



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES · AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA
NEWSLETTER 385

March - April 2023

Time to Celebrate Spring

06

ECO-MINDED
ENTREPRENEURS



08

EARTH DAY
EVENTS



13

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A COP



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FEBRUARY

Have a Heart for Galentine's Micro Event – Decatur Glassblowing

Missed this year? Join us next year.
It's a blast!

MARCH

Spring Fling Private Shopping Experience at Finders Keepers Furniture Consignment

Benefiting Our House, Inc. – shop and
help our community at the same time!

APRIL

Yoga at the Lake

Plus the coffee truck (compliments of my
small business, Find Your Nest Homes)

MAY

Summer Knife Sharpening

Convenient drop-off at Avondale Lake.
Drop off your dull knives to have them
sharpened for summer!

JUNE

Summer Starfish Micro Event – Decatur Glassblowing

SEPTEMBER

Yoga at the Lake

Plus the coffee truck (compliments of my
small business, Find Your Nest Homes)

OCTOBER

Pumpkin Patch Family Photos

NOVEMBER

Holiday Knife Sharpening

DECEMBER

Private Shopping Experience at Finders Keepers Furniture Consignment

Benefiting Our House, Inc.

Building community through events and real estate is my passion!
Curious about the current market? Or your home's equity? I'm your community
real estate expert. **Let's chat. Call me. 404-981-2881**

What clients say about working with me:

I can't say enough good things about working with Susan, both in buying and selling homes – a thoughtful and strategic partner; a tenacious advocate; managing every detail to ensure a smooth process.. Susan is incredibly respectful, takes the time to educate, and has an unmatched work ethic. – Mike T.

Susan was incredibly pleasant, responsive, helpful and resourceful. She worked tirelessly with us in our cross-country move, even managing our window installation, painting and cleaning after we moved out. We got lucky! – Sal and Mubarka B.

You could not ask for more from a Realtor®. Professional, friendly, understanding, efficient, assertive, positive, responsive, dedicated, knowledgeable and genuine. I cannot recommend her enough! – Caroline S.



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Each office is independently owned and operated.

If your home is currently listed for sale, this is not meant to solicit your business.

Inside This Issue

- 4** From the City Manager
- 8** Eco-minded Entrepreneurs
- 8** Earth Day Celebrations
- 16** Frühlingsfest Welcomes Spring

Board of Mayor & Commissioners

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Anthony Cappuccio, Deputy Chief of Police

Public Works Department

Marcel Jackson, Public Works Director
Don Huff, Public Works Supervisor
Adrian Langston, Greenspace Manager

Cover photo credit: Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta
Frühlingsfest returns for its fourth year on March 18.



Community members join City Manager Patrick Bryant and Chief Harry Hess at Willis Park for February's Walk & Talk with the City Manager. See pg. 13

Stay in Touch with the City of Avondale Estates

Stay connected with what's happening through the many communications channels used by the city.

Newsletter

To receive this bimonthly newsletter in the mail or electronically, please email epowell@avondaleestates.org.

E-News

The city emails an electronic newsletter once a week and as needed for special announcements and alerts. To sign up, visit www.avondaleestates.org/e-news.html.



Website

www.avondaleestates.org



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Nextdoor

Find the City of Avondale Estates on Nextdoor under Public Agencies



CONTACT US TODAY

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Unsolicited Copy

The City Newsletter reserves the right to refuse unsolicited submissions and to edit all copy in regard to space appropriateness, and cost considerations. As a courtesy to the clubs and organizations that civically operate in the City, a brief notice of their activities may be included as space permits. The City Newsletter is not a forum for opinion pieces nor for political speech. The City reserves the right to reject any proposed advertisement of an offensive, religious, or political nature.

News from City Hall - Newsletter Disclaimer

Purpose

The City Newsletter was created for the purpose of providing a written medium for regularly sharing information from City Hall. It is a vehicle for the Board of Mayor and Commissioners and the City Manager to share information relevant to issues discussed, actions taken, and plans made by the Board of Mayor and Commissioners, to share newsworthy information about our residents and businesses, and to provide a calendar of scheduled City events.

From the City Manager



by **Patrick Bryant**
City Manager

Avondale Estates was built in the early twentieth century as a “Garden City” with a strong focus on beautiful public landscapes and a lush tree canopy. As we approach our 100th anniversary as an incorporated city, it is a good opportunity for us to think about what the next 100 years will look like for Avondale Estates and the legacy we can leave behind for future generations.

Today, we face many environmental challenges, like a changing climate with more frequent storms, increasing demands on resources and the need to protect the natural environment. It seems only natural that our “Garden City” evolves to become a “Green City,” adding to our mission a focus to preserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. By doing so, we can help steward Avondale Estates for future generations while providing a plethora of economic and health benefits for our current one.



In metro Atlanta, 17 local governments – 11 cities and six counties – are currently certified under the Green Communities Program

Turning a New Leaf

To that end, the Board of Mayor and Commission recently resolved to participate in the Atlanta Regional Commission’s (ARC) Green Communities Program. We will start the program at the New Leaf level giving us two years to obtain our bronze certification. Let the challenge begin.

Certification is based on a point system with four levels ranging from bronze to platinum. The program details multiple options a community can support and incentivizes environmental sustainability through city operations, programs and regulations.

The good news is that we are already moving toward our goals. Our designation as a Historic District and guidelines for historic preservation count towards our certification, as

does the city’s 39 years as a designated Tree City USA. Our commitment to track and maintain 50% tree canopy coverage also helps us reach bronze status. Decisions to move toward more green operating procedures are criteria used by the ARC. Native plantings in our greenspaces, the purchase of three all-electric police vehicles, and the addition of the Town Green to our green space inventory meet those criteria. We also have big projects in the pipeline that will get us closer to our bronze certification such as the infrastructure planned for the Lake Avondale North Woods to manage stormwater through natural percolation, and the Complete Streets project on N. Avondale Road that will provide a safe walking and biking option through our downtown.

Over the next few years, we will continue making policy decisions using a green lens. However, this effort is a team sport. We need residents to embrace these same values and strive toward a sustainable future. Learn more about the ARC’s Green Communities Program at <https://atlantaregional.org/natural-resources/sustainability/green-communities-program/>

Celebrating Planet Earth

On Earth Day, we are joining forces with other community organizations and businesses to kick off the challenge. There will be sustainability-related activities throughout the day. In the morning, the city will host electronics recycling and the Avon Garden Club invites you to explore their self-guided Eco-Garden Tour highlighting numerous sustainable gardening efforts at their members’ properties. In the afternoon, Avondale ACTION, the Avon Garden Club and the city will co-host an Earth Day celebration with speakers and local organizations educating us on ways to reduce our carbon footprint, vendors with environmental products, and fun, educational activities for kids. In the evening, the city will bring in food trucks and bluegrass bands to close out the day. Make sure that you mark your calendars and check out the city’s website and future e-newsletters to get the most recent run-of-show. *See page 7 for more info.*

Working Together as a Green Team

We also want to work with each of you to help measure our progress and tell our stories. If you are already doing things that are environmentally sustainable and you think you would be a model for your neighbors, let us know. By working together and sharing our knowledge and resources, we can make a real difference in preserving the “Garden City” values that make Avondale Estates such a special place to live.



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EMORY | SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

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LAWRENCE BROWNLEE, tenor: *RISING*

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 | 8 P.M.

CHAD LAWSON TRIO featuring JUDY KANG, violin and SETH PARKER WOODS, cello

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 8 P.M.

BÉLA FLECK, EDGAR MEYER, and ZAKIR HUSSAIN with RAKESH CHAURASIA

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 8 P.M.

SCHWARTZ.EMORY.EDU | 404.727.5050



Mushroom Market

Every Sunday from Noon to 3pm

Featuring Growers, Foragers, and Vendors specializing in mushrooms

Taproom open at Noon, Chefs at 1pm, and music to follow at 3pm



#SERVEYOURNEIGHBOR

Eco-minded Entrepreneurs Making a Difference

Avondale Estates is proud to be home to a diverse array of small businesses committed to operating in an eco-friendly way. From thrifting to composting, solar energy to recycling, the city's business scene is consciously adopting practices to better serve both their consumers and their planet.

Eat, Drink and Be Green

While the food and beverage scene in Avondale Estates continues to grow, many of its restaurants, bars and breweries are focusing on how to be more environmentally friendly.

For **Banjo Coffee**, sustainability practices are at its core. Banjo uses 100% organic, fairly traded, and shade-grown beans from Cafe Campesino, the only 100% organic roaster in Georgia. They also use compostable and recyclable materials to divert waste from the landfill and work with Compost Now to commercially compost hot cups, lids, straws and food waste. They provide farmers with spent coffee grounds for composting and seek to reuse and repurpose materials for their furnishings, glassware and plates.



The **Lost Druid Brewery & Distillery** opened in 2019 with environmentalism ingrained in its mission. Not only does the brewery utilize a 14.1 kW solar panel system to supplement its electricity usage, but it also reclaims chilling water, uses LED lighting, has waterless urinals in the men's bathroom and provides used grain to local farmers for livestock feed to reduce its overall footprint.



Arepa Mia and **Rising Son** are two of the city's restaurants that use locally-sourced ingredients from Georgia growers, while **My Parents' Basement**, Avondale's friendly neighborhood comic book bar and restaurant, includes vegetarian and vegan choices on its menu and hosts the **Avondale Estates Farmers Market** in its parking lot every Sunday.

Treasures to Discover

"Thrift," "vintage" or "resale" – regardless of the name, buying second-hand helps prevent needless additions to landfills and allows consumers to refresh their wardrobe, household furnishings and other items at a much more affordable price.



Finders Keepers Furniture offers high-end, curated furniture and decor. **Second Life Thrift Store** provides clothing, books, pet supplies and more while donating a portion of its proceeds to benefit homeless pets. Saturday Sidewalk Sales occur at their next-door Second Life Home Furnishings space. On the eastern edge of town where Covington Highway meets Memorial Drive, shoppers can explore **Mother Lode** and **Decatur Estate Vintage Market** for eclectic items from all different eras.

Embracing Nature's Way

Merriam Webster defines "permaculture" as an agricultural system or method that seeks to integrate human activity with natural surroundings to create highly efficient self-sustaining ecosystems.

As a regenerative landscape design, build and education firm, **Shades of Green Permaculture** designs outdoor spaces that build natural soil fertility and biodiversity while fostering native and edible plants and pollinator habitats. Founded in 2008, the firm operates from the belief that every garden, no matter the size, can have a positive impact on the environment.

In collaboration **Globe Studios**, **Shades of Green Permaculture** is transforming a block in Avondale Estate's Rail Arts District into a community eco-arts greenspace. At the corner of Pine and Washington, the space will serve as an outdoor community hub, where people can gather for movie nights and art shows, grab a beer from one of the nearby breweries, sit around a fire pit with friends, or do yoga. Also, the site of the firm's headquarters, the regenerative landscape will grow fruit trees, herb and vegetable gardens, plus blueberries, strawberries and blackberries for the community. Cisterns will collect rain from the huge adjacent buildings and overflow into rain gardens that will support the landscape including a meadow providing valuable food for threatened pollinators.



To mitigate erosion and provide visual pleasure in a heavily visited space, the city had Shades of Green plan and install an intentional and holistic bed around the Town Green fountain. The edge is lined with yaupon hollies with a taller row of mount airy fothergilla just behind it for an early nectar source for pollinators. On either side of the fountain, yucca provides evergreen structure and summer nectar source. Along the back, a meadow of pink muhly grass, Georgia aster, and echinacea soften the lines of the yucca while providing nesting material, seed heads for birds, and nectar sources from summer through fall.

The city applauds the efforts of these businesses and the many others who are prioritizing sustainability and conservation daily.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE WE'VE MOVED TO BOLST.
OUR OFFICE WILL REMAIN ROOTED IN OUR GROWING
DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY.



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will present their

2023

SPRING CONCERT

Music of Peace
& Light

Reception in Carreker Hall
following the Concert

decaturavondalechildrenschoir.com

Admission
is FREE

April 30
Sunday at 4:00 pm

Doors open at 3:30 pm for General Seating

Donations accepted at the doors as you leave to
benefit the ongoing work of the DACC in this community

First Baptist Church of Decatur
308 Clairemont Ave
Decatur, GA 30030

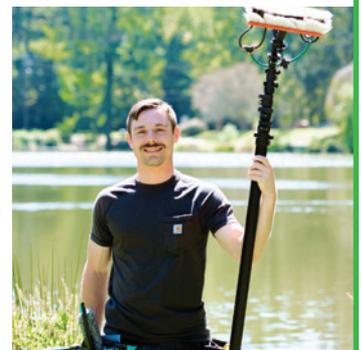


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Many Ways to Celebrate Earth Day in Avondale Estates

Since 1970, America has celebrated Earth Day each year on April 22 to draw attention to rising environmental concerns with a hope to inspire action on local, national and global levels. Over 40 years later, the original message behind Earth Day is as urgent as ever. Check out the numerous activities happening in Avondale Estates this Earth Day. Avondale ACTion, the Avon Garden Club and the city are working with numerous Avondale and community organizations to create a day to celebrate while making a difference.

9 a.m. – noon: Electronics Recycling – Keep electronics out of the landfill. City residents can safely recycle used electronics with eWaste ePlanet on Lake Street at the Town Green.

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Avon Garden Club Eco-Garden Tour –

Interested in sustainable gardening or earth-friendly practices? Visit one or all of the Avondale Estates tour locations on this self-guided tour. Scan the QR code and click on each location for more specifics about their earth-friendly projects.



Eco-Gardens

2-5 p.m. – Experts will speak on topics including home energy efficiency, using native plants, green landscaping, pedestrian and bicycle transportation options and more. Enjoy local organization, green vendors and children’s activities at the Town Green

5-8 p.m. – Let’s wrap up the day with an Earth Day Concert featuring the Packway Handle Band and opener Blue Gravy along with food and beverage vendors.





Arbor Day Tree Planting

In collaboration with the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC), the city celebrated Georgia's Arbor Day on Friday, Feb. 17 by planting a native water hickory (*Carya aquatica*) at Willis Park. Resident Davis Dunbar, owner of Redbone Nurseries, donated this year's tree which was planted in honor of Jennie Leatherberry, member emeritus of the Avondale Estates Garden Club. Dogwood, redbud and swamp oak tree saplings were provided to attendees by the Georgia Forestry Commission.



Thanks to residents' support, 302 Christmas trees were turned into mulch through the Bring One for the Chipper program over the holidays. Mulch is being used throughout the City's green spaces and was used to mulch the new water hickory planted on Arbor Day at Willis Park.

Tree City USA

For the 39th consecutive year, Avondale Estates was named a Tree City USA for its impressive tree coverage and commitment to urban forestry. The recognition was awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation which runs the Tree City USA program to celebrate towns and cities like Avondale Estates that are invested in growing their urban canopy. The Arbor Day Foundation partners with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to encourage tree expansion in urban areas.

Additionally, for the thirteenth time, Avondale Estates received a Growth Award. The Tree City USA Growth Award is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year.

The City was recognized in three areas:

- building the team (for the addition of Greenspace Manager Adrian Langston and additional training he has received)
- planning (for updates to the tree ordinance), and



- community framework (for the city's cooperative partnership with organizations including Trees Atlanta and educating the community with the Tree Boards articles in the "News from the City").

Thanks to all the many volunteers and community members who continue to make Avondale Estates a great place for trees.

Learn more about the Tree City USA Growth Award at www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/growth-award/.



Complete Street Features

- 10' path for pedestrians and bikes on the north side of the street
- Landscape strip with trees and decorative pedestrian and vehicle lights
- Landscaped median
- 5' sidewalk on the south side of the street
- Two 11' travel lanes and a center turning lane
- Golf cart crossing
- Repaved roads and striping
- Upgraded traffic signals

Complete Street Project Moves from Right-of-Way Acquisition

The city has reached a major milestone for the complete street program on N. Avondale Rd./East College Ave. After working closely with downtown property owners and businesses throughout the corridor, the city has acquired the right of way necessary to make this project a reality.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is in the process of reviewing the final right-of-way and construction plans. The project is scheduled to start in the late summer or early fall. Construction teams will tackle one block at a time with an estimated completion timeline of 12 to 18 months. During construction, city staff will provide weekly progress reports to keep everyone informed about what to expect.

Plans to transform Avondale Estates' main street into a walkable, safe and attractive corridor are coming to fruition. The project runs along N. Avondale Rd./East College Ave. from Ashton Place to Sams Crossing and is designed to reconnect the historic neighbor-

hood to downtown and catalyze redevelopment.

Research shows complete street projects, like the plans for this corridor, improve economic vitality for local businesses. Replacing vehicle travel lanes with more options to walk, bike or take transit changes the perception from a place that people drive through to one that people drive to.

Improving safety is one of the most important goals of the project. The current design is unsafe and resulted in 150 crashes between 2013-2019. Additionally, travel speeds are measured at 10 miles per hour or greater over the posted speed limit. If struck by a vehicle, these speeds would result in death for nine out of ten cyclists and pedestrians.

Maintaining efficiency is also a project objective. Traffic models show that the new street design will result in an additional 18-second delay from one end of the project to the other – a small cost to pay to save a life.



City Welcomes Planner and Permit Services Coordinator

The city welcomes Lori Leland, AICP, Avondale Estates' new Planner and Permit Services Coordinator. She joined the city's team on January 30, 2023, from the Collaborative Inc., a planning and urban design consulting company. Her recent duties included supplementing the City of Sandy Springs' planning staff by eliminating a zoning review backlog in the permitting process, designing housing development plans, and working on Livable Centers Initiative plans. From 2018 to 2021 she was a planner for the City of Atlanta and worked on the Regulatory Reform team within the office of Zoning and Development. She recently served as a planning commissioner for the City of Decatur and has served on the City of Decatur Historic Preservation Commission.

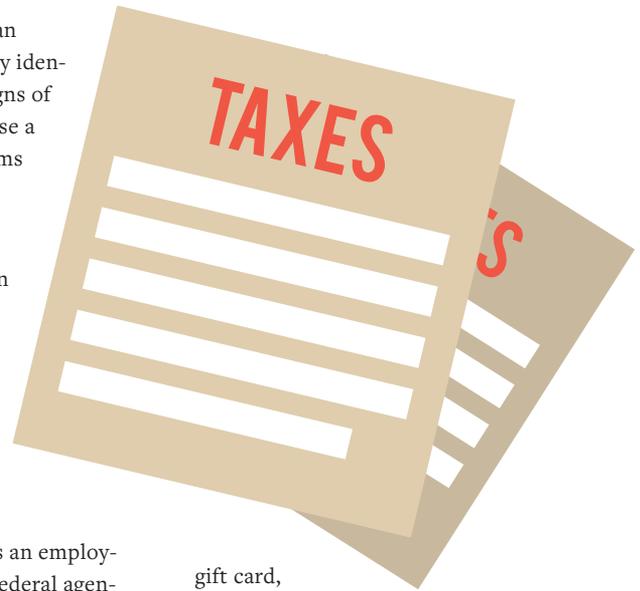
Leland has worked as a planner, urban designer and landscape architect for consulting firms in Georgia, Michigan, California and Pennsylvania where she managed projects including downtown master plans, community character plans, transportation corridor urban designs, street-scapes, open space plans and park design projects. She worked on the public spaces program for the Corporation for Olympic Development in Atlanta prior to the 1996 Olympic Games.

She earned her Master of City Planning with a Certificate of Urban Design from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University

Safety Tips for Tax Season

Historically, tax season results in an increased number of social security identity scams. Here are some basic signs of common scams used to compromise a victim's identity and defraud victims of their money.

- Scammers will often email or call, but recently there has been a rise in text scams attempting to get identifying information.
- In emails, scammers will employ logos of the company or federal agency they are falsely representing.
- Scammers will often identify as an employee or law enforcement from a federal agency, like the Social Security Administration, FBI or Secret Service.
- Often, they will mention that there is an issue with an account or that an individual's information was used in the commission of a crime.
- They will ask for personal identifiers to confirm personal account information.
- Scammers will often create pressure to take immediate action to fix the problem, and at times threaten their victims with legal repercussions if action isn't taken immediately.
- They will ask for some type of payment, often in the form of a



gift card, prepaid debit card or cryptocurrency.

Hang up or delete texts and emails without opening them if contacted in this manner. Report the scam to the agency being misrepresented if possible.

Remember, federal and local law enforcement agencies will never contact an individual via phone or email demanding any type of payment.



Police Promotions

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, Officer J. Rosa, and Cpl. A. Anderson were promoted to the rank of sergeant. They will both serve as shift supervisors in the Patrol Division. With these promotions, each shift of the police department including the overnight shifts will have a dedicated sergeant along with two patrol officers. Four new officers have been added to the force since November making the agency just one position shy of being fully staffed.

News And Updates

Save the Date: State of the City on March 30

The city invites the community to join Mayor Jonathan Elmore and the city commissioners Thursday, March 30 at the Wild Heaven Brewery for the 2023 State of the City address. Stay tuned for more details



Annual Business License Fees Due March 31

Businesses, trade professions or other occupations (including home occupations) operating within the city limits must obtain a business license and pay an occupational tax prior to opening a business. Business licenses expire each year regardless of when the account was opened and must be renewed annually by March 31. To increase the speed and efficiency of license renewal, the city has moved to an online business license renewal form. Scan the QR code to get started.



Please reach out to City Hall with any questions at licenses@avondaleestates.org. The city values its businesses and thanks them for the services they offer the community.

National Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, Apr. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
City Hall, 21 N. Avondale Plaza



The Avondale Estates Police Department encourages people to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Saturday, Apr. 22 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at participating locations including at Avondale Estates' City Hall. The DEA's National Take Back event provides an opportunity for all Americans to prevent misuse of prescription drugs that so often result in drug addiction and overdose.

North Woods Walking Trail Repaired, Phase Two to Start in June



The first phase of the North Woods stormwater project saw the installation of the ADA-accessible walking trail connecting the sidewalk at the northwest entrance of the North Woods to the Lake Trail. Though the trail sustained damages in storms after its installation, adjacent curbs have been raised and repairs have been completed making the trail functional again.

The second phase of the North Woods project includes the creation of rain gardens and an additional trail through the North Woods. The rain gardens will assist in stopping erosion on the banks of Cobbs Creek and help protect Lake Avondale in future projects. Construction is slated to begin in June. Workshops that teach the benefits of disconnecting downspouts and using rain barrels for water conservation and stormwater management will occur during the construction period.

Keep an eye on the weekly E-News for notices on upcoming workshops as well as volunteer opportunities to assist in planting the rain gardens or reach out directly to Kristin Moretz at kmoretz@avondaleestates.org.

Sidewalk and Curb Repair

A contractor has been chosen for the sidewalk and street repair throughout the residential areas of the city. Based on inventory data gathered from Public Works and residents, the city has prioritized over 3,500 square feet of sidewalk and 700 feet of curb to be repaired. Construction is slated to begin in early March. Notifications of road and sidewalk closures will be announced in the weekly E-News.

Stormwater Hydrologic/Hydraulic Model

The city contracted with Dewberry Inc. to complete a hydrologic model of the city which will enable planning for appropriate stormwater infrastructure repairs. The model, one of the key recommendations from the 2021 Stormwater Master Plan, will be completed in 2023 along with plans for more extensive repair for the highest-priority stormwater projects. The concept plans developed from the hydrology model will help the city make educated decisions about repairs and provide more solutions using green infrastructure. Priorities for concept plans include Dunwick Dr. and Washington St.

Laredo Drive Resurfacing to Create Bike Lanes

Pond Engineering finalized the road reconstruction and resurfacing project for the portion of Laredo Drive between the PATH Foundation’s Stone Mountain Trail and Clarendon Ave. Improvements will include pavement reconstruction, the addition of a protected two-lane cycle track, better signage and entrance to the Stone Mountain Trail, and improvements to the Clarendon intersection. The City is in the running to receive a grant to complete this project, which should be awarded in the later months of 2023.

Road Repair and Resurfacing

Proposal requests for repair and resurfacing ended Feb. 10, 2023. Over the next few months, the department will prepare to repair and repave multiple roads through the city’s residential areas, including Clarendon Ave., Viscount Ct., Nottingham Dr. and others.



Speed Study

A speed study was completed for Clarendon Ave. and Kensington Rd. to determine if there is a need to lower the speed limit. This data is being processed by the Georgia Department of Transportation and updates will be forthcoming.

Street and Stormwater General City Improvements

Often smaller projects do not get the attention large-scale projects receive, but the forms community members send in help influence where the city focuses repair efforts. Help city staff by filling out the Streets and Stormwater Concerns form and include photos when possible. This database helps the city know where to focus efforts when hydrologic models are completed, street signs go missing or potholes need to be filled. Without the completed forms, city staff are not able to properly assess or prioritize requests from residents. Thanks for being the eyes and ears in the community, as the city works to improve infrastructure and drainage. Scan the QR code or go to avondalestates.org/FormCenter/Service-Request-Forms-3/Stormwater-Street-Concerns-106.



REPORT ISSUES

A service request will be created once the form is submitted. Expect a reply (if requested) within five to seven business days depending on the severity of the issue.

**Please note, submissions are only monitored during normal City Hall hours of operation Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Always dial 911 for emergencies.*



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. ONE CUP AT A TIME.

Join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation.

Monday, March 20
Banjo Coffee
8-10 a.m.

Thanks to sponsor Hunter Rogers from State Farm.



Walk & Talk with the City Manager March 28 and April 25

Thanks to all the walkers and talkers who joined City Manager Patrick Bryant in January to explore the complete street project on U.S. 278 with Assistant City Manager Shannon Powell and at Willis Park in February to discuss police topics with Chief Harry Hess.

Community members are invited to lace up their tennis shoes and take a walk to discuss issues with City Manager Bryant on the last Tuesday of each month. Each month a special guest will join the city manager on the walk to focus on a different topic though residents are welcome to discuss whatever topic interests them.

March 2023

calendar of events

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Historic Preservation
Commission Meeting
6 p.m.

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Daylight Saving Time
Begins

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Downtown
Development
Authority Regular
Meeting
5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day

Frühlingsfest
noon - 8 p.m.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

First Day of Spring,
Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m.

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

The Museum School's
5k Explorer Dash
8:30 a.m.

26

27

28

29

30

31

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Walk & Talk with
the City Manager
10-11 a.m.

State of the City

April 2023

calendar of events



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

April Fools' Day

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Historic Preservation
Commission
6 p.m.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Downtown
Development
Authority Regular
Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
Regular Meeting and
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

The Museum School
Arts in the Park

Avondale Estates
Garden Club
Plant Sale
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Avondale Estates
Farmers Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Electronics Recycling
9 a.m. - noon

Avon Garden Club
Eco-Garden Tour
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Earth Day Celebration/
Concert 2-8 p.m.

23/30

24

25

26

27

28

29

23/30 - Avondale
Estates Farmers
Market
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Walk & Talk with the
City Manager
10-11 a.m.

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

Let's Ring in Spring German Style

The 4th annual Frühlingsfest returns to the streets of Avondale Estates on March 18 with even more to offer. The German word, “Frühlingsfest” means “spring festival.” An annual family-friendly celebration of the spring season, Frühlingsfest takes place in cities all over Germany, such as München and Stuttgart. With over 1.2 million participants each year, Frühlingsfest makes its name as the largest spring festival in Europe.

At the Avondale Estates’ Frühlingsfest, festivalgoers can enjoy exhibits from a variety of local artists, traditional German dishes and drinks, local craft beer, a children’s corner at the Town Green and a welcoming opportunity to learn more about the Germanic culture and language.

The Goethe Frühlingsfest is in the Rail Arts District of downtown Avondale Estates home to a sparkling art scene. Avondale Estate’s three breweries will provide some of the finest German-inspired beer this side of the Atlantic.

New this year, classic and new German autos will be on exhibit throughout the festival in partnership with Deutsche Klassik Auto Group. Don’t miss this showcase of “German Art on Wheels” including Audis, BMWs, Mercedes-Benzes, Porsches and Volkswagens.

After a day of outstanding local artists and musicians, follow the Black Sheep Ensemble as they parade throughout the festival streets to the Town Green for this year’s headliner Gritz and Jelly Butter, a soulful, explosive Atlanta-based band. The free concert begins at 6 p.m.

Learn more at www.goethefruehlingsfest.com/.

Frühlingsfest

GERMAN-STYLE Arts Fest

MARCH 18 | NOON – 6 PM

Rail Arts District, Avondale Estates

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music, local
craft beer,
children’s activities
& German culture



GRITZ AND JELLY BUTTER



MARCH 18 | 6 PM – 8 PM

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Lace 'Em Up for The Museum School 5k

The Museum School's Annual Explorer Dash returns on Saturday, March 25. Be on the lookout for big and little runners on streets throughout the historic neighborhood between 8:30-10:15 a.m. Come out to help cheer on the runners. The race starts and ends at The Museum School. Police will escort the runners and volunteers will be stationed along the route to ensure the safety of the runners and neighbors.



Clarendon Ave. will be closed from Wiltshire Dr. to Kingstone Rd. between 8:30-9:30 a.m. for the 5K.

There's still time to register for the race at <https://bit.ly/ExplorerDash>.

Interested in volunteering? Email explorerdash16@gmail.com.

The Museum School's Arts in the Park

Thursday, April 13 | 5-8 p.m.
Avondale Estates Town Green



Join The Museum School Foundation for the family-friendly Arts in the Park event benefitting The Museum School. The event will showcase the school's arts programs and includes a student art auction, performances by the school's orchestra and drama program, and an exciting fund-the-need live auction. Food and beverage trucks will be on site.

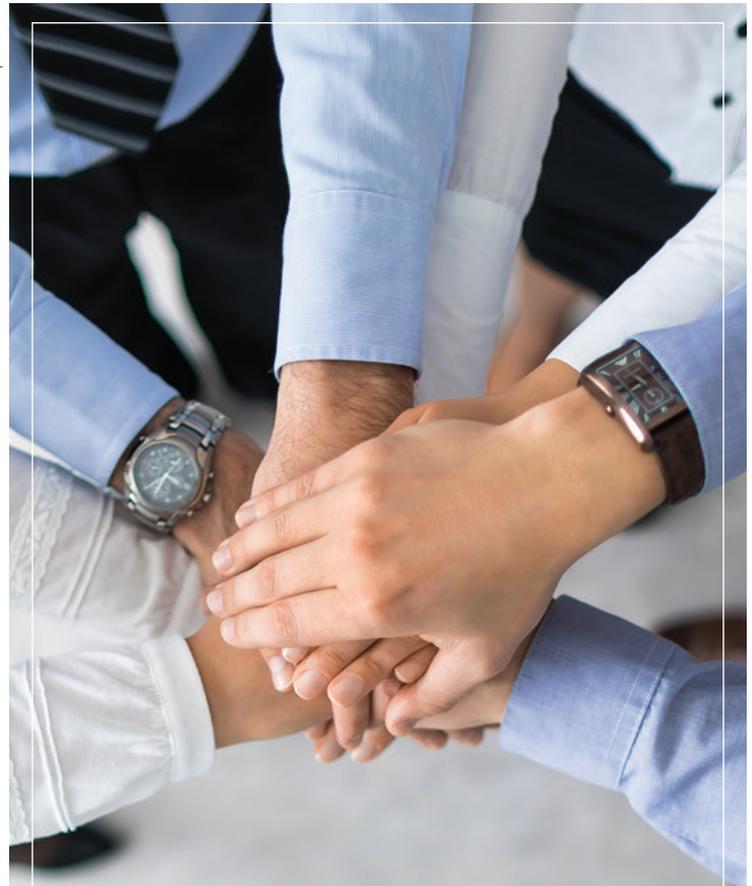
The Museum School Foundation is a 501(c)(3) governed by a volunteer board of directors. The foundation board works closely with The Museum School Governing Board to identify needs and priorities. The Museum School Foundation was formed in 2011 to raise the needed capital to fund the school's growth. All donations to The Museum School Foundation are 100% tax deductible. Learn more at <https://givebutter.com/c/tmsart>.

Celebrate Avondale Elementary School Turning 100!



Avondale Elementary turns 100 this year! Please join the adults-only centennial celebration and silent auction benefiting the Avondale Elementary School Foundation. This event will be held on March 25, 2023, from 6-10 p.m. at The Oak House at 2855 Washington Street in Avondale Estates. Early bird ticket prices are \$35 each and \$45 after March 11. Purchase tickets at givebutter.com/c/AES100. Entry includes food, drinks, arcade games, music and fun!

Auction bidding goes live March 13. No ticket necessary to participate in the silent auction.



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Avondale Estates Garden Club's Final Sustainability Speaker March 22

The Avondale Estates Garden Club presents the final presentation in their sustainable gardening series on Wednesday, March 22. Kristen Moretz, Avondale Estates' capital projects, construction and maintenance director, will speak on the city's Storm Water Studies, Plans and Projects at 7 p.m. at the Lakehouse at 59 Lakeshore Drive.



Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects, Construction and Maintenance Director for Avondale Estates

Ms. Moretz joined the City of Avondale Estates in April 2022. She focuses on stormwater, roads and drainage throughout the city as well as the city's capital projects.

Previously, Ms. Moretz worked for an environmental compliance and consulting company, Path Light Professionals, where she oversaw client relationships, SWPPP implementation, construction stormwater and safety regulatory compliance in markets across five states. She received her Bachelor of Science in Soil Science from the University of Tennessee with a focus on wetland delineation, youth outreach and competitive soil judging.

The presentation is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. To learn about the status of stormwater projects in Avondale Estates, register by emailing Helen Dorroh at hdorroh@gmail.com.

Avondale Estates Garden Club Plant Sale Set for April 15

Saturday, April 15 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lake House at 59 Lakeshore Drive

Need to replace your rosemary? Is your *Loropetalum* languishing after our winter deep freeze? Avondale Estates Garden Club will have hundreds of plants at its third annual plant sale in mid-April.

The sale coincides with Garden Week in Georgia, which is usually an ideal time for local gardeners to start digging in the dirt.

The club will have plants for shade, plants for full sun, popular perennials, native plants and pollinators as well as a selection of herbs, trees, and house plants, according to plant sale co-chairs Susan Barton, Christi Granger and Donna Tanner.

"We'll be ready to help buyers replace things that didn't survive the cold, and we hope to help bring some life and joy back into their gardens," Ms. Tanner said.



The event is a huge team effort of garden club members, with volunteers dividing and cultivating plants from their gardens to contribute to the sale. In addition, the club purchases some plants wholesale, paying attention to ones that are popular here and likely to thrive in the local climate.

The sale will be open rain or shine.

(Seed) Bombs Away with the Avon Garden Club

Avon Garden Club created wildflower seed bombs at the club's February meeting in a fun and informative hands-on activity led by members Rosemary Cox and Michele Spears.

Seed bombs are an alternative, easy way to sow seeds and can give seeds a better chance of growing by protecting them from the hungry mouths of small animals and birds.

Originally, guerilla gardeners propelled seed bombs by slingshots onto barren and neglected areas to establish beauty with native plants without regard to the ownership of the areas. Now, homeowners are using seed bombs to beautify and establish native plants within the boundaries of their properties.

Seed bombs are prepared by folding seeds into a dough made from compost, all-purpose flour and water. When the dough is the right consistency, it is divided into small pieces that are gently shaped and rolled into small balls that resemble meatballs or bonbons. After drying for 24 hours, the seed bombs are ready to sow, either by placing the seed balls by hand or tossing them using an underhand motion.



Jane Darnell makes seed bombs with the Avon Garden Club. Members of the club will lead a seed bomb making activity at the Earth Day Celebration at the Town April 22.

Tips to Enhance Seed Bombing Success:

- Choose an appropriate location where the selected species will thrive. Consider mowing, tilling or weeding the site before planting.
- Choose the appropriate time to plant such as planting annuals in spring and perennials in fall, and
- Use the proper planting methods, including
 - placing seed bombs by hand rather than tossing them,
 - pushing the seed bombs halfway down into the ground, and
 - planting seed bombs during rainy periods in order to avoid having to water them.

Come make seed bombs with the Avon Garden Club at the Earth Day Celebration on the Town Green April 22 and be sure to explore sustainable gardening ideas that have been put into action at the club's Eco Garden Tour on April 22 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. *See page 8 for more info.*



Wintertime Is Planting Time

Walked around Willis Park lately? Gardeners for the Common Good (GCG) recently planted the Willis Park Pavilion entrance with native shrubs and ground cover around a Willow Oak, which was donated by resident Davis Dunbar, owner of Redbone Nurseries.



GCG is grateful for friends Steve Sanchez who provided the design, March Glenn of RMG Landscape Solutions LLC who sourced the plants, and the city's Greenspace Manager Adrian Langston who set out plants and tackled some tough holes. GCG, a group of neighborhood "dirty knees" gardeners who volunteer to improve the city's parks and green spaces, spent two days installing the plants and remained undeterred by hard Georgia clay, rock and roots.

The shrubs selected by Steve Sanchez are native to the southeast and will support wildlife such as birds and insects and include *Fothergilla 'Mount Airy'* and *Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sike's Dwarf'*. GCG encourages the use of native plants in the city's public green spaces and in home gardens, as well.

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations for the generous donations which allowed the purchase of plants: the Avondale Estates Historic Sign Committee, the Avondale Estates Garden Club, Ms. Ellie Smith and an anonymous angel.

Have Kids Who Play in Willis Park?

Parents and caregivers, Gardeners for the Common Good ask you to remind your children to avoid the planted beds and to be gentle with trees near the playground and field. Willis Park trees and shrubs have been killed by branches being pulled off, damage to tree bark and trampling. If given the chance to grow, these trees will be a beautiful source of shade. Willis Park plants are like the children who play there - young. Like these children, the trees and shrubs need extra care while they mature. Let's teach kids to nurture nature.

Avon Garden Club Garden of the Month



January: 5 Clarendon Ave., home of Caitlin Dooley

Avondale Estates Garden Club Yard of the Month



February: 3 Berkeley Rd., home of Phil Bolton



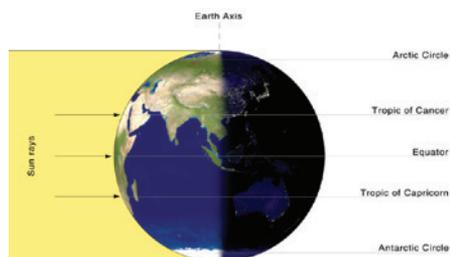


The First Day of Spring 2023 takes place on Monday, March 20

ARE YOU READY TO SHAKE OFF WINTER AND CELEBRATE SPRING?!

This year, the Vernal Equinox takes place at 5:24pm ET on Monday, March 20.

The Vernal Equinox occurs when the sun's light is equally shining on both the North and South Hemispheres. This means neither the North Pole nor the South Pole are pointed towards the sun, and the sun's rays are directly over the equator.



On the day of the equinox, the length of day and night anywhere in the world is roughly the same. However, the true date of "equal daylight -- equal nighttime" occurs on the equinox, which takes place a few days before the Spring Equinox.

FIRST DAY OF SPRING IN ATLANTA: WHAT TO EXPECT

The Vernal Equinox lands on Monday, March 20 this year, and the average daytime high in Atlanta on this date is 67 degrees; the average morning low is 46 degrees.

The warmest daytime high on March 20 occurred in 1907, when thermometers reached 86 degrees. The coldest morning low occurred on this date in 1923, when thermometers dropped to 17 degrees.



The average last spring freeze date for Metro Atlanta is March 23, however the latest spring freeze on record is April 25, 1910.



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This month may be cold... but it could be 70 degrees most days. Surely it won't be as rainy as the 17 out of 31 drenching days of January. In February, it seemed to rain almost every Sunday and Thursday (the days of my ALTA tennis matches and split shifts. Go figure!).

No matter the weather, a gardener always begins to catch Spring fever about this time. Some plants began budding out as early as the second week of February, and that was a breath of fresh air for anybody who had concerns after that

Christmas freeze. By now, cherry trees are flowering,



yellow daffodils have shown their bright faces, saucer or 'tulip' magnolias are displaying pastel flowers before they even leaf out, and yellow forsythia hedges wave 'hello' in the breeze.

The timing is right to prune woody shrubs that were bare all winter. This is easily done with sharp pruners and loppers in a matter of minutes. Things to tackle are lantana, butterfly bush, Knock Out roses, and most ornamental grasses, including liriop or 'monkey grass'. If maintaining a large area of monkey grass, raise the blade height on a mower and slowly mow over it.

Landscapes can quickly and easily be spruced up by adding fresh mulch or pine straw. Be cautious though of some scammers overinflating the number of bails of pine straw it took to cover an area. It is common practice to ask them to count the strings that came off the bails allegedly used.



Prevention is the best medicine when it comes to a healthy, lush lawn, whether it's preventing pests, diseases or weeds. Homeowners should always prioritize an application of a preemergence herbicide

at least twice per year. This granular application must be timed right so as to kill unwanted weed seeds right as they begin to germinate. Proper timing to prevent summer weeds is generally from mid-February to mid-March in our area. And to get ahead of annoying winter weeds like poa annua, an application of preemergence in late August to mid-September is just right.

So if even more rain is expected, no problem! Bring gardening efforts indoors and focus on houseplants. Just today, I breezed through the house and did three simple things for my houseplants in just 15 minutes.

1. Carefully wipe down (dust) the leaves of larger houseplants with a slightly damp rag. This allows those leaves to catch every bit of sunlight they can.
2. Water plants only if the top 1-2" of soil is dry sticking your finger in the pot. Remember to check those plastic trays beneath house plants. Don't let standing water remain there.
3. Rotate each pot. It's easy to tell when this hasn't been done because they develop a slight lean towards the sun. Usually just a half-turn of the pot will do.



Ashley Frasca is host of the radio show Green and Growing, heard on 95.5 WSB Radio every Saturday from 6-9:00 a.m. For gardening tips, information, and advice, follow her Facebook page: Facebook.com/greenandgrowingwsb



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SELLING OR PURCHASING A NEW HOME?

You hear people talk about 'termite letters' all the time. So what exactly are they talking about?

Well, a termite letter is a report that a pest control company will create after doing an inspection of a house. Some states have actual forms that this is supposed to follow by state law.

Georgia is a prime example - we have the "Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report" which is required for any home sale in the state. Without going all Georgia Tech on you, here is part of what it says.

"The Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report shall be the written instrument for the purpose of certifying that a structure is apparently free from wood destroying organisms as a basis for transfer of real property and shall be issued only by a pest control operator certified in Wood Destroying Organisms. Such instrument shall carry a guarantee that, if an infestation of wood destroying organisms from which apparent freedom is certified, is found within ninety (90) days from date of issuance, the infested structure(s) shall be treated by the licensee, free of charge subject to the following:

*Subterranean Termites
Powder Post Beetles and Wood Boring Beetles
Wood Decaying Fungi
Dry Wood Termites..."*

If you want to read the entire rule, or get the official form, simply go to <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/> then look for **Rule 620-6-.03**. Happy reading. Write a report and have it on the teacher's desk before 2nd period on Tuesday. Or make a diorama. Be sure to use an old shoe box for the background and raisins to symbolize termites.

The termite inspection letter should disclose everything that was found by the inspector, whether the house is currently infested with termites or has been in the past, and will also usually note if any parts of the house were inaccessible for inspection.

If you are the buyer, your bank may require you to have a termite letter before you close on your house. There can be restrictions, and they may require it to have been within a certain time period before the loan closes (so they essentially "expire").

If I was the buyer I would make sure I saw that form and have any part of it that I don't understand explained to me by a third party pest control expert, just so I understand it.

One very important piece of advice: get your termite letter done in advance of the closing date.

One more important piece of advice to the home owner, get your home checked every year for termites and/or any termite damage. It makes getting and dealing with the termite letter a whole lot easier to do.



Grab your hammer and join the show! In Atlanta, 404.872.0750 or 1.800.972.8255. Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dave Baker is WSB's resident

household repair and home improvement expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: [Facebook.com/thehomefixitpage](https://www.facebook.com/thehomefixitpage)

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BUY & SELL NEW & GENTLY USED FURNITURE & CLOTHING

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



Upcoming Spring Events

MIDTOWN ATL/ PEACHTREE RD
St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 11 • 12pm

DRUID HILLS
Spring Festival on Ponce
April 1-2 • Olmsted Linear Park

ATLANTA
Atlanta Dogwood Festival
April 14-16 • Piedmont Park

INMAN PARK
Inman Park Festival
April 29-30 • Inman Park

RECENT SALES



31 Clarendon Ave



2 Kensington Road



88 Clarendon Ave PENDING

AND MAKE SURE TO VISIT MY FAVORITE SPINGTIME MARKET...
THE AVONDALE ESTATES FARMERS MARKET!

EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM-1PM IN THE PARKING LOT AT MY PARENT'S BASEMENT



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KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY