government runs on property taxes. That’s why Georgia law imposes severe penalties for failing to pay them. If left unresolved, a bad situation easily can become worse, forcing a homeowner in arrears to choose between paying a small fortune or losing the family homestead.

It doesn’t have to come to that. And in fact, there are several opportunities throughout the property tax collection process that allow the homeowner to come current and avoid the worst. We’ve designed our tax sale listings to make sure homeowners don’t miss those opportunities.

We’re able to provide this service because the Daily Report is the official newspaper of the Fulton County courts. Throughout the process in Fulton County, the law requires the various collection participants to publish several different forms of notice in the Daily Report. Those notices form the basis for the listings below.

How the Collection Process Works

Our tax sale listings represents a compilation of information from the following types of public notices:

• Non-Judicial Tax Sale
• Redemption Rights Deadline
• Judicial Tax Hearing
• Judicial Tax Sale
• Quiet Title

Here’s how the tax collection process works, what the different notices mean, and when they come into play.

More Than One Way to Collect

Your obligation to pay property taxes is backed by the property itself. Fail to pay, and the county tax commissioner
Mortgage foreclosures

March 18–24, 2022

The Atlanta Voice

Scheduled Auction: April 5, 2022

Mortgage, from page 1

• Neighbors: Know What’s Going On
Use these listings to stay informed about your neighborhood. By law, and for important reasons of public policy, foreclosure notices are for the public. They can tell you whether you have a neighbor in need. They can help answer questions you might have about abandoned or poorly maintained property near you. They can give you insight into property values in your neighborhood.

• Homebuyers, Investors: Find a Bargain
Foreclosure notices provide valuable leads to prospective homeowners and real estate investors. Houses facing foreclosure often go for bargain prices. These listings, organized by zip code and street address, can help you spot those potential bargains.

• Lenders: Protect Your Interests
Many properties are subject to more than one loan, such as a home equity loan or second mortgage. If the lender holding the first mortgage sells the property off at foreclosure, the rights of the secondary lenders may be wiped out. If you have lent someone money against his or her property, or if you hold a lien, these listings provide you with an alert—in addition to the official notice published in full in the Daily Report—so that you can take action to protect your interests.

Words of Caution
Neither the Daily Report nor The Atlanta Voice is responsible for any errors or omissions in the FCDR Consumer Alerts listings. The information is neither official nor complete, but merely an abstract of the first-run public notices appearing in the Daily Report. For the complete and official public notice, consult the printed Daily Report. Information in the official notices comes directly from the advertisers with no independent verification. These listings do not include any subsequent cancellations or subsequent corrections advertisers may have made to their notices.

Just because a property is advertised for foreclosure does not necessarily mean it is in foreclosure or that the owner is in arrears. Some notices result from misunderstandings. Oftentimes matters are worked out (or halted) well in advance of the auction date but after the notice has been submitted for publication. Just because a property isn’t listed here doesn’t mean it’s not in foreclosure. Again, these listings are by no means the official notice.

The person listed as owner may not necessarily be the present title holder. Indeed, your property may well be right under your nose, or you could be owed money. Information in the official notices is the exclusive copy. For the complete and official listings, use these listings to stay informed about your neighborhood, or if you hold a lien, always consult with a professional and, above all else, think twice.
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<td>677</td>
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<td>877-813-0992</td>
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<td>ABERDON CIR</td>
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<td>511</td>
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<td>Firm: ROBINS LEGAL GROUP</td>
<td>404-869-6900</td>
<td>145 GREEN HILLS COURT</td>
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Ripe with resources and rich in information, Law.com is the vital hub at the center of the legal web. Connect to the legal community - around the clock, around the globe and around your needs.

Make Law.com your daily stop for legal news and information.
can sell the real estate to raise the amount due in back taxes. It’s an awesome power, and it takes the form of a lien.

Think of a lien as a parking boot the county clamps on your property. As with that more physical form of restraint, a lien against your property can stop you cold. It can interfere with your ability to transfer the property or even to borrow against it. If you do manage to sell the property, the lien sticks to it, interfering with the next owner’s title.

By law, the county tax commissioner automatically gains a lien against property the first day property taxes come due, Jan. 1 of each year. Once the owner pays the taxes, the lien dissolves.

When the property taxes become past due, the tax collector can proceed in one of two ways: Non-Judicial Tax Sale, which doesn’t involve going to court, and Judicial Tax Sale, which must. Both types of proceedings rely upon the sheriff to conduct the sale. Each has its own purpose and its own advantages to the tax collector. More important to the homeowner, each has its own set of procedures and its own types of public notice.

Non-Judicial Tax Sale

Non-judicial tax sale is the most common route for the tax commissioner to take. After the payment deadline passes, and after providing the owner with written notice, the tax commissioner turns the matter over to the sheriff by issuing what’s called a tax lien. Fa. or writ of execution. 

Fi. fa. is the abbreviation of a Latin term meaning “cause it to be done,” and the writ, in this case, formally commands the sheriff to sell the property at auction to the highest bidder. The sheriff has no choice in the matter. The ensuing process is known as sheriff’s levy and sale.

As a first step, the sheriff must send out written notice and also publish a Notice of Sheriff’s Sale in the Daily Report. Those notices, grouped under the heading Non-Judicial Tax Sales, are generally the first form of notice to hit the Daily Report and therefore usually represent the first alert appearing in the listings below.

If you see a property in which you have an interest listed as the subject of a Non-Judicial Tax Sale, you need to contact the sheriff’s office and the county tax authorities. 

If the notice lists a private investor, that means the county has transferred the tax lien on your property (explained below), and you should contact that party.

After meeting the law’s notification requirements, the sheriff auctions the property to the highest bidder on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse in downtown Atlanta at 136 Pryor St. S.W., the first Tuesday of the month. The money raised goes toward the back taxes, and the bidder now owns the property.

The original homeowner still has a way to get the house back (explained below, under Redemption), but it’s now a matter between old owner and new; the county is out of the picture.

The Legacy of Lien Transfers

Until May 2002, Georgia law let the county turn matters over to the private sector even sooner. Instead of pursuing the non-judicial sale procedures itself, the county could sell off its tax liens to private investors. The investors paid off the back taxes and then handled the rest, including having the sheriff conduct a non-judicial sale. Although the Georgia Legislature halted the practice during its 2002 session, enough transferred liens remain outstanding that homeowners need to know about them.

For one thing, a transferred tax lien can lie dormant for a few years and thus catch the homeowner unawares when the private investor finally decides to execute on it. That’s because the purchaser of a tax lien does not have to demand a sheriff’s sale of the property right away. Some transferees hold on to the lien without taking any action for a couple of years, thus allowing the interest and penalties—the value of their investment—to grow. As the penalties compound, it becomes harder and harder to get one’s property out of hock.

Redemption: Rescuing Your Property

Once the property is sold on the courthouse steps, the former owner still has the chance to rescue the property through a process called redemption. To regain good title to the property, the homeowner must reimburse the purchaser the amount paid at auction, plus penalties, interest and, sometimes, costs.

An owner has the opportunity to redeem as a matter of right for 12 months following the sale. But the window to redeem actually may stay open longer, depending on when the tax-sale purchaser takes action to cut off the owner’s right of redemption.

That action is technically known as foreclosing the right to redeem. The term “barment” has also come into parlance to describe the procedure for cutting off the owner’s right to redeem. By whatever name, it has the effect of giving the tax-sale purchaser title to the land (subject to other possible liens).

Twelve months after the sale, the purchaser can send out notice to the homeowner giving the person a deadline to pay up and reclaim the property or lose all rights to it. The tax-sale purchaser gives notice by mail and also by publishing in the Daily Report a Notice to Foreclose the Right of Redemption, a form of public notice we group under the heading Redemption Rights Deadline.

If your property appears in the listings below as subject to a Redemption Rights Deadline, you can rescue the property by contacting the purchaser and tendering the full redemption amount before the announced cutoff date.

Judicial Tax Sale

The second and less common means of property tax collection is judicial tax foreclosure sale. When the tax authorities take that route, they have to wait a little longer to act, and they have to go to court, but it’s ultimately a more decisive process. In general, the county awails itself of this process as a way to put abandoned and blighted property in better hands.

Twelve months after the property taxes first become due on Jan. 1, the tax collector can file a petition in Fulton County Superior Court to conduct a foreclosure sale on the property in arrears.

Note, the legal action is filed not against an individual, such as the owner of record, but against the land itself, a procedure in law known as an action “in rem.”

The first published notice announces a hearing in Superior Court on whether a tax foreclosure sale should be permitted. Notice to the property owner of the county’s intent to foreclose on the land includes mailed notice and the publication of a Notice of Judicial In Rem Foreclosure, grouped in the Daily Report under the heading Judicial Tax Hearing.

If you see your property listed below as subject to a Judicial Tax Hearing, you need to contact the county tax commissioner and attend the scheduled hearing in Superior Court, but consult a lawyer.

Once satisfied that the tax collector has met the law’s notice and other procedural requirements, a judge issues an order allowing a foreclosure sale of the property.

With that order in hand, the tax collector then must publish in the Daily Report a Notice of Judicial In Rem Foreclosure Sale, which we’ve organized under the heading Judicial Tax Sale.

If you see your property listed below as subject to an impending Judicial Tax Sale, you need to contact the tax commissioner’s office and make arrangements to settle your tax delinquency and stop the sale.

The property owner has the right to redeem the property up to the moment of sale, which generally takes place the first Tuesday of the month following the published notice.

The law gives the owner one last chance at redemption. For 60 days after the sale, the owner can pay the redemption amount, which now includes not just the back taxes and penalties but also the amount paid for the property at auction. If the owner misses that opportunity, then title to the property passes to the purchaser at auction.

Quiet Title

Title to property bought at tax foreclosures, particularly non-judicial sales, is generally considered clouded. That can cause complications when the new owner decides to sell or finance the property. To fix that, most purchasers undertake Quiet Title proceedings, seeking a declaration that they own the real estate free and clear. The process involves filing a petition with the Superior Court, mailing out notice, and publishing a Notice to Quiet Title in the Daily Report.

If you see your property listed as subject to Quiet Title proceedings, you may be able to file pleadings in Superior Court to intervene. Consult a lawyer.

Sources and Resources

Suffice it to say, it’s a complicated sequence of events, and one that rapidly gets more expensive and harder to control as time passes. For help and more information, here are some suggested Fulton County contact numbers:

- Tax Commissioner (404) 612-6440
- Sheriff’s Property Tax Unit (404) 730-6595
- Superior Court Clerk (404) 730-5313
- Atlanta Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (404) 521-0777

Attribution

The Daily Report gratefully acknowledges the advice and insight of Emory University School of Law Professor Frank S. Alexander and his authoritative book on the subject, “Georgia Real Estate Finance and Foreclosure Law with Forms” (Harrison Co. 3d ed. 1999 & supp. 2001).
## Judicial Tax Sale

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<th>Owner</th>
<th>Tax Parcel ID</th>
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<td>14-0179-0001-039-3</td>
<td>$3,888.00</td>
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## Non-Judicial Tax Sale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Tax Parcel ID</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROBERT L. HUDSON, et al</td>
<td>14-0101-0003-034-5</td>
<td>$100,056.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>陸 T.G. LAND TRUST Owner: LAND BEING IN LAND LOT 101, 14TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>14-0087-0003-102-8</td>
<td>$12,343.00</td>
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## Tax Foreclosures

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-0116-0004-077-6</td>
<td>14-0085-0008-069-1</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-0122-0005-028-0</td>
<td>14-0040-0001-009-3</td>
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<td>14-0056-0008-069-1</td>
<td>17-0044-0003-105-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-0086-0009-045-4</td>
<td>14-0086-0009-046-4</td>
<td>$5,030.00</td>
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## Quiet Title

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<th>Owner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1044 HARWELL ST NW Owner: Y. M.</td>
<td>14-0115-0010-077-9</td>
<td>$12,792.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1392 WEST AVENUE N.W. Owner: R. A.</td>
<td>14-0143-0007-016-8</td>
<td>$1,913.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2445 LAKE TERRACE Owner: S. E.</td>
<td>14-0086-0005-012-8</td>
<td>$12,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOT 111 OF THE 14TH DISTRICT Owner: R. P.</td>
<td>14-0099-0003-077-7</td>
<td>$12,550.00</td>
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## Redemption Rights Deadline

<table>
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<th>Owner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 BOLTON DRIVE Owner:</td>
<td>14-0191-0003-072-2</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 BANCROFT ROAD Drive</td>
<td>14-0087-0003-102-8</td>
<td>$12,343.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 LAND BEING IN LAND LOT 173, 14TH DISTRICT Owner: ROBERT FUTCH ESTATE</td>
<td>14-0101-0003-034-5</td>
<td>$3,888.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 LAND BEING IN LAND LOT 161, 14TH DISTRICT Owner: 866 GLENWAY LAND TRUST</td>
<td>14-0101-0003-034-5</td>
<td>$3,888.00</td>
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</table>

### Tax Parcel IDs

- 14-0186-0009-045-4
- 14-0191-0003-072-2
- 14-0101-0003-034-5
BUSINESS

Black-owned Sweet Dreams ice cream shop brings something new to the community

BY DONNELL SUGGS
The Atlanta Voice

Decatur, Ga.- The crowd outside of Sweet Dreams ice cream shop was growing by the minute. At least three dozen family and friends of owners Cyntauria Jones and Len Davidson were making their way to the Chapel Hill Commons shopping center by carload to support the grand opening of this Black-owned business. When they and their children made their way outside the shop to greet those assembled it was overwhelming, according to Jones. “Everybody showed up and showed out, it was wonderful,” she said.

The idea for a rolled ice cream shop, something not available anywhere else in the area, came to her and Davidson’s minds during a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. There they had enjoyed some rolled ice cream -which is different from traditional ice cream shop offerings because the rolled ice cream is made fresh per order- and decided this could be something they could enjoy back home. The pair have two children together, twin boys Kaylen and Karter, and had been high school sweethearts. Starting a business together was a no-brainer, and opening an ice-cream shop seemed like a good idea. Finding a good place to open the business where they could serve the community in which they were raised proved to be a bit more difficult. “We wanted to put this business in our community,” said Jones, who along with Davidson attended Southwest DeKalb High School.

The shopping center, which is anchored by a Kroger supermarket, is in a central location. To the idea for a rolled ice cream shop while not upsetting the grocery store just a couple dozen feet away would be an issue. After discussions Davidson and Jones decided it was worth a try despite representatives from Kroger not being happy with any competition in the shopping center. There’s also a Bruster’s ice cream shop across the street. No matter, says Jones. “We are the very first rolled ice cream shop in Decatur,” she said proudly. On Bruster’s being across the street, “We are so different than them. We customize our customer’s ice cream.”

Len Davidson, Cyntauria Jones, Davidson’s 17-year old son Keontay Bowden and the couple’s four-year old twins Kaylen & Karter Davidson greet family and friends before cutting the ribbon on their new business. Photo by: Donnell Suggs/The Atlanta Voice

More than just a ice cream shop
The business, along with providing rolled ice cream to customers, will provide jobs to the area youth. Giving back was a key reason Davidson and Jones wanted to start a business where they grew up. Jones remembers how hard it was to get a job as a teenager without working experience. She wants to do something about it. “We want to introduce something new to this community while being able to employ teenagers and give them work experience,” she said. There are plans to also help employees with college applications. The business has eight part-time employees and two full-time managers, and will look to hire some more during the summer, according to Jones.

Sweet Dreams is open till midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and till 6pm on Sundays to better accommodate the amount of traffic the shopping center has on late nights. The temperatures over the weekend, particularly during Saturday’s grand opening, had been cold but that didn’t stop Sweet Dreams from making its debut. Asked if she expects to continue seeing crowds like the one they saw Saturday Jones said she did. “I’m sure we’ll be busy,” she said. “We brought something new to the community and I believe they will support us.”

Sweet Dreams is located at 4919 Flat Shoals Pkwy Suite 107B, Decatur, GA 30034.

EDUCATION

Georgia Teens Organize a Free Tutoring Service

BY MADELINE THIGPEN
Report for America

Over the summer, before Victoria Ayodele began her junior year at Lithonia High School, she spent some time researching online ways to become a tutor. Tutoring was something she’d enjoyed doing before on-and-off but said she was looking for a way to tutor more consistently. Through her research she discovered TeensTutorTeens, a national nonprofit based in Georgia.

Starting in Fall 2021 she began tutoring two students. A high school senior who was taking AP Psychology and a fifth-grader in reading, math and ELA. Ayodele said she was tutoring seven hours a week in the fall semester and three hours a week this semester. All tutoring sessions are done virtually which she added allows for flexibility in her tutoring schedule.

Founded by former Gwinnett County high schooler Gabriela Nguena Jones, TeensTutorTeens is 100 percent free and run entirely by students. Including Jones who is now at Vanderbilt University.

In addition to the Georgia chapter TeensTutorTeens has three others in California, Connecticut and North Carolina. They allow anyone who is 13 or older to join an existing chapter as a tutor or to franchise a new chapter.

The organization offers tutoring to students in K-12 and/or studying for the SAT, ACT or GED. They do require students 12 and under to get parent permission to receive tutoring.

Ayodele told The Atlanta Voice that even though she is the tutor, she’s also still improving. “I’ve learned a lot about responsibility, time management and being patient and understanding and adaptive to the way my student learns,” she said.

In addition to getting students from sign-ups, the Georgia chapter of TeensTutorTeens is partnered with Christian City: Crossroads. Through the partnership they provide academic support to Suwanee and Clayton County students in foster care.

The organization’s mission statement says they are committed not only to academic service but also community service. This winter they held a clothing drive to donate to students at The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Students who tutor with TeensTutorTeens are able to earn volunteer hours that qualify for the Presidential Service Volunteer Award. This article is one of a series of articles produced by The Atlanta Voice through support provided by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to Word In Black, a collaborative of 10 Black-owned media outlets across the country.
Inaugural OTE season ends in fantastic fashion

STAFF REPORT

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens greeted friends and well-wishers on the way to his court side seat. Philadelphia 76ers General Manager Elton Brand checked in with arena staff as he entered the arena. Rapper/entrepreneur 2 Chains and his kids posed for pictures with fans before the game. Just another game day at Overtime Elite (OTE).

OTE is no longer something to do when you’re done shopping at Atlantic Station. It’s one of the hottest tickets in town.

The line to get into OTE Arena stretched far back to the parking spots underneath Atlantic Station Thursday night. The first-year experimental basketball league was heading into its final week of play and fans were taking advantage of the 7pm tip-off time. Normally there are doubleheaders (and sometimes three games on a night like this) but the finals was something different all together.

One game would take place on this night and the building was packed for it. It would be a similar situation the following night and much more of the same for game three of the finals. What began as an anomaly - teenage basketball players brought to Atlanta to form a league of their own - has quickly become a must-see weekend event in a city with no shortage of professional and collegiate sports to follow.

On the court Thursday night were Team OTE and Team Elite, squads of some of the most talented teenage basketball talent in the country, and in the case of young men like Emmanuel Maldonado, Iman Almansa and Kok Yat, the world. The idea to take this young talent and bring them together in Atlanta to live, train and hopefully prepare for NBA and overseas professional leagues has been a success if Wednesday night’s crowd was any proof.

Talents like 6-foot-7 Syracuse native Jai Smith, a prime target for the Syracuse Orangemen and other college basketball powerhouse programs after a huge junior season at Word of God Christian Academy, is a 2022 draft eligible player. The 6-foot-7 Thompson twins, Amen and Ausar, and guard Bryce Griggs are getting ready for the 2023 NBA draft while the draft eligible class of 2024 might be the deepest collection of talent on one team/organization in the country.

The best player in the state of Arkansas last year, Bryson Warren, a wiry guard that was the first sophomore to win the state’s Mr. Basketball honor, has one of his best games of the season during game two of the finals. Warren was being recruited by nearly every high-profile college program in the country. Centers Jahzare Jackson, a San Diego native, and Alex Sarr, a Frenchman, are also a part of the 2024 class. Jackson has been on college scouts radars since he was in the seventh grade. Sam Perkins look-alike Tyler Smith, a 6-foot-11 forward with a smooth shooting touch and the Bowlie twins, highly recruited Florida natives, have all used this platform to showcase their potential and talents.

Covington native TJ Clark was high on the list of local colleges and first team all-state following his junior season at Newton High School. His time at OTE has assisted in helping his star to rise in the eyes of the professional scouts that have visited OTE Arena this season.

With the Georgia State University Panthers preparing to play in the NCAA tournament for the first time since popular head coach Ron Hunter left for New Orleans, the Atlanta Hawks in the middle of a race for one of the last Eastern Conference playoff spots and Atlanta United preparing to host newly minted Major League Soccer single-game attendance record holder Charlotte FC the OTE remained a big ticket in town. Overtime Elite told The Atlanta Voice that the entire finals series was sold out.

COLUMN | SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Take a good look in the mirror and please change your life

Spiritually speaking the road to salvation is sometimes so obvious, so apparent that we just miss it. Like most of Jesus’ messages, it doesn’t seem possible that by simply changing ones’ outlook, the Kingdom of heaven is yours.

“Teacher which is the greatest commandment of the law?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is just like it; Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

It is not always through guile and deceit that the devil works his evil. He can accomplish his goals if he can convince you that what is very important is of little matter and no consequence.

This love thing is pretty well documented throughout the bible and Christ certainly clarifies its importance in the above passage.

Remember this is the Son of God talking. The single most important thing I can do to abide in God’s will is to pour love in my heart for God and my fellow man. That’s it? Yeah. That’s it!

If that’s as close to a guarantee as we can get, why are many of us hell bent on doing the things that will insure our place at the table in hell’s kitchen?

I personally think the concept of loving God is pretty easy to comprehend. Most of us dare I say are arguably, trying to accomplish this in one way or another. It’s loving your neighbor as yourself that’s causing the problem.

The devil is having a field day on this one. Count how many people you can’t stand at this very moment. Take your shoes off and add to your list those people, who if they died tomorrow, you would be among those who would say ‘good riddance.’

The devil has us so confused and dumbfounded on this issue that we can’t see that the hatred we harbor for others, the contempt we feel for people we don’t even know, masks an underlying reality that won’t allow us to love our neighbor.

In actuality, we hate ourselves. You might not agree with this but the devil has tricked us into hating the mirror image of us.

Deep down inside we hate in others that which we might become, because we really don’t like what we have become.

The devil knows man is not perfect so he entices us into hating the imperfection of others; their flaws and faults, their weaknesses and shortcomings.

All the while, being imperfect ourselves, Isn’t it interesting that most people, who claim being saved, tell you they first had to realize that God through Jesus’ sacrifice loved them warts and all?

The stories come from former drug addicts, adulterers, petty gos-
ON-THE-GO!

Arts & Entertainment Calendar

(Events may change without notice. Promoters are requiring health checks in order to attend. Check with the venue or Ticketmaster or Live Nation for updates. Health Check requires proof of vaccination or recent COVID test. See the full schedule at The Atlanta Voice.com)

PERFORMANCES

City of College Park Recreation and Cultural Arts Department Presents its First Annual Wine Stroll Jazz On the Lawn featuring The Elbridge Sinms Jazz Quintet - March 17, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. 3665 Main Street, College Park. 404-669-9208

The Fugees: The Score 25th Anniversary Tour - March 17, 8 p.m. State Farm Arena Atlanta. Statefarmarena.com

Disney Princess The Concert - April 2, 7:30 p.m. Fabulous Fox Theater. Times vary. Ticketcenter.com

Shaky Knees Music Festival - First week of October. Details TBA. shakyknesc.com

THEATER

“Rina’s 6 Apples” by Lloyd Shub (World Premiere) Alliance Theatre, Coca Cola Stage. 1280 Peachtree St. 404.733.4600. Alliancetheatre.org

“5 Guys Named Moe” - March 18 - April 10. Marietta’s Theatre in the Square. 102 Cherokee St., Marietta. 30060. The Actor’s Playhouse. 887 West Marietta St., Atlanta 30318.


FESTIVALS

46th Annual Atlanta Film Festival and Creative Conference - April 21 - May 2. Plaza Theater. Ponce de Leon Ave. Atlanta. Atlantafilmfestival.org

Atlanta Dogwood Festival, April 8-10. Piedmont Park. The festival that kicks off the festival season in Georgia. Experience food, music, art, and kids’ play area. Dogwoodfestival.org

DragonCon - Sept. 1-5. Comic and fantasy festival. Downtown Atlanta. Dragoncon.org

Music Midtown - 2nd week of September. Piedmont Park. Details TBA. musicmidtown.com

Atlanta Greek Festival - Last weekend of September. Details TBA. atlantagreekfestival.org

AJC Decatur Book Festival - First week of October. Details TBA. Downtown Decatur. Decaturbookfestival.com

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THEATRE

Bilig Idol, Rainbow Kittens Surprise, Spoon, Nine Inch Nails, Death Cab for Cutie and many more. Central Park, Atlanta.

Atlanta Ice Cream Festival - July 23. Piedmont Park. Midtown Atlanta. Atlantaicecreamfestival.com

Bronze Lens Festival - Aug. 23 - 27. Hybrid of live and virtual screenings and sessions. Location TBA. bronzelen.com

Blue Mountains Wine and Jazz Festival 2022 - June 25-26, 2-9 p.m. Elijah, Ga. Blue Ridge Wine and Jazz Festival is bringing great music, great wines, fine art, and delicious cuisine, to beautiful Ellijay, GA. We will be offering a diversity of wines from around the world, including those made locally in North Georgia and the North Carolina region. https://blueridgedwineandjazz.com

Atlanta Jazz Festival - Labor Day Weekend. Piedmont Park, Atlanta. Details TBA. Atlantafestivals.com

DRAGONCON - Sept. 1-5. Comic and fantasy festival. Downtown Atlanta. Dragoncon.org

Music Midtown - 2nd week of September. Piedmont Park. Details TBA. musicmidtown.com

Atlanta Greek Festival - Last weekend of September. Details TBA. atlantagreekfestival.org

AJC Decatur Book Festival - First week of October. Details TBA. Downtown Decatur. Decaturbookfestival.com

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