

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY

# DUNWOODY digest

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

## Moments on the Big Screen

Dunwoody takes share of Georgia's movie boon

Inside: Tracing Dunwoody back 200 years | What's in store for the next 10?  
Brook Run almost done | Being a better father | SPLOST at work



The 2020 MLK Day of Service will include tree and daffodil planting projects in Brook Run Park, as well as lend-a-hand projects at Dunwoody Place Personal Care Home, Dunwoody Nature Center, the Spruill Center for the Arts and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. All volunteers are welcome.

## January

4

**FREE First Saturday—Fire**  
Dunwoody Nature Center  
1 p.m.

11

**Dunwoody Community  
Garden Master Gardener  
Session — Companion  
Planting**  
Brook Run Park Barn  
11 a.m.-noon

17

**Chattahoochee  
Handweavers Guild**  
Speaker: Inge Dam  
N. DeKalb Cultural Arts Center  
7 p.m.

20

**MLK Jr. Day of Service**  
Brook Run Park  
8:30 a.m.-noon

24

**"The Glass Menagerie"**  
Opening Night  
Stage Door Players



A drama written by Tennessee Williams, "The Glass Menagerie" premiered in 1944 and won the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award the following year.

26

**Sesquicentennial Kickoff**  
Celebration of 150 years of  
Donaldson-Bannister Farm  
1-4 p.m.

28

**Census 2020  
Community Forum**  
Q&A with census leaders  
Dunwoody Library  
6:30 p.m.

30

**Opening Reception:  
Questionable Origins**  
Sculptural work by Eileen Braun  
Spruill Gallery  
6-9 p.m.

## February

1

**Free Coaches' Clinic**  
presented by Major League  
Baseball Players Alumni Assoc.  
Brook Run Park Baseball Fields  
9 a.m.-noon

**FREE First Saturday—Birds**  
Dunwoody Nature Center  
1 p.m.

**History Alive-Dunwoody  
Preservation Trust**  
"Children of the Holocaust"  
Donaldson-Bannister Farm  
9:30-11 a.m.



The Dunwoody Police Department will host free CPR classes open to the community on February 6 and February 20. Class is limited to 20 participants. (Note: Course is not for employment certification.)





The Donaldson-Bannister Farmhouse was built circa 1870 — making it 150 years old in 2020. A city park managed by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, the property will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a year-long celebration commencing in January and including a Sesquicentennial Tea on March 1.

6

### Community CPR Class with Dunwoody Police Department

N. Shallowford Annex  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

8

### Walk With A Doc

Brook Run Park  
9 a.m.

### Dunwoody Community Garden Master Gardener Session — Composting

Brook Run Park Barn  
11 a.m.-noon

9

### Student-Instructor Jewelry Market

Spruill Arts Center  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.



15

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Dunwoody Nature Center

### Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild

"Natural Dyes"  
North DeKalb  
Cultural Arts Center  
10 a.m.

20

### Community CPR Class with Dunwoody Police Department

North Shallowford Annex  
5:30-8:30 p.m.

## March

1

### Sesquicentennial Tea

Donaldson-Bannister Farm  
1-4 p.m.

7

### FREE First Saturday— Five Senses

Dunwoody Nature Center  
10 a.m.

14

### Walk With A Doc

Brook Run Park  
9 a.m.

### Dunwoody Community Garden Master Gardener Session — Lawn and Turf

Brook Run Park Barn  
11 a.m.-noon

### Day of Unplugging

Brook Run Event Field  
9 a.m.-noon

20

### "The Outsider"

Opening Night  
Stage Door Players

### Friday Night Hike

Dunwoody Nature Center  
8 p.m.

21

### History Alive-Dunwoody Preservation Trust

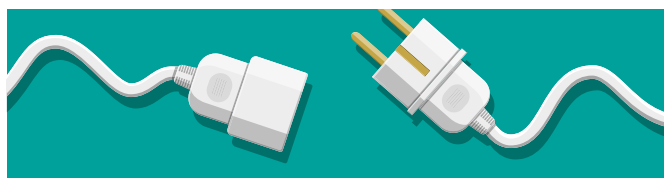
"Traditional Skills of the  
North Georgia Cherokee"  
Donaldson-Bannister Farm  
9:30-11 a.m.

### Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild

Speaker: Pat Williams  
North DeKalb  
Cultural Arts Center  
10 a.m.

### 34th Artistic Affair

Annual fundraiser for Spruill  
Center for the Arts  
6:30 p.m.



UNPLUG | Relax | March 14



Start your day tech-free and outdoors! Join Dunwoody Parks and Recreation for a 60-minute breath-focused yoga flow class, presented by The Elite Peasant on the Brook Run Park Event Field, followed by real-life socializing and light bites from Goldberg's Dunwoody. #unplug

## DUNWOODY COUNTS!

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

April 1 is Census Day!

Online surveys will be  
available mid-March

Join us for an informational Census  
Community Forum 6:30 p.m., Jan. 28  
at the Dunwoody Library.

[census.gov](https://census.gov)



# Hollywood

## IN D-WOOD

**Georgia is second only to California in movie production, and Dunwoody continues to have a seat at the table, serving as locations for films including *Richard Jewell*, *Baby Driver*, *Trouble With The Curve*, *Mothers Day*, *Spider-Man Homecoming* and more.**

When Hollywood comes to Dunwoody, City Hall is one of the first stops. Movie and television producers have to file plans with the community development department and secure a film permit. If they use directional signs for cast and crew, they also need a city sign permit.

In 2019 alone, Dunwoody was the site for productions of “The Outsider” (HBO, starring Jason Bateman), “Ghost Draft” (starring Chris Pratt), “Richard Jewell” (directed by Clint Eastwood), “Brockmire” (IFC) and “Lodge 49” (AMC). Filmed in the former Goldkist Foods headquarters on Perimeter Center Parkway, permit applications show that the productions involved a total of 36 cast members, 214 extras and 610 crew members.

Georgia is now considered the world’s second most popular location for shooting, and the industry is well-represented in Dunwoody.

### The Studio Exec

After living in Los Angeles for 15 years, Dan Rosenfelt was ready for something more “low-key.” He also wanted a great family environment.

“Dunwoody fit the bill perfectly. My favorite thing about Dunwoody is the

friendliness and openness of the people who live in this lovely city,” said Rosenfelt, who is married with two children. “It has a warm, hometown vibe.”

Dunwoody is also close to Doraville, where he opened Third Rail Studios three years ago on the grounds of the old General Motors plant. Third Rail is a full-service film studio with three 20,000 square-foot sound stages, production suites and a backlot.

“My focus is providing the best possible experience for our film and TV production clients as they set up camp in



**Dan Rosenfelt, founder of Third Rail Studios, moved to Dunwoody from Los Angeles for a more low-key lifestyle.**

our production offices, support spaces, and sound stages,” he explained. “I communicate with all of the major studios (Netflix, Disney, Universal, etc.) on a weekly basis and help to bring their shows to Georgia.”

The new Netflix series, “Dolly Parton’s Heartstrings” and the new Clint Eastwood film “Richard Jewell” used sound stages at Third Rail in 2019. Past productions also include Dwayne Johnson’s “Rampage.” “More content is being produced now than in any other time in the film industry’s history,” Rosenfelt said. “More cast and crew members have moved to Georgia over the past several years due to the viability of maintaining a solid career and enjoying a high quality of life.”

Rosenfelt grew up in Pennsylvania and said he enjoys having discernible seasons again, and living in such a forested city. He’s also finding new Dunwoody favorites for food, including Village Burger, Cafe Sababa, Carbonara Trattoria and Nai Thai.

As a father, he’s focused on the future. Third Rail has developed a robust internship program, and Rosenfelt was recently appointed to Governor Brian Kemp’s Georgia Film, Music and Digital Entertainment Advisory Board.



"I want to work with lawmakers to ensure that the Georgia film and TV industry remains a vibrant and positive force in the state for many years to come," he added.

## The Creative Crew member

Justin Warren fell in love with film as a kid. "I was a product of Steven Spielberg movies," Warren said. "I taught myself how to shoot home movies, and I edited using two VCRs. By the time I got to film school, I already knew what I was doing."

As a digital imaging technician, he works with the cinematographer and director to create the look of a show.

"It sounds technical, but it's a very creative job," Warren explained. "I have a bank of cameras coming live to me, and I can do live color manipulation."

He was drawn to Georgia by the Marvel movies being made here, but one of his first jobs was a

DC Comics show called "Black Lightning." "It's a tremendously fun production, and it allows me to flex my creativity," Warren said. He's now working on season 3. Other recent credits include The Passage and Star Girl, which will debut on the DC Universe streaming app this year.

Warren moved to Dunwoody with his wife and two young children about six months ago.

"We came for the great schools and really like it here," Warren said. "We've enjoyed seeing how active the community is."

Family is everything to Warren, who met his wife when they were growing up. He works long hours but loves it.

"I have a reputation for really dramatic visuals, over-the-top stuff, action, sci-fi, horror," he added. "It's what I've wanted to do since I was a kid."

## The Perfect Setting

For the Veazey family, it started with a knock on the door.

"A location scout who worked for a production company told me he was in the area trying to find the right house for a pretty big movie with big stars," Sonya Veazey said.

Eight weeks later, the Veazeys' home on Vermack Court was chosen as the setting for "Parental Guidance," starring Billy Crystal and Bette Midler. Production started in late 2011.

"We negotiated a price, and they moved us out for two months," Veazey explained. "They used the entire house, which really was a character in the film as a 'smart house.' Set designers changed every light fixture, every wall of paint and brought in their own furniture."

The cast and crew used the Donaldson-Bannister Farm for parking and a dining hall. Dunwoody Police were hired for security and traffic control.

"It took Dunwoody's blessing and the patience of our wonderful neighbors to make it happen," Veazey added. "Filming involved big trucks and a lot of commotion."

The Veazey children, neighbors and "carpool" friends were invited to be extras in the movie. They also invited one of the young actors in the film, Bailee Madison, to speak at their church, Dunwoody Baptist. The following year, the Veazeys' house was featured in the Dunwoody Woman's Club Tour of Homes. The Veazeys have since moved but will remember fondly their brush with fame.

"It was a great experience for us and great timing," Sonya Veazey said.



Top: The Dunwoody High School baseball field was the location for scenes of "Trouble With the Curve" starring Clint Eastwood and Amy Adams. The school's scoreboard was adapted to fit the film. Below: Justin Warren is creative on the screen and at home. He's pictured above with his family dressed up for last Halloween. At right, the former Dunwoody home of Sonya Veazey was used for interior and exterior filming for "Parental Guidance."



# What's in store?

Dunwoody subject matter experts contemplate the new decade

## No doubt, changes in our world over the next decade will be brisk and impactful.

After all, it was just ten years ago that we were wrapping our heads around 3-D printers, network streaming, Uber and apps. What now seems like old hat—Amazon, search engines, smart phones, do-it-yourself checkouts—have settled into our daily lives with hazy recollection of how we did it before.

What will 2020-2029 bring? Perhaps it's anyone's guess, but we asked subject matter experts from Dunwoody to share their thoughts on their own industries. They provide some thought-provoking ideas:

### TECHNOLOGY

No question why we start here, as technology is now a force for every industry, whether it's farming, fashion or

childcare. The pace of acceptance into our mainstream habits, however, may be the interesting factor.

"We are seeing more rapid adoption whereby proficiency of technology is maturing in shorter cycles of time," explained Shirley Borghi, executive director of a Dunwoody non-profit, and a member of the Dunwoody Perimeter Chamber of Commerce. "Where it once took months or years for adoption, we are now seeing expedited end-user proficiency paving the way for 'go-to-market' deployment."

She cites artificial intelligence as the backbone of software and technology in the next decade, but points out that there is still a place for a human element in that space. "Statistics show that 70 percent of businesses will use a combination of high-tech augmented reality, mixed reality, and virtual reality by 2022 in some aspect," she said. "More, according to findings by The Millennium Project, a quarter of a million

robots will be augmented to perform tasks related to farming, agriculture, production and manufacturing by 2025. Still, there are new employment opportunities that will grow from these developments. The future is exciting for technology and mankind."

Rick Higgins, owner of TeamLogicIt in Dunwoody, predicts a reduction of malware over the next decade. "Cybersecurity has been a huge threat to businesses in recent years," he said. "Diligence will always be critical, but increases in bandwidth will lead to better encryption technology available across the world."

Manufacturers will continue to find ways to compact our devices, and that's good news for Trey Lyda of Lyda Video & Photo in Dunwoody. "Expensive, heavy video and photo cameras will be a thing of the past. I'll bet we'll be able to capture super-fast, 5K-quality video directly from our phones," he said.



## TRANSPORTATION

Widespread change in technology and perhaps more significantly, mindset, is transforming the transportation industry.

Electric vehicles will take a greater place in the market, according to Eli Veith of Lowe Engineers and traffic engineer for the city of Dunwoody. “It seems every major auto manufacturer is working on a self-driving or electric model,” he said. “More, I think we are going to see ride-sharing options continue to expand, particularly toward public transit, paratransit and less-busy bus routes.”

Veith also predicts an increase in computer data going into vehicles from the roadway network, such as traffic signals that alert a driver of upcoming signal changes, or speed signs that warn drivers when they enter a school zone.

“A lot of municipalities, including Dunwoody, have invested heavily in improving non-automobile transportation options, such as bike lanes and pedestrian paths,” he said. “Throughout Atlanta, I think there will be a general focus on improving efficiency at individual intersections and less effort toward widening roadways. So much of land around our roadways has been developed, it has become too expensive to expand the network.”

## FINANCE

Personal finance and money management have likewise seen an industry sea change, particularly due to the abundance of available information.

“Free trades and self-directed investment accounts mean individuals and corporations are less willing to pay for expertise,” said Jonathan Rosen, a Dunwoody entrepreneur who sold his specialty finance company, Entaire Global, to Synovus in 2016. “But the sheer abundance of information can be difficult to navigate. The winners will be those that can cut through the noise and properly curate this information.”

“As we’ve seen, each positive change can create disruption to ancillary industries,” he added citing the collapse of the long-standing medallion permit program for New York City’s taxi system at the hands of ride-sharing innovations. The fallout affects not only the taxi drivers, but also the banks that wrote the loans for the medallions, the city’s own coffers and countless others down the line.

Rosen pulls much of his insight from studying the changing demographics from around the world. While the value of technology brands now exceeds \$700 billion, seemingly contradictory trends toward simplicity, minimalism and geopolitical change are creating a whole

new set of emerging markets, including tiny houses, healthcare development and social assistance programs.

## FOOD

Technology and transportation feed right into predictions for food and dining too. According to Mike DiPaolo, co-owner of Novo Cucina, faster shipping options and relaxed import regulations are opening opportunities for a wider range of authentic ingredients—great news for ethnic-based cuisine like the Dunwoody restaurant’s classic Italian fare.

“We’re importing a fabulous variety of artisan Italian salamis, prosciutto, olives and even salts,” DiPaolo said. “The relative ease of accessing these ingredients is allowing us to be even more creative with our menu. “From a business standpoint, cloud-based technology is changing the way we schedule employees, order supplies and pay expenses.”

Dietary changes have put more focus on options such as gluten-free, vegan and dairy-free menus, but expanded taste buds also open opportunity for creativity in the kitchen.

“As the world gets smaller, people are more open to new tastes,” DiPaolo added.

## FASHION

The last decade was grim to traditional retail, but change always brings about new opportunities. While online shopping trends soar and some are actually shopping with virtual reality devices, others are finding a new appreciation for personalized service.

“That’s why I believe boutiques will be around forever,” said Jill Clow, whose Jilli Boutique in Orchard Park serves Dunwoody customers in search of unique and stylish clothing and accessories.

What does she see for styles in the upcoming fashion seasons? “Flare-leg pants—often shorter and paired with strappy sandals, neon colors, camouflage, faux animal and snake skins, higher-rise pants and button fly vs. zippers,” she said. “In addition, more twin sets of matching pants and tops, and great textiles including 100 percent cottons and linens and fabrics that breathe and travel well.”

Out, she predicts, will be low-rise denim and skinny jeans.



*Fresh olives and artisan salamis direct from Italy are more accessible than ever as technology and transportation options expand. Meanwhile, the merging of cultures means people are open to new flavors. According to Mike DiPaolo of Dunwoody’s Novo Cucina, this is setting the stage for more creative options in food than ever.*

# Dunwoody THEN & NOW

35M sf  
30M sf  
25M sf  
20M sf  
15M sf  
10M sf  
5M sf  
0



Dunwoody pioneer Joberry Cheek built the beloved home now known as the Cheek-Spruill House at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Chamblee Dunwoody Roads in 1906 for his son Bunyan. The house was originally built as a one-story home. A second floor was added by raising the roof and adding a lower floor. The original property was 2.5 acres and included a pasture, cornfield, barn, smokehouse and chicken house. The home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Carey Spruill in 1945 and remained in the family until Mrs. Spruill's death in 1994. The property was deeded to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust in 1998.

At right, Dunwoody Elementary school children and their teacher in 1921. The school was located on the land now occupied by the Dunwoody Library.



Dunwoody's early development included a few working farms and permanent homesteads, but most early homes were built as summer cottages or hunting lodges for wealthy Atlanta families. At left, the original summer home, also known as "Little" House, for Arthur Leland Norris, president of the Norris Candy Company, burned to the ground in the 1930s. The property's guest house remains today as a privately owned home on Sirron Court.

## Commercial Development North Perimeter area (in square feet)

### 1820-1840

**1821** Earliest inhabitants of the area later known as Dunwoody were Creek Indians who settled along the Chattahoochee River. • **1829** Ebenezer Baptist Church established at Spalding Drive and Roberts Drive. • **1830s** Unincorporated area of Dunwoody; referred to as "Providence" on pre-Civil War maps. • **1840** The Larkin Martin House built by Larkin Martin on 300 acres at 5661 Glenrich Drive. Just one year later, Larkin fell on hard times and the home was sold for \$180 on the DeKalb County courthouse steps. Today, it is the oldest surviving home in Dunwoody.

### 1840-1880

**1847** Stephen Martin Cemetery established. More than 120 years later, the location forced a rerouting of I-285. • **1859** New Hope Cemetery established on Chamblee Dunwoody Road. • **1865** Major Charles Dunwoody (one "o") returns from the Civil War and builds a home near intersection of Chamblee Dunwoody and Spalding Drive. The community is named after him. Later, a post office error added an "o" to the name. • **1869** Stephen Spruill homeplace is built. Today, the home serves as the gallery for the Spruill Center for the Arts. • **1870** The Donaldson-Bannister Farm built at Chamblee Dunwoody and Vermack Roads. • **1876** The W.N. Ware House was built. Today, the home sits on the property of Life Center Family Church.

### 1880-1895

**1881** The Roswell Railroad made twice-daily trips from Roswell to Chamblee with "The Dinky," also called "Old Buck." A stop at Mt. Vernon and Chamblee Dunwoody established the location as the center of Dunwoody. Three section houses were built to house railroad workers. • **1881** The Winters Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery was established. • **1889** Dunwoody United Methodist Church was established. • **1889** Swancy Farmhouse was built at 5308 Roberts Drive. • **1894** Isaac Roberts House is built at 9725 Roberts Road.

### 1895-1920

**1901** Arthur Leland Norris, founder of Norris Candy Company, builds summer home at 5068 Sirron Court. (Note: Sirron is Norris spelled backwards.) • **1906** Joberry Cheek builds what is now known as the Cheek-Spruill house at the corner of Mt. Vernon Road and Chamblee Dunwoody. • **1911** Dunwoody Elementary, the area's first public school, opens in a building near current Dunwoody Library. • **1913** The Warnock Cottage was built at 2081 Mt. Vernon Road.

### 1920-1940

**1920** A massive explosion at the Dunwoody mill and cotton gin belonging to Joberry Cheek kills three men. • **1930** The Eidson Home Place, at 5171 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, was the first brick home built in Dunwoody. • **1938** Mills B. Lane, then-president of C&S Bank, builds summer home at 115 Spalding Mill. • **1939** The Cassidy House off Happy Hollow Road was built as a summer cottage and hunting lodge by Clara B. Cassidy. She purchased 40 acres for \$10 per acre in 1933.

### 1940-1970

**1941** Dunwoody United Methodist Chapel is built. • **1945** T.K. and Grace Peters built their home at 5343 Roberts Drive along Wildcat Creek. DeKalb Parks and Recreation purchased the property in 1975; today it is the home of the Dunwoody Nature Center. • **1950s** Big landowners, including Mr. Calhoun Spruill, began breaking up and selling their acreage. First subdivision was built at Manget Way and Nerine Circle. • **1960s** Subdivisions begin sprouting throughout Dunwoody. • **1968** Peachtree High School opens doors. • **1968** Chesnut Elementary opens. • **1969** I-285 is completed.



The Roswell Railroad made twice-daily runs between Roswell and Chamblee in the early 1880s. The train started making stops along Chamblee Dunwoody Road just north of Mt. Vernon, leading the way to the development of the new community of Dunwoody.



# 200 years ago > today



The first library in Dunwoody opened in 1981 and was housed in a rented space. When the current building opened in 1989, 300 Dunwoody citizens formed a half-mile Book Brigade to pass the collection of books to its new home.



MARTA rail expansion to the Medical Center, Dunwoody, Sandy Springs and North Springs stations began in the 1990s and precipitated much of the north perimeter's rapid growth.



Members of Dunwoody's first police force —40 officers and eight civilian employees—took their oaths of office on April 1, 2009.



Portions of GA 400, north of I-285, opened in the late 1960s and 1970s.

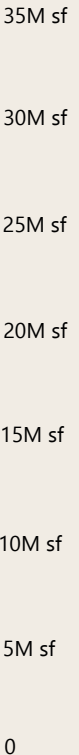
The Olympic Torch was carried through Dunwoody by Sandy Springs' resident Walter Sessoms on July 18, 1996, in preparation for the Summer Games in Atlanta.



Encompassing less than 14 square miles, Dunwoody now has approximately 158 acres of beautiful parks, including the signature Brook Run Park pictured above.



Commercial development in the north perimeter corridor now totals 35 million square feet. The new High Street mixed-use development is expected to break ground in 2020 near the Dunwoody MARTA station.



## 1970-1980

**1972** Perimeter Mall opens with anchors Rich's and JCPenney, soon followed by Dunwoody Village anchored by Ogletree's Groceries and Fine Foods. • **1971** Dunwoody High School opens. • **1972** Kingsley Elementary opens. • **1973** Vanderlyn Elementary opens. • **1975** Austin Elementary opens. • **1976** First Dunwoody July 4 parade held with route from Georgetown Shopping Center to Dunwoody Village. • **Late 1970s** Wall Street Journal spotlights Dunwoody as a great place to live in front page feature story.



## 1980-1990

**1980s** The Terraces, Palisades, Concourse, One and Two Ravinia developed. • **1982** Perimeter Mall expands new wing adding Davison's anchor (later becomes Macy's). • **1988** Dunwoody High School and Peachtree High School merge; Peachtree opens as a junior high for grades 7, 8 and 9.



## 1990-2000

**1996** Olympic torch comes through Dunwoody. • **1998** Cheek-Spruill House is saved from demolition; deed given to Dunwoody Preservation Trust by Guardian Bank. • **1990s** Dunwoody and Medical Center MARTA stations open; Perimeter Pointe developed. • **1998** Tornado ravages much of Dunwoody's eastern subdivisions on April 8; community rallies. • **2000** First Dunwoody Lemonade Days. • **2000** Cheek-Spruill House named to National Register of Historic Places.

## 2000-2010

**2000s** North Springs and Sandy Springs MARTA stations open. • **2005** Donaldson-Bannister Farm is purchased by DeKalb County. • **2008** Dunwoody Yes! is formed to seek cityhood. • **2008** Dunwoody becomes a city on December 1. • **2008** Ken Wright elected as first mayor of Dunwoody. • **2009** Dunwoody launches police force with 40 officers. • **2008** Isaac Roberts House named to National Register of Historic Places. • **2009** Donaldson-Bannister Farm named to National Register of Historic Places.

## 2010-2015

**2010** Parks acquisition from DeKalb County complete. • **2011** Mike Davis elected second mayor of Dunwoody. • **2012** Ashford Dunwoody's Diverging Diamond intersection opens. • **2012** State Farm begins construction in Dunwoody. • **2012** Public Works installs first mile of sidewalk as a new city. • **2013** First section of Brook Run Trail completed. • **2014** Dunwoody Village Parkway streetscape completed. • **2014** Grand opening of Georgetown Park.

## 2015-2020

**2015** Denis Shortal elected third mayor of Dunwoody. • **2016** Tenth mile of sidewalk completion. • **2016** Grand opening of Pernoshal Park. • **2017** Purchase of Austin Elementary School. • **2017** Tilly Mill/N. Peachtree intersection redesign opens to public. • **2018** Grand opening of Brook Run Park Baseball Field. • **2018** Opening of new City Hall at 4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road. • **2019** Lynn Deutsch elected fourth mayor of Dunwoody. • **2020** Grand Opening of Brook Run Park Great Lawn and Amphitheater.

## Population



When Perimeter Mall opened in 1971, it was the first mall in metro Atlanta to be developed outside of I-285. The mall was originally anchored by Rich's (in location currently occupied by Macy's, at left in photo) and JCPenney. Dillard's later reconstructed and expanded the JCPenney store to add another level.

# Corners Academy:

## Enriching lives for students and volunteers

**E**very day after school, 9-year-old Leah heads to Corners Academy to join her friends at the Homework Club.

"I look forward to coming here. I think this whole place is wonderful," Leah said. "I've worked to improve my reading and made lots of new friends."

Corners Academy is a program of Corners Outreach, a nonprofit that serves about 700 children from nine elementary schools in DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties. Many of the children live in one of three Dunwoody apartment complexes that are within walking distance of Corners Academy, located off the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard southbound access road.

"All of our students are very bright, and they love learning," said Executive Director Larry Campbell. "We provide personalized tutoring and skill-building."

Staff and volunteers work with students to try to get them on grade level for reading by third grade and on grade level for math by eighth grade. The goal is 100 percent high school graduation for all students.

"I'm hooked," said volunteer Jody Borer. "I really enjoy the one-on-one time. You can see the improvement over the school year and the delight they show in learning. It's motivating."

Parents sign release forms to allow Corners staff to monitor students' grades and test scores. Bilingual staff often provide transportation and translation during parent-teacher conferences to help eliminate barriers that might otherwise keep parents from attending. Corners Outreach also offers parent workshops and ESOL classes.

"We advocate for the children and stress the importance of their education," explained Campbell. "We focus on the whole family."

In 2018, Corners launched a landscaping company under Corner Industries to improve career opportunities for parents



*Corners Outreach uses a multi-generational focus to help families thrive. Its Corners Academy program provides tutoring for elementary students, mentoring for teens, and currently serves about 700 children from Gwinnett and DeKalb counties. Its programs to support parents include the recently launched Corners Industries Lawn Services, providing jobs with attractive wages and work hours that offer more opportunity for family time.*

and allow for more time with their children. Corners Industries Lawn Services provides higher wages, job security, paid holidays and vacation, while giving back 15 percent of earnings to support Corners Academy tutoring.

"It lets our families know we care, and we're listening," Campbell added. "We're changing their horizons."



Volunteers provide help a few hours a month, or several hours each week, and are sought for tutoring, baking, translation, transportation and much more. Learn more at [cornersoutreach.org](http://cornersoutreach.org).



When you drive down a freshly paved road or new sidewalk in Dunwoody, you're experiencing SPLOST at work. The DeKalb County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is a one-cent sales tax that provides funding exclusively for capital projects and other long-lasting improvements, with a focus on transportation and public safety projects.

The current SPLOST was adopted by voters in November 2017 and will run until 2024. Dunwoody and other cities in DeKalb adopted an intergovernmental agreement which created a distribution formula for the funds based on the population of each city.

In 2018 and 2019, Dunwoody Public Works completed the following transportation projects using SPLOST:

- 39 lane miles of paving for \$6 million
- More than a mile of new sidewalks, including Dunwoody Club Drive and the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard access road for \$500,000
- Roberts Drive improvements for the new Austin Elementary School for \$500,000

- Mount Vernon Road at North Peachtree Road crosswalk improvement for \$100,000

The following SPLOST projects are planned for construction in 2020:

- 17 lane miles of paving
- New sidewalk and bike lanes on Peeler Road
- Chamblee Dunwoody Road at Spalding Drive intersection improvement

SPLOST dollars have also been used to make Dunwoody safer with the purchase of new vehicles and in-car cameras for the Dunwoody Police Department.

To improve fire safety and emergency response times, DeKalb County used SPLOST to purchase 10 rapid response vehicles. One of those vehicles is assigned to Station 21 in Dunwoody.

At the end of the six years of this SPLOST, voters will decide whether to renew the SPLOST for an additional five or six years.

## OPEN JANUARY 2020

# Road and safety improvements complement new Austin Elementary campus

Students, staff and families will notice road and pedestrian safety improvements around the campus of Austin Elementary on Roberts Drive. The improvements include turn lanes into and out of the main entrance to the school, a new sidewalk on the west side of Roberts Drive, a widened sidewalk on the east side of Roberts and a new traffic signal and pedestrian crossing at the entrance.

"This falls right in line with our 'See And Be Seen' campaign," said Dunwoody Public Works Director Michael Smith. "Pedestrian safety, especially in school zones, is a priority for the City Council. The new and wider sidewalks will improve the experience of students and families walking to school."

The new traffic signal is located at the school's north driveway, which is the main public entrance to the school. It is also the entrance to the Dunwoody Nature Center. The south driveway, which was used for school construction, is now the bus lane for Austin.

Due to the onset of colder temperatures, final paving for the project will occur in the spring. Some additional sidewalk work is also expected.



The total construction cost is \$1.35 million. The Georgia Department of Transportation supported the project with a \$300,000 grant for school safety improvements.

Current Austin students will spend the rest of the school year in the new building. Additional students will start in August 2020 as part of DeKalb County's redistricting plan for elementary schools in the Dunwoody cluster.



# SUPPORTING Fathers

## Building stronger families: Fathers Incorporated makes home in Dunwoody

Three snowstorms in one week drove Kenneth Braswell out of New York five years ago. Great schools and a strong community drew his family to Dunwoody.

After settling into his new home, the CEO of Fathers Incorporated found the right office space nearby and opened the new headquarters of the national nonprofit on Mt. Vernon Road.

"This is perfect," Braswell said. "We have the joy of living five minutes from the office."

Established in 2004, Fathers Incorporated has a mission to build stronger families and communities by promoting responsible fatherhood. Mr. Braswell said he sees fathers facing a variety of parenting issues.



Kenneth and Tracy Braswell with their son KJ in front of their Dunwoody home.



Fathers Incorporated's "Real Dads Read" program helps to fill schools and barbershops with books.

"For families in Dunwoody, time management is a big issue. Many dads are running their own businesses. That gives them flexibility, but they also tend to put in more work hours," Braswell explained. Furthermore, when mom and dad are running two businesses in the same household, it can be difficult to raise children in that same space."

Through advocacy, seminars, social media messaging and direct services, Fathers Incorporated advocates for the role fathers play in stabilizing families. One of the most popular programs is called "Real Dads Read," which fills barbershops and schools with books. The annual Million Fathers March encourages dads to walk to school with their children.

**We asked Braswell for advice about becoming a better father in 2020. Here are his suggestions:**

### • Savor life

"Sometimes we make life more difficult than it really is. Lighten up. Don't miss a minute with your family or you might miss a moment."

### • Be present

"Availability, access and your presence are more valuable than anything you can give your family. Being there is more important than anything else."

### • Model behavior as a father

"Our children learn how to parent by how they see the closest people in their lives parenting. They're watching."

### • Model behavior as a husband

"Your children see the way you treat your wife or significant other. You model how they will love, share compassion and handle conflict when they grow up."

### • Know you're significant

"Sometimes society diminishes the role of fathers. You need to know you are important to your family and to each other. You have a profound impact, whether you're there all the time or not at all. Choose to be present!"



*around dunwoody* HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS SHOWED UP TO PARTICIPATE IN DUNWOODY'S 2019 VOLUNTEER DAY IN OCTOBER. CITIZENS JOINED GROUPS FROM TREES ATLANTA, THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM AND MORE TO PLANT TREES ALONG THE DUNWOODY TRAILWAY, PAINT ROCKS FOR AN ART INSTALLATION AT BROOK RUN AND CLEAN SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT THE PARK.





Students from the new robotics team at Chesnut Elementary School spoke during the public comment portion of the Dunwoody City Council's November meeting. The group is designing a scissor-lift—a type of device that might be used by their friends who use wheelchairs—for accessing heights, such as a stage. They wanted to know what the City of Dunwoody can do to ensure accessibility of the outdoor stage at Dunwoody's new Brook Run Park amphitheater.

"The amphitheater will be completely accessible to people with disabilities for both the stage and the audience seating," said Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Director Brent Walker. "Ramps, handrails and ADA-compliant features will make it user-friendly and fun for all."

# It's a new day at Brook Run

## Dunwoody's flagship park gets its largest facelift to date

The year 2020 will be an important one for Brook Run Park as transformational changes move from concept to reality.

Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the new amphitheater, great lawn, multi-sport fields, concessions, restrooms, covered picnic pavilion and disc golf course.

The City of Dunwoody Parks and Recreation team is planning special programming to highlight these new amenities. Staff is grateful for your patience with the progress during construction, which started in April 2019. The official grand opening celebration will take place in early spring, and everyone is invited. More details will be released early in the new year.



Drone photos taken during construction in November 2019.



around dunwoody THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT FOR DUNWOODY'S THIRD ANNUAL WINE STROLL THROUGH PERNOSHAL PARK. PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TASTINGS AND, OF COURSE, SAMPLED WINES FROM DUNWOODY AREA RESTAURANTS AND VENDORS.



# Dunwoody Police Department: Its solid foundation just went literal

An idea sparked from a group of seven citizens a little less than a year ago has turned into a community-supported foundation designed to support the Dunwoody Police Department, its personnel and the community.

Dunwoody welcomed its own police force with open arms in 2009. Led by Chief Billy Grogan, the force has earned the community's respect every day since. The new foundation is set to place a steady bulwark under that already-stable base.

Founded in July of 2019, the mission of the Dunwoody Police Department Foundation is to improve public safety for the city's officers and citizens. The project outlines a wide variety of goals including the establishment of an emergency aid program to benefit officers and their families, provision for specialized training for staff and officers, the support and purchase of special equipment, as well as sponsorship of educational programming and community events designed to enhance public safety and quality of life in Dunwoody. The foundation is on track to launch its



**Members of the foundation's board joined members of city council, Dunwoody Police and the restaurant's owner for a presentation of \$1000 from E. 48th Street Market's "Pizza For Police" kickoff fundraiser in November. Pictured (l-r): Sgt. Sean Lenahan, Rick Holland, Charlie Augello, Chief Billy Grogan, Mayor-elect Lynn Deutsch, Larry Domenico, Heyward Wescott, Councilman Terry Nall and Officer Justin Hensal.**

Founder's Campaign 2020 in January with appeals toward corporate and individual sponsorships.

"We salute all those who have served with distinction in our city's first decade, and, we seek to support continued excellence in public safety as a defining characteristic of the Dunwoody community," said Board President Rick Holland. "We will support the Dunwoody Police Department

employees through the acceptance and management of tax deductible gifts and contributions."

"A key ingredient to a safe city is having a supportive community that works closely with their police department," said Chief Grogan. "We are fortunate to have that positive relationship with the Dunwoody community. With the formation of the Dunwoody Police Foundation, I am confident the department and citizens working together can accomplish even more to keep Dunwoody safe."

A debut fundraising effort, Pizza For Police, raised \$1,000 for the foundation last October. For one month, Dunwoody's E. 48th Street Market offered the purchase of a 16-inch-square "Momma's Pizza" with \$3 from each purchase benefiting the foundation.

To learn more, visit the foundation's website at [dunwoodypolicefoundation.org](http://dunwoodypolicefoundation.org), contact a board member at 678-249-9559 or via [info.dunwoodypolicefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:info.dunwoodypolicefoundation@gmail.com).



*around dunwoody* THE CITY OF DUNWOODY'S ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION DREW HUGE CROWDS FOR THE SOUNDS OF YACHT ROCK SCHOONER, FOOD TRUCKS AND, OF COURSE, THE COSTUME CONTESTS. THE EVENING EVENT WAS HELD IN BROOK RUN PARK ON OCTOBER 24.



# Nice Add

Dunwoody opens annex facility with room for police training, community meetings, more



**A**n old building with a new purpose, Dunwoody's new North Shallowford Annex is already filling needs and expanding opportunities for Dunwoody organizations and nonprofit partners.

As an example, when the Atlanta Knitting Guild was gifted with more than 4,000 skeins of yarn, the bottom floor of the 12,000-square-foot-building gave members a place to process and organize the textiles. Better yet, the donated yarn is now being spun into blankets for shelters and babies, caps for preemies and chemo patients, and countless other uses in and around Dunwoody.

Located at 4470 N. Shallowford Road near Peachford Road, the building sits on five acres of land. It was purchased by the city in 2011 and the renovation of the two-story building that once housed several doctors' offices, is now creating meeting space for community groups. There is also space for yoga, dance classes and chess games.

The upper level is being used as a training center for the Dunwoody Police Department, as well as a facility for hosting safety and wellness classes for the community. Classes include CPR, Mental Health First Aid, and Citizens Police Academy presentations.

## (2020) Permitting goes **PAPERLESS**

### **FROM BACKYARD CHICKENS TO CONSTRUCTION:**

Starting in January 2020, the City of Dunwoody is going paperless for all permitting. The process is designed to save time, money and reams of paper.

"We started moving our systems online last year to make the permit and inspections process more convenient for everyone," said Community Development Director Richard McLeod. "By going paperless, we're supporting our sustainability efforts and streamlining the process."

Instead of making a special trip to City Hall to file forms, applicants can go online for submittals and resubmittals of building, land disturbance, and sign permits via [www.dunwoodyga.gov/permits](http://www.dunwoodyga.gov/permits). For other permits, like commercial roofing, solar panel installations and backyard chickens, applications can be emailed to [permits@dunwoodyga.gov](mailto:permits@dunwoodyga.gov).

The new system allows for online fee payments, including a convenience fee, after the permit is processed. Inspections are also scheduled through the system. Community development staff will still be available to answer questions and help with the permit process weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dunwoody City Hall, located at 4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road, or by phone at 678-382-6800.



4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road  
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

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## CITY MEETING SCHEDULE

### JANUARY

- Jan. 1: New Year's Day**  
City Hall closed
- Jan. 2: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Jan. 9: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Jan. 13: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Jan 14: Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Jan. 20: MLK, Jr. National Holiday**  
City Hall Closed
- Jan 27: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm

### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Feb. 10: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Feb. 11: Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Feb. 17: Presidents Day**  
City Hall closed
- Feb. 24: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm

### MARCH

- Mar. 5: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Mar. 9: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Mar. 10: Planning Commission Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- Mar. 23: City Council Meeting**  
City Hall, 6-8 pm

INSIDE: Events Calendar

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