



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES · AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA
NEWSLETTER 399

July - August 2025

08

SOUTHEAST
POLLINATOR
CENSUS



18

LEFTIE LEE'S
TV DEBUT



20

PEOPLE OF
AVONDALE



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THE AVONDALE MARKET *remains strong!*

In a real estate market shift, we need to look locally, not nationally, for what's going on in **30002**:

"Susan removed the stress of selling our house, worked to get multiple offers, and guided us through the process with her local market knowledge and superb negotiating skills. She was with us every step of the way!"
- Christi G., Avondale Estates



DETACHED, SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES*

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| MEDIAN SALES PRICE | MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET |
| \$650,000 | 4 DAYS |

2.6 MONTHS SUPPLY
STILL A SELLER'S MARKET



ATTACHED HOMES* (TOWNHOMES, CONDOS)

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| MEDIAN SALES PRICE | MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET |
| \$372,500 | 62 DAYS |

7.2 MONTHS SUPPLY
NOW A BUYER'S MARKET

*MAY 2025 DATA FOR ENTIRE 30002 ZIP CODE, PER FMLS



Interested in your home value with this shifting market?

➔ USE THIS CODE TO RECEIVE A FREE ANALYSIS.



SUSAN ROBERTSON HAWKINS

Realtor® | MBA

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

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Graham Reiney, Commissioner
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Michael Smith, Commissioner

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Josh Weston, City Analyst and Permit Coordinator

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Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Jerry "J.D." Branch, Deputy Chief

Public Works Department

Marcel Jackson, Public Works Director
Don Huff, Public Works Supervisor

Cover Photo: Nathan Berrong



Kicking off the day in style! The Avondale Estates Fourth of July Parade brings the community together each year to celebrate Independence Day with patriotic pride, festive spirit, and plenty of red, white, and blue.

Photo credit: Nathan Berrong

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 communications@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



Facebook

[CityofAvondaleGA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAvondaleGA)



X, formerly known as Twitter

[@City_Avondale](https://twitter.com/City_Avondale)



Instagram

[@avondaleestates](https://www.instagram.com/avondaleestates)



Nextdoor

Find the City of Avondale Estates on Nextdoor under Public Agencies



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ATLANTA

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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

Dear Avondale Estates Residents,

What a spectacular Fourth of July celebration we had this year! From the beloved parade that marches down the charming street of Clarendon Avenue to the inaugural street festival that followed, this year's festivities captured everything that makes Avondale Estates so special: our strong sense of community, our creative spirit, and our love for celebration.

The annual parade remains a highlight for residents and visitors alike, and this year's event was made even more memorable by the enthusiastic participation of our local businesses. A heartfelt thank you to Billy's Avondale, Swinks Tattoo Emporium, W. Roy Salon, and Minuteman Press for adding their unique flair to the lineup. A special shoutout goes to Village Music for celebrating their 10th year in the parade—what an incredible milestone!

We're also grateful to the Avondale Woman's Club, who once again distributed bottled water to parade participants and helped keep everyone refreshed on a warm summer day.

New this year, our street festival brought music, food, games, and a wonderful sense of camaraderie to S Avondale Plaza. The dunk tank was a lot of fun, and I want to thank DeKalb County Commissioner Ted Terry for joining me, Mayor Jonathan Elmore, and Commissioner Mike Smith in taking the plunge for a good laugh! Thanks to the DeKalb Fire Department for filling the tank (and joining us in the parade), and to our Avondale Estates Police Department and Public Works team for ensuring the safety and smooth operation of both events. Your dedication does not go unnoticed.

This celebration was a powerful reminder that no one does the Fourth quite like Avondale Estates. Thank you all for your participation, your spirit, and your love for this city.

Photo credits: Nathan Berrong, Ellen Powell



AVONDALE ESTATES

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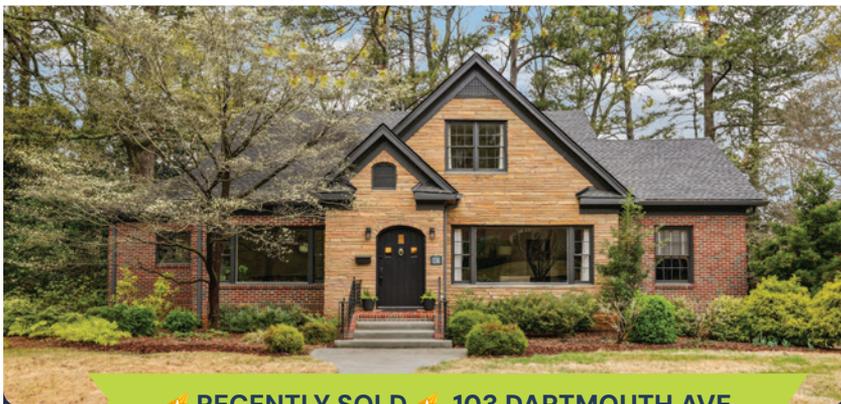
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“Jen, you did an amazing job!”

Thank you for guiding us to the right price and helping us get under contract in record time. Balancing work-from-home life while trying to sell my home was no small task, but you made it feel easy. Your expertise, support, and professionalism truly set you apart. You're the best!"

Gates K., Dartmouth Ave, Avondale Estates

Jen Newman

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Life changes... and you've got to change with it!

We're here to help at the Atlanta Turtle Group.

Whether you're upsizing, downsizing, growing a family, empty nesting (so hard!), or experiencing any big change in life, it can mean it's time to move on & find a new place to land. The Atlanta Turtle Group has the experience to know just what to do help make these transitions feel seamless. We treat you like family.

I'm lucky enough to have called Avondale Estates home for 23 years. I've even moved around doing the "Avondale hop". I may be doing the "hop" again VERY SOON! Stay tuned! This neighborhood is what community & family is all about. Excited for a shiny & bright future here in AE with whatever "life changes" come our way.

kw METRO ATLANTA
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Atlanta Turtle Group

Understanding Tree Removal Requirements in Avondale Estates

What homeowners need to know about forms, permits, and protecting the City's canopy

Avondale Estates takes pride in its tree canopy, and preserving it is a shared responsibility between the City and its residents. Whether removing a tree due to disease, safety concerns, or property damage, every property owner must take action to stay in compliance with local ordinances.

All tree removals require a Tree Removal Form, which must be completed before removing any tree on private property. This form ensures the city can monitor tree loss and maintain healthy canopy coverage throughout Avondale Estates.

To complete the Tree Removal Form, property owners need to:

- ▶ Provide photos of the tree or trees to be removed,
- ▶ Include a canopy coverage calculation showing that at least 50 percent of coverage will remain after removal, and
- ▶ Indicate whether stump grinding will take place.

In certain cases, property owners may also need a Protected Tree Impact and Removal Permit. This permit is required at the discretion of city staff and typically applies when stump grinding is planned or when the removal would result in less than 50 percent of canopy coverage on the lot.

If a Protected Tree Impact Permit is required, the process involves:

- ▶ Creating an account on the city's online permitting platform, Community Core,
- ▶ Filling out the Protected Tree Impact and Removal Permit,
- ▶ Uploading the completed application in PDF format, and
- ▶ Paying the applicable permit fee.

There is no fee for the Tree Removal Form, but the Protected Tree Impact Permit does carry a fee. Current rates can be found on the Protected Tree Impact Permit form.

By following these requirements, residents help ensure that tree removal is done thoughtfully and in line with the city's commitment to environmental sustainability. For more information, including a link to the applicable forms, scan the QR code.



Avondale Estates Takes Bold Step Toward Regenerative Greenspace Management

The City of Avondale Estates has launched a groundbreaking partnership with Roots Down to elevate how the city's public green spaces are designed, maintained, and experienced.

This initiative reflects the City's deepening commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable growth, and community wellbeing.

roots
down

“This partnership marks a transformative step in how we approach greenspace management in our city,” said Public Works Director Marcel Jackson. “With shared values around ecological health, public engagement, and long-term impact, we believe Roots Down is the ideal partner to help us expand the vision and reach of our Greenspace Department.”

Over the next nine months, Roots Down will conduct a comprehensive audit of all city-managed green spaces, including medians, trails, gardens, and tree canopy, while also assessing current maintenance practices and contractor responsibilities. The team will develop a contractor oversight system, deliver targeted staff training, and implement a sustainable maintenance workflow to ensure long-term success.

In partnership with city staff, Roots Down will:

- ▶ Reimagine underused areas as pollinator-friendly, edible landscapes,
- ▶ Engage residents through workshops, youth programs, and hands-on education,
- ▶ Promote regenerative practices that enhance ecological and human health,
- ▶ Establish a replicable model for other small cities balancing beauty, function, and sustainability.

Roots Down brings a proven track record in regenerative landscaping and ecological consulting, having worked with municipalities and institutions, including a successful multi-year collaboration with DeKalb County to align public lands with climate and community goals.

“This isn't just about landscaping,” said Roots Down CEO Jamie Rosenthal. “It's about building systems that nurture people, pollinators, and the planet. We're proud to partner with Avondale Estates to officially launch the Roots Down Regenerative Framework—a city-scale model for transitioning public land care from extractive to regenerative.”

This partnership sets the stage for a greener, healthier, and more resilient Avondale Estates—one that leads by example in creating thriving, climate-positive public spaces.

So, What Is Regenerative Urban Landscaping?

Regenerative landscaping goes beyond traditional sustainability by actively restoring and revitalizing natural systems. It includes enriching soil with compost, capturing rainwater through natural systems instead of pipes, eliminating chemical inputs, and using electric-powered equipment to reduce fossil fuel use. It also creates layered habitats, with trees, shrubs and ground cover that support biodiversity. This forward-thinking approach not only aligns with environmental and social values but can also reduce long-term costs for cities.





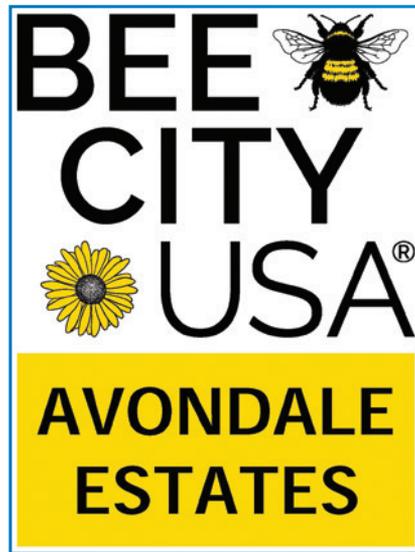
Bee a Citizen Scientist: Join the Southeast Pollinator Census

Let's count pollinators! The City of Avondale Estates, along with the Greenspace Advisory Committee, Avondale Estates Garden Club and the Avon Garden Club, invite the community to participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Count on the morning of Saturday, August 23. This project is designed for easy participation, enabling everyone to make a difference in pollinator conservation.

The census is designed for citizens of all ages in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, and Alabama. No need to be an entomologist to partake; the census asks for only basic insect identification in these categories:

- ▶ Bumble bees
- ▶ Carpenter bees
- ▶ Honeybees
- ▶ Small bees
- ▶ Wasps
- ▶ Flies
- ▶ Butterflies/Moths
- ▶ Other Insects

Volunteers will be available to help with identification. Get a head start by downloading the Insect Counting & Identification Guide at



gsepc.org/resources/. Last year, 210,036 insects were counted in Georgia by more than 13,000 counters.

Join the count!

- ▶ Download the printable Counting Sheet by scanning the QR Code
- ▶ Pick a favorite pollinator plant to monitor
- ▶ Count each insect that lands on the plant for 15 minutes
- ▶ Upload your count to GSePC.org

This annual event, started in 2017 by the University of Georgia, has grown to include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The project has three defined goals:



1. To create sustainable pollinator habitat by educating the public about plants that provide nutrition for pollinators while handling the South's summer droughts, diseases and pest insect pressure.
2. To increase the entomological literacy of citizens.
3. To generate useful data about pollinators, spot trends in pollinator populations, see how those populations are affected by weather, and identify how honeybees influence native bee populations.

“Bee” on the lookout for more information on locations and times in upcoming E-News and on social media.

Construction Updates in the City

College Avenue DeKalb Water Main Replacement

DeKalb County’s Department of Watershed Management (DWM) began construction in June on the College Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. Work will take place overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., Sunday through Friday (excluding holidays) through December 2025. This project is not expected to impact the city’s Complete Street Project timeline.

Crews will install 7,100 feet of new water pipe between Sam’s Crossing and Lakeshore Drive. Expect lane closures, increased noise, and traffic during work hours. Jackhammering and excessively noisy work will be performed before 11 p.m. on working nights per the city’s noise ordinance.

Customer Questions?

Please reach out to DeKalb County Watershed Management for any questions or more information:

- ▶ Project Information: 1-800-986-1108
- ▶ Email inquiries regarding the project and to sign up to receive regular updates can be sent to: projectinfo@dekalbcountyga.gov

The DeKalb County College Avenue Water Main Replacement Project website features notifications, a recording of the community meeting, a downloadable presentation, and will include any project updates as construction activity continues. Scan the QR code to visit the website.



DeKalb Watershed Emergency Contact

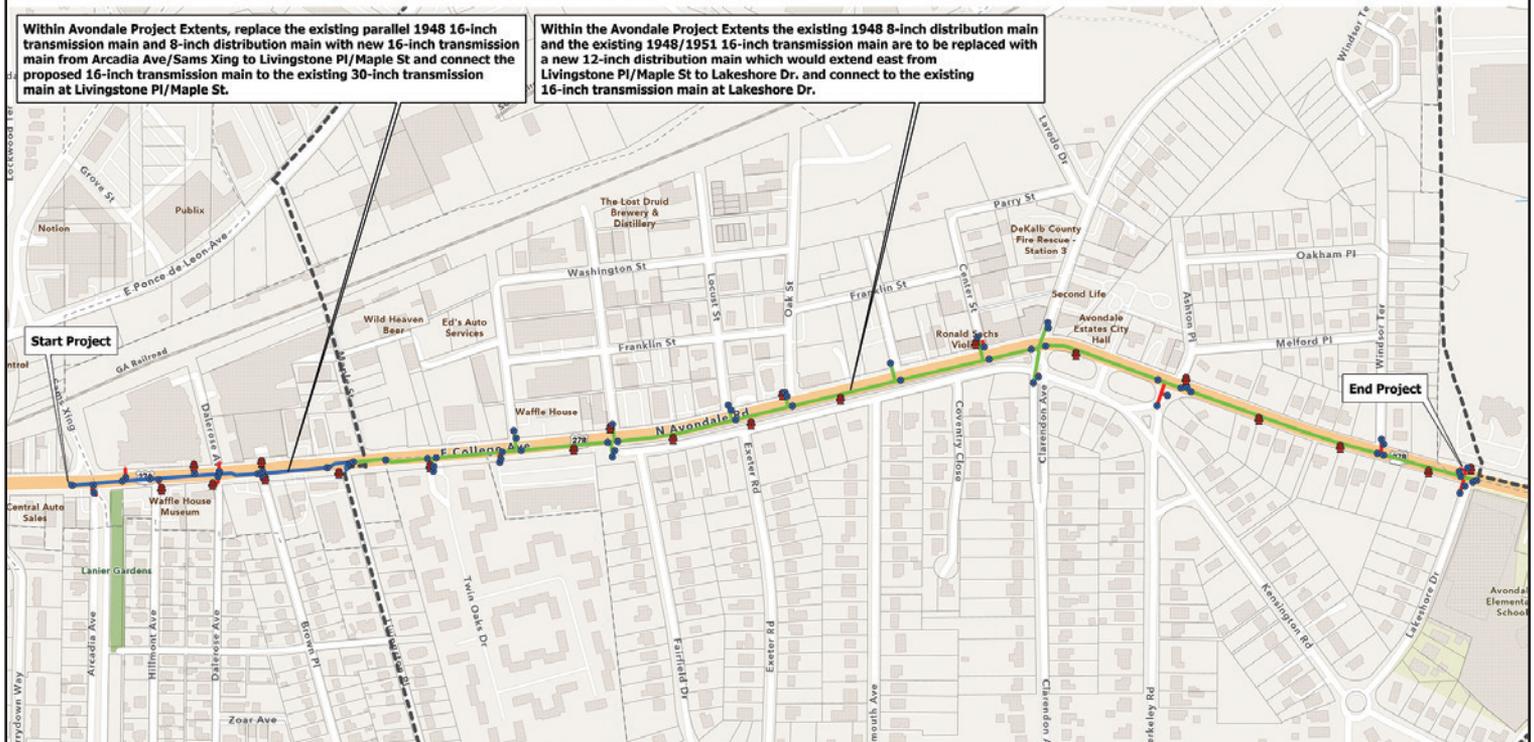
- ▶ 24-hour dispatch: 770-270-6243
- ▶ Email: dekalbwaterops@dekalbcountyga.gov

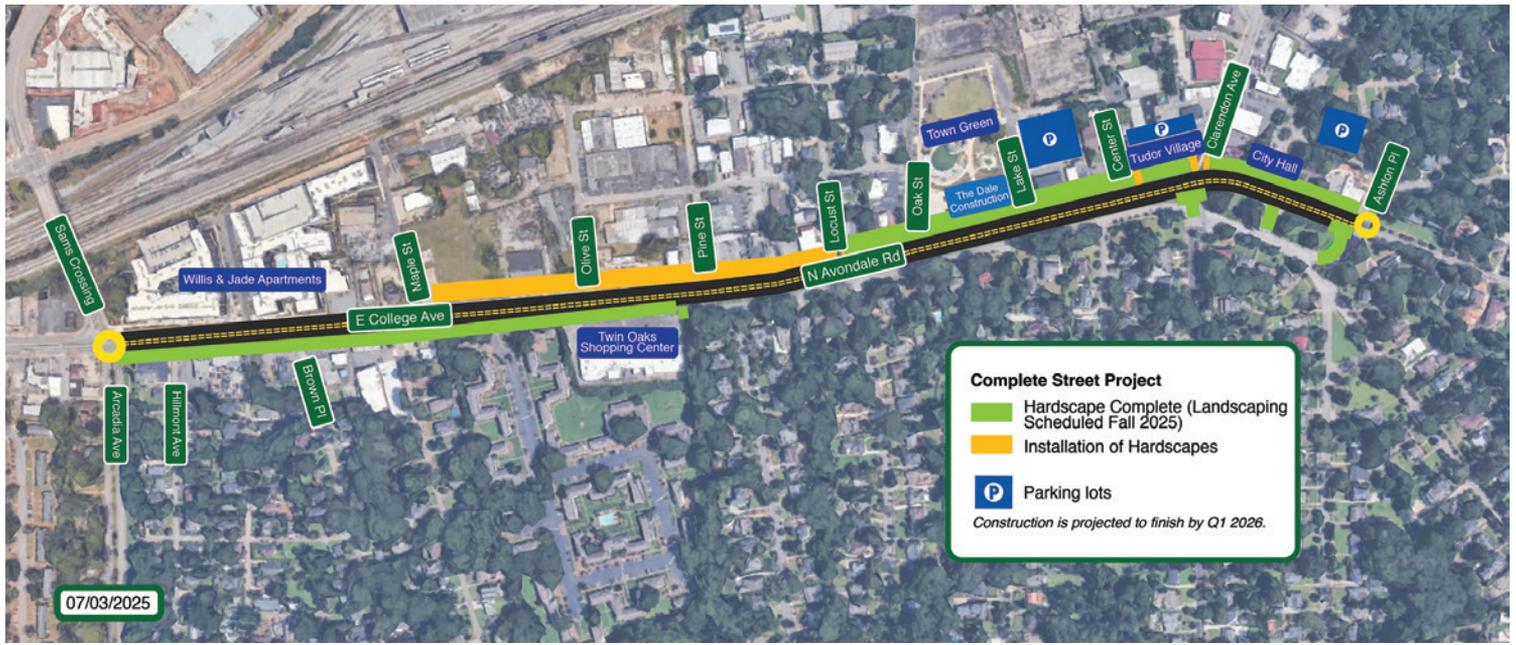
SR10 Water Main Replacement Avondale Only - 7,100 LF

- Proposed Diameters
- 8-inch Ductile Iron 700 LF
 - 12-inch Ductile Iron 5,200 LF
 - 16-inch Ductile Iron 1,200 LF
 - Proposed Hydrant Locations (20)
 - Proposed Valve Locations (66)
 - Existing Transmission Mains

Within Avondale Project Extents, replace the existing parallel 1948 16-inch transmission main and 8-inch distribution main with new 16-inch transmission main from Arcadia Ave/Sams Xing to Livingstone Pl/Maple St and connect the proposed 16-inch transmission main to the existing 30-inch transmission main at Livingstone Pl/Maple St.

Within the Avondale Project Extents the existing 1948 8-inch distribution main and the existing 1948/1951 16-inch transmission main are to be replaced with a new 12-inch distribution main which would extend east from Livingstone Pl/Maple St to Lakeshore Dr. and connect to the existing 16-inch transmission main at Lakeshore Dr.





Progress Continues on Complete Street Project

Significant progress has been made on the City of Avondale Estates’ Complete Street Project, with major infrastructure improvements between Ashton Place and Locust Street. Sidewalks, curbs, and paver installations in this section are largely finished, enhancing walkability and safety along U.S. 278.

Some areas remain temporarily filled with gravel and dirt where concrete will eventually be poured. These sections are awaiting components from contractors, such as lighting foundations, updated signal equipment and drainage modifications.

Hardscape work is steadily advancing westward along the north side of U.S. 278 toward Sams Crossing. Additionally, the DeKalb County Water Main Replacement Project is taking place during evening hours and is not expected to impact the timeline for the Complete Street Project.

The Complete Street Project is on track for completion in December. Once all hardscape and utility work is completed, the project will move into its final phase—landscaping—bringing a more pedestrian-friendly and visually appealing corridor to the heart of the city.



Stormwater Infrastructure Work Nears Completion at Wiltshire and Berkeley

DeKalb County’s stormwater infrastructure improvements at Wiltshire Drive and Berkeley Road are nearing completion. Major construction work in the area has been completed, and final landscaping and site restoration are expected to wrap up by the end of July.

Paving and stabilization of areas affected by construction are underway in early July to restore the site to its original condition. The pedestrian trail, which has been closed during the project, will reopen soon. Residents are encouraged to check the city’s weekly E-News for the latest updates on when the trail is open and safe for public use.

This project is part of DeKalb County’s \$2.4 billion capital improvement program, designed to increase the capacity, efficiency, and service life of the county’s watershed infrastructure. The improvements will support better stormwater management and long-term environmental health in the area.



City Receives Grant to Update Downtown Master Plan

The City of Avondale Estates is one of six metro Atlanta communities to receive a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The city was awarded \$160,000 to update its Downtown Master Plan, originally developed in 2014.

The LCI program helps communities become more walkable, bikeable and connected by supporting mixed-use development and reducing vehicle miles traveled.

The 2025 Downtown Master Plan update will build on the 2014 plan's success, incorporating recommendations from additional studies and policies adopted over the past decade. The plan will include an urban design framework outlining land uses, design standards and actionable steps for achieving the city's long-term goals.

"The city has really used the 2014 Master Plan as a roadmap for developing our downtown. Updating the 2014 plan is essential to advancing the city's revitalization efforts. Transforming downtown is key to balancing commercial development and improving residents' quality of life," said Mayor Jonathan Elmore.

The updated plan will focus on four key areas:

- ▶ A multimodal transportation network with pedestrian, bicycle and transit connections, as well as a downtown parking strategy;
- ▶ Housing strategies that build on recent momentum, ensuring more than 1,000 planned multifamily units are integrated into a walkable downtown and include both affordable and market-rate options;
- ▶ A sustainability plan focused on stormwater management, tree canopy expansion, energy conservation and recycling;
- ▶ A placemaking and public art plan developed with community input to create memorable experiences and guide future installations.

Public engagement will be central to the plan's development. Opportunities for input will include online surveys, a project website, stakeholder interviews, workshops and pop-up events.

"In the past decade, artist studios and locally owned businesses, like bakeries and restaurants, have grown in downtown, adding to the city's unique character. As development pressures increase, the city must explore strategies that continue to foster the growth of new businesses while supporting established businesses that have invested in our community. We look forward to discussing solutions to these challenges as part of the plan process," said Dave Deiters, chair of the Avondale Estates Downtown Development Authority.

The LCI program, now in its 26th year, awarded six grants in 2025 totaling \$1.04 million. Other recipients include Atlanta, Conyers, Kennesaw, DeKalb County and the Tucker-Northlake Community Improvement Districts.



Golf Cart Rodeo Brings Fun and Safety to Avondale Estates

The Avondale Estates Police Department hosted its first-ever Golf Cart Rodeo on Saturday, June 21, 2025, bringing residents together for a fun and informative event focused on golf cart safety and compliance.

The event welcomed families from across the city to enjoy a casual ride through a traffic cone course, register their carts, and enjoy Donato's Pizza. Approximately 20 golf carts were officially registered.

Children and adults alike participated in the festivities and left with a registered decal and a custom keychain for their golf cart keys—a small token of appreciation for helping keep city streets safe and vehicles up to code.

The event was designed to help residents learn about the city's street-legal requirements for golf carts and provide a simple, on-site way to complete the registration and inspection process.

Resident golf cart owners unable to attend should register directly with the Avondale Estates Police Department by visiting City Hall and completing a registration form and scheduling a brief inspection. Once approved, owners will receive an official city-issued decal.

City staff thank all who attended for helping make the day a success and for making safety part of the ride.

Millage Rate Unchanged for 2026

The Avondale Estates Board of Mayor and Commissioners voted June 25 to maintain the city's millage rate at 9.55 mills for the 2026 fiscal year. The decision keeps the rate steady, continuing the city's commitment to responsible financial planning while supporting essential services and community priorities.

The millage rate determines the amount of property tax residents pay per \$1,000 of assessed property value. By keeping the rate unchanged, the city aims to balance revenue needs with affordability for property owners.

Residents interested in learning more can view the city's "Millage Rate 101" presentation on the city's website by scanning the QR code.



Power Out? Water Issue? Here's Who to Contact for Utility Problems

To ensure that city service requests and utility concerns are properly addressed, please contact the correct provider when reporting issues:

Utility & Emergency Reporting

- ▶ **Power Outages:** Report outages to Georgia Power at 1-888-891-0938 or online via georgiapower.com. Assume all downed power lines are live and call 911 immediately.
- ▶ **Water or Sewer Issues:** Contact DeKalb County Watershed Management (DWM) at 770-270-6243 or by emailing dekalbwaterops@dekalbcountyga.gov. Once DWM provides a work order number, please submit it to the city online via the Stormwater and Street Concerns form (QR code). City staff will follow up with DeKalb County during their regularly scheduled meetings.
- ▶ **Natural Gas Leak, Odor, or Emergency:** Contact Atlanta Gas Light at 877-427-4321 (24 hours/day)
- ▶ **Police and all emergencies:** Always dial 911



Stormwater Form

City Service Requests

Public Service Work Requests: For missed yard waste collection, park maintenance, tree and shrubbery trimming, or hazardous street/sidewalk conditions, submit requests online via the Public Works Services Form (QR code), which ensures all requests are tracked and properly resolved. Please do not contact city staff by email or phone, as this may prevent efficient processing and resolution of the request. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Avondale Estates safe and well-maintained.



AE Public Works Form



City Honors Juneteenth with Storywalk®

Avondale Estates marked Juneteenth with a special StoryWalk® featuring the children’s book *Juneteenth for Mazie* by Floyd Cooper. Displayed along the Town Green event lawn path, The StoryWalk® invited families to celebrate and learn about the holiday through the eyes of young Mazie, who discovers the significance of freedom and the history of Juneteenth.

Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas were finally informed of their freedom—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Through vibrant illustrations and powerful storytelling, *Juneteenth for Mazie* offered an accessible and meaningful way for readers of all ages to reflect on this important moment in American history.



Commissioners Chat

Thanks to everyone who attended the June Commissioners Chat at City Hall with Commissioners Lisa Shortell and Graham Reiney. The commissioners appreciate those who took the time to engage in meaningful conversation, ask thoughtful questions, and share ideas that help shape the future of our community.

These informal gatherings provide a valuable opportunity for open dialogue between city officials and the public in a relaxed setting. By participating, residents help city leaders better understand community priorities, concerns, and aspirations.

The commissioners look forward to continuing these conversations and building stronger connections with the community. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to connect, collaborate and stay informed.

Pickleball Players Reminded to Return Equipment After Play

As the popularity of pickleball continues to grow in Avondale Estates, players are reminded to help maintain the courts and keep them enjoyable for all. One simple but important way to do this is by returning all pickleballs to their designated storage area after play.

Recently, pickleballs have been left scattered around the courts or have gone missing entirely. This not only creates extra work for staff but also makes it harder for others to enjoy the game.

By taking a moment to clean up and ensure equipment is properly stored, players contribute to a positive and respectful community experience. Thank you for helping keep our pickleball courts safe, clean and ready for play.



Center Street Now One-Way at South End Near Tudor Village

The south end of Center Street, where it intersects with U.S. 278/N. Avondale Road at Tudor Village, is now a one-way street with traffic flowing only in the northbound direction.

Recent construction in the area, including paving, curb work and sidewalk improvements, has been completed to support this change. Official “One Way” and “Do Not Enter” signs are now in place to guide traffic safely through the updated pattern.

Motorists are encouraged to plan accordingly and be mindful of the new traffic flow. The change is part of the city’s ongoing efforts to improve safety, enhance accessibility and support continued development in the downtown district.



Greenspace Committee Seeks Bench History

The Avondale Estates Greenspace Advisory Committee is seeking help from the community to learn more about several cast-iron and wood slat benches located throughout the city. The committee, which advises on furnishings in parks and public spaces and plans for memorials, is exploring whether any existing benches were originally installed as commemorative pieces.

Committee member Susie Deiters has volunteered to research the history of benches in areas such as Carl’s Corner, Wiltshire Drive near Dartmouth Avenue, Fairfield Plaza, Kingstone near Clarendon Avenue, and Fletcher Park.

Residents with information about when these benches were installed or whether they were placed as a memorial or in connection with a specific event are encouraged to reach out.

Email susan.deiters@gmail.com to help uncover the stories behind these familiar fixtures of Avondale Estates.

July 2025

calendar of events



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

2

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5

Independence Day,
City Hall Closed

Fourth of July Parade
+ Street Festival,
10 a.m.

6

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12

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
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

13

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

Historic Preservation
Commission,
6 p.m.

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

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

27

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31

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

August 2025

calendar of events



SUN

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

Historic Preservation
Commission,
6 p.m.

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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
Work Session
5:30 p.m.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

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

Planning,
Architecture and
Zoning Board
Meeting
6 p.m.

Great Southeast
Pollinator Count,
10 a.m.

24/31

25

26

27

28

29

30

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

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

Second Round of Microgrants Awarded to AE Businesses

The Avondale Estates Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has awarded its second round of microgrants, resulting in a total of \$44,000 of funding to be distributed to local Avondale Estates businesses this year. The microgrants were available to businesses that have been operating for at least six months and are ground-floor retail, food service, personal care, or pet care facilities.



In January, the DDA launched a microgrant program to provide \$24,000 of funding to brick-and-mortar business owners for business enhancements. This program provided up to \$2,000 per business to invest in physical improvements, equipment or marketing efforts. The microgrants were distributed on a rolling basis, and the DDA received more applications in the first round than they had available funding.

In March, the DDA voted to provide an additional \$20,000 in funding to the program for the second quarter of 2025. Round two of the popular microgrant program opened in early May and has since closed.

Businesses have requested funding for equipment upgrades, facade improvements, signs, repairs, website upgrades, social media campaigns and other marketing initiatives.

The DDA is currently working with the following 23 local businesses on microgrants:

- ▶ Anansi Cocktail Lounge
- ▶ Avon Theater
- ▶ The Book Bird
- ▶ Donatos Pizza
- ▶ Fiber Parts
- ▶ Galette
- ▶ Garage Door Studio
- ▶ Jax Package Store
- ▶ Leftie Lee's
- ▶ Little Cottage Brewery
- ▶ The Little Hippo
- ▶ Little Tree Art Studios
- ▶ Lost Druid Brewery & Distillery
- ▶ Methane Studios
- ▶ Olive & Pine
- ▶ Purple Corkscrew Wine Shop & Tasting Room
- ▶ Ronald Sachs Violins
- ▶ Santo Cantina & Cocina
- ▶ A Small Place Bookshop
- ▶ Spectrum Performance
- ▶ The Stratford Pub
- ▶ Village Music
- ▶ Wild Heaven Beer

Welcome New Businesses

Reformology Pilates

Reformology Pilates has officially opened its doors in Avondale Estates. This welcoming new studio offers a mindful, inclusive approach to movement. Whether you're a seasoned Pilates pro or just getting started. With a focus on thoughtful progression and honoring everybody's unique needs, Reformology is a fresh addition to the city's wellness scene.



2850 Franklin St Suite B, Avondale Estates
reformologypilates.com

Billy's Avondale

Billy's Avondale is the city's newest spot for bold, nostalgic flavor with a side of community spirit. This bespoke sandwich counter blends old-school taste with local pride, offering handcrafted bites that pay tribute to Avondale Estates' rich history. Whether you're a longtime neighbor or just passing through, swing by the window for a sandwich made with heart.



121 Center St, Avondale Estates
billysavondale.com

Enso Izakaya

A bold new addition to the Avondale dining scene, Enso Izakaya Yakitori & Bar brings the refined flavors of Japanese street food to life, one perfectly grilled skewer at a time. Helmed by Chef Ling Rong You, whose three decades of experience span some of New York's top kitchens, Enso is rooted in tradition, precision, and passion. Expect artfully crafted dishes grilled over authentic binchōtan charcoal, delivering deep flavor without the smoke. Whether you're a seasoned izakaya lover or just curious, Enzo invites you to slow down, sip, and savor something extraordinary.



6 Olive St Suite 105B, Avondale Estates
ensoatl.com



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Leftie Lee's to Be Featured on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*

Avondale Estates' own Leftie Lee's is making its national television debut on the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." The episode, titled "Sandwiches and Soul," airs Friday, July 25.

To celebrate, Leftie Lee's is hosting an official viewing party. Tickets are free but required to attend. To reserve a spot and join the celebration, sign up for the restaurant's newsletter at their website: leftieles.com

Don't miss the chance to support this local favorite as it takes the national spotlight.



My Parents' Basement Welcomes New Chef, Rian Tittle

Rian Tittle joined the team at My Parents' Basement in 2022 as a line cook after taking a much-needed break from a more than 20-year tenure at Brick Store Pub in Decatur. In May 2025, his creative drive returned in full force, and he now leads the kitchen at My Parents' Basement.

A self-motivated chef with experience working alongside several of Atlanta's top culinary talents, Tittle has built a strong reputation for crafting inventive Southern-style sandwiches, small plates and comfort-driven dishes. In May, the restaurant launched a refreshed menu that highlights his talent for creating approachable, flavor-forward food with a focus on sustainability.

The updated menu showcases house-made ingredients and creative takes on familiar classics, including a turkey sandwich served on house-baked focaccia and a fried bologna sandwich that reflects Tittle's knack for blending bold, nostalgic flavors with thoughtful preparation.

Stop into My Parents' Basement and try the new refreshed menu from Chef Tittle.



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Get to Know David Jordan

David Jordan serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church Decatur, though the church—and Jordan himself—don't always fit the typical image of Baptists. Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, Jordan was deeply influenced by his father's work as a pastor. He and his wife, Beth Jackson-Jordan, live on Fairfield Drive. They are the parents of three adult children and recently welcomed their first grandchild. Together, they share a commitment to faith (Beth recently retired as the Director of Spiritual Care at Emory Decatur Hospital System), community and compassionate service.

What led you to pursue a career as a pastor?

My father was a pastor, and I grew up watching him do hard, meaningful work in two very different communities. Both areas had inherent challenges, and I got to interact with and be mentored by a fascinating array of people.

I majored in history at Furman University. I struggled with “following in my father's footsteps” and thought I would forge my own career path (and maybe make more money). But during one Christmas break, I went with my dad to visit a church member in the hospital. He was seriously ill and emotionally struggling. I'll never forget the way his face lit up when my father walked in, like he suddenly realized he wasn't forgotten. It was a holy moment for me. I saw how my dad represented a caring, connected church community. That stayed with me.

I wanted to offer that same kind of compassion to others. I also began to realize that both my parents shared a deep concern for the larger societal issues of poverty, the environment, and racial justice. They and others with similar passions impacted me and my vocational development.



We love it here —our neighbors, the overall community, the small-town feel, the pool, the tennis courts, the parks, the growing sense of cool and walkability with all the new development going on...we feel very thankful to be a part of such a great place.

As a pastor of a Baptist church in the South, what are some things about you and the church that some people might be surprised to know?

First Baptist Decatur is unique in many ways. Though we are a Baptist church in the South, we are not part of the Southern Baptist denomination. We were kicked out of that organization years ago because the church chose a woman, Julie Pennington-Russell, to be the pastor. For some reason, Southern Baptists have a negative obsession with churches that support and ordain women in ministry (my wife also happens to be one!).

Our church has also long been involved in broader societal issues like racial justice and LGBTQ inclusion. We were kicked out of another local Baptist organization recently because our church ordained one of our deacons who is gay. Though Baptists have traditionally supported local church autonomy, this group of local Baptists felt we were too liberal.

Finally, First Baptist has more than its share of incredible people. We have an unusually large number of amazing musicians for a church our size. I'm fortunate to be surrounded by talented folks each week, where I can be part of worship filled with impressive music thanks to these generously gifted friends.

I went to seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where I met my wife, Beth, who was also preparing for ministry. We'll celebrate 40 years of marriage this January.

How did you first hear about Avondale Estates, and why did you choose to live here?

We moved to Avondale from Charlotte, N.C. The home prices were a good bit higher in metro Atlanta than we were accustomed to. Our real estate agent showed us a number of properties in Decatur and Avondale Estates. As soon as we experienced this neighborhood, with its proximity to both my work at First Baptist Decatur and Beth's office at Emory Decatur Hospital, we were sold.

Can you share any unique/funny/strange stories about your time as a minister?

In each congregation I've pastored, I've incorporated international educational travel into church life. I studied in Switzerland for a year, where I traveled extensively. It changed my perspective on the world, and I've wanted to share that opportunity.

The first trip I led was to Israel and Palestine in 1995. A member of our group and I stood together at the Western Wall at the foot of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It's a sacred space, filled with people like us wanting to touch the looming, ancient wall, say a prayer, and place a rolled-up note into the cracks of stones that were literally there when Jesus walked that same spot.

He and I looked at each other, sharing a quiet sense of holy ground. Right then, a pigeon flew overhead and dropped a giant, nasty bird dropping right on his forehead. It was horrible and running down all over his eyes and face. He turned to me and paused. Then we both

just started laughing, first in irony, then with unabashed hilarity.

That experience epitomizes the fascinating mysteries of life. Just when we think we've figured it out—just when things feel sacred or certain— weird stuff falls out of nowhere. Or, to put it another way: Shit happens.

What are you most proud of in your life?

My wife inspires me every day with her passion for people and the world. I'm especially proud she chose to share her life with me nearly four decades ago.

I'm also thankful to have remained in ministry all these years. Many of our peers have burned out or changed paths, but Beth and I have encouraged each other to keep going, even when we've felt inadequate for the challenges we've faced.

Despite all the division and hurt in the world, we've been sustained by mentors, each other, and kindred spirits we've found along the way. As I near the sunset of my career, I'm proud we're

still able to add value to our community and our world. We carry a multitude of rich memories and continue to create new ones.

What keeps you busy outside of your career?

I've always enjoyed gardening. Digging in the dirt and working with plants of various shapes, colors and textures is a great complement to ministry. As a pastor, change isn't always visible, and issues often come without quick solutions. In a garden, you can plan, experiment and adjust without conflict. Plants offer quiet feedback, and it's rewarding to refine your work and watch beauty grow.

I've done a fair amount of writing over the years—three books, a short story, poetry and articles for publications including the AJC.

I also enjoy tennis and play on the Avondale Estates Men's ALTA team. It's been a great way to make friends and connect with strong players.

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AE Public Works Teams Up with Gardeners for the Common Good

Avondale Estates Public Works and Gardeners for the Common Good teamed up recently to remove invasive vines from the city's signature abelia hedge. Planted by the Avondale Estates Garden Club in the early 1930s alongside the former streetcar line, the shrubs form a vital physical, visual and acoustic buffer between residential and commercial districts.

By clearing vines that compete for sunlight, the organizations aim to preserve the hedge's health and beauty for another century. This collaboration reflects a continued commitment to preserving Avondale Estates' historic landscapes while fostering community stewardship and ecological resilience.

Avondale Woman's Club Boosts Local Nonprofits through Fundraising

Thanks to the generous support of the Avondale Estates community, the Avondale Woman's Club provided meaningful assistance to four local organizations serving families in need.

Funds were raised through the sale of garden flags and pet bandanas, as well as attendance at a benefit concert featuring Andy Irwin. Proceeds supported the following nonprofits:

- ▶ **Atlanta Community Food Bank**, which fights hunger across the region
- ▶ **Hagar's House**, an emergency night shelter for homeless families with children
- ▶ **Children Read**, which restores and distributes books to pre-K children in under-resourced homes
- ▶ **Furnish With Love**, which furnishes homes for families transitioning out of homelessness

In addition to fundraising, members of the Avondale Woman's Club volunteered their time to these organizations, supporting their missions while upholding the club's commitment to sisterhood, service and lifelong learning.



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Avon Garden Club Garden of the Month



May: 18 Exeter Road, home of Donna and Eddie McHenry



June: 15 Berkeley Road, home of Pam Burton

Avondale Estates Garden Club Yard of the Month



May: 36 Berkeley Road, home of Michael and Peggy Pusateri



June: 11 Kingstone Road, home of Patricia and Anthony Calcagno



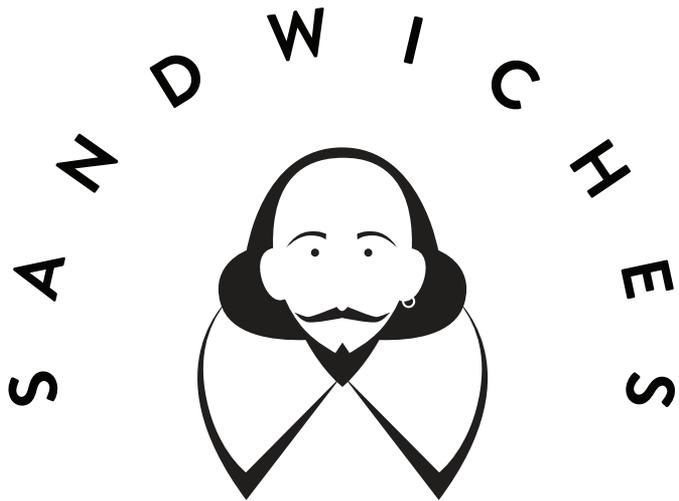
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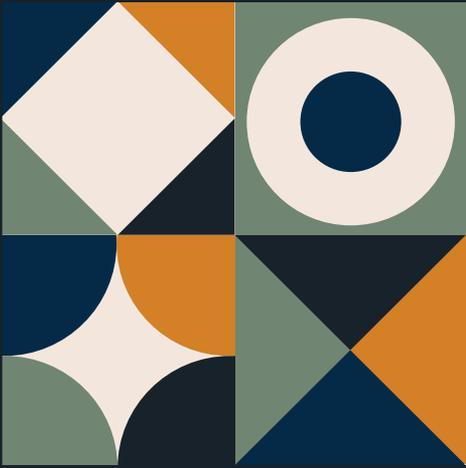
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