



# NEWS FROM CITY HALL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES • AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA

NEWSLETTER 326

March-April 2013



State of the City

8



Rail Arts District  
Studio Cruise

11



Easter Egg Hunt  
& Dog Parade

18



3rd Annual Sunday Ride

20



## Arbor Day in Avondale Estates

### Let's Plant A Tree

*by Aileen Fisher*

It's time to plant a tree, a tree.  
What shall it be? What shall it be?

Let's plant a pine—we can't go wrong:  
a pine is green the whole year long.

Let's plant a maple—more than one,  
to shade us from the summer sun.

Let's plant a cherry—you know why:  
there's nothing like a cherry pie!

Let's plant an elm, the tree of grace,  
where robins find a nesting place.

Let's plant an apple—not too small,  
with flowers in spring and fruit in fall.

Let's plant a birch, an oak, a beech,  
there's something extra-nice in each...  
in winter, summer, spring or fall.

Let's plant a ...  
why not plant them ALL?





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MENSWEAR

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### Board of Mayor & Commissioners

Ed Rieker, Mayor  
Terry Giager, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lindsay Forlines, Commissioner  
Gene Lee, Commissioner  
John Quinn, Commissioner

### Administration

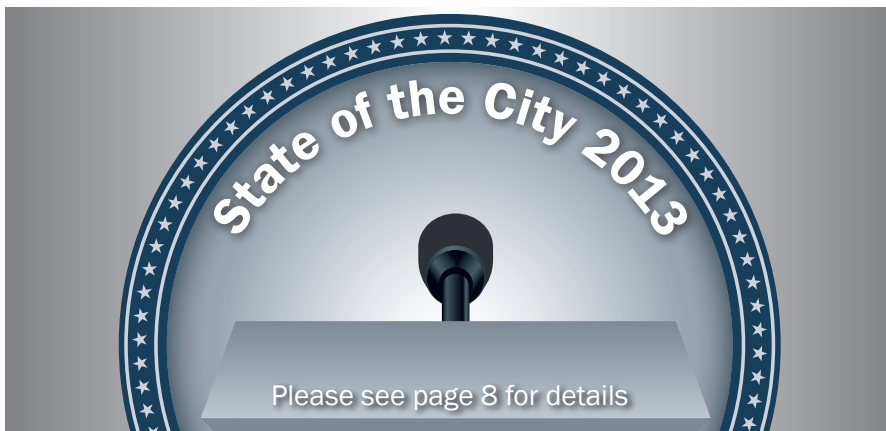
Clai Brown, City Manager  
Ken Turner, Finance Director  
Juliette Sims-Owens, City Clerk  
Keri Stevens, City Planner  
Judy Knight, Communications Manager  
Karen Holmes, Administrative Asst.  
Robert E. Wilson, City Attorney  
Stephen W. Nicholas, Municipal Court Judge  
Hazel Baker, Clerk of Court

### Police Department

Gary L. Broden, Chief of Police

### Public Works Department

Bryan Armstead, Director  
Caryl Albarran, Code Enforcement Officer



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### City Hall Bi-Monthly Newsletter

If you would like to sign-up to receive the City Hall Bi-Monthly Newsletter or wish to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to [info@avondaleestates.org](mailto:info@avondaleestates.org).



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### NIXLE

This service, created by Nixle, LLC delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by web, e-mail, and cell phone. Its authenticated service connects municipal agencies to residents in real time, delivering information to geographically targeted residents over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails and through web access. The service provides four (4) types of messages, to include:

- Alert - Intended for urgent and time sensitive information.
- Advisory - Intended for important need-to-know, time sensitive information.
- Community - Intended for general information or non-urgent community updates.
- Traffic - Intended for all traffic related messaging.

The messages are sent by the Avondale Estates Police Department personnel. To become a part of the Community Information Service, simply go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and click on the "Register Now" button.



### Twitter

The City has two Twitter accounts. For meeting reminders see, @CityofAvondale, for City tweets go to @City\_Avondale.

If you are interested in advertising in the City of Avondale Estates bi-monthly newsletter, please contact Rusty Oliver at 404-379-6138 or email [rusty@kda-communications.com](mailto:rusty@kda-communications.com).

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# Looking Back.....2012

## Another Beautiful Year in Avondale Estates

Dear Residents and Business Owners:

Each year seems to go by faster than the last! The City had many accomplishments in 2012 and they could have not have been made without our wonderful residents, the many volunteers that serve on the various boards and serve the City, and the dedicated City associates. I would like to recap some of the accomplishments the City made during 2012.

Clai Brown, City Manager



### Accomplishments

- 30 new residents moved to Avondale Estates
- 20 new businesses started in Avondale Estates.
- City Clerk received Certified Municipal Clerk Certificate.
- The Board of Mayor and Commissioners approved 10 ordinances, 5 proclamations, and 23 resolutions.
- The City received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.
- City donated \$6,264.74 from the Labor Day Race proceeds to support the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALS—Lou Gehrig's Disease).
- City implemented a paperless court system.
- City received a \$6,000 Safety Grant.
- City received a \$6,800 Health Promotion Grant which was used for The Wellness Program for the associates.
- City revised the Defined Benefit Plan to include the associate contribution.
- City assisted with the management of the Department of Juvenile Justice budget process and development of the Capital Improvement Budget.
- Finance Director assisted with the sale of \$5,644.50 of surplus vehicles.
- The City received a grant for \$11,500 to complete Phase I of the Community-wide Historic Resource Study through the Historic Preservation Division of the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Phase II has been applied for and will complete the project with all resources surveyed.



- In partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the City received grant funds to participate in the Lifelong Communities Program (LLC) and work to establish a program in the City. The City received \$26,000 to be spent on a Walkability Study, Zoning Recommendations and crosswalk and apron improvements. The grant will be administered in 2013.
- The required materials for the City to be designated an Opportunity Zone (OZ), through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), were submitted. If approved, the City will be able to incentivize developers and current business owners with a \$3,500 tax credit for each full-time job created over two.
- The second annual Easter Celebration and Dog Parade was a great success. The dog parade, again, had over 100 registered dogs with over \$1,000 in donated prizes for participants.
- The City worked with PAWS Atlanta to host a dog walk and fundraiser, which raised over \$23,000 for the organization. The organization is supported by many Avondale Estates residents.
- The City was recognized by This Old House Magazine as one of the Best Old House Neighborhoods in 2012.
- The City completed a Promotional Brochure for distribution to developers and other interested parties.
- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and City worked together to create a promotional box filled with local merchant's products and a promotional brochure for targeted developers.
- The Community Promotion Program (CPP) again funded the successful, well known Avondale Estates' events Art-B-Que, AutumnFest and the Avondale Estates Sunday Ride. New to the program this year were the Dark Harvest Haunted House, administered by the Academy Theatre, and the Rail Arts District (R.A.D.) Studio

Cruise. The events cumulatively brought in over 15,000 people.

- 24 properties, between the former City limits at Maple Street and the new City limits at Sams Crossing, were annexed into the City. The City has been working to incorporate this area formerly known as "No Man's Land" into the City for over 14 years. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place with both the City of Avondale Estates and the City of Decatur to celebrate the first merging of City boundaries.
- Three meetings were held, during the annexation process, to discuss the future plans for the area now known as the "Western Gateway." This area includes the 24 parcels annexed between the former City boundary at Maple Street and Sams Crossing.
- The City was awarded a grant for a University of Georgia graduate student intern to assist with research to assist the City with the pursuit of Lifelong Communities Program policies and goals.
- The Georgia Historical Marker for the Waffle Museum was installed, complimented by a well attended celebration attended by representatives from the Georgia Historical Society and the founding members of the Waffle House.
- The Historic Preservation Commission, City Staff and citizens participated in the "This Place Matters" campaign through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The focus was the Tudor Village.
- The Avondale Business Association (AEBA) focused their holiday efforts on the Month of Merry campaign for the second year, focusing on getting holiday business in the evenings during the month of December.
- The Tudor Village was purchased by Oakhurst Realty Properties which is well known for responsibly rehabilitating and managing historic properties.
- The City Planner participated as a reviewer for the Atlanta Regional Commission to determine appro-

priate projects for funding through the Livable Centers Initiative.

- The City Planner engaged in a number of training activities through the Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Planning Academy to maintain required AICP credits.

## **Police Department**

### **Training Activities:**

- Agency personnel completed 904 hours of training, to include basic, intermediate, advanced and In-Service training.
- Patrol Division Training included the following courses: Officer Survival (4 officers attended), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, DUI Case Preparation & Courtroom Presentation, and Health & Wellness.
- One (1) supervisor was awarded his "Supervision Certification" by Georgia Peace Officers Training and Standards (P.O.S.T.).
- Conducted Citizen Training Sessions in coordination with the city-wide Neighborhood Watch Program. Sessions included topics such as "Firearms Ownership in the Home, Emergency Home Preparedness, and CPR."
- In-Service Training required of all personnel, topics included: Annual Firearms Qualification, Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, OC Spray & Expandable Baton Use, CPR Refresher, Ethics, Bias-Based Policing, Emergency Vehicle Response, Sexual Harassment, Legal Updates and Prisoner Transport.
- Command Staff Training included the following courses: NIMS 300 & 400, Basic Public Information Officer, Advanced Interview Techniques, Basic Photography & Digital Imaging, 2012 Criminal Justice Training System Symposium, Taser Instructor Certification, Evacuation Tactical Operations Annex Senior Leadership Seminar, Management I, Georgia Internal Affairs Investigators Spring Conference, Georgia Chiefs of Police Winter and Summer Conference.

### **Community Involvement:**

- The agency conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Citizens Police Academy. The 8-week program was attended by 20 local residents and/or business owners. Attendees had instruction in basic police procedures, including: Incident Reporting, Courts and the Law, Investigations, Traffic Enforcement, Communications/911, Special Operations, and Firearms and the Use of Force.
- The agency, along with Neighborhood Watch and Citizens Police Academy volunteers and alumni, participated in “National Night Out.” The program addressed crime prevention, victim awareness and home safety. Many other local law enforcement agencies participated by involvement of specialty units and equipment. The City received a 2012 National Award for its participation and superb program.
- Officers were involved in numerous community events, to include:
  - Presentations to both the Avondale Men’s and Ladies Club.
  - Career Day activities at the Museum School, International School and Avondale Head Start Center.
  - Museum School’s Family Fitness Day.
  - SteamFest.
  - International School’s Avondale Lake 1 Mile Fun Run.
  - DeKalb’s Police Santa Program.
  - International Walk/Bike to School Day.
  - AutumnFest.
  - Mayors’ Christmas Motorcade.
  - “Fire in the Hole” Chili Cook Off.
  - DeKalb County Police Department and Police Alliance “Beat the Badge” 5K race.

- Holiday events (Halloween, Christmas Tree Lighting, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day Races, Antique care Parade, etc.)
- Ride Along Program for Citizen Police Academy graduates.
- Continued contact with the community through such programs as the Nixel Community Notification System, A Child is Missing Alert Program and the City’s E-Blast.
- Continued involvement and partnership with the city-wide Neighborhood Watch Program.
- SpeedSentry Data Reports regularly submitted advising the community of vehicular traffic (speed & vehicle count) throughout the City.

### **Inter-Agency Cooperation/Involvement:**

- AEPD continues to interact with other agencies (local, state & federal) and programs to better serve the community, relationships with other agencies include: Governors Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), Metropolitan Atlanta Traffic Enforcement Network (MATEN), Atlanta METROPOL Fraud Group, Atlanta Area Metro Tech Group, Georgia Department of Transportation (GA DOT), DeKalb County Emergency Management (DEMA) and others.
- Continued participation in the nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Campaign conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). AEPD collected more than 216 pounds of unwanted and/or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs throughout the year.
- A mutual aid agreement was signed between the DeKalb County School District and the City of Avondale Estates pertaining to each Police Department’s

aid to one another should the need arise.

### **Grants & Funding:**

- A 2012 COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) was submitted by the Department. Requested was a position for one (1) officer for a three year period, total grant request was \$180,809. The request was not approved, nor was it denied, but can be considered at a later date. Nationwide, only 17% of the grant applications received were funded.
- A 2012 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Award (U.S. Department of Justice) in the amount of \$1,200.00 was granted to assist in the purchase of body armor for AEPD officers.
- American Legion (Post #66) funded the purchase of two (2) duty weapons for the agency through its annual assistance presentation.

### **Technology:**

- The department’s first Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) was purchased. The system can read up to 1,800 license plates per minute. The unit aids in the recovery of stolen vehicles, apprehension of wanted persons, notification of unlicensed and uninsured drivers, and many other operations.
- Upgrades continue to the department’s Courtware, Incident Reporting and E-Ticketing network.
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) capabilities continue to be upgraded.
- TLO-Online Investigations System contract was signed allowing Investigators access to a more broad data base assisting in ongoing investigations.



### **Miscellaneous:**

- More than 7,900 Security Checks of homes and businesses were conducted.
- The department completed and passed the FBI's Criminal Information System (CJIS) audit. The audit confirmed that the department maintains and reports criminal data under established guidelines.
- 1560 tons of Household Waste was disposed.
- 210 Special Pick-Ups were completed.
- Inspected and removed or pruned 30 trees within the City that were considered a safety hazard.
- 650 Sign Violations were corrected.
- Performed 1092 Site Visits.
- 20 Parking Violations were corrected.

### **Public Works/Code Enforcement/Sanitation**

- Received a grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$21,480 for road improvements (street resurfacing, curbing, new sidewalks, etc.), the City will use the grant funds for header curbing.
- Received a Safety Grant from the Georgia Municipal Association in the amount of \$8,000. The City used the funds to purchase safety apparel for the Public Works associates.
- Associates completed 192 Training Hours in the following areas of safety:
  - Proper Bending Techniques
  - Eye Injury Prevention
  - Winter Sickness
  - Proper Respirator Use (for leaf collection)
  - Working Cold Conditions
- Director of Code Enforcement and Code Enforcement Officer completed 100 hours of training through Georgia Association of Code Enforcement.
- 1400 tons of Yard Waste were disposed (including leaves, grass clippings, limbs, etc.).
- Issued 116 Permit Authorizations.
- Issued 17 Sign Permits.
- Issued 5 Fence Permits.
- 2810 linear feet of curbing was installed throughout the City.
- Department was involved in the preparation of 20 City sponsored events.
- Majority of all damaged curbing throughout the City was repaired.



## State of the City 2013

**Monday, March 25, 2013 • 7:30 p.m.**

Please join the Board of Mayor and Commissioners and City staff as Mayor Rieker presents the 2013 State of the City Address on Monday, March 25th at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Please come out and support The Avondale Estates Women's Club Annual Bake Sale. Bake goods will be sold before and after the State of the City Address.



## The City of Avondale Estates Welcomes Its First Motorized Cart

On February 5th, the City of Avondale Estates proudly welcomed its first motorized cart, a first step toward recognizing the need for convenient alternative, low-speed transportation throughout the residential area.

Explained City Manager Clai Brown, "In passing the motorized cart ordinance in December 2012, the Board of Mayor and Commissioners recognized the opportunity to provide all of us with an alternative to driving the car for short trips to visit the parks, the lake, the swim/tennis club, and local family and friends."

"The wider benefit is that motorized carts, relative to cars, produce less tailpipe emissions and are therefore better for our air quality; reduce parking congestion because of their smaller size; and can be operated safely and cost-effectively for short trips around the City," he said.

Matt Miller, owner of Avondale Estates' first motorized cart and a former resident of Peachtree City where there are thousands of motorized carts in operation said, "I plan to use my motorized cart both for utility – carrying firewood and pine straw around the yard – and also for transportation around the neighborhood. It's convenient, relatively inexpensive to operate, and just plain fun to drive!"

The City of Avondale Estates recent-



**City Manager Clai Brown congratulates new cart owner Matt Miller**

ly passed a resolution affirming its commitment to become an Atlanta Regional Commission Lifelong Community. One of the goals of Lifelong Communities is to create places where individuals can live comfortably throughout their lifetimes. Lifelong Communities are greatly enhanced by the availability of a full range of living and transportation options for residents, both young and old. Adding motorized carts to Avondale Estates' transportation choices will help the City to embrace various transportation

alternatives as it redevelops the historic downtown area, and adds new businesses, community gathering places and mixed-use development.

Said City Manager Brown, "We hope the motorized carts are just the beginning. With redevelopment planning underway, as well as crosswalk upgrades for Avondale Estates, we are striving to create an accessible, connected and engaging City that best serves the needs of our local businesses and residents."

### Operating a Motorized Cart in Avondale Estates

Avondale Estates' Board of Mayor and Commissioners passed the City's Motorized Cart Ordinance in December 2012 to permit the operation of motorized carts, and to outline safety and operational guidelines. The full ordinance with complete safety and operational guidelines is available at <http://goo.gl/SzBWM>.

Residents can now use motorized carts as alternative and/or recreational transportation within the City of Avondale Estates, but must first register their cart at City Hall located at 21 North Avondale Plaza, and pay a one-time registration fee of \$10.

Drivers of motorized carts must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license.



## Door Delivery of Mail in Historic District to Continue

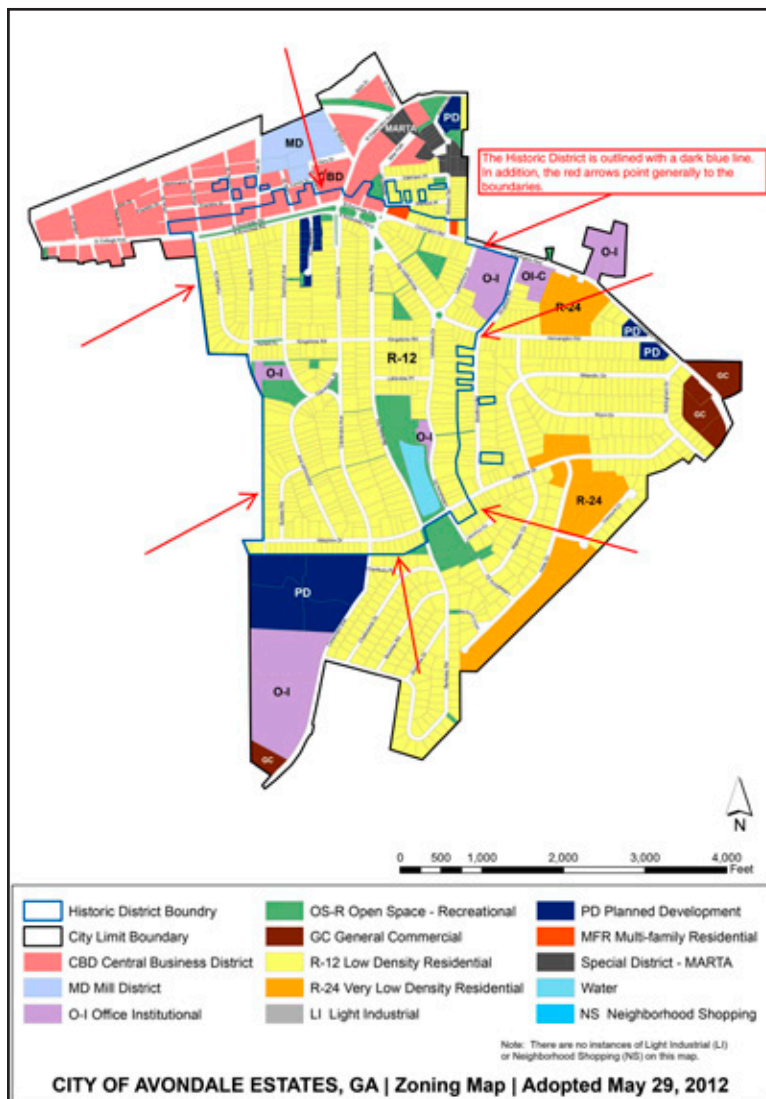
City Hall is pleased to report that as of February 15, 2013, the United States Postal Service has agreed to continue to provide door delivery of mail to every home in the Avondale Estates Historic District.

In 2012, the City was notified by the United States Postal Service that new residents of the Historic District would be required to install curbside mailboxes in order to continue to receive mail delivery.

The City corresponded extensively and directly with the USPS on this issue, requesting it repeal the curbside mailbox requirement. Senator Johnny Isakson supported the City in this effort.

As a result, the City has been informed that its efforts have been successful, and the requirement to install curbside mailboxes in the Historic District has been repealed.

**Henceforth, all residents of the Avondale Estates Historic District will receive their mail via door delivery. Current mail service methods for all residents living outside the Historic District will remain the same.**



## Update on a Dog Park in Avondale Estates



The Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee for their outstanding service to the Avondale Estates community for the last two years.

The committee diligently researched all available properties in the City and the best practices associated with dog parks from all over the region and the country. After the Dog Park Committee thoroughly vetted three possible locations in the City and presented their findings to the BOMC and the public, the BOMC realized that the limited open green space in the City does not provide an appropriate location for a dog park at this time.

All of the potential dog park venues were located close to residential areas of the City. While there is tremendous interest and desire among City residents (and their dogs) to create a dog park, the location of the dog park becomes problematic when placed next to residential properties in the City.

The BOMC respects and is thankful for all the hard work of the Dog Park Committee and those residents that attended public meetings and expressed their opinions on this effort. As a result of these findings the implementation of a dog park will be delayed until the City is able to acquire or locate a suitable green space to dedicate to a dog park for the residents of Avondale Estates.

The Board of Mayor and Commissioners would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee for their service to our community.

### Members of the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee:

Martha McDermott, Chairman  
Keri Stevens, City Planner  
Ken and Carol Gray  
George and Melitta Brandt  
Don Connelly  
Randy Beebe  
Richard Starcher  
Scott Gurley  
Stephen Besch  
Lesley Smith

Sincerely,  
Ed Rieker  
*Mayor, City of Avondale Estates*

## A Healthy City is a Productive City!

The City of Avondale Estates was named a finalist in the Atlanta Business Chronicle's annual awards recognizing the metro area's healthiest places to work. City Commissioner Lindsay Forlines represented the City at the Chronicle's awards breakfast.

Commissioner Forlines thanked the Atlanta Business Chronicle for presenting awards for healthy workplaces, stating that these enhance the health and well-being of associates and associates, which for government offices translates into savings in healthcare costs.

"As a result of the City's wellness program, participating associates have achieved a seven percent reduction in heart disease risk scores, and a 12 percent reduction in diabetes risk scores," she said. "Significantly, we no longer have a single participant in the high-risk category for total cholesterol or for triglycerides."

Avondale Estates recently passed a resolution affirming its commitment to become an Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Lifelong Community. One of the goals of this program is to encourage healthy life-



City associates meet with DeKalb Medical Center expert Massey Arrington

styles at all ages, and throughout a community.

As City Manager Clai Brown says, "Setting a good example starts at City Hall."

The City of Avondale Estates thanks

DeKalb Medical Center for its good work in setting up and managing the wellness program, the grantor Local Government Risk Management Services, and also City Finance Director Ken Turner for championing this highly effective initiative at City Hall.

## Creating a Lifelong Community in Avondale Estates

First, here's a big **Thank You** to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey on how we enhance the walkability and livability of Avondale Estates. The information provided by City residents was vitally important in helping us to determine how we

envision and develop Avondale Estates into a "lifelong community" for everyone's benefit.

The term "lifelong community" is frequently in the news these days. It refers to cities and neighborhoods that provide an array of housing types that appeal to individuals both young and old; opportunities for healthy living including parks and outdoor spaces; ways to get around, including meeting the needs of individuals who do not drive; plus safe sidewalks and convenient access to shopping, recreational opportunities and basic services. The Atlanta Regional Commission's Lifelong Communities program, which the City of Avondale Estates has actively embraced, has three major goals. These include promoting housing and transportation options, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and expanding access to information and services for all residents.

City associates, led by our city planner Keri Stevens, have been working to ensure Avondale Estates continues to be the kind of place in which people can live comfortably throughout their lifetimes. In February, the City was very pleased to receive its first grant funds from the Atlanta Regional Commission to conduct a walkability study, upgrade some of our crosswalks, and review the current zoning ordinance to see where we can add incentives for the creation of senior housing. And this is just the beginning!



City Planner Keri Stevens and City Manager Clai Brown lead a walking tour of Avondale Estates for members of the Atlanta Regional Commission together with the national organization, Grantmakers in Aging.





**6th Annual Rail Arts District Studio Cruise**  
**Saturday, March 2nd, 2013**  
 go to [www.railartsdistrict.com](http://www.railartsdistrict.com) for info



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# A Low Cost & Highly Effective Way to Prevent Crime!

Avondale Estates Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime. Neighborhood Watch forges BONDS among area residents, helps reduce burglaries, entering autos, etc., and IMPROVES relations between police and the communities they serve.

## Neighborhood Watch is:

- A Neighborhood Communications network among neighbors.
- A collaborative effort between community and the police.
- An important tool that neighbors can use to reduce their crime concerns.
- Where neighbors are given information on how to detect suspicious activity and what actions they can take to deter certain crimes from possibly occurring

We would like to thank all of our citizens who have been great at reporting suspicious activity. Please continue to be the extra eyes and ears needed to assist the Avondale Estates Police Department. Almost all of the crimes reported have been because of windows of opportunity for the criminals, please do not hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious activity.

Avondale Estates will continue to be a safe place to live if we work together and continue to send a message to the criminals that our community is organized and fighting back.

We would like to thank one of our newest neighborhood watch captains, Kahle Davis and his wife Susan for hosting a wonderful block party on February 6th. We appreciate all of you who attended. Many thanks to Corporal Phil Findley for presiding. One topic of discussion at the Block Party was situational preparedness. We all need to be prepared if destruction by Mother Nature occurs. For more information, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

A special thank you to our Neighborhood Watch Captains for their time and commitment to our Neighborhood Watch Program. Our goal was to have a Captain for every street by the end of 2012 however, we did not reach goal but we feel certain we will achieve this goal by the end of 2013. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Please consider volunteering to be a Block Captain if you live on any of the following streets.

## The following streets need Captains:

- Exeter Road
- Coventry Close
- S. Avondale Plaza (From Clarendon Ave. to Kensington Rd.)
- Wiltshire Drive (From Clarendon Ave. to Berkeley Rd.)
- Wiltshire Drive (From Lakeshore Drive to Stratford Road)
- Wiltshire Drive (From Stratford Road to Majestic Circle)
- Wiltshire Drive (From Majestic Circle to Hess Drive)
- Wiltshire Drive (From Hess Drive to Nottingham Drive)
- Kingstone Road (From Clarendon Ave. to Berkeley Rd.)
- Lakeshore Plaza
- Lakeshore Drive at it crosses over Wiltshire shire South of Lake Avondale
- Oakham Place
- Washington Street
- Windsor Terrace
- Locust Street

If you would like to learn more about the Neighborhood Watch Program or find out how to become a Neighborhood Watch Captain, please contact Sherri Dickens at 404-298-5381 or [avondalenw@gmail.com](mailto:avondalenw@gmail.com).

## Security Reminders

- ALWAYS CALL 911 for any emergency or suspicious person or activity.
- ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE and do not leave important items visible, not even loose change.
- Please continue to watch for children as they are walking, riding bikes, and scooters around town.
- Make sure all toys, bikes, and anything of any importance are placed securely out of sight each day.
- Lock your doors and windows at home.
- Use your alarm systems and set your interior lights on timers.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed at night.
- DO NOT place purses, keys, or wallets in clear sight.
- Break down boxes and place in a black or brown garbage bag before placing in trash.
- Keep serial numbers of electronics and of anything else of importance on file. (i.e.: in a safe)
- Leave emergency numbers with a trusted person and if you are going out of town, let your neighbors know and complete a Security Check Form (Form is available at City Hall and on the City Website).







## All About Health: Learn and Play at Family Fun Fitness Day Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fitness should be fun, and The Museum School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) wants to show you how!

Join us Saturday, March 23rd for the 3rd Annual Family Fun Fitness Day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the school's campus located at 923 Forrest Boulevard. The day will be packed with fun activities, exercise opportunities and health information. Attractions include:

- A bounce house and an obstacle course
- An appearance by team members of the Atlanta Dream
- Fitness demonstrations, including one from C.J. The Workout Kid
- Fitness drills and relays
- Other fun activities for kids and adults
- Tasty food samplings from gourmet chefs and local restaurants

The event includes health-minded food vendors, including King of Pops (kingofpops.net) and a food truck from The Healthy Nut (thehealthynuttruk.com), and one lucky FFFD participant will walk away with a YMCA membership valued at \$685!

Admission is free, and the sale of activity tickets and refreshments will directly benefit The Museum School. Check the event website (familyfunfitnessday.com) for an updated schedule of events and demonstrations and a list of ticketed and free activities. Parking near the school is limited, so consider walking or biking to the event!

Family Fun Fitness Day continues its search for additional sponsors and vendors. If you would like to participate or sponsor the event, please contact familyfunfitnessday@gmail.com.



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# March 2013

calendar of events

Calendar Sponsored by  
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See the ad on page 16.

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT



1

2

6th Annual Rail Arts  
District Studio Cruise  
[www.railartsdistrict.com](http://www.railartsdistrict.com)

3

4

7:00 p.m. Historic  
Preservation  
Commission/  
Architectural Review  
Board Mtg.

5

6

7

8

Noon Historic  
Preservation  
Commission/  
Architectural Review  
Board Application  
Deadline

9

10

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Annual Ladies Tea,  
Avondale  
Community Club

11

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Lifelong Communities  
Walkability Assessment,  
City Hall

12

6:30 p.m. Downtown  
Development Authority  
Regular Mtg.  
  
6:30 p.m. Citizens  
Police Academy, City Hall

13

14

15

10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.  
AE Garden Club Installa-  
tion of Officers, Avondale  
Community Club  
  
12:00 Noon Board of  
Appeals Application  
Deadline

16

St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
at Community Club -  
doors open at 7:00 p.m.

17

St. Patrick's Day



18

6:00 p.m. Planning  
and Zoning Board  
Regular Mtg.

19

6:30 p.m. Board of  
Appeals Regular Mtg. -  
Check with City Hall  
6:30 p.m. Citizens  
Police Academy, City Hall  
7:00 p.m. Lake Avondale  
Advisory Board  
Regular Mtg.

20

5:30 p.m.  
Board of Mayor and  
Commissioners Public  
Hearing, Special Called  
Meeting and Regular  
Work Session

21

22

23

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Museum School Family  
Fun Fitness Day, 923  
Forrest Blvd.

24

25

7:30 p.m. State of the  
City 2013, City Hall

26

27

Noon Avondale Estates  
Men's Club Mtg., 30  
Covington Road

28

29

30

Avondale Estates Annual  
Easter Egg Hunt &  
Dog Parade &  
Community Club BBQ -  
Lake Avondale

31

Antique Car Parade, Line up  
1:30 p.m., Parade begins  
at 2:30 p.m. on S. Avondale  
Rd. ends at Willis Park



# April 2013

calendar of events

Calendar Sponsored by  
Greenlee Plumbing  
See the ad on page 16.

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

1

7:00 p.m. - Historic  
Preservation  
Commission/  
Architectural Review  
Board Mtg.

2

6:30 p.m. Citizens  
Police Academy, City Hall

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

6:30 p.m. Downtown  
Development  
Authority Mtg.  
  
6:30 p.m. Citizens  
Police Academy, City Hall

10

11

12

Noon Historic  
Preservation  
Commission/  
Architectural Review  
Board Application  
Deadline

13

14

15

6:00 p.m. Planning  
and Zoning Board  
Regular Mtg.

16

6:30 p.m. Citizens Police  
Academy, City Hall  
  
7:00 p.m. Lake  
Avondale Advisory  
Board Regular Mtg.  
  
6:30 p.m. Board of  
Appeals Regular Mtg.

17

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

18

19

Noon Board of Appeals  
Application Deadline

20

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Georgia Safe School  
Coalition 1K/5K Fun Run  
  
Kentucky Derby Pre-Party,  
Hats, Mint Juleps & Racing  
at Community Club

21

22

7:30 p.m. Board  
of Mayor and  
Commissioners  
Regular Mtg.

23

6:30 p.m. Citizens  
Police Academy, City Hall

24

25

26

27

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Avondale Estates Police  
Department Annual Drug  
Take Back, City Hall  
  
10:00 a.m. to Noon First  
Annual Avondale Tree  
Walk, Community Club

28

11:00 a.m. to  
4:00 p.m. Avondale  
Estates Sunday Ride

29

30

6:30 p.m. Citizens Police  
Academy, City Hall  
  
7:00 p.m. Avondale  
Children's Choir Spring  
Concert, Avondale Estates  
First Baptist Church, 47  
Covington Road





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## 2012 Event Calendar

March 10th  
**The Ladies Tea**

March 30th  
**Easter BBQ at the lake**

April 20th  
**Kentucky Derby Pre-Party**  
Hats, Mint Juleps & Racing

May 18th  
**Silent Auction**

June 15th  
**Bingo**

August 17th  
**Shrimp Boil**

September 21st  
**Chili Cook-off**

October 18th & 19th  
**2nd Annual Pig Roast**

November 16th  
**Presidents Dinner**

December 7th  
**Lake Tree Lighting Party**

# Avondale Community Club

**ACC members St. Patrick's Day dinner**

**March 16th**

**Doors open at 7:00pm**

\$15 ACC Members - \$20 Non-Members

**Celebrate your Saint Patrick's**

**Day at the Lake House**

Corned beef and cabbage  
(chicken for non-beef eaters!)  
Irish potatoes & Irish soda bread.



## Guinness Stout & Contra Dancing

Our small town exemplifies all the grace and charm of the south despite being nestled within a greater metropolitan area. No place within our City is that southern charm more evident than at the Avondale Community Club. The ACC has been at the heart of the Avondale Estates community for nearly 90 years. The club is more than just a meeting place for neighbors and a host for the community, but a place where lifelong friendships are forged. Monthly and community wide events include casino night, the Taste of Avondale, the Ladies' Tea, Shrimp boil, second annual Pig Roast, the lighting of the Lake Avondale Tree and the Tour of Homes. Membership allows you a discounted rate for renting the historic Lake House.

**To join the Avondale Community Club please  
contact George Brandt at (770) 296-3222**

A festive graphic for an Easter event. It features two large Easter eggs: one orange with a red cross and floral patterns, and one purple with white swirls and leaves. The background is light green with pink and yellow polka dots and green leaves. The text is in a playful, bubbly font.

**You are invited to...**  
**The Easter Egg Hunt & Dog Parade**  
**At Lake Avondale (Community Club)**  
**Saturday, March 30th • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**If it rains event will be cancelled**

**Event Activities:**  
**Easter Egg Hunt - 10AM**  
Children of all ages up to 10 years old  
**Avondale Estates Dog Parade - 10:45AM**  
*To register go to [www.avondaleestates.org](http://www.avondaleestates.org)*  
**Award Categories:**  
Best Costume • Best Owner/Dog Duo  
Most Spirited/Enthusiastic • Best Behaved  
Costumes are not required to participate. Prizes will be awarded!

**The event is FREE**  
The Avondale Community Club will be hosting the following:  
Bake Sale • BBQ Fundraiser  
Music by:  
Kahle Davis of Event Technology Team  
[www.EventTechnologyTeam.com](http://www.EventTechnologyTeam.com)

A circular logo for the Avondale Community Club. It features a green border with the text "AVONDALE COMMUNITY CLUB" and "SINCE 1926". Inside the circle is a stylized green and gold emblem.

## **Antique Car Parade**

### **Sunday, March 31st**

Come join us for the Annual Antique Car Parade on Sunday, March 31st. Line up begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Twin Oaks Shopping Plaza, 2853 East College Avenue. The parade begins at 2:30 p.m. on South Avondale Road and ends at Willis Park where the cars remain for display. Refreshments will be provided by the Model A Restorers Club.

If you would like to enter an automobile,  
please contact Lamar Hart at  
[lamarhart@bellsouth.net](mailto:lamarhart@bellsouth.net).





## Avondale Estates Tree Walk

**Saturday, April 27th • 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Are you the proud “owner” of one of Avondale Estate’s magnificent old oak trees that rise a hundred feet or more? Or perhaps a stately Southern magnolia with a spread of 40 feet or more graces your yard? We hope you’ll nominate these and other examples of our city’s most noteworthy trees to be part of the First Annual Avondale Tree Walk on April 27th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

The Avondale Estates and Avon Garden Clubs are joining forces to sponsor the Tree Walk and celebrate our heritage as one of the first official Tree Cities in the state.

Your help is needed to help us identify Avondale trees that are outstanding specimens by virtue of their size, shape, aesthetic appeal, history or unusual appearance in the Georgia landscape. And who knows, maybe your nomination will be a contender for “Atlanta’s Champion Trees” certified by Trees Atlanta. Right now Avondale has only one tree on the list – a huge old water oak... surely we have more trees worthy of this recognition!

You can respond with your nomination via email to Kathy Kingsbury at [cskno1@aol.com](mailto:cskno1@aol.com). Please include the name of the tree, and why you think this tree should be included on the walk. Give the street address of the site where the tree is located, and note whether the tree can be viewed from the street or if back yard access is needed to see it. If the tree is located on public space just tell us where (e.g. west side of Lake Avondale). The deadline for nominations is March 23.

In addition to nominating your favorite tree(s), come join us on the Tree Walk on April 27. Our starting point is at the Community Clubhouse at 10:00 am. From there we’ll head out in small groups led by expert tree guides. They’ll point out distinctive features of Avondale’s trees and help all of us be more appreciative and knowledgeable about the trees that make Avondale Estates such an inviting place to live.

## Avondale Children’s Choir Spring Concert

**Tuesday, April 30th • 7:00 p.m**



The Avondale Children’s Choir (ACC) will present their Annual Spring Concert on Tuesday evening, April 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the Avondale Estates First Baptist Church, 47 Covington Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for general seating.

The concert will feature a wide variety of music selections from classical, traditional, sacred and world music genres including works by composers John Rutter and W.A. Mozart. A highlight will be the presentation of the song, Child of Peace by David Waggoner which the ACC is dedicating to the memory of the children lost in the Sandy Hook school shootings last December.

The feature of the concert will be a musical review of several songs from the 1968 Broadway Musical hit, *Oliver!* – music and lyrics by Lionel Bart. Based on the literary classic, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, the musical is a social commentary on the dark issues facing inner city children in 19th century London. The storyline follows the escapades of an abandoned young boy (Oliver) from the horrific conditions of the workhouse orphanages, to the crime and grime filled streets of the old city, to the eventual loving care of the



wealthy Mr. Brownlow. The songs from *Oliver!* which the ACC will perform include: Food, Glorious Food; I’d Do Anything; Where Is Love; and Consider Yourself.

Now completing its fourth season, the Avondale Children’s Choir is a community choir committed to excellence in musical artistry and expression. Under the leadership of Music Director, R. Mark Green, the ACC has grown to an enrollment over 90 singers ranging in age from six to fifteen who live in the Avondale and Decatur area.

The concert is FREE and open to the public. A Concert Reception will follow the performance in the church’s Family Life Center. For more information, contact R. Mark Green at [markg@afbc.com](mailto:markg@afbc.com).



## Join Us for the 2013 Avondale Estates 3rd Annual Sunday Ride!

**April 28, 2013  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Presented by DeKalb Medical  
and the City of Avondale Estates**

**DeKalb Medical**

**CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES, GA**

**Join us for a fun-filled experience that transforms many of our streets into one vast park!**

Leave the car at home and pull out your runners, joggers, bikes, trikes, roller blades, wagons, skateboards, scooters, skis, and any other muscle-powered transportation you can think of!

Combine active transportation and community fellowship to enjoy our wonderful “small town—in town,” while supporting our local businesses!

Not sure if your bike will make it? Decatur’s Bicycle South will provide bike maintenance, helmet fitting and more. They’ll also sponsor a “bicycle rodeo” for the littlest riders to enjoy!

**Can you help us spread the word?** Please encourage your friends and family to be part of Sunday Ride! You can help by posting your support of the event on your own newsletter, blog, Facebook or Twitter account.

**Interested in hosting a party within a party?** Sunday Ride encourages you to invite your neighbors, business associates, groups, friends and family to participate, and to stay and enjoy a picnic in the park, play some music or sponsor a game! Let us know what you have in mind and we’ll help you plan and publicize it!

**Take a look at Sunday Ride routes.** Promote your organization or group by reserving space at the Sunday Ride Activity Hub. Go to [www.AvondaleEstatesSundayRide.org](http://www.AvondaleEstatesSundayRide.org) for routes and venues. This year’s ride will include a one mile easy loop around Lake Avondale and three more miles of connecting streets for advanced riders. Complete one circuit, or test your endurance with many laps!

**Feel safe and secure.** Roads will be closed and police officers will be on hand. Cars will be parked off the Ride streets for the day and access passes will be furnished to residents who may need to drive to or from their homes during the event.

**Be part of an international movement!** Sunday Ride is modeled after highly successful “open streets initiatives” worldwide, including Bogotá, Colombia Ciclovía; Paris, France Paris Plage; Portland, Oregon Sunday Parkways; San Francisco Sunday Streets and Atlanta Streets Alive.

**Volunteer.** Sunday Ride depends on volunteers. With bright green safety vests and a friendly smile, they keep everyone moving safely! Two shifts are available: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Tom or Darlene Watson, volunteer coordinators, at [AvondaleEstatesSundayRide@gmail.com](mailto:AvondaleEstatesSundayRide@gmail.com).

**Sponsor.** Sunday Ride is especially appreciative of our sponsors: DeKalb Medical Center, our Presenting Sponsor and the City of Avondale Estates, our co-sponsor, but we need more sponsors and donors to make the event the best it can be! If you’d like to become a Friend of Sunday Ride, contact us at [AvondaleEstatesSundayRide@gmail.com](mailto:AvondaleEstatesSundayRide@gmail.com).

**Get Maps and More Info.** Visit [www.AvondaleEstatesSundayRide.org](http://www.AvondaleEstatesSundayRide.org) for venue maps, listings of closed streets, sponsors and more information.

**Sunday Ride is free to anyone who would like to participate – no matter your age, abilities or fitness level!**



## “Little Free Library” For Children in Avondale Estates

Avondale Estates now has its very own “Little Free Library” sponsored by The Avondale Estates Garden Club. Look for this treasure on Dartmouth Avenue near the tennis courts. An informal policy of “Take a Book, Leave a Book” will be practiced. The library will be used exclusively for children’s books appropriate for ages through fifth grade.

Enjoy the free library as you walk your children to The Museum School, Willis Park, and the swimming pool. The garden club members will monitor the books and ensure there is an adequate supply. It is their hope that when the children get books, they will also share books they have liked with others. This project was un-

dertaken in order to help instill the love of reading in our children. “Free Libraries” are a relatively new concept.

The first library box was erected by Todd Bol in Hudson, WI in 2009, honoring his late mother who was an avid reader. Now more than 2,500 boxes have been erected in the United States and other countries including Germany, Ghana and India.



## Vermicomposting at Avon Garden Club

Red wigglers were the live star cast in a recent program given at the Avon Garden Club by two members, Michèle Spears and Kathy Deprey. The wigglers came snugly tucked away in their portable vermicomposting bin and continued to work while we watched. They have no eyes, but are light sensitive, and have no lungs, but exchange CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> through their bodies. They prefer a shady, dark environment of moist loose soil.

The design features of the bin (including provision for ventilation and cleaning), the requirements for bedding (newspaper, soil, eggshells, etc.), the feeding (kitchen scraps and where and how to place them), and the collection of castings for use in the garden and preparation of a fertilizer tea were discussed, as well as the temperature and light constraints needed for optimal success. Visit [www.unclejimswormfarm.com](http://www.unclejimswormfarm.com) for more information.

Several weeks later, Kathy and Michèle presented the program

to three classes of third graders at Meadowview Elementary School. Michèle and Kathy had lots of fun meeting the children and teaching them about worm composting. They asked great questions!



Above: Kathy and Michele presenting program to the third graders.

Left: Kathy couldn't resist teasing the kids.

# Welcome to the Neighborhood

## New Residents

Greg & Emily Tallant  
3285 Kensington Road

Sarah Smith & Ken Achenbach  
3223 Wynn Drive

Erin Glynn  
131 A Center Street

William & Kathleen Minnix  
99 Berkeley Road

Marissa Figueras  
3068 Oakham Place

Mary Aileen Callens  
37 Chelsea Court



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## Message from Caryl Albarran – Code Enforcement Officer

### It's Time to Spring Clean

Spring cleaning is just around the corner. Please remember the City Sanitation Guidelines while sprucing up your property. Building contractors must dispose of construction debris and building materials. Call (404) 294-5400 to arrange for the special pickup of small dead animals (in plastic bags), major appliances and furniture. Waste not acceptable for routine collection shall be the responsibility of the owner. A maximum of 10 passenger car tires from residents can be accepted at Seminole Road Landfill 4203 Cleveland Road Ellenwood, GA 30294. You may transport normal home-generated refuse directly to DeKalb County Disposal Facilities, call (404) 244-4896 for more information.

Please do not place the following items curbside:

- Tires
- Automobile parts, oil and other liquids
- Tree logs/limbs weighing more fifty (50) pounds, longer than six (6) feet or more than four (4) inches in diameter; stumps and other vegetation left from landscapers and tree trimmers
- Dirt or rocks
- Tile, concrete debris and bricks
- Paint cans not filled with cat litter



#### Article II. Sec. 13-31

#### City of Avondale Estates Code of Ordinance

#### Article II. Sec. 13-31. Same--Preparation and storage of residential waste.

(a) (4) states: “Bundles or bags of yard debris shall be placed at curbside for collection and shall at no time extend into the streets, gutters, drains, walkways, alleys, right-of-way, or other property of the city.”

---

## Avondale Estates Garden Club - Yard of the Month

### February

Sarah Carruthers and Beth Brock  
8 Sussex Road





## Avon Garden Club - Garden of the Month

### January

Laurie Schunk Bolen and John Bolen  
20 Dartmouth Avenue



### February

Andrew LaRocco and Margaret Webb  
21 Exeter Road



### Avondale Pattillo UMC Thanks Mr. Otis Clark

Mr. Clark, manager of the Sherwin-Williams store on Columbia Drive in Decatur, donated 100 plastic buckets and lids to the Avondale Pattillo UMC. The church will fill them with cleaning supplies and provide them to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

UMCOR plans to make these “flood buckets” available to communities across the country that are affected by flood waters due to unusual weather occurrences. It calls on local churches to supply flood buckets as needed.

The church also thanks Mr. Roger Holmes of We-Nail-It Construction, who requested the donation and delivered the buckets to the church.



## Live & Silent Auction!

Save the Date  
**Saturday, May 18th**  
**Lake House**  
7 — 9:30 pm

**Everyone's Invited!**  
**Dinner & Cash Bar**  
**David Deiters, Auctioneer**

Help our community maintain the  
historic 1927 Avondale Lake House & grounds by  
donating and attending.

Items include Braves owner's box tickets, vacation homes, long weekend at Lake Oconee with golf, dinner in the homes of some of Avondale's finest cooks, jewelry, original art, hand painted trash can, a hosted picnic and more.

To donate an item or service email [lcbryans@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcbryans@bellsouth.net).



# Board Of Mayor And Commissioners Regular Meeting

## December 17, 2012 • Immediately Following Public Hearing • Minutes

### Members Present:

Ed Rieker, Mayor  
Terry Giager, Mayor Pro Tem  
Lindsay Forlines, Commissioner  
Gene Lee, Commissioner  
John Quinn, Commissioner

### Staff Present:

Clai Brown, City Manager  
Juliette Sims-Owens, City Clerk  
Gary Broden, Chief of Police  
Bryan Armstead, Director of Public Works and Code Enforcement

### Item No. 1

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Rieker.

### Item No. 2

Invocation (Commissioner Lee)

### Item No. 3

Pledge to the Flag

### Item No. 4

Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Mayor Pro Tem Giager, seconded by Commissioner Quinn; passed with all ayes (5-0).

### Item No. 5

Approval of Minutes

November 7, 2012 Regular Work Session

November 12, 2012 Public Hearing re: 2013 Budget

November 12, 2012 Regular Meeting

A motion to engross and adopt the minutes as presented was made by Mayor Pro Tem Giager, seconded by Commissioner Quinn, passed with all ayes (5-0).

### Item No. 6

Commissioner Updates – Subjects of General Interest and Concern

Commissioner Forlines spoke of the shooting that happened in Connecticut a few days ago and read the names of all those killed on that tragic day as a memoriam from our City to their City.

Commissioner Quinn stated that he appreciated Commissioner Forlines reading of the names and that tragedy brings home to him, as public elected officials they have the job to do the peoples business and to try to make good policy which will build good communities and safe communities. Commissioner Quinn stated that this horrific tragedy brings home the need to put all the nonsense aside and really focus on getting the job done to make our communities safe and as successful as they can be.

Commissioner Lee wished everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

### Item No. 7

Monthly Report by the City Manager Concerning the Status of Matters in

City Manager Brown thanked Chief Broden and Bryan Armstead, Director of Public Works for attending the meeting tonight. City Manager Brown gave the following monthly report:

- Thanked all the associates, Chief Broden, and Bryan Armstead for all their hard work this year in the City. City Manager Brown also thanked the Board of Mayor and Commissioners.
- Phase I of the Community-wide Historic Resource Survey is underway with over 150 resources surveyed. The next funding cycle for grants is coming up. Staff will submit an application to complete Phase II, which will cover the entire City. Applications are due February 1st.
- The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Avondale Estates by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Special thanks to our Finance Director Ken Turner for his tight controls, continuing to stay on top of new policies and his dedication to the City.
- The new updated City Directory should be delivered to the residents by the end of the first week of the New Year.

Mayor Rieker stated that the City had a great holiday tree lighting and because it was such great weather there was a large turnout, we went through 600 doughnuts in 10 minutes and a couple of buckets of hot cider, it was great to see everyone in attendance. Mayor Rieker thanked the First Baptist Church choir and the Boy Scout Troop 6. Mayor Rieker stated the other event that is always fun to do is visit with the associates at their holiday luncheon that was held Friday, what a great team. Mayor Rieker thanked City Manager Brown for another great year. Mayor Rieker noted that the Tax Allocation District (TAD) for the Mill Property was added and voted on by the county so at the end of this year that will be included in which will help the City with development items.

### Item No. 8

Citizens' Comments

"It's another beautiful day in Avondale Estates" – Thomas P. Samford

James Gelin noted that he lives on Rockbridge Road and stated that he wanted to raise some tree issues. Mr. Gelin spoke about the founder's oak on North Avondale Road that had to come down and how pleased he was to hear that City Manager Brown got the plaque and saved some wood from

it and that the City is planning on doing something with the wood. Mr. Gelin stated additional trees should be added to North Avondale Road and encouraged City staff to look at the trees on West Trinity in Decatur as an example. Mr. Gelin encouraged the board to strengthen its tree ordinance for new development and include sky friendly lighting which is lighting that shines down. Mr. Gelin also noted that the City has two new residents in Phillip Logan's old house, right next to the middle school, Chander and Kabita Goklaney, he encouraged the City to reach out to them because they did not know much about what was going on in the City.

Mayor Rieker thanked Mr. Gelin for his comments and noted that the City has planted a lot of trees in the residential area and hopefully as soon as the Mill District is development we will get some nice trees in the commercial area.

James Gelin asked what was planned for that area.

Mayor Rieker stated that the City did comprehensive zoning on that area, mixed use, so a lot of their zoning has bonuses for greenspace.

Catherine Kelly, 2 Lakeshore Plaza, stated she just wanted to comment on the work session last week. Ms. Kelly thanked the board for their time, energy and thoughtfulness that was devoted to bringing the issue to the attention of the residents around the bird sanctuary, it was very much appreciated that the board considered their concerns and they really look forward to the preservation of the bird sanctuary for its environmental and aesthetic value. Ms. Kelly thanked the Ad Hoc Dog Park Committee for their hard work and dedication to bring a dog park to our City.

Mayor Rieker stated that more than likely the City will be moving forward to clear the invasive out of that area. Mayor Rieker stated that he thinks it was nice that everyone came out and spoke their mind at the meeting and we all came together on an issue.

Susan Merritt, 4 Lakeshore Plaza thanked the Lake Avondale Advisory Board for their careful evaluation of the proposal and their incredible expertise and knowledge and their dedication to the preservation of our lake and woods. Ms. Merritt thanked her neighbors for their handwork and passion to preserve the bird sanctuary. Ms. Merritt also thanked Ms. Boyd, President of the Avondale Estates Garden Club who made us all aware of the very special history of the bird sanctuary. Ms. Merritt noted that this information is also mentioned in the Images of America book on Avondale Estates.

### Item No. 9

Old Business:

a) Third and Final Reading of the 2013 Budget Ordinance.

City Manager Brown stated that this is the third and final reading of an ordinance to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2013 for The City of Avondale



Estates.

Mayor Rieker stated that this is an item we do every year and he thanked City staff for putting this information together. The board thanked Finance Director Ken Turner.

A motion to adopt the 2013 Budget Ordinance was made by Mayor Pro Tem Giager, seconded by Commissioner Quinn; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Public Comment: None

b) Third and Final Reading of the Motorized Cart Ordinance.

City Manager Brown read the third and final reading of the Motorized Cart Ordinance.

Mayor Rieker stated that the board has had a public hearing on this item and has discussed this item for almost two years. Mayor Rieker stated that Commissioner Lee wants everyone to know that it is not a Golf Cart Ordinance it is a Motorized Cart Ordinance.

A motion to adopt the Motorized Cart Ordinance was made by Quinn, seconded by Commissioner Lee; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Public Comment: None

Mayor Pro Tem Giager stated that the carts are only allowed on certain streets and will that be posted on the website.

City Manager Brown stated they are allowed on every street except U.S. 278.

Mayor Rieker stated that City staff was going to include pictures and explanations of the various motorized carts.

City Manager Brown stated that has been included.

#### Item No. 10

New Business:

a) Conditional Use Permit Application for Guiding Inner Action, LLC, located at 106 N. Clarendon Avenue, Suite A.

City Manager Brown stated that this is the approval for the Conditional Use Permit Application for Guiding Inner Action, LLC, located at 106 N. Clarendon Avenue, Suite A, for a therapy and counseling practice.

Mayor Rieker noted that the applicant was present at the work session and the board agreed that this business should be added to the City.

A motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit Application for Guiding Inner Action, located at 106 N. Clarendon Avenue, Suite A for a therapy counseling practice was made by Commissioner Quinn, seconded by Commissioner Lee; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Public Comment: None

The board welcomed the new business to the City.

b) First of Three readings of the Possession of Knives in Public Ordinance.

City Manager Brown read the first of three readings to amend Chapter 12 of the Code of the City of Avondale Estates containing miscellaneous provisions and offenses by repealing code section 12-12 which prohibits the possession of knives in

public.

Mayor Rieker stated that the City is synching our laws up with the state laws which we cannot supersede. Mayor Rieker noted that this ordinance has to be read three times before the board can vote on it.

c) Intergovernmental Agreement for the Allocation and Distribution of Proceeds from the Energy Excise Tax.

City Manager Brown stated that this is an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Allocation and Distribution of Proceeds from the Energy Excise Tax which will be made between DeKalb County, Georgia and the City of Avondale Estates, Georgia.

Mayor Rieker stated that the state decided last year that they would eliminate the excise tax on energy for manufacturing to make us more competitive with neighboring states and now we have counties that are going to adopt the tax within the county and part of what we have the ability to do is to adopt that with them in cooperation so there will be some revenue that that the City will get from this but it will not be from any manufacturing directly in Avondale Estates.

A motion to adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Allocation and Distribution of Proceeds from the Energy Excise Tax was made by Commissioner Quinn, seconded by Commissioner Forlines; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Public Comment: None

d) Opportunity Zone Resolution.

City Manager Brown stated that this is a Resolution to Designate an Urban Redevelopment Area to Approve the Urban Redevelopment Plan and for Other Purposes.

Mayor Rieker stated that this goes along with the work that City Planner Stevens and City staff did to develop the opportunity zone application and part of what we have to do is to do a resolution that acknowledges that we believe the business district does fit within the zone.

A motion to adopt the Resolution to Designate an Urban Redevelopment Area to Approve the Urban Redevelopment Plan and for Other Purposes was made by Commissioner Quinn, seconded by Commissioner Forlines; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Public Comment:

Catherine Kelly, 2 Lakeshore Plaza, stated that she read the document and she was very impressed with the thoroughness and completeness of the document and she supports the commissions work in this area.

Mayor Rieker stated that the City has great staff and they do a great job on these types of things and the City is moving closer and closer to development and the City is trying to invest in professional staff, we are trying to make the zoning attractive to developers, yet protects the quality of life in Avondale Estates.

e) DeKalb Municipal Association Agreement.

City Manager Brown stated that this is an agreement with the DeKalb Municipal Association contracting with the Georgia Municipal Association

to furnish a full-time associate, to provide administrative and management assistance to the DeKalb Municipal Association (DMA). The full-time associate will be responsible for services to the DMA that are outlined in the contract. Each City is responsible for membership dues of a \$1.25 per resident. City Manager Brown stated that it is going to cost, based off the 2010 census of 2995 residents, \$3,743.75.

Mayor Rieker stated that this is something Commissioner Forlines was involved in at the DMA meetings. Mayor Rieker noted that there now 10 cities in the county and as we work together as cities and as Mayors get together frequently, the DMA has about 10 meetings a year to discuss how we can work together as municipalities within the county structure and state structure and this gives us a little more ability to organize with a full-time person to not only attend the county meetings and report back to them what is going on, but to also to help them move along in terms of issues and get things done.

A motion to approve the DeKalb Municipal Association Agreement was made by Commissioner Forlines, seconded by Commissioner Quinn; passed with all ayes (5-0).

Commissioner Forlines stated she learned a lot this past year from the DMA and this is just one more thing that is going to make that group even more cohesive and to help us to function better as a group and independently. Commissioner Forlines noted that Gwinnett has a very organized Municipal Association and one thing that they have that we didn't, was this role we are discussing tonight and this will be a great tool for us to work effectively with DeKalb County. Commissioner Forlines noted that the gentlemen, who will be taking the position is a great guy and really knows his way around the State Capitol where he was a lobbyist there and has worked for the Georgia Municipal Association and she feels this will be great for our City as well as all the cities in DeKalb.

Commissioner Quinn stated that he feels this is an excellent step in the right direction.

Public Comment: None

f) Proclamation for Bring One for the Chipper, Saturday, January 5, 2013.

Mayor Rieker read the Proclamation for Bring One for the Chipper which will be held Saturday, January 5, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Item No. 11

Announcements (Commissioner Lee)

a) City Hall will be closed Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas.

b) City Hall will be closed Tuesday, January 1st in observance of New Years.

c) City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

#### Item No. 12

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Quinn; passed with all ayes (5-0).

## 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 sponsored events.

**Unsolicited Copy:** The 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 organization that civically operate in the City, a brief notice of their activities may be included as space permits.

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# Doc Talks

## Upcoming Seminars at DeKalb Medical

### Causes and Care for Joint Pain

Thursday, March 7, 6–7 p.m.

DeKalb Medical Theatre, North Decatur Campus

Join Chris Haraszti, M.D., a DeKalb Medical orthopedic surgeon, as he talks about causes and treatments for joint pain. A complimentary tour of the new Joint Solutions Center will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. People wishing to tour the Joint Solutions Center should meet in the Theatre at 5 p.m.

### 7 Things Every Woman Should Know about Cancer

Wednesday, March 13, 6–7 p.m.

DeKalb Medical Theatre, North Decatur Campus

There is a lot of information about cancer, but it's hard to figure out which facts are most important. Join R. Allen Lawhead, M.D., a DeKalb Medical gynecological oncologist, as he discusses the key signs, symptoms and facts about cancer in women.



Judy  
Ovarian Cancer  
Survivor

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