



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Mayor and Commissioners

FROM: Clai Brown, City Manager

DATE: March 20, 2015

SUBJECT: **WEEKLY REPORT**

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

- A new Avondale Estates homeowner requested assistance with eligibility for State/Federal Tax credits. Staff sent applicable information to the homeowner and set up a conference call meeting with the Historic Preservation Division to discuss his tax credit options based on proposed rehabilitation and expansion plans.
- MARTA requested a meeting with City staff to discuss the possible environmental impacts of the proposed Avondale Station development planned for the Avondale MARTA Station parking lot. Staff met with MARTA and provided the necessary information and mapping. Some information on the proposed development is available on the MARTA website: <http://goo.gl/sClzG8>.
- A traffic engineering firm has completed a Pre-Review Transportation Study for Avondale Hills, a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) just north of the Kensington MARTA Station, in unincorporated DeKalb County. Under the Georgia Planning Act, development projects that are likely to have an impact beyond the host local government's jurisdiction are subject to review as DRIs. Avondale Hills (DRI Application 2483) will be located along the north side of Mountain Drive at the location of the existing Kensington Manor Apartments. Read the full study memo here: <http://goo.gl/W5MGeB>.
- The City has been pursuing a redesign of US 278, first through the March 2014 Downtown Master Plan Update and now through the Feasibility Study. Staff has met with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) multiple times throughout the process. A staffing change at GDOT required a follow-up meeting to re-introduce the project and work out/identify any issues prior to (1) a Corridor Concept Plan public meeting on March 19th, and (2) the submittal of a funding application to the Atlanta Regional Commission. The US 278 recommendations,

March 19th slideshow presentation and past materials can all be viewed on the City website: <http://www.avondaleestates.org/downtownmaster.html>.

- Judges and prizes for the April 4th Dog Parade have been solidified. Staff is also working with organizations that have requested a table at the Easter Egg Hunt and Dog Parade event. View the Dog Parade rules and registration form here: <http://www.avondaleestates.org/resources/Events/dog-parade-2015.pdf>.
- To be eligible to receive transportation funds through the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) program, the City must receive Local Administered Project (LAP) certification. Staff attended the required right-of-way class.
- The Atlanta Regional Commission and DeKalb County requested the City's participation and input on the update to Plan 2040 (the region's plan) and the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM). Staff attended the workshop.
- Seven companies attended the Willis Park Site Improvements pre-bid meeting to ask questions and learn more about the project. Responses to the Request for Proposals are due Friday, March 27th.
- City and Police staff met with the production crew from a nationally aired TV series to determine requirements for the approval of a film permit. The production of one episode will take place March 24-27 on Dartmouth Avenue.
- The Safety Team conducted the Quarterly Safety Inspection of the Public Works Department. The inspection includes vehicles, premises, equipment and safety records.
- The City branding survey closed March 20th with 315 responses, meaning the City met and exceeded its goal of at least 300 responses. All responses will be carefully reviewed and will help to guide the Branding and Website Project's initial phases. Later on, City staff will seek additional community input to develop and launch a completely new website that aligns with the City brand. Read more about the project on the City website: <http://www.avondaleestates.org/branding-website.html>.
- City Hall is serving as a drop-off spot for a Friends of Avondale Elementary School (AES) \$5 Bill Drive. Funds from the drive benefit students who would not otherwise have a chance to buy a book at the school's book fair. The drive runs through Wednesday, March 25th.
- Staff created promotional materials for AEPD's Operation Pill Drop, which will be held Saturday, April 11th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall. The event allows the community to properly dispose of surplus, outdated and unwanted household medications in a discreet and safe manner, thus keeping them out of the wrong hands and out of the water supply. All types of medications will be accepted.

- One resident applied for an opening on the City of Avondale Estates Planning and Zoning Board. The opening will be advertised again next week. Those interested in applying may fill out this form on the City website: <http://goo.gl/vSYXUu>.
- The March 30th State of the City will be held at City Hall, and event flyers will be mailed to residents early next week.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- AEPD Officers provided security and assistance during the Rail Arts District (RAD) Studio Cruise event March 14th.
- Cpl. Bollinger attended the Basic SWAT Course hosted by the Conyers Police Department. The approved 40-hour Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) course includes topics such as Resolution of Barricaded Suspects; Individual and Team Covert Movement and Chemical Agents; Less Lethal and Diversionary Device Overviews; High-Risk Warrant Service; and Hostage Rescue Techniques. Students complete multiple fast-paced training exercises that improve and enhance tactical skills.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Contacted DeKalb County Watershed about a possible water leak on Berkeley Road and followed up to complete a repair on Berkeley Road.
- Contacted a pest control company about a potential yellow jacket nest at Willis Park.
- Repaired a flood light on the Berkeley Pathway.
- Started performing maintenance on the Abelia hedges on South Avondale Road.
- Followed up with Georgia Power regarding four locations that need repairs.
- Site Visits-17
- Sign Violations-16
- Household Waste Removed-30 tons
- Yard Waste Removed-5 tons
- Special pick-ups-6