

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES · AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA
NEWSLETTER 387

July - August 2023

06

NORTH WOODS
PHASE TWO



10

NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT



13

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Board of Mayor & Commissioners

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Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Administration

Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Shannon Powell, Assistant City Manager
Kayla Green, Finance Officer
Gina Hill, City Clerk
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Brittany Marmol,
Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Tammy Martinez,
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Kristen Moretz, Capital Projects, Construction and
Maintenance Director
Ellen Powell, Creative,
Marketing and Communications Director
Marcella Shaw, Clerk of Court

Police Department

Harry Hess, Chief of Police
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: Dot Paul



Bike riders in the Patriotic Brigade high-five friends as they pass them in the Fourth of July Parade. See more pictures on pg. 12. Photo Credit: Dot Paul

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.



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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

Starting last fall, city staff and the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) began discussing the

city’s sanitation program and how it could evolve to meet the city’s current funding, staffing and equipment needs. The long and short of it is the current sanitation fee does not cover the costs of the sanitation program. Additionally, with added green space including the Town Green, the Public Works department’s responsibilities continue to expand. Throw on top of that aging equipment and potential increases in county fees, and it’s time to review the sanitation program to match the city’s resources. In this letter, I want to share some of the challenges we face and info on how you can stay up to date as the discussion continues.

Staffing Challenges

Last September employees of the Public Works department sanitation division spoke with the BOMC about their experience with the current sanitation program.

We heard stories that included:

- attacks by unleashed pets,
- exposure to vermin and roaches from unbagged waste,
- chronic pain developed from lifting and walking, and
- antagonistic and potentially demeaning interactions with residents.

In 2022, we had 420 days of unplanned sick leave taken in the Public Works department. We came to attribute many of these absences to physical injury and mental exhaustion from the practice of twice-weekly backdoor sanitation service.

In the Public Works program, we can forego green space activities, but we cannot forego picking up solid waste for many reasons – primarily health and safety.

When the sanitation division has unplanned sick leave, the green space crew must transition



over to the sanitation crew to ensure that the sanitation daily duties are performed.

Essentially, this results in green space services becoming impaired. If the green space activities are constantly impaired by the transition of green space employees to sanitation, then we can’t catch up unless we perform those activities after normal business hours.

All this to say, that as it stands now staffing is not sufficient to cover current sanitation services and greenspace tasks.

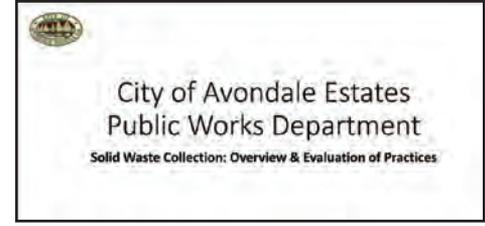
Aging Equipment

Our ability to perform both sanitation and green space activities is also impacted by aging vehicles and equipment. Most of the vehicle fleet within the sanitation division has aged well past its useful lifespan of seven years. The newest of the three garbage trucks we use is seven years old and needs replacing. Both leaf vacuum trucks are over 20 years old and the oldest was out for repairs throughout the leaf season causing the city to incur hundreds of hours of overtime. Due to the age of the fleet, those costs will continue to rise because many of those vehicles, like the leaf vacuum vehicles and two garbage trucks, are old and past their useful life.

Fees and Funding

The DeKalb County Commission has discussed a potential increase in the county’s tipping fees. A tipping fee is assessed to organizations that dump solid waste into the county landfill. Currently, tipping fees for the City of Avondale Estates are \$33 per ton.

The proposed increase of those tipping fees by the county is an additional \$62 per ton—from \$33 to \$95 per ton. If the increase is approved by the county, our current sanitation fee will not



be sufficient to cover the cost of the sanitation program.

It’s important to note that any increase in the county’s tipping fee will not occur this year but will be phased in over years to come.

The sanitation fee is already insufficient to cover the staffing needed to perform all the baseline departmental tasks. We need to create four additional full-time positions to cover all needed work. And the current sanitation fee is insufficient to replace the aging fleet.

Providing Options to Move Forward

With all this in mind, city staff provided the BOMC with three different options to consider –keeping services the same, moving to a once-a-week curbside pickup, or outsourcing sanitation services. I invite you to review the details of the three proposed options on the Sanitation: Solid Waste Collection Analysis project page which you can find



SANITATION
Scan QR Code to view the Solid Waste Collections Analysis project page.

under the Projects tab on the homepage of the city’s website or by scanning the QR code on this page. The project page contains a recording and pdf of the presentation provided to the BOMC outlining potential options along with recordings from other BOMC meetings and an informative Q&A section.

Avondale Estates has always been known for its impeccable services, and we intend to keep it that way. The city and staff take pride in the sanitation program and the work our Public Works staff perform to keep Avondale Estates clean, beautiful and operating at its best. We look forward to continuing the conversation on how to best utilize the city’s resources.



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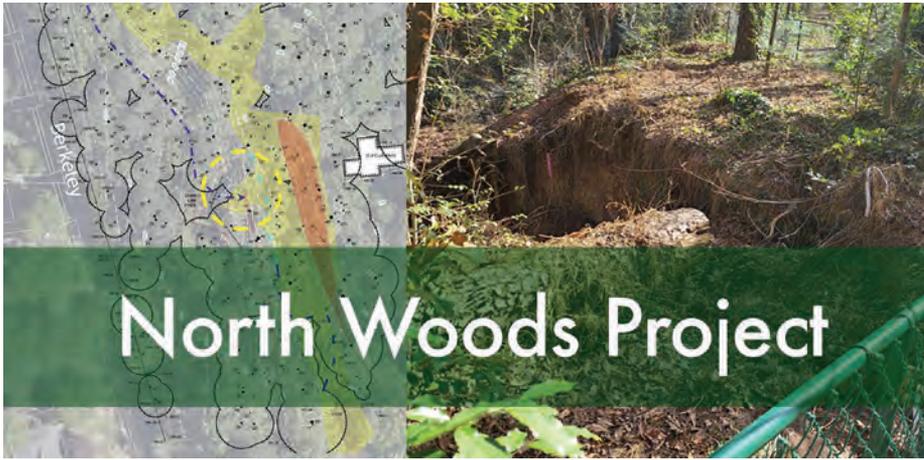
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What Benefits Do Rain Gardens Provide?



Rain gardens are unique landscape features that play a key role in decreasing the intensity of stormwater flows which safeguards stream banks against erosion and minimizes the risk of local floods. These rain gardens will improve the water quality in Cobbs Creek and Lake Avondale by eliminating contaminants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, heavy metals and other chemicals.

North Woods Stormwater Project Begins Second Phase

After years of planning and preparation, the second phase of the North Woods Project has begun. A major stormwater project for the city, phase two includes the creation of three rain gardens that will filter pollutants and improve the water quality in Cobbs Creek and Lake Avondale. In addition, an ADA-accessible slate nature trail will provide access into the North Woods while preventing damage to the headwaters of Cobbs Creek.

The project is funded in part by a grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Land, Water, and Conservation Fund. Additionally, city staff were able to get the Environmental Protection Division to expand the grant from the original \$200K to \$389K to cover the increase in construction cost.

Nature Trail in the North Woods

The nature trail will bring both aesthetic appeal and functionality to the North Woods. The ADA-accessible trail will be consistent with the historic elements around Lake Avondale. The addition of an ADA-accessible trail promotes inclusivity and equal access offering visitors of all abilities the opportunity to connect with nature.

The current self-made trail threatens the stability of the headwaters of Cobbs Creek while causing erosion of the stream bank. By diverting foot traffic onto the new slate path, the eroded stream bank can be repaired, and the natural flow of water will be restored reducing further erosion and disturbance to the lake's natural ecosystem.

North Wood's Sustainable Design

The overall goal for the North Woods was to design the project with the least impact on the natural environment while still addressing the stormwater problems. The engineering and design consultant team for the project completed topographic and wetland surveys of the North Woods to inform the design



decisions including placement of trails and green infrastructure facilities to slow and filter stormwater before it enters Lake Avondale.

The studies also included an extensive tree survey. Each tree was assessed by multiple arborists and many of the trees taken down were identified as diseased or in poor health. Some of the downed trees will be repurposed in the construction of the rain gardens and as bird habitat, and 28 new trees will be planted. Reusing trees helps reduce both the environmental impact and material costs associated with the project.

Additionally, when the rain gardens are installed, more than nine hundred native trees, shrubs and perennials will be added to the North Woods improving the ecosystem's vitality. Through strategic planting of native vegetation, the rain gardens will contribute to the overall health of Lake Avondale and the plants will provide food, shelter and habitat for the existing wildlife year-round.

Safety Reminder

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, please stay out of the North Woods as it is an active construction site. The path around the lake remains open for everyone to enjoy.

Please treat the construction team and city staff with respect as they work on this key stormwater project for the city.

If you would like to assist with the rain garden planting, please email Kristin Moretz at kmoretz@avondalestates.org. Updates on volunteer opportunities will be posted in the E-News in August.

Visit the North Woods projects page to stay up to date on the project's progress and review the latest maps. www.avondalestates.org/2463/6708/North-Woods-Project



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Doors Open for Innovative Businesses Across the City

With new farmers markets, independent bookstores, children’s activities and cocktail lounges, the first half of 2023 has experienced a wealth of businesses opening their doors in Avondale Estates. The downtown commercial district is evolving into a hub where residents and visitors can explore new flavors, discover hidden talents and connect with others. From innovative culinary ventures to enriching experiences, check out a few of the new establishments in the city.

Olive & Pine



After much anticipation, **Olive & Pine** is bustling with activity. An adaptive reuse of the 1950s Mann Mechanical Building in the heart of the Rail Arts District, this 25,000-square-foot property is home to several retail and service businesses. The project is a joint venture between Tin Drum Asian Kitchen founder and architect Steven Chan and partners Andy Rutledge and Danny England of **Office of Design** architecture firm. Rutledge and England have relocated Office of Design into the new space and restaurateur Chan brings his experience to the businesses within the complex.



Run by highly acclaimed Chef Vivian Lee, **Leftie Lee’s** sandwich shop and bakery offers a variety of globally inspired handcrafted sandwiches and fresh baked goods. Visitors can grab self-serve pastries at the front counter or order sandwiches to go. Weekends offer a different brunch menu. On nights when the sandwich shop isn’t open, Lee plans to open her space as a pop-up incubator to allow chefs and food innovators to grow their businesses. Open Wednesday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Wonderful World Coffee and Tea serves a variety of artisanal coffee, organic teas, refreshing fizz and crafted boba teas in an eclectic, welcoming space designed to be a comfortable gathering spot for the community. Furniture found in the building was repurposed for the space, and visitors will find plants and the owner’s personal book collection acquired from his travels around the world. Open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Friday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Olive & Pine offers Avondale’s younger residents two new places to get creative and play. **Mister John’s Music**, a boutique music school started in Philadelphia, opened in February. Strollers can be seen lined up outside their door for their popular interactive early childhood music classes. Additionally, they offer instrument, choir, performance skills, music theory and composing exercises classes to children and adults. When it’s time to get moving, **The Little Gym** offers a space for children to try new things and build confidence in gymnastics-based classes and camps for children four months to 12 years old.





In April **Akasa Salon** opened its third Atlanta location in Olive & Pine. This hair boutique offers hair care services and locally sourced products from sought-after brands. Appointments are accepted online.

Around the City

For an adult evening, get cozy in the **Anansi Cocktail Lounge** in the retail row at The Willis next to Sam's Crossing on E. College. This upscale lounge offers a variety of tailored craft cocktail creations in a lowkey intimate space. Open Monday - Wednesday from 6 p.m. - midnight and Thursday - Saturday from 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.



Coffee, cocktails and books – the perfect combo has found a home at **The Book Bird** nestled in the **Banjo Lounge**. This independent pop-up bookstore came from a collaboration between Banjo CEO Chasidy Atchison and bookshop owner Brittany Smith, both city residents. Located behind City Dog Market on Locust St. across from Banjo Coffee, the small bookstore opens out onto an outdoor picnic and nighttime space. The indoor/outdoor lounge hosts author events, live bands, karaoke, pop-up foods vendors, craft cocktails and other fun activities on weekends. Open Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 - 10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



On the east side of the city at the corner of Covington Highway and Memorial Drive, **Common Roots Farmers Market** opened in April bringing fresh produce, grab-n-go meals, premium meats and unique Georgia products to

the city. Fifth-generation produce operator Brock Nix features produce and products from local farms and vendors at this neighborhood market. Guests can enjoy outdoor seating, a large assortment of plants and seasonal selections like Christmas trees and pumpkins. Open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.





POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Save the Date: National Night Out

August 1 at the Town Green

Join the Avondale Estates Police Department at the Town Green on Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 6-8 p.m. to kick off the start of a new school year with food, games and fun. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Stay tuned for more details.



Welcome Tammy Martinez

The city welcomes Tammy Martinez, the newest member of the Marketing and Communications team, who joins city staff as a marketing and communications coordinator. She is a multi-faceted communications professional with more than seven years of experience in the public and private sectors. She comes to the city from the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department where she managed public and media relations, produced and created long and short-form video content, and supported outreach events. Prior to that role, she managed communications focusing on racial equity, poverty and homelessness, behavioral health, substance use disorder, and health care with the Mosaic Group, a public relations and marketing agency, and with the Office of Community and Volunteer Engagement at the Palm Beach County Community Services Department.

As a public relations professional, Martinez believes communication plays a critical role in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and social justice (DEIA/JEDI), and she continuously seeks ways to approach integrated marketing communications through a DEIA/JEDI lens.

She holds a Master of Arts in Public Relations from Full Sail University and a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Public Relations from Ashford University. She completed the Racial Equity Institute training workshop and recently obtained the National Parks and Recreation Association's (NRPAs) Equity in Practice certificate. Martinez is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Inc., NRPAs DEI and JEDI committees.



BOMC Votes to Reduce the Millage Rate

The Board of Mayor and Commissioners unanimously voted Thursday, June 29 to approve a 0.25 mills reduction to the millage rate resulting in a new millage rate of 9.55 mills.

Thanks to all who provided their input in the public hearings leading up to the vote.

Join the Decatur Avondale Children's Choir

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LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE TOWN GREEN!



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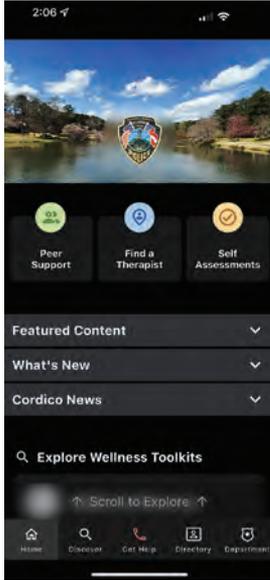
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Police Department Provides Wellness App to Personnel

The City of Avondale Estates Police Department (AEPD) has partnered with Cordico, a leader in public safety wellness technology, to provide a customized, confidential wellness app for AEPD personnel and their families to proactively address mental health challenges that often affect law enforcement officers.



The wellness app provides contact information for local resources that specialize in and have experience working with first responders connecting its users with the Georgia Office of Public Safety Support peer support team. In addition, the app includes a wellness toolkit addressing 60 behavioral health topics such as fatigue, suicide prevention and alcohol abuse, mental health self-assessments, and videos and guides on yoga, mindfulness, nutrition and more. Personnel and their family members will have confidential, 24/7 access to the app to ensure they have the resources they need in their most difficult moments—on or off duty.

Law enforcement officers are exposed to traumatic incidents at much higher rates than the general population, making them more susceptible to mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, anxiety and suicide.

“Mental and physical wellness is critical to a professional, successful police force. The Avondale Estates Police Department is proud to adopt the Cordico Wellness App and prioritize the health and wellbeing of our personnel, their families and the community,” says chief Harry Hess. “We want to be on the forefront of changing public safety culture when it comes to mental health and wellness, and leveraging this technology helps us do so in a way that works for our department.”

The AEPD joins hundreds of agencies and organizations nationwide served by Cordico, using this technology to help personnel build resilience and avoid the negative long-term effects of high job-related stress.

Chief Hess Elected Vice President of DeKalb County Chief’s Association

Police Chief Harry Hess was selected as the vice president of the DeKalb County Chief’s Association (DCCA) on Wednesday, June 14.

“A motion was presented to fill this vacancy for the association, and I was honored to be voted in,” explained Chief Hess.

The association is comprised of administrative heads of DeKalb law enforcement agencies, including the offices of the Sheriff, District Attorney and Solicitor General, DeKalb police, and city and university or college police agencies. The association was founded to promote professional and safety standards for law enforcement and to better serve the community. DCCA promotes professional development with its members and the law enforcement officers serving under the chiefs of the various jurisdictions throughout DeKalb County.

Next year, Chief Hess will move into the role of president of the association.



Photo Credit: Dean Hesse of Decaturish



Stay Up to Date on Sanitation Discussion

As discussed in the Letter for the City Manager on page 4, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners and city staff are reviewing options for the future structure and funding of the city’s sanitation service. Presentations and recordings from Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) meetings relating to the topic are available on the Sanitation Analysis Projects page. View a video of the updated presentation provided to the BOMC at their Work Meeting on April 26, 2023, along with other items on the page. Scan the QR code to review information on the projects page or visit www.avondaleestates.org/2489/Sanitation-Solid-Waste-Collection-Analysis.



SANITATION

Scan QR Code to view the Solid Waste Collections Analysis project page.



Let's Make It a Three-peat

For the third year in a row, Avondale Estates is up for the title of Best Small Town Beer Scene in America through USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards.

Help the city defend its title against 19 American towns, each with a population of less than 30,000, which were chosen by a panel of beer experts as having some of the best beer scenes in the nation. The top 10 winners, determined by popular vote, will be announced on Friday, Aug. 4.



VOTE DAILY

VOTE DAILY through Monday, July 24 at noon at www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-small-town-beer-scene-2023/avondale-estates-georgia/

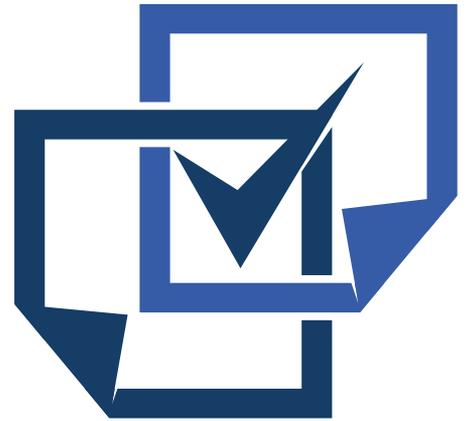


Upcoming Election and Candidate Info

Though it's still summer, it's never too early to prepare for fall elections.

Running for Office

Residents interested in becoming a candidate for city offices must submit a completed qualifications packet to the city clerk between August 21-24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall. Qualifying fees are \$144 for commissioners and \$216 for mayoral candidates. Qualification packets will be available in early August.



Key Election Dates

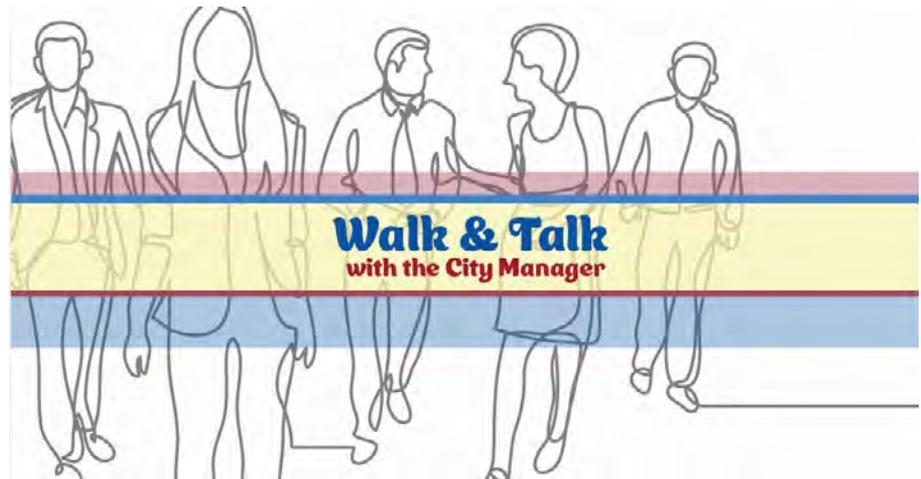
Aug. 21: First day to request an absentee ballot

Oct. 10: Last day to register/update registration for November 7 election

Oct. 16: Advance voting begins at 4380 Memorial Drive between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Nov. 3: Advance voting ends

Nov. 7: Election Day voting at City Hall between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Talk with the City Manager July 25

Community members are invited to join City Manager Patrick Bryant and Creative, Marketing and Communications Director Ellen Powell for an informal conversation to discuss the city's communications efforts in this month's Walk and Talk with the City Manager.

Meet at Olive & Pine near Wonderful World Coffee & Tea. Residents are welcome to discuss whatever topics interest them.

Reminder About Golf Cart Regulations

Check out these quick reminders of the rules and regulations for operating and riding in motorized carts, personal transportation, low-speed and similar vehicles including golf carts within Avondale Estates. Let's keep drivers, passengers, other motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians safe.

- Golf carts are classified as "Slow-Moving Vehicles" by Georgia Law and cannot operate on any roadway with a speed limit higher than 30 mph.
- Motorized carts may not cross U.S. 278 (East College/N. Avondale/Covington Highway) or any other street, road or highway which is part of the state highway system.
- Motorized carts may not be operated or parked on sidewalks, in parks, playgrounds, on greenspaces, in city right-of-way (except for public streets) or front yards.
- Owners must maintain an unobstructed view from the driver's seat to the rear while operating on public roads.
- The maximum occupancy of motorized carts traveling on public roads is one (1) person per designated seat. The number of occupants in a vehicle shall be limited to the number factory seats installed.
- All operators of motorized carts shall follow all traffic regulations when using the public roads.
- No all-terrain vehicles shall be permitted to operate on any public roads, sidewalks, rights-of-way or other public property of the city.
- Blocking public access to any public road, sidewalk, rights-of-way or other public property of the city is prohibited.
- Operators and passengers shall always remain seated during the operation of the vehicle. No body parts of any person in the vehicle shall extend outside the vehicle's perimeter while it is being operated.
- Racing in any form is prohibited.
- Reckless or aggressive driving, or loitering is prohibited.
- All laws and ordinances relative to alcohol and its use, including open container laws which apply to traffic on the streets in the city, shall apply to drivers and occupants of motorized carts, personal transportation vehicles and low-speed vehicles.
- No driver may operate a vehicle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines of rows of vehicles.
- The vehicle's owner or operator must keep proof of the required minimum insurance coverage in the vehicle during its operation as required by state law.
- Drivers of low-speed vehicles including golf carts must have a valid driver's license, instructional/learner's permit, or a provisional license and must follow the rules and restrictions associated with that permit. Licenses must be valid and not suspended.



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July 2023

calendar of events

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

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

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Fourth of July - City
Hall Closed; Parade
10 a.m., Fireworks
Festivities 6-10 p.m.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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

Historic Preservation
Commission Meeting
6 p.m.

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

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

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

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

23/30

24/31

25

26

27

28

29

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

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

Walk & Talk with the
City Manager

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

August 2023

calendar of events



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

National Night Out

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

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

Historic Preservation
Commission Meeting
6 p.m.

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

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
5:30 p.m.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

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

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

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

Planning,
Architecture and
Zoning Board
6 p.m.

Board of Mayor and
Commissioners
5:30 p.m.

27

28

29

30

31

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

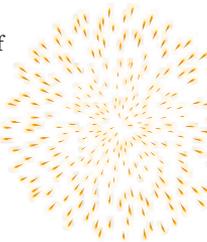
Walk & Talk with the
City Manager

Rain Can't Dampen Fourth of July Parade

Photo credit: Dot Paul

Despite the weather, the Fourth of July parade kicked off a festive Independence Day in Avondale Estates. The Stone Mountain High School NJROTC and BSA Troop 6 lead the parade followed by Mayor Jonathan Elmore and the Wasted Potential Brass Band. New this year, the Patriotic Brigade made up of community members with decorated bikes, wagons and strollers rolled next. Residents lining the streets saw Ghost Busters, Star Wars characters, Lightning McQueen, Irish dancers, baton twirlers, stilt walkers, bagpipers, festive golf carts and more. A big shout out to our local businesses Banjo Coffee, Village Music, The Stratford Pub, Swinks Tattoo Emporium, and Avondale Elementary School for their creative entries. The city's Public Works and police vehicles wrapped up the parade along with the Seed & Feed Marching Abominables.

Thanks to all the residents and community members who braved the weather to participate in the parade. A special shout out to the Avondale Woman's Club for volunteering to hand out water donated by The Coca-Cola Company to participants at the end of the parade.







Avondale Estates' WEEKEND WIND DOWN CONCERT SERIES
at the **TOWN GREEN**
Second Sundays in
September, October & November

Sept. 10 - COT Band
Oct. 8 - Gurufish
Nov. 12 - Funk Cake

Concerts Return with Cooler Weather

The Weekend Wind Down concert series returns to the Town Green this fall on the second Sundays of September, October and November. The events are free to the public and food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Fall Concerts:

Sunday, Sept. 10: 5-8 p.m.

COT Band, Atlanta's favorite Latin band with a musical fusion of Caribbean Rhythms with elements of funk, pop and Brazilian beats, will kick off Hispanic Heritage Month.

Sunday, Oct. 8: 5-8 p.m.

Gurufish will bring a high-octane show, fueled by irresistible melodies wrapped around hypnotic, gritty, funky grooves.

Sunday, Nov. 12: 5-8 p.m.

Funk Cake brings the New Orleans brass to Avondale Estates and will keep folks dancing with their pop and groove. It's all about the HORNS, baby!

Music will begin an hour after the events' start times.

Parking is available on streets in the downtown district unless otherwise marked. Public parking lots are located off Lake St. and at City Hall. Please respect the city's businesses and do not park in their parking lots during business hours.

Strike a Pose on the Town Green

September 19 and October 17 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Yogis turned out for the spring yoga sessions provided by **Anurati Yoga Studio** at the Town Green. May saw over 50 participants and in June, 30 people came to practice even in the heat – talk about some hot yoga.

Classes will resume this fall when the weather has cooled down. Come practice for free on the lawn in front of the Town Green stage on the third Tuesday of September and October. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. No experience is necessary. Classes will be accessible to all levels. A November date is still being determined.

Yoga on the Town Green is possible with generous sponsorship from **The Homegrown Team Bolst**.

Dana Hernandez, owner of Anurati Yoga Studio, leads attendees in yoga on the Town Green in May.

Photo credit: Anurati Yoga Studio





Avondale Estates Art Guild Exhibits at DeKalb County Library

In April and May 2023, the Avondale Estates Art Guild presented its first exhibit at the DeKalb County Tucker-Reid Cofer Library located in Tucker, Georgia. Seventeen members submitted artwork including acrylic, oil, watercolor, pastel, photography, collage and textile entries, and 41 pieces were included in the exhibit.

Many guild members played key roles in the execution and planning of the exhibit. Arthur Ratliff was instrumental in guiding the group. Martha McDermott and Linda Coatsworth cataloged items, and Rebekah Berger prepared identification labels for the art.

“We considered it an honor to be able to display our works. Artists at all levels, from beginner to professional were able to participate,” said Martha McDermott, guild president. “This was a learning experience. Our next exhibit will be easier.”

Exhibit reviews were positive, and many Avondale residents enjoyed seeing their friends’ and neighbors’ works.

Avondale Estates Art Guild is a community-based organization established to nurture and support local artists at all skill levels.



SAVE THE DATE

**AVONDALE
ALE DAY**

OCT. 21



(Pictured from left to right) Scouts Catherine Dederick, Ezri Bluth, Lila Becker, Miriam Bailey and Allison Bombardier of Scout BSA Troop 4475 joined Avondale Estates Garden Club members including President Patricia Calcagno and member Linda Corbetto to spread mulch in the Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School.

All-Girl Scout Troop Partners with Garden Club

On May 6, the all-girl Scout Troop 4775, completed their first service project assisting the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) by spreading mulch in the Totem Garden at Avondale Elementary School.

“When one of our board members suggested the partnership, we were thrilled,” said Avondale Estates Garden Club president Patricia Calcagno. “The girls made quick work of spreading mulch at the Totem Garden that we maintain at Avondale Elementary School. They are enthusiastic about working with us in the future.”

The troop plans to assist the AEGC with upcoming projects such as the club’s Tree Walk on October 28 and next year’s plant sale in April. In return, the scouts will learn about gardening from club members.

Troop 4475 will host an open house on August 16 at 7:15 p.m. at the Scout Hut behind First Baptist Church at 308 Clairemont Ave., Decatur. Assistant Patrol Leader Allison Bombardier (12) of Avondale Estates invites interested girls to attend. “I’ve loved learning scouting skills like camping and cooking outside, and I’m working hard to get to the rank of Eagle,” said Bombardier.

In 2017 Boys Scouts of America opened membership to girls under the name Scouts BSA. All-girl troops share space and equipment with a troop of boys and proceed through all the levels of scouting, up to and including the rank of Eagle. Troop 4475 is partnered with the all-boys Troop 134.

For more information about Troop 4475, contact Carroll McKoy Knabe at scoutmaster4475@gmail.com or 404-213-8371.



Violet Webb, Allison Bombardier, Heather Rudich and Lila Becker from Scout (BSA) Troop 4475 placed American flags on the graves of military veterans in Decatur Cemetery the week before Veterans Day.

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Avon Garden Club Garden of the Month



May: 37 Berkeley Rd., home of Anne Kerner



June: 26 Berkeley Rd., home of Libby and Rob Morris

Avondale Estates Garden Club Yard of the Month



May: 7 Fairfield Drive, home of George and Melitta Brandt



June: 33 Kensington Road, home of Leslie Adcock





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