



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES · AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA
NEWSLETTER 389

November - December 2023

06

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATTERS



14

FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY



24

HOLIDAY EVENTS



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Cover photo: Dot Paul



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Check out holiday events inside. See pg. 22

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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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

In September, I celebrated my fifth anniversary as the city manager for Avondale Estates – a milestone

for me professionally. I love this community. It is similar to the ones I grew up in which allows me to identify with the people that live and work here.

I came to Avondale Estates because I believe in the agenda that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) has set. They have remained steadfast in their commitment to protecting the city's historic character, enhancing the city's greenspace and tree coverage, prioritizing stormwater management, and building out the downtown based on smart-growth principles. Their goals are worthwhile and obtainable, and I want to be a part of this effort and do my part to bring the vision to fruition.

Building a Great Team

We've made significant progress over the past several years. Our success is the result of many factors including our informed elected leaders, an engaged community, talented staff and a strong financial position.

Of course, I cannot carry out the BOMC's agenda alone. I have an incredibly capable, experienced staff who believe in the BOMC's vision. The team's passion helps us achieve the city's goals and tackle big projects. By investing in staff, we ensure that we have the right people in the right positions equipped with the necessary resources to excel.

Strong Financial Position

Our strong financial position is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team. We have achieved positive results across all fiscal metrics, and I'm excited to share that the city recently received bond ratings of Aa1 from Moody's and AA+ from Standard & Poor's. These ratings put us among the highest-rated cities our size in the United States and signify that the city is financially sound and has adequate revenues and cash reserves to pay its debts.

A Focus on Improvements

The city has also seen significant progress in capital projects resulting in stormwater and transportation improvements, new green spaces and downtown development. While some of the work may not be sexy, it is critically important to the well-being of the city.

We have implemented policies and invested in stormwater infrastructure repairs and green infrastructure. Our decisions are based on in-depth analysis that prioritizes the most critical needs within the city and solves problems in the most effective and cost-efficient way. Additionally, we have introduced green infrastructure which uses natural elements to better manage water without relying on expensive pipes.



A Vibrant Downtown

The decision to design and build a new Town Green in our downtown area was a bold move and a strategic smart-growth investment that has paid off. The Town Green has not only provided an additional amenity to the downtown and a place for the community to come together, but it has also catalyzed economic growth in the area. Since the Town Green's announcement, downtown property values have risen, and the amount of commercial property tax collected has increased. Many of our old industrial buildings

have been renovated, and we have seen an influx of breweries, artists' studios and other entrepreneurial businesses moving in.

The success of the Town Green has also led to new development projects in the pipeline, and we expect the downtown landscape to transform in the next five years. This is an exciting time for our community, and we are pleased to see the positive impact that Town Green has had on Avondale Estates.

Creating Safe Connections

The N. Avondale Complete Street Project is also an important capital project on the horizon. For too long this corridor has been a disconnect, but this project will reconnect our neighborhoods to the downtown area. With the help of federal and state grants, we will add a multi-use path, decorative streetlights, tree-lined buffers and landscaped medians, and parallel parking between Ashton Place and Sams Crossing. As a strategic investment in our community's future, the addition of these amenities will create a more walkable and bikeable neighborhood and improve the aesthetic appeal. The corridor will become safer and more accessible to residents, visitors and businesses alike, enhancing the quality of life for everyone.

We are committed to continuing to invest in the downtown area and promote smart-growth principles that will attract new businesses, residents and visitors. There are many other capital projects and private investments still to come.

Committed Leaders

The success the city has achieved can be heavily attributed to the leadership and continuity of the BOMC and the Downtown Development Authority members, many of whom have been in their roles since I arrived. Their long-term commitment is a significant factor in driving the transformative change we have seen in Avondale Estates. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this group of leaders and excited to tackle new goals for the future. By working together, we are creating a vibrant and thriving community that will be the envy of other cities.



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Historic Preservation Matters

Local Historic District Designation and National Recognition

Avondale Estates is one of the few early twentieth-century garden cities planned in the southeastern United States that remains intact. The Avondale Estates Historic District received national recognition with its listing in the National Register of Historic Places in December 1986.

National Register status increases community recognition and allows historic property owners to participate in federal/state tax incentive programs. However, National Register status does not protect from demolition, neglect or insensitive alterations or additions. These issues can only be addressed at the local level.

In late 1990, concern regarding the future integrity of the historic core of Avondale Estates led to the adoption of the Avondale Estates Historic Preservation Ordinance and the designation of a local historic district that expanded beyond the boundaries of the National Register to include areas that were built out based on the historic plan for Avondale Estates.

The Local Historic District was established to:

- provide for the preservation and protection of the district through the design review process,
- highlight community heritage and protect the unique historic, cultural, and aesthetic character of the community, and
- guide change and development within the designated district, including both historic and non-historic properties.

Every property within the boundaries of this district must go through a design review process before exterior alterations or additions occur whether designated as “preservation” or “compatible.” The design review is based on the city’s Historic District Guidelines.

Historic Preservation Commission

The role of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is to ensure the guidelines are followed within the historic district. The five volunteer members are appointed by the Board of the Mayor and Commissioners and have expertise in history, architecture, landscape architecture, planning or other historic preservation disciplines. It is the responsibility of homeowners, their architects and contractors to work within the framework of the Historic District Guidelines.

The HPC is responsible for:

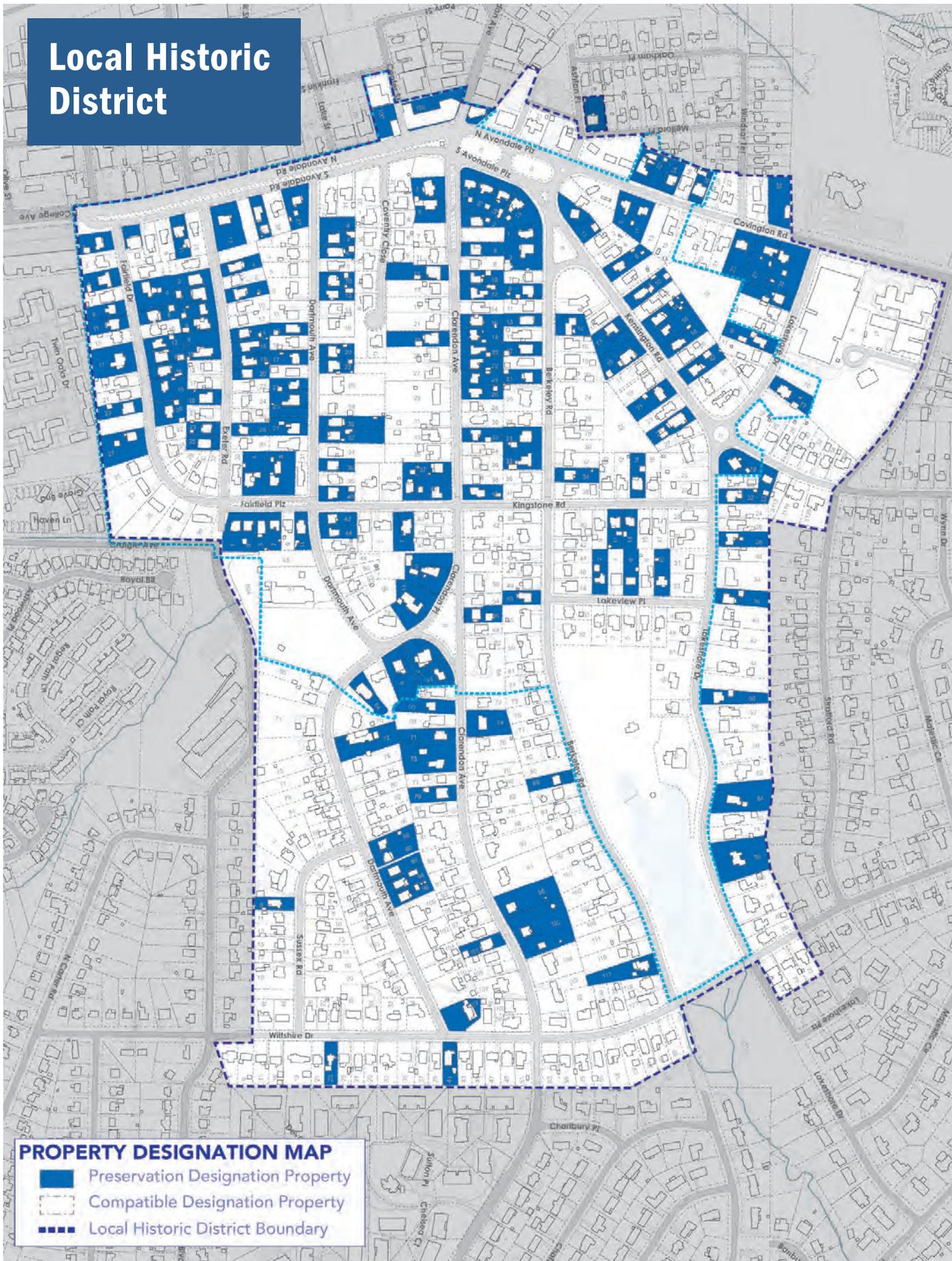
- promoting, protecting and preserving the cultural, historic and aesthetic heritage of Avondale Estates,
- carrying out the preservation provisions and goals of the ordinance,
- initiating preservation planning and research, public education and awareness, and local designation and design review,
- designating historic landmarks and historic districts, and
- overseeing the design review process and for encouraging compatible and creative development.

Look for more “Historic Preservation Matters” articles in future city newsletters. As the city approaches its 100th birthday, the HPC hopes it can help residents better understand, appreciate and preserve the city’s historic resources.

Historic Preservation Commission Members

- Frank Brown, Chair
- Jason Swichtenberg, Vice Chair
- Brad Jones
- Bill Hover
- Susan Deiters

Local Historic District



10 Benefits of Establishing a Local Historic District

Article by Julia Rocchi

Excerpt reprinted with permission from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Here are 10 points that outline the benefits of establishing a local historic district.



National Trust for Historic Preservation®

- **Local districts protect the investments of owners and residents of historic properties.** Insensitive or poorly planned development can make an area less attractive to investors and homebuyers, and thus undermine property value. In contrast, historic district designation encourages people to buy and rehabilitate properties because they know their investment is protected over time.
- **Properties within local historic districts appreciate at rates greater than the local market overall as well as faster than similar, non-designated neighborhoods.** Findings on this point are consistent across the country. Moreover, recent analysis shows that historic districts are also less vulnerable to market volatility from interest rate fluctuations and economic downturns.
- **Local districts encourage better quality design.** In this case, better design equals a greater sense of cohesiveness, more innovative use of materials, and greater public appeal—all of which are shown to occur more often within designated districts than non-designated ones.
- **Local districts help the environment.** Historic districts encourage communities to retain and use their existing resources in established neighborhoods. This reduces the need for cars, cuts back on pollution and congestion, and eliminates landfill waste.
- **Local districts are energy efficient.** Many older buildings were designed with energy conservation in mind, taking advantage of natural light, cross-ventilation and climate-appropriate materials. Preservation commissions are also increasingly improving their design guidelines to make it easier for historic building owners to use renewable energy technologies.
- **Historic districts are a vehicle for education.** They are a tangible link to the past and a way to bring meaning to history and to people’s lives. They preserve the original character of buildings and streets while welcoming growth and innovation within those spaces. They are a living, active record of communities and their residents.
- **Historic districts can positively impact the local economy through tourism.** An aesthetically cohesive and well-promoted district can be a community’s most important attraction. According to a 2009 report, 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers are cultural and/or heritage travelers who spent, on average, \$994 on their most recent trips—compared to \$611 spent by non-cultural and heritage travelers.
- **Protecting local historic districts can enhance business recruitment potential.** Vibrant commercial cores and charming neighborhoods with character attract new business and quality industry. Companies continually relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which successful preservation programs and stable districts enhance.
- **Local districts provide social and psychological benefits.** People living in historic districts enjoy the comfort of a human-scale environment (a mix of aesthetics and functionality that fit the average person’s dimensions and capabilities); the opportunity to live and work in attractive surroundings; a recognizable and walkable neighborhood; and the galvanizing effect of community-based group action.
- **Local districts give communities a voice in their future.** By participating in the designation process, citizens can help direct their communities’ path. Making these decisions together in a structured way—rather than behind closed doors or without public comment—gives everyone involved a sense of empowerment and confidence.

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City Receives Strong Credit Ratings

The City of Avondale Estates received exceptional credit ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor's in support of the city's anticipated \$8.4 million Urban Redevelopment Agency Revenue Bonds Series 2023. Moody's has assigned the city an initial Aa1 general obligation unlimited tax rating. Standard & Poor's has assigned the city an initial rating of AA+ with a stable outlook. Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's cited the city's strong economic outlook, sound budget management and financial policies among the reasons for these prestigious ratings.

"The city's budget management is very strong as evidenced by the maintenance of excellent reserves and liquidity. Transparency and disclosure are favorable due to quarterly disclosures, while the city's strong formal fund balance policy speaks to above average policy credibility and effectiveness," writes Gregory Max Sobel, Moody's.

These ratings place the city in exclusive company. Avondale Estates is the highest-rated small city (population 5,000 or less) in Georgia by Moody's and in the top 10% of ratings for small cities (population 5,000 or less) nationwide. Avondale Estates has the smallest tax digest and fifth smallest budget of all cities rated Aaa/Aa1 by Moody's.

"We have taken great pride in managing the city's finances in a disciplined and efficient manner," said Avondale Estates Mayor Jonathan Elmore. "Our strong fiscal management policies have enabled us to continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents while delivering a strong return on investment for all stakeholders within the city. We are honored to meet the highest standards of fiscal responsibility by both Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

In 2019, the city contracted with Davenport & Company LLC as its financial advisor. They began exploring financing opportunities and assisted the city's Urban Redevelopment Agency with an agreement with PNC Bank to provide an \$8.4 million Bond Anticipation Note to finance the costs associated with the construction of the city's award-winning Town Green and Market Pavilion. The proceeds of the 2023 series bonds will be used to permanently finance that loan.



North Avondale/East College Complete Street Project Hits Milestone

The North Avondale Road and East College Avenue area is poised to undergo a major transformation to create a more walkable, safe and attractive corridor that will connect the community and encourage downtown development. The design plans and right-of-way acquisition for the N. Avondale/E. College Complete Street project are complete and the project is out for bid.

After advertising and reviewing the construction bids, the contract will be awarded, a process that will take a minimum of three months. If all goes according to plan, the project will start construction in the first quarter of 2024.

The city is committed to ensuring that the selected contractor completes the construction of one block before moving on to the next and works closely with businesses to mitigate the impact of potential disruptions. A regular communication channel will provide real-time information about schedules and plans when construction begins.

The project spans from Sams Crossing to Ashton Place and includes a landscape buffer, center median, pedestrian/bike crossings, a reduction in the lane configuration from five lanes to three lanes, road repaving and restriping, a ten-foot pedestrian and bike path, and replaced and upgraded traffic signals. The new design will be more effi-

cient, attractive, safer and more accessible for cyclists and walkers. By implementing limited curb cuts, strategically placing left-hand turn lanes, and syncing the timing of signals, drivers will be able to move seamlessly through the corridor at slower speeds. Even with these changes, there will be less than a 20-second increase in travel time for drivers going from one end of the corridor to the other.

In addition to being more efficient and safer, slower speeds will save lives. Nine out of 10 pedestrians hit by vehicles traveling at 20 miles per hour or less survive, while less than half survive when hit at 30 mph and only one in 10 survives an incident involving speeds above 40 mph.

Creating a better place means better opportunities, and research shows that changing the corridor from a place that people drive through to one that they drive to will improve economic vitality for local businesses. By replacing vehicle travel lanes with more options to walk, bike or take transit, people will be encouraged to park once and visit. This project will also attract millennials with changing travel patterns. According to the Federal Highway Administration, millennials are taking 23% fewer driving trips and 40% more transit trips than previous generations.



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Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation, is a widespread environmental tradition involving hundreds of communities and thousands of volunteers. In the past 33 years, more than six million trees have been diverted from landfills and recycled into mulch for playgrounds, public landscaping projects and wildlife habitats.

Please recycle Christmas trees by placing them on the curb from **Wednesday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Jan. 5**, and Public Works will pick them up.

On **Saturday, Jan. 6**, trees should be brought to the compost area by the lake near Wiltshire Dr. and Berkeley Rd. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Signs posted by the lake will mark the drop-off location.

Remember:

- Artificial trees cannot be chipped.
- Trees must be free of all artificial materials including nails and staples or they cannot be chipped.
- Trees placed on the curb after Friday, Jan. 5 will not be chipped and will be collected as yard waste.
- Trees dropped off at the chipping site after Saturday, Jan. 6 will be considered illegal dumping.



Fall Leaves: Love Them and Leave Them

Hate raking or blowing leaves to the curb? This fall, try leaving them. Fallen leaves are nature's mulch and adding them to garden beds provides many benefits.

- **For trees:** Decomposing leaves blanket tree roots and release nutrients into the soil while keeping the ground moist during dry spells.
- **For birds:** Birds forage for insects in the leaves during the colder months.
- **For other critters:** Fireflies, moths, butterflies and native bees overwinter in fallen leaves. Box turtles, salamanders and chipmunks also use leaf litter as a habitat or a place to forage.
- **For waterways:** Street gutters and road edges filled with lingering leaf piles impair stormwater runoff that flows into nearby streams.
- **For healthy plants and yards:** Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and fertilizes the soil as they break down. Save money by making this natural mulch and fertilizer.
- **For your health:** Limiting leaf blower noise and gas exhaust is helpful to you and your neighbors. Relax and spend more time enjoying the fall weather and less time removing leaves.

Instead of sending leaves to the landfill, try these alternatives:

- Do nothing. Let the leaves stay where they are and create plenty of habitat and nutrients for your yard all without getting off the couch.
- Run over the leaves with a lawn mower to chop them into smaller pieces. The leaves decay faster and add organic matter and nutrients to feed your lawn.
- Rake the leaves around tree roots or in flower beds to help retain moisture, add nutrients, and insulate the plants over winter. In the spring, the leaves will have decomposed, making for a free mulch cover. If you don't look the "look" of using leaves, a light sprinkle of mulch will still give you the look you want, will using less material and helping the flora and fauna.
- Add them to the compost pile or bag them and keep some as mulch for next year's vegetable and flower plants.

Leaf Collection Has Begun

New Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

This fall the city is testing a new street zone system for yard waste pickup. Dividing the city into zones allows the sanitation team to spread the pickups throughout the week and provide more efficient sanitation, yard waste and leaf collection services. If possible, please keep cars off the streets on yard waste and leaf pickup days.

The city appreciates resident's help and flexibility during this trial run. Please be patient as the team balances sanitation and yard waste pickup.

Residents can find their zone at the bottom of the Sanitation page on the city's website avondaleestates.org/2346/Sanitation



Leaf Collection and Yard Debris Reminders

Here are a few reminders to make pickup as efficient as possible during leaf season:

- For curbside leaf pickup, residents should rake, blow or place leaves at the curb or verge (area between the street and sidewalk) in front of their home, but not in the street.
- Other yard waste should not be mixed with the leaves.
- Placing rocks, bricks, large limbs, lumber, food waste and other debris in the leaf piles will break the vacuum truck mechanisms and significantly delay future leaf collections throughout the city.
- Bagging leaves is helpful to the city's team, but not mandatory for collection.

Tips for successful leaf collection:

- Don't put leaves in trash or recycling containers.
- Don't place leaves in the street or in/over storm drains to prevent flooding.
- For safety and to assist motorists, parents should remind children to not play in leaf piles near the street.
- To allow the Public Works' trucks access to the leaves, do not park beside a pile of leaves or yard debris that is ready for pickup.

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LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE TOWN GREEN!



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News and Updates

Town Green Snags Top Public Space Award



On September 14, Avondale Estates Town Green won the Development of Excellence in the Public Realm award at the Urban Land Institute of Atlanta’s (ULI) 27th Awards of Excellence program.

The Public Realm award goes to organizations that elevate parks and urban space developments that have been instrumental in fostering connectivity and promoting healthy, sustainable, and equitable outcomes in communities.

Originally conceived as part of the city’s Downtown Master Plan, the Town Green was designed with community input as part of the city’s master plan. Second Century Avondale, a group of Avondale Estates residents committed to building a dynamic downtown, prioritized the project and championed the Town Green as a catalyst for the Central Business District. The Town Green revitalized three acres of concrete into a park designed and constructed for multi-generational use.

The Town Green features walking paths, a playground, an open lawn area, performance and market pavilions, native plant gardens and Tudor birdhouses designed to engage multiple senses and provide a welcoming place for the community to connect.

The city and Downtown Development Authority were recognized along with partners Fabric Developers, Reeves Young, LLC, Long Engineering, SSOE Group, SITE Solutions Gabler-Youngston and PDC Solutions, LLC.



Scan the QR code to view a video highlighting the Town Green’s award.

Avondale Estates Named Top #15 Family-Friendly City

For the second year in a row, Avondale Estates ranks #15 in the nation on Opendoor’s Family-Friendly Cities list. Noting that spending time outdoors improves an individual’s health and can help kids’ learning behavior and mental well-being, Opendoor’s 2023 list celebrates communities across the U.S. that offer outdoor spaces, parks and kid-friendly entertainment.

The only city in Georgia to make the list, Avondale Estates was again recognized for its small-town feel with big-city amenities nearby. This year it was also noted for its close access to parks and recreation and for providing family-centric programming throughout the year. Some of the city’s family-friendly activities in 2023 include:

- an Earth Day Sustainability Fair and Concert with kids’ activities including creating seed bombs and recycling games,
- Atlanta Pride’s annual Family Fun Day and Picnic music performances and karaoke,
- a Storywalk® at the Town Green for Juneteenth (“Juneteenth for Mazie”) and Hispanic Heritage Month (“Alma and How She Got Her Name”),
- the Fourth of July Parade with a patriotic wheels brigade open to all and a Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration with stilt walkers, hula hoop dancers, jugglers and magicians,
- National Night Out hosted by the Avondale Estates Police Department with Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and Black Panther, free pizza and games including cornhole with a cop,
- Halloween and winter holiday decoration competitions for homes and businesses,
- five Weekend Wind Down Concerts on the second Sunday of the month at the Town Green – great for the entire family, and
- the Town Green Holiday Tree Lighting with ballerinas, children’s choirs, sing-a-longs and Santa.



Avondale Estates joins the following top 2023 Family-Friendly Cities:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Somerville, MA | 6. Chandler, AZ | 11. Coral Gables, FL |
| 2. Berkeley, CA | 7. Denver, CO | 12. Bellaire, TX |
| 3. Cliffside Park, NJ | 8. Portland, OR | 13. Ann Arbor, MI |
| 4. Arlington, VA | 9. Valley Stream, NY | 14. Mission, KS |
| 5. Watauga, TX | 10. Garden Grove, CA | 15. Avondale Estates, GA |

Avondale Estates Farmers Market Moving to the Town Green

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 3, the Avondale Estates Farmers Market will set up residence at the Town Green. All the same fantastic vendors will be in a new home at the Town Green's Market Pavilion every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



National Drug Take Back Day



The police collected 10 boxes of prescription drugs weighing a total of 222.2 pounds as part of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the AEPD, Chief Harry Hess and Sgt. Beatty for their assistance in the collection. The police department accepts unwanted prescription drugs at any time throughout the year as part of the CVS Pharmacy Take Back program.

DeKalb County Water Main Replacement Project

Work that began in late September continues on the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management's (DWM) Scott Boulevard Phase III Water Main Replacement Project. Work will continue through the end of the year.



Streets that will experience partial closures or detours include:

- Maple St. (Hillyer Ave. will be used as an alternate route/detour)
- E. College Ave.
- Livingston Pl.
- Brown Pl.

Normal construction hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding major holidays. Expect an increase in construction-related noise and traffic during work hours.

All adjacent businesses will remain open and accessible during the construction period. Please continue to support the city's local businesses.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding this project to the DMW Project Information Line via email at projectinfo@dekalbcountyga.gov or by phone at 1-800-986-1108.

Courts at Willis Park



The hours for play at the city's courts at Willis Park has been moved back on Sunday mornings. Players can continue to make reservations through Reserve My Court.

Hours of play:

Mon. - Sat., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Sun., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Please observe the following rules:

- Only tennis and pickleball are allowed on the courts.
- The courts are free and available to both residents and non-residents.
- Reservations are not required but should be honored.
- Reservations start on the hour and can be made for no more than two hours.
- Residents may reserve courts one week in advance. Non-residents may reserve courts two days in advance.
- Only one reservation may be made at a time. A second reservation cannot be made until the first reservation has expired.
- Courts not claimed within 10 minutes of a reservation are forfeited.
- Teaching professionals and coaches who charge for lessons must have a business license from the city and are subject to court use and maintenance fees.
- When two pickleball groups are on the courts, they should share a tennis court so that a full court remains open for others.
- Please move the portable pickleball nets to the side or rear of the play area when not in use.



Police EVs' Making an Impact

September marked one year since the Avondale Estates Police Department took the leap into the EV world with the purchase of three electric Ford Motor Company Mustang Mach-Es. Since adding these vehicles, the police department has saved 1,380.8 gallons of gas and have reduced the AEPD's carbon footprint by 9,775 kg or 9.775 metric tons.



Updates on Green Infrastructure and the North Woods

The North Woods Construction Continues

Construction of the North Woods rain gardens and nature trail continues. A redesign in the northernmost area of the rain garden has caused small construction delays. The new construction is expected to be completed between late November and early December. When the rain gardens installations are complete, native plants, shrubs and trees will fill the area providing wildlife habitat, water quality improvements and increased vegetation.

Volunteer for the North Woods Planting Day



REGISTER



View Webinar

Volunteers are needed to help plant over 800 native plants to the North Woods rain gardens. Join city staff and the Gardeners for the Common Good on Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers will sign up for a two-hour shift starting at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. Each shift will begin with a safety briefing. Bring gloves, shovels, trowels and a water bottle on the workday.

Residents interested in volunteering for this event are asked to watch the green infrastructure webinar before the event.



5875 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Ste. 160 | Norcross, GA 30092

Get noticed. Advertise.

Contact us today!

To advertise in a neighborhood publication, please contact us at

770-623-6220 • info@frontporchatlanta.com

Final Weekend Wind Down Concert of 2023

Don't miss the city's final Weekend Wind Down Concert of the year on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 4-7 p.m. at the Town Green featuring Funk Cake, a full brass band bringing a New Orleans sound to Avondale Estates.

Food vendors include Slim Thick Vegan Just Loaf'N, Bite of Korea and Southern Local Nuts. Banjo Coffee will provide hot drinks and cold beers from The Lost Druid Brewery & Distillery

Please note, the event will be one hour earlier than past events. Food trucks start at 4 p.m. followed by music at 5 p.m.

A special thank you to the sponsors that make the Weekend Wind Down Concert series possible. The city is grateful for their generous support and dedication to our community.

GOLD SPONSORS

- Banjo Coffee
- The Homegrown Team • Bolst
- Oakhurst Realty Partners



SILVER SPONSORS

- Minuteman Press
- Williams Teusink, LLC

BRONZE SPONSORS:

- Ameris Bank
- ATG Partners

- Shady Grove Landscape Company
- Wonderful World Coffee and Tea

Check out the city's Facebook event for the latest information.

2MyPlace

To coach, educate and provide life tools for today's youth to navigate their lives and become strong and confident adults.

2myplace offers classes on life, business, stress management and confidence skills.

We want to educate young adults on:

- Social Media Boundaries
- Human Trafficking
- Life
- Business
- Stress Management
- Suicide Awareness

Visit www.2myPlace.org for more information.




901 Macy Drive, Roswell GA 30076 - Phone: 770.815.6044
Non-profit 501c3 - EIN#81-1761365 - www.2myPlace.org

THE DECATUR AVONDALE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PRESENTS THEIR

15TH ANNUAL Christmas & Holiday CONCERT

COME ENJOY OVER 100 CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH VOICES SINGING THE TIMELESS CAROLS AND SONGS OF CHRISTMAS!



SUNDAY DEC. 3RD 4:00 PM	DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 PM <small>FOR GENERAL SEATING</small>	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR	308 CLAIREMONT AVENUE IN THE HEART OF DECATUR
<small>CONCERT OFFERING RECEIVED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CARNEGIE HALL TRIP IN 2024!</small>		ADMISSION IS FREE	<small>PRE-CONCERT MUSIC PROVIDED BY DECATUR FINE ARTS ACADEMY ARTISTS</small> <small>CONCERT RECEPTION IN THE CARREKER FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTERWARDS</small>

November 2023

calendar of events



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
				North Woods and Green Infrastructure Lunch and Learn Noon		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Avondale Estates Farmers Market 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time Ends	Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting 6 p.m.	Election Day 7 a.m.-7 p.m.	Board of Mayor and Commissioners Regular Meeting & Work Session 5:30 p.m.		Veterans Day Observed - City Hall Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Avondale Estates Farmers Market 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Weekend Wind Down Concert featuring Funk Cake 4-7 p.m.		Downtown Development Authority Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m.				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Avondale Estates Farmers Market 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Board of Mayor and Commissioners Regular Meeting & Work Session 5:30 p.m.			Happy Thanksgiving! City Hall Closed	City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving	
26	27	28	29	30		
Avondale Estates Farmers Market 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Town Green Tree Lighting 6 p.m.	North Woods Planting Day 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.				

December 2023

calendar of events



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

2

Lake Avondale
Tree Lighting
6 p.m.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

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

Historic Preservation
Commission
6 p.m.

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

First Night of
Chanukah, Menorah
Lighting at the Town
Green
5:30 p.m.

Winter Wonderland

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

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

Christmas Tour of
Homes &
Holiday Market
Noon-6 p.m.

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

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

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

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

24/31

25

26

27

28

29

30

31 - New Year's Eve
(City Hall Closed Jan.
1, 2024)

Merry Christmas!
City Hall Closed

City Hall Closed
in Observance of
Christmas

Kwanzaa Begins

Cheers to Fall in Avondale

Beautiful blue skies, crisp fall days and tons of festive activities marked the fall season in Avondale Estates. Avondale Ale Day on Oct. 21 celebrated Avondale Estates' thriving craft beer scene with specially created beers and a limited-edition pint glass featuring Matt Leunig's artwork. Festival goers strolled the Dale Ale Trail with stops at My Parents' Basement, Little Cottage Brewery, The Lost Druid Brewery & Distillery and Wild Heaven.

Photo Credit: Hector Amador and Ellen Powell



HALLOWEEN SPIRIT AWARDS



MOST CREATIVE AWARD

Tim Oliver and Terry Skinner-
*Bloodbath Manor and
the Real Hippies of Hauntington Beach*



CHILDREN'S APPEAL

Smith Family



SPOOKIEST AWARD

The Gallaghers



Avon Garden Club Member Wins Flower Show Sweepstakes Prize

Avon Garden Club member Michele Spears won the Sweepstakes prize at the Redbud District Standard Flower Show. Michele received the Hallie Brown Memorial Silver Trophy awarded to individuals with the most blue ribbons at the show. Avon Garden Club member Courtney Denny won a merit ribbon for her Birdhouse Gourd. The event took place September 20-21 at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.

The show allows any type of horticulture or produce to be entered except for plants considered endangered or invasive. Floral arrangements and educational exhibits are also part of the show, too, and judges come from all over the state.

The Avon Garden Club had 74 entries and won:

- 15 first-place blue ribbons,
- 21 second-place red ribbons,
- 11 third-place yellow ribbons, and
- 19 honorable mentions.

Originally called the Yellow Daisy Flower Show, the show was previously held at Stone Mountain during the Yellow Daisy Festival but was canceled during the pandemic. Last year the Redbud District brought the show back in this new venue.

Pancake Breakfast & Boutique Kick Off the Holidays

Saturday, Nov. 18, 8-11 a.m.

Kick off the holiday season with friends and neighbors at an old-fashioned pancake and sausage breakfast. Enjoy great food, shopping and comradery at the Avon Garden Club's Annual Pancake Breakfast & Boutique at the Avondale Community Club's Lake House, 59 Lakeshore Dr.

**Avon Garden Club
Annual Pancake and
Sausage Breakfast
Boutique & Bake Sale**

Ticket prices:

Adults: \$8

Children (ages 4-10): \$6

Children under 3: Free

A boutique sale of gently used items including everything from gardening goods to children's books as well as delicious, sweet and savory homemade goods will take place during the breakfast.

This much-loved, 30-year tradition raises funds to support the club's community projects including planting the downtown planters and traffic circle, making and placing wreaths throughout the city, sponsoring the day after Halloween clean-up, and hosting the Eco Garden Tour held in the spring.



Avondale Arts Alliance Partners with the City to Showcase Hispanic Artists

By Isadora Pennington

On Sunday, Sept. 10 the city of Avondale Estates kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a joyful cultural celebration and concert at the Town Green. Presented as part of the Weekend Wind Down Concert series, this event featured a unique outdoor exhibition of Latinx artworks coordinated by the Avondale Arts Alliance.

In total, three 12' banners designed by the Avondale Arts Alliance showcased the works of nine local Latinx artists and included paintings, drawings, prints, photography and digital artworks. Participating artists included DeltaTangoMike, Cyndi Sabido, Diana Lopez Garcia, Horacio Arias-Rodriguez, Cristina Montesinos, KAI, Imanol Luquin, Lydia Welty-Montesinos and Patricia Hernandez.

The banners remained on display throughout Hispanic Heritage Month bringing public awareness to the artists' works and highlighting the city's commitment to showcase the community's diversity and incredible artistic talent.

This outdoor exhibition was the first collaboration for a temporary public art installation facilitated by a partnership between the newly revamped Avondale Arts Alliance and the city of Avondale Estates.

For more information about public art projects and art exhibitions in the city, visit www.avondaleartsalliance.com.

Bless an AES Family this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is centered around food, family and gratitude. However, this holiday can be very stressful for those experiencing food insecurity. This year Avondale Elementary School counselors and administrators have identified student families in need and will hand-deliver donated food baskets to them in time for Thanksgiving.

Give back this holiday. Build a Blessing Basket and invite family members, neighbors or friends to create baskets. Consider making it a contest to see who can fill and decorate baskets with the most items.

Bring completed baskets to the Happy Hour Drop-off on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at The Lost Druid, 2866 Washington St., from 4:30-7 p.m.

The Lost Druid will provide two complimentary drinks (a value up to \$24) for each basket donated. Drop off a basket and stay to enjoy drinks, dinner and conversation with friends and neighbors in support of the local community.

Online registration is required at <http://bit.ly/AEBlessingBaskets2023>.

Blessing Baskets for Avondale Elementary School is generously hosted by two local, women-owned businesses - Susan Robertson Hawkins, Realtor® | MBA, Realtor® with Keller Williams Realty Metro Atlanta and owner of Find Your Nest Homes, LLC and The Lost Druid Brewery & Distillery.



BLESSING BASKETS

**BENEFITTING
AVONDALE ELEMENTARY
FAMILIES IN NEED**

Winter Festivities at the Town Green

City's Holiday Tree Lighting at the Town Green

Monday, Nov. 27, at 6 p.m.



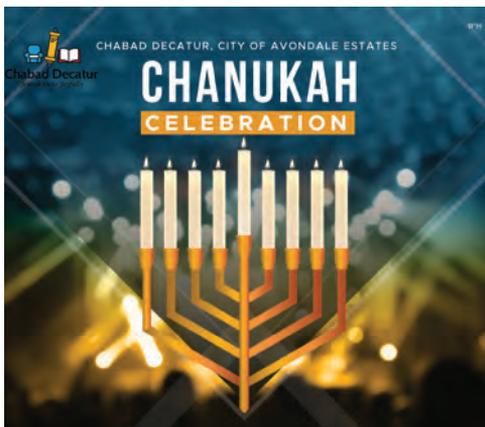
Don't miss the lighting of the city's holiday tree at the Town Green. The DeKalb School of the Arts' ballerinas will perform dances from the Nutcracker and the Decatur Avondale Children's Choir will lead the audience in a sing-along after their performance. Who knows what other special guests might appear?



Chanukah Menorah Lighting

Thursday, Dec. 7, at 5:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Avremi Slavaticki and Chabad Decatur for a Chanukah celebration at the Town Green on the first night of Chanukah. The eight-day wintertime Jewish "festival of lights" is celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. This year Chanukah starts Thursday evening, Dec. 7 and ends Friday evening Dec. 15.



'Tis the Season for Treats, Crafts, Music and Santa

Winter Wonderland, Saturday, Dec. 9



The city's businesses are busy planning another festive Winter Wonderland. Mark the calendar for Saturday, Dec. 9 and enjoy live music, crafts, pictures with holiday characters and treats when visiting businesses throughout the city. Check the event's Facebook page in the coming weeks for updates on the participating businesses and planned activities.

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/1LB9HO5r1>

For Those More Naughty Than Nice

Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Heck.house is bringing their 4th Annual Last Minute Krampus to the Market Pavilion at the Town Green. An event for people who tend to make Santa's naughty list by waiting until the last minute to prepare for winter celebrations, Heck's Gift Shop is a consignment fundraiser of handmade gifts created by more than 30 local artists offering a wide variety of items under \$100.



Too naughty for a photo with Santa? Register to take one with Krampus and live goats for a unique family holiday picture. Fur children and other pets are welcome.

Please note some artwork may include some "fun" language and/or artsy nudity - all in the Krampus spirit.

60% of sales go to the artists while 40% goes to Heck.house, a collaborative space in Scottsdale that helps local artists exhibit, create and perform while growing their audience and brand.

Updates and details can be found at www.heck.house/krampus



Dekalb School of the Arts Students to Perform “Nutcracker in a Nutshell”

Join the Dekalb School of the Arts (DSA) Dance Department for its annual winter production of “Nutcracker in a Nutshell” in the Kyle Theater on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

“Nutcracker in a Nutshell” is an abridged edition of the show that captures all the magnificent holiday whimsy of the original “Nutcracker” ballet with sparkly costumes, stunning dancers and a colorful stage. The DSA Dance Department has performed their shortened version of Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet for years.

The dance is directed and choreographed every year by Anna Dunn of the DSA Dance Department.

Admission: \$12 for adults, \$6 for non-DSA students and \$4 for DSA students.

Tickets must be purchased online ahead of time at <https://www.bigtickets.com/events/dekalb-school-of-the-arts/br>.



Pictured: the 2023 Children’s Appeal winning home at 49 Wiltshire Dr.

Avondale Estates Holiday Spirit Awards

Enter your home in the 2023 Holiday Spirit Awards. Decorate your home or business and enter a photo by Sunday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. Check the city’s website for the link to enter after Thanksgiving.

Voting will occur from Monday, Dec. 11 through Sun., Dec. 17.
Winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 18.

Categories include:

- Business Award
- Sparkle & Pizzaz
- Avondale Elegance
- Children’s Appeal



Lake Avondale Tree Lighting

The Avondale Community Club invites you to join neighbors and friends for the Lake Tree Lighting on the banks of beautiful Lake Avondale on Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

Avondale Estates Christmas Tour of Homes and Holiday Market

By Margaret Lunsford
Tour of Homes Committee
avondaletourofhomes.com

The 31st Annual Christmas Tour of Homes & Holiday Market returns Sunday, Dec. 10. The tour runs from 3 - 8 p.m. Six homes representing various styles of architecture are featured on the tour.

After living nearby for 25 years, in 2020 Johnny Garcia presented Patrick Gregware with their 1931 English cottage home on Clarendon Place as a Christmas gift. They remodeled the home before moving in. Interesting features include four working fireplaces with one made from Stone Mountain granite and a media room converted from the original master. Patrick was once the visual director at Christopher Radko, a European glass company, and their Christmas decorations feature a large collection of Radko ornaments.

Edwin and Kathleen Link moved to their home in 2015. Originally a one-story ranch built in 1950, they opened the main floor and added a second floor making it more of a Craftsman-style home. Every Thanksgiving as a family tradition, they purchase a Frasier fir from Christmas Corner in Pineola, N.C. The tree showcases Kathleen's Santa collection which began with a gift of a Possible Dreams Santa from her grandmother 30 years ago.

Though she grew up in Druid Hills, Lindsey Grant moved with Patrick Bowen from Switzerland to Avondale Estates in 2020 to Wiltshire Drive just around the corner from her sister. Their mid-century, ranch-style home was built in 1951 and was renovated by a builder in 2019-2021. Lindsay and Patrick upgraded the kitchen, bathrooms and common spaces in 2022. For Christmas, the home will become a Winter Wonderland highlighting the natural beauty of the season with lights, greenery and an abundance of whimsy.

Familiar with Avondale Estates having lived nearby, Katherine and Kirk Benson purchased their 1980s cottage in 2019. They completely remodeled the interior while living in their garage apartment from 2022-2023. Renovations include an added screened-in porch and living room, a mud and laundry room, an ensuite bathroom and an open kitchen. Their front yard will display Santa and his reindeer, originally purchased by a grandfather from Sears Roebuck in the 1950s.

From her childhood home in Decatur, Jodi Florence grew up visiting her great-grandfather in his home on Clarendon. Her Craftsman-style home was built in 2008 as part of a small John Willis development known as "Reynolds Park." This section of Avondale Estates was divided from the city when MARTA was built in the 1970s. At Christmas, Jodi changes out the art in her home with her Christmas art collection including a collection of nativities.

After living in Druid Hills for 35 years, Cathy Moody and Kamile Rasheed moved to their new home in the city less than two years ago. As the second owners of this Craftsman built in 2019, they added bookcases to the front room which is home to their baby grand piano. Their collection of art created by various Atlanta artists, as well as an original art poster by a French commercial artist Vercasson, is featured throughout their home. Their Christmas decorations collection is freshly displayed in their new home.

In addition to the featured homes, the city will be "lit up" along every street. Block captains will be encouraging all our residents to "Light Up Avondale" including the trees on the verge.

The Avondale Holiday Market Returns

The Avondale Holiday Market is Sunday, Dec. 10 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Avondale Lake House.

This year's market includes old favorites including hand-knitted scarves, chocolates, honey, jewelry, photography, bird feeders, smoked salmon, jams and ornaments. Support the market vendors and finish Christmas shopping with one-of-a-kind gifts. Enjoy soup and sandwiches at the Holiday Market Café.

Purchase pre-sale tour tickets at Finders Keepers Consignment or Garage Door Studio for \$15, online at bigtickets.com or at the Avondale Lake House for \$20.

Let's end 2023 in Avondale Estates with light and hope for a New Year!

Holiday Market Donations Fund a Well in South Sudan



After fleeing civil war as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan and spending years in Ethiopian and Kenyan refugee camps, Majok Marier relocated to the U.S. and now lives in Clarkston. In 2014, Majok and a group of supporters formed the 501(c)(3) non-profit Wells for Hope for South Sudan ("WFHFSS") to bring water wells to villages in the area where he once lived near Rumbek, South Sudan.

Volunteers at the Avondale Holiday Market led by Sally Walker and Connie Bryans have been raising money annually to support the nonprofit. This past July, a well dug in the village of Atiaba honors the dedication and support of the volunteers with a plaque.

In these villages, women and girls must walk daily four to six miles each way to obtain clean water for their families. To date, WFHFSS has provided eight village wells serving thousands of villagers. The wells give women more time for childcare and provide irrigation for community vegetable gardens. They also open the possibility of a health clinic, a future goal of WFHFSS.

Wells for Hope is a volunteer non-profit with very little overhead. Funds for the wells, which cost over \$10,000 each, have been raised with an annual Walk for Water and Health and from generous donations from Finders Keepers and The Avondale Holiday Market.

AVONDALE ESTATES 2023 CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

& Holiday Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

PLATINUM SPONSORS

- AS Turner & Sons
- Linda Ellington, DVM- Dearborn Animal Hospital
- Jen Newman Homes
- Kudzu Antiques
- Santo Cantina & Cocina, Calle Latina & BaddaBing

GOLD SPONSORS

- Arborguard Trees
- Avondale Swim & Tennis Club
- BigTickets.com
- Camille's Gardening Concepts
- Carol Reimer – Alma Fuller Realty
- Coyotes Mexican Grill
- Eco Gardens
- Finders Keepers Consignments
- In Bloom Landscaping
- Libby & Rob Morris

SILVER SPONSORS

- Ace & A Heating & Air
- Avondale Pizza Café
- City of Avondale Estates
- Don Connelly & Associates
- Ernie Ahlquist & Faye Noble
- JAX Package
- Jollay Masonry
- Kathy & Bruce Barlag
- Kathy & Tom Delaney
- Lindsey Forlines
- Summit Auto
- Susan Robertson-Hawkins - Realtor
- The Stratford
- Wanda & Louis Belline
- Wild Heaven Beer

Tour 3:00 – 8:00
Holiday Market Noon -6:00

* FEATURED HOMES *

11 Clarendon Place
79 Dartmouth Ave.
51 Wiltshire Drive
3151 Wiltshire Drive
1604 Windsor Walk
3162 Wynn Drive



★ TICKET INFORMATION ★

Pre-Sale Tickets \$15.00
BigTickets.com \$20.00 on day of the Tour
Visit our web site: avondaleourofhomes.com

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Avondale Estates Garden Club | Jean Kingsbury |
| Avon Garden Club | Kathy & Chris Kingsbury |
| Jake, Penny & Linda Abraham | Melissa & Jack Krost |
| Carolyn & Tom Adams | Claire & Richard Langway |
| Leslie Adcock | Joan Lass & Sarah Zimny |
| Donna & Bobby Ailion | Margaret & Clark Lunsford |
| Michael & Linette Barlow | Dave Maddox |
| Susan Barton | Angela & Ramone Maldonado |
| Adam Barton & Scott Legg | Sally & Mick Mann |
| Martha Barton & Wally Emerson | Julie Martinez |
| Lynn Boyd & Harry Vann | Martha & Norm McDermott |
| Catherine Brackett | Bev & Ed McElroy |
| Connie Bryans | Donna & Eddie McHenry |
| Lydia & Blake Buckler | Christine McMahan & |
| Peggy & Bob Burgess | Larry Zagorski |
| Patricia & Anthony Calcagno | Carol Meeks |
| Kathy Cavallaro | Dee & Tom Merriam |
| Bonnie Chafin | Susan Merritt |
| Carolyn Chandler | Sarah & Matt Miller |
| Amy & Charles Ciba | Kathleen & Larry Minnix |
| Barbara & Bill Clark | Elaine & John Mizell |
| DeDe & Bill Clark | Molly Mobley |
| Diane & George Clark | Anne & Kevin Moran |
| Eden & Johnathan Clark | Frank Mullins & Dennis Washack |
| Laura & Tom Clegg | Nora Munagian & Mark Norton |
| Linda & Don Coatsworth | Ansley & Marshall Murphey |
| Jessica & Baylor Coffman | Alice Murray |
| Jane Cole & Mike Chase | Robert Nardone |
| Jane & Jim Darnell | Dianne Nelson |
| Karyl Davis | Mary Lou & |
| Susie & Dave Deiters | John Oechsner |
| Kathy & Rod Deprey | Raynelle Pierce |
| Helen & Paul Dorroh | Diane & John Pomberg |
| Sydney & Jeff Dougherty | Emily Pritchett |
| Robert Elrod | Kerry & John Quinn |
| Emily Fish | John Robinson |
| Denise & Steve Forrester | Jane Royall |
| Lucy & David Fowler | Annie Sears |
| Mary Galpin | Vickie Severcool |
| John Gaul & Gregg Locke | Alice Sheehan |
| Brooke & Brett Gault | Tamara Shipley & |
| Daphne & Phillip Godfrey | Jonathan Elmore |
| Mike Goetee | Lisa & Greg Shortell |
| Christy & Tom Granger | Carolyn Smith |
| Lindsey Grant & Patrick Bowen | Trish & Matt Spaulding |
| Alana Graves | Susan & Bob Stewart |
| Nicki Graves & Brett Schug | Sharon Stokes & Jack Reimer |
| Elizabeth Gregory & Dave Black | Donna & Joe Tanner |
| Rutledge Gross | Allison & Jeremy Thacker |
| Alice & Jerry Guppy | Lynn Thompson & Nancy Darden |
| Paula Heard | Deborah Timberlake |
| Kathy & Mel Hatfield | Pat & Bob Timm |
| Ric & Dianne Henry | Ellen & Joel Tressler |
| Robin Hollis & Art Rosser | Kathy & Tom Trocheck |
| Peggy Howard | Paul Varian |
| Robin & Chris Hughes | Camilla & Hugh Warren |
| Cheri & Jim Hutchens | Tom & Darlene Watson |
| Fiona & Mike Jameson | Tyler Weaver & Andrew Kennedy |
| Jo Jenkins | Bob Wess |
| Bruce Johnston | Susan Williams-Rogers |
| David Jones & Oscar Ramos | Susan Woodall |
| Jill Joyner & Mark Williams | Peg Wye |
| Theresa & David Kazanowski | |
| Chris Kiefer | |



Avondale Estates Garden Club Earns Eight Redbud District Awards

After receiving the state Garden Club of the Year trophy in April from the Garden Club of Georgia, the Avondale Estates Garden Club (AEGC) brought home numerous awards from the Redbud District of Garden Clubs (Redbud District) on Oct. 17.

With a total of eight awards, including first-place honors in four categories, AEGC President Patricia Calcagno was overwhelmed by the recognition of the 74-member club.

“So much credit goes to our past president Peggy Burgess for her leadership and to former president and current Awards Chair Christi Granger for organizing and submitting all the entries,” Ms. Calcagno said.

AWARDS INCLUDED:

- 1st place - The Dorothy W. Hightower Community Improvement Award
- 1st place - The Margaret Strickland Birds & Butterfly Garden Program Award
- 1st place - The Deanna McFarlan Club Newsletter Award
- 2nd place - The Rita Compher Scholarship Award for the club that gives the largest amount to the Garden Club of Georgia Scholarship Fund in the calendar year (averaged per member)
- 2nd place - The Lullwater Gavel Award for applying for the most state awards
- 3rd place - The Lorraine Loftis Redbud Membership Award
- 3rd place - The Mimosa Garden Club Historic Preservation Award

Additionally, the AEGC won the Jerry Tubb Award for the highest score on the president’s report.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. recognized AEGC with grateful appreciation for supporting the Avondale Estates Garden Club Scholarship.

“As current president of the Avondale Estates Garden Club, I could not have been prouder of our club and its members at the Redbud District meeting where Avondale Estates Garden Club received eight awards. I thank all our members for their hard work and dedication to our club and the projects we undertake,” Ms. Calcagno said.



(Left to right) Immediate past president of the Avondale Estates Garden Club Peggy Burgess, past president and Awards Chair Christi Granger, current President Patricia Calcagno and Vice President Julie Martinez.

Respecting and Nurturing Landscaping at Willis Park

Gardeners for the Common Good asks parents and caregivers to remind children to avoid the planted beds and be gentle with trees near the playground and field in Willis Park. Willis Park trees and shrubs have been trampled, had tree bark damaged and branches pulled off ultimately destroying the plants.



If given the chance to grow, these trees will become beautiful sources of shade. Willis Park plants are like the children who play there, young. Like children, trees and shrubs need extra care to mature properly.

Let’s teach kids to nurture nature!

Amaryllis Bulbs and Baked Goods for Sale

Both sweet and colorful treats will brighten this holiday season as members of the Avondale Estates Garden Club sell baked goods and Amaryllis bulbs. The holiday sale will be on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lake House, 59 Lakeshore Dr. following the club’s holiday luncheon.



Amaryllis bulbs are \$18, while supplies last, and will be offered online for pre-ordering. Baked goods prices vary.

For more information or to pre-order, contact Susan Stewart at sjhstewart@icloud.com



Avon Garden Club Garden of the Month



September: 11 Clarendon Place,
home of Patrick Gregware and Johnny Garcia



October: 71 Berkeley Road,
home of Gwen and Ray Salazar

Avondale Estates Garden Club Yard of the Month



September: 43 Clarendon Avenue
home of Vivian Fisher and Judy Eustace



October: 3 Exeter Road, home of George and Lin Inlow



Sponsors eager for your business!

The following are sponsors* in other community newsletters, published by Our Front Porch. **BOLD LISTINGS** have an advertisement in this publication. (*Included sponsors have met purchase criteria.)

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7 EXETER RD



3212 KENSINGTON RD



219 OHM AVE

And an extra special welcome to some
of our new neighbors this year!



LET'S CELEBRATE
THE SEASON
together!

November 10
🇺🇸 VETERANS DAY

November 12
🎵 WEEKEND WIND
DOWN CONCERT
AT TOWNE GREEN

November 23
🍂 THANKSGIVING

November 27
🌲 AVONDALE TREE
LIGHTING AT TOWNE
GREEN

December 7-15
🕯️ HANUKKAH

December 10
🌟 CHRISTMAS TOUR
OF HOMES & HOLIDAY
MARKET

December 25
🎅 CHRISTMAS
HO HO HO!

Jan 1, 2024
🎉 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



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jennewman@kw.com

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📷 @JENNEWMANHOMES