

DISCOVER DeKalb

DESTINATION GUIDE



DISCOVER DEKALB

PLUS

EVENTS
& FESTS

MUST-SEE
SPOTS

RETAIL
DETAILS

DEKALB
ON FILM

AND MORE

Outdoor ADVENTURE

HIKING, BIKING, AND PADDLE BOARDING
AT STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

DISCOVERDEKALB.COM

Welcome to DeKalb County, Georgia



Located just east of downtown Atlanta and only 10 miles from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, DeKalb offers all of the excitement of the big city, without the big city price tag. It is the third most populous county in Georgia, but first when it comes to diversity. With more than 64 different languages spoken in our area, our communities boast a cosmopolitan feel that is reflected in the county's many international shops and restaurants. Discover this diversity firsthand as you dine, shop, and explore your way through our many vibrant cities, including Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville, Stonecrest, and Tucker.

Chamblee and Doraville both boast excellent dining options in and around the international corridor that is Buford Highway. Your DeKalb Farmers Market, the Buford Highway Farmers Market, Atlanta Chinatown Mall, the City of Clarkston, Dinho Market, and Plaza Fiesta are also good spots to enjoy international food, goods, and culture.

But that only scratches the surface of what we have to offer. We are home to Stone Mountain Park, Georgia's largest attraction; the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, a 2,550-acre site in Lithonia; and world-class colleges and universities, including Emory University, Oglethorpe University, Mercer University, Agnes Scott College, Georgia State University-Perimeter College, and Georgia Piedmont Technical College.

DeKalb is also home to the world's largest dinosaurs (Fernbank Museum of Natural History), the famed Old Kingdom mummy (Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University), the one-of-a-kind David J. Sencer CDC Museum, and a 27,000-square foot Tudor Revival-style mansion once owned by the Candler family (Callanwolde Fine Arts Center).

The myriad attractions are only matched by the county's award-winning chefs and restaurants. Here you'll find every kind of cuisine imaginable, from Southern comfort to tempting Thai, not to mention cuisine from several James Beard Award nominees.

The area also offers more than 81 lodging options, and easy access to highways and MARTA (Atlanta's rapid transit system), not to mention colorful festivals, vibrant neighborhoods, main street districts, spectacular parks, exceptional shopping, and cultural treasures. Whatever your travel plans, DeKalb has something just for you. We are happy to have you.



James Tsismanakis

Executive Director & CEO

Discover DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Discover DeKalb

DISCOVER DEKALB CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU IS the official destination marketing organization for the cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville, Stonecrest, Tucker, and unincorporated DeKalb County. Our mission is to promote the county as a destination for leisure travel, meetings, group tours and travel, sports and recreation, and family reunions. Under the direction of Executive Director & CEO James Tsismanakis, Discover DeKalb strives to boost DeKalb's economy and attract visitors. DeKalb is Georgia's third-largest county, with about 750,000 residents.

Located just six miles east of downtown Atlanta and 10 miles from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, DeKalb is home to some of Georgia's biggest and most popular attractions, including Stone Mountain Park, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, David J. Sencer CDC Museum, Your DeKalb Farmers Market, and Buford Highway's International Corridor.

As the official tourism agency for DeKalb County, Discover DeKalb offers support to various partner agencies, groups, and organizations within the following markets: international, sports/recreation, film/entertainment, LGBT, SMERF (Social, Military, Educational, Religious, Fraternal), government, corporate, and group services. For more information, visit discoverdekalb.com.



DeKalb Programs

Off the Eatin' Path

Discover DeKalb's dining blog highlights the area's one-of-a-kind restaurants. Weekly reviews focus on the attributes, ambience, service, and menu options of local restaurants; a Facebook page includes links to all of the articles. offtheeatinpath.com



Service Centric Academy

Discover DeKalb's industry-specific training program is designed to increase the level of customer service in the county's hospitality and business industries. Training takes place at Discover DeKalb; it is open to hospitality and tourism employees and businesses looking to develop an edge on their competition. servicecentricacademy.com

Sports DeKalb

Sports DeKalb, a division of Discover DeKalb, was created to bring tournaments and sporting events to DeKalb County. DeKalb's state-of-the-art facilities host a number of events including the Color Vibe 5K Run, the Women's Collegiate Golf Tournament, the Triumph Cup Soccer Tournament, and the Eagles Lacrosse Girls Tournament. The Sports DeKalb website also offers a roundup of county golf courses, a calendar of events, a blog, and more. sportsdekalb.com

Color Vibe 5K Run



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BY CANDICE DYER

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An illustrated guide to DeKalb County

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ON THE COVER

PADDLE WITH THE PROS
AT STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

Special thanks to Stone Mountain Park
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The Atlanta-based writer and editor loves discovering new shops and restaurants right in her own backyard. Her food, travel, and lifestyle articles have appeared in *People*, *Hospitality Design*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Delta Sky*, and a host of other publications. Most days, she has to pinch herself to believe she has the good fortune of writing about the topics she loves most. @JennBFranklin

Welcome to the Neighborhoods

EXPLORE DEKALB'S VIBRANT AND HISTORIC CITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS



© JANDI IMAGES, © JOLENNI PHOTOGRAPHY, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

AVONDALE ESTATES

Founded in 1924, this tight-knit community was named after Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Downtown's Tudor-style buildings reinforce the English village vibe, as do many of the area's houses. The neighborhood is home to the first Waffle House (the original location opened in 1955 and was turned into a museum in 2004), a charming downtown, a swim and tennis club, a weekly farmers market, and beautiful Lake Avondale. Popular events include a Fourth of July celebration and a Christmas Tour of Homes. avondaleestates.org

BROOKHAVEN

Brookhaven is DeKalb County's largest city—it was incorporated in 2012. Located in Atlanta's northeastern suburbs, it is home to more than 50,000 residents living in 12 square miles. The city is also home to Oglethorpe University, featuring an acclaimed art museum; Peachtree Golf Club, which was founded by Bobby Jones; the Atlanta Hawks new headquarters and training facility; and several city parks. Residents enjoy shopping and dining along Dresden Drive and at Town Brookhaven, which features a dine-in movie theater. brookhavenga.gov

CANDLER PARK

Founded in 1890, Candler Park was one of Atlanta's first suburbs. Today it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At its heart is a 55-acre park complete with a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool, athletic fields, and a playground. The park hosts myriad festivals throughout the year, such as the Candler Park Music + Food Festival in June and the Candler Park Fall Fest in October. The surrounding neighborhood offers whimsical shops and boutiques, as well as restaurants, including the original Flying Biscuit Cafe, Fellini's Pizza, and La Fonda Latina. candlerpark.org

Welcome to the Neighborhoods



Druid Hills



Clarkston



Chamblee



Doraville



East Atlanta Village

CHAMBLEE

Chamblee has come a long way from its beginnings as a small railroad town. Today the diverse community is home to the Buford Highway International Corridor, a global shopping and dining destination; Atlanta Chinatown Mall, with more than 30 eclectic tenants; and the Chamblee Motor Mile, a large collection of auto dealerships. The Antique Row District is booming with a little help from Hollywood; and the downtown district has undergone significant development, including new public murals, galleries, restaurants, shops, and a brewery (Hopstix). chambleega.gov

CLARKSTON

The City of Clarkston is noted for its diversity; it's estimated that half the population is from outside of the United States. That's because in the 1990s refugee asylum programs identified it as a good fit for displaced persons. Many of them congregate at the Clarkston Community Center, a gathering place for art, education, and recreation. The city is also home to Milam Tennis Courts; Perimeter College of Georgia State University; and Milam Park, with a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a nature preserve. Be sure to stop by Refuge Coffee, a truck-turned-coffee shop in the heart of the city. clarkstonga.gov

DORAVILLE

Doraville was put on the map when General Motors selected it as the site for a new assembly plant in the 1940s (the plant closed in 2008). Today, the 100-acre site is being developed as Assembly Yards, the largest mixed-use, transit-oriented project of its kind in the Southeast. The project is anchored by film and production studio Third Rail Studios. The city is home to more than 8,000 residents, including large Latin American and Asian communities. They shop and dine along the Buford Highway International Corridor and at the Buford Highway Farmers Market. doravillega.us

DRUID HILLS

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this magnificent urban neighborhood was one of Atlanta's first suburbs. It was designed at the turn of the 20th century by noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Its central corridor, Ponce de Leon Avenue, functions as the community's central promenade, surrounded by a series of six linear parks. The neighborhood is known for being the site of Emory University and Fernbank Museum of Natural History, and for its large, elegant homes, which you can see on the Druid Hills Tour of Homes & Gardens, held annually in May. druidhills.org

EAST ATLANTA VILLAGE

This hip, edgy neighborhood combines a small-town feel with decidedly urban offerings. The walkable central business district along Flat Shoals and Glenwood avenues is a mix of trendy restaurants, boutiques, bars, and music venues. Standout spots include Argosy, Octopus Bar, Holy Taco, The Basement at the Graveyard, and The Earl. Each Thursday from March to December, local farmers pitch their tents, selling everything from heirloom tomatoes to homemade dog treats. And don't miss the East Atlanta Strut, a quirky neighborhood festival held in September. eaca.net

OLMSTED LINEAR PARK ALLIANCE © MARCO DEL SANTRO. © JOLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (3). THIRD RAIL STUDIOS, DISCOVER DEKALB (2), STONE MOUNTAIN (2), AWARE



Pine Lake



Stone Mountain



Stonecrest



Stone Mountain Village



Tucker

LITHONIA

Lithonia means “city or town of stone,” so it should come as no surprise that it is located in the heart of Georgia’s granite quarry country (Stone Mountain, which is composed largely of a rock called Lithonia gneiss, is nearby). The area has a history of rock quarries, some of which have been converted to parkland. The spectacular Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area offers more than 2,000 acres, including two monadnock mountains, three lakes, and historic sites. Additional highlights include Browns Mill Recreation Center and a pedestrian-friendly downtown area. cityoflithoniaga.org

PINE LAKE

Pine Lake may be the smallest city in DeKalb County (it has a population of less than 1,000), but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in natural beauty. Hidden under a tree canopy between the eastern Perimeter and Stone Mountain, the community began as a weekend getaway for Atlantans and officially became a city in 1937. The 12-acre lake and beach area are the center of many activities, including the annual LakeFest in October, plus concerts, and readings and showings by area writers and artists. Pine Lake has been described as one of the most neighborly cities in the state. pinelakega.com

STONE MOUNTAIN

Located in the eastern part of the county, Stone Mountain’s biggest draw (in terms of both visitors and sheer size) is Stone Mountain Park, site of the world’s largest exposed granite monolith. The park has activities and attractions galore. Visitors can hike to the top of the mountain; take a scenic train ride; or take a ride aboard the Summit Skyride. Nearby Stone Mountain Village dates to 1822 and features turn-of-the-century architecture and a 1915 caboose, plus galleries, restaurants, shops, and the ART Station Contemporary Arts Center. stonemountaincity.org

STONECREST

Stonecrest is DeKalb County’s newest city, incorporated in November 2016. Located in the county’s southeastern corner, it is home to 50,000-plus residents. It is also home to the 1.2 million-square-foot Mall at Stonecrest, including Dillard’s, JCPenney, and Macy’s, plus 120 stores, an IMAX theater, and Round1 Bowling & Amusement. Be sure to visit Arabia Mountain and the 2,550-acre Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. Highlights include walking trails, ranger-led hikes, and the Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE), which rehabilitates injured animals. stonecrestga.gov

TUCKER

Settled in the 1820s, Tucker was developed as a railroad community in 1892 and incorporated in 2015. The community centers around Main Street, which recently underwent a major renovation and streetscape design. The street is chock-full of locally owned shops and restaurants, and plays host to a variety of events and festivals, including the Tucker Chili Cook Off in March; the Tucker Day celebration in May; Taste of Tucker in October; the Tucker Cruise-In, held monthly from April through September; and the Tucker Farmers Market, every Thursday from April through December. tuckerga.gov

Calendar of Events

THERE'S ALWAYS FUN TO BE HAD IN DEKALB, INCLUDING FESTIVALS, CONCERTS, HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS, AND MORE

JANUARY

Callanwolde Arts Festival

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

Two-day arts festival featuring works by painters, photographers, sculptors, and more, plus food trucks, and music and dance performances. callanwolde.org

Chinese New Year

Atlanta Chinatown Mall

The Cultural Center of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office hosts this annual festival, which features lion dancing, cultural and art exhibitions, and festival food. atlantachinatown.com

Snow Mountain

Stone Mountain Park

Atlanta's official destination for snow-packed family fun, including tubing, snowman building, snowball shooting, and more. stonemountainpark.com

FEBRUARY

Oakhurst Wine Crawl

Oakhurst Community

Taste more than 100 wines while visiting local restaurants and businesses. Participants can stroll or ride the Fur Bus, a party bus with leather seats and a stellar sound system. oakhurstga.org

Snow Mountain

Stone Mountain Park

See January. stonemountainpark.com

MARCH

Tucker Chili Cook Off

Main Street, Tucker

Five dollars buys you all the chili you can eat at this event hosted by the Old Town Tucker Merchant's Association and the Local No. 7. Live music is also on the calendar. tuckerchilicookoff.com

Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival

Blackburn Park

More than 140 cherry trees are the centerpiece of this colorful festival, which also includes music, an arts and crafts market, a children's village, a 5K run, and a pet parade. brookcherryfest.org

Monadnock Madness

Arabia Mountain, Stone Mountain, Panola Mountain

Adventurers will love this month-long celebration of Atlanta's three monadnocks. The highlight is the Triple Hike, where hikers take on all three peaks in a single day. arabiaalliance.org

APRIL

Atlanta Arab Festival

ALIF Institute of Atlanta

Experience Arabic flavors, sights, and sounds, including a food court, live music, a fashion show, folklore dances, art exhibits, henna tattooing, and even a bustling souk. alifinstitute.org

Festival on Ponce

Olmsted Linear Park

This festival offers an artists market, a kids area, and more against the backdrop of this gorgeous park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. festivalonponce.com

MAY

Cinco de Mayo

Plaza Fiesta

Univision Atlanta celebrates the occasion with games, food, kids activities, and lots of music. plazafiesta.net

Memorial Day Weekend

Stone Mountain Park

Enjoy all of Stone Mountain Park's attractions, then stay for the Lasershow Spectacular featuring fireworks and a special salute to the troops. stonemountainpark.com

Tucker Day

Main Street, Tucker

Rolling live music acts come to downtown Tucker along with a market, food vendors, and a "human-powered parade." tuckerday.com

Atlanta DeKalb Carnival

Carnival Village at Stonecrest Mall

Memorial Day weekend gets a Caribbean vibe complete with a costumed parade, live music, Caribbean fare, and cultural displays. peachcarnival.com

JUNE

Slingin' Wings Festival

Brookhaven Park

Billed as a "seriously saucy wing and beer festival," the one-day event features good eats, frosty brews, live music, contests, activities and more. slinginwingsfestival.com

Good Neighbor Day Open House Airshow

DeKalb Peachtree Airport

Planes take to the sky at this annual show featuring airplane and helicopter rides, military airplane displays, food, music, and loads of kids activities. pdkairshow.com

Candler Park Music + Food Festival

Candler Park

Enjoy a full weekend of music on multiple stages, plus food trucks, an artists market, kids activities, and a 5k charity run. Gov't Mule headlines the 2018 festival. candlerparkmusicfestival.com



Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival

JULY

Fantastic Fourth Celebration

Stone Mountain Park

Enjoy four nights of patriotic fun, including the Lasershow Spectacular and colorful fireworks.

stonemountainpark.com

SEPTEMBER

East Atlanta Strut

East Atlanta Village

Five stages of live music and comedy, a wacky parade, and an artists market are hallmarks of this neighborhood festival. eastatlantastrut.com

Atlanta Greek Festival

Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Enjoy all things Greek, including music, dancing, shopping, and food. atlantagreekfestival.org

Heart of South DeKalb

The Gallery at South DeKalb

This free festival celebrates the community with a parade, marching bands, a car show, a kids zone, and a health fair. galleryatsouthdekalb.com

Mexican Independence Day

Plaza Fiesta

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with live music, food vendors, game booths, giveaways, and more. plazafiesta.net

Yellow Daisy Festival

Stone Mountain Park

Voted one of the top arts and crafts shows in the country by *Sunshine Artist* magazine, this annual fest features works by more than 400 artists. stonemountainpark.com

OCTOBER

Festival on Ponce

Olmsted Linear Park

See April. festivalonponce.com

Atlanta Chili Cook Off

Brookhaven Park

Free festival with music, arts and crafts, kids activities, and lots of delicious chili. brookhavenchilicookoff.com

Brookhaven Arts Festival

Apple Valley Road

(behind Brookhaven MARTA Station)

More than 100 artists display their colorful works in a variety of mediums. brookhavenartsfestival.com



Christmas at Callanwolde

Candler Park Fall Fest

Candler Park

Highlights of this popular festival include live bands, more than 100 artists booths, a kids area, a 5K run, and a tour of homes. fallfest.candlerpark.org

Taste of Chamblee

Downtown Chamblee

Nibble on food from a variety of restaurants. The event also features live music, entertainment, and a kids zone. tasteofchamblee.net

Pine Lake LakeFest

Pine Lake

Art, music, food, and fun are on the agenda at this jamming festival in Pine Lake. Be sure to catch Floatzilla, a monster of a floating parade. pinelakefest.com

Oktoberfest

Stone Mountain Village

Celebrate fall with an artists market and authentic German food, beer, music, and dancing. stonemountaincity.org

Oak Groove Festival

Vista Grove Shopping Center

Free festival featuring local businesses, restaurants, entertainment, artists, and more. oakgroove.org

Tour of Southern Ghosts

Stone Mountain Park

Professional storytellers spin tales of Southern ghosts along lantern-lit paths. stonemountainpark.com

Oakhurst Arts & Music Festival

Harmony Park, Oakhurst

Presented by the Decatur Arts Alliance, this fall festival offers an artists market, music, kids activities, a parade, and a 5K race. oakhurstga.org

Little Five Points Parade and Festival

Little Five Points

A kooky, spooky parade is the highlight of this annual Halloween tradition, with live music and street entertainment. 15phalloween.com

Taste of Tucker

Main Street, Tucker

Nibble on food from a variety of restaurants. The event also features live music, entertainment, and a kids zone. tasteoftucker.com

Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Stone Mountain Park

Revel in all things Scottish, including Highland athletic events, dancing, piping, drumming, harping, and the Kirking of the Tartans. smhg.org

Native American Festival & Pow Wow

Stone Mountain Park

Experience Native American culture through dance, music, storytelling, and more. stonemountainpark.com

NOVEMBER

Irish Fest Atlanta

DoubleTree Atlanta Perimeter

Enjoy a festive weekend of traditional music, song, dance, cultural performances, lectures, and workshops. irishfestatlanta.org

Snow Mountain

Stone Mountain Park

See January. stonemountainpark.com

A Stone Mountain Christmas

Stone Mountain Park

More than 2 million lights, plus decorations, music, shows, holiday characters, and more. stonemountainpark.com

DECEMBER

Snow Mountain

Stone Mountain Park

See January. stonemountainpark.com

A Stone Mountain Christmas

Stone Mountain Park

See November. stonemountainpark.com

Christmas at Callanwolde

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

The mansion is elaborately decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Also enjoy an artists market and themed events for all ages. callanwolde.org

Information is subject to change. Go to discoverdekalb.com/events for the most up-to-date event information.



Your DeKalb Farmers Market

DeKalb 10 Spot

» by AMY MEADOWS

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN DEKALB COUNTY



The Odd's End



Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area



Atlanta Chinatown Mall



PDK Airport



Flat Rock Archives



Starlight Drive-in Theatre

YOUR DEKALB FARMERS MARKET, © GREGORY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY, © JOGLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (3), © JANDD IMAGES (3)



Whether you're a history buff, an outdoor enthusiast, a shopping maven, or an arts aficionado, you'll find the perfect locale for your particular interests in DeKalb County. From well-known tourist attractions to out-of-the-way spots, there's so much to explore right around the corner. And you can start with these 10 must-see options.

1. SAMPLE ASIAN CUISINE

Delve into spectacular Asian cuisine at **Atlanta Chinatown Mall** in Chamblee, which features authentic Chinese, Taiwanese, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Korean delicacies in a spacious food court and two dine-in restaurants. After your meal, walk through the charming courtyard garden and koi pond before browsing an array of specialty stores and the Dinho Supermarket.

2. HIKE OR BIKE BACK IN TIME

Explore 400 million years of history at the **Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area**, which beckons outdoor lovers to experience myriad natural wonders. Hike to the peak of Arabia Mountain, see a host of wildlife and rare plant species, traverse the 30-mile paved Arabia Mountain PATH on foot or on wheels, and visit two granite monadnock (a residual hill or mountain) outposts. It'll be a day for the history books.

3. GET THE STORY ON THE CDC

Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the epicenter of public health. Learn more about this amazing institution and its ongoing work at the **David J. Sencer CDC Museum**, located at CDC headquarters. Featuring permanent and temporary exhibitions, the venue, which is free and

open to the public, provides insight into public health topics and details the history of the renowned organization.

4. CATCH A FLICK UNDER THE STARS

The past meets the present at the **Starlight Drive-In Theatre**, located off Moreland Avenue. Four screens and an all-new digital projection system play today's hottest movies as cars park amidst the theater's classic art-deco style. The drive-in has been a community landmark since 1949, and you'll be star struck with nostalgia when you catch a double feature any night of the week.

5. GO TREASURE HUNTING

Find one-of-a-kind items at **The Odd's End**, an Avondale Estates antique store that specializes in "curiosities" from around the world. Owner Merrick Mixson showcases everything from voodoo dolls to embalming machines and every odd artifact in between. Each item is completely authentic and unique, and you never know what you'll find when you walk through the door.

6. EMBRACE LOCAL HISTORY

Learn about the African American slaves and their descendants who have lived in the Flat Rock community since the early 19th century. Study an impressive collection of preserved

records and artifacts at **The Flat Rock Archives**, which has proudly shared the legacy of rural African American culture since opening in 2006. Visits are by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. FETCH SOME FRESH FOOD

It doesn't get any fresher than the food at **Your DeKalb Farmers Market**. Once a 7,500-square-foot produce stand, the venue, which flies 184 flags from around the world, has become a veritable global marketplace. From a bakery and pastry shop to produce, meat, seafood, deli, cheese, wine, and beer departments, you'll find everything you're looking for under one roof.

8. IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE ARTS

Learn to paint, study dance, master photography, and more at the **Callanwolde Fine Arts Center**, a 12-acre cultural community conservatory located in Druid Hills. The Callanwolde estate, built in 1920 by Coca-Cola heir Charles Howard Candler, is owned by DeKalb County. It is dedicated to offering fine arts outreach to the public, and also is a popular destination for weddings and private events.

9. FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES

Want to learn to fly? You can at one of seven flight schools at **DeKalb Peachtree Airport (PDK)**, the second-busiest airport in Georgia. Welcoming corporate jets, aircraft charters, personal planes, helicopters, and more, PDK is one of the region's most important general reliever airports. Known as "Atlanta's Gateway to the South," it boasts 230,000 takeoffs and landings annually and is a can't-miss destination for aviation enthusiasts.

10. SEE THE MONKEY FROM MARS

Okay, it's not a real Martian. It's a deceased monkey that was at the center of a huge hoax in 1953 when three locals said they found a crashed flying saucer. The "occupant" (aka, the monkey) now resides in a glass jar at the **Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab Museum**, and you can make an appointment to see the creature, as well as a host of other interesting artifacts, at the unique venue.



Walk-Up Trail



ON THE MOVE

SPEND A DAY—OR A WEEKEND—AT STONE MOUNTAIN PARK

» by KELLY JORDAN



Ride the Ducks

If you have a free day to spend in DeKalb County doing something quintessentially local—and unique—Stone Mountain Park is the place to go. The centerpiece of the county’s largest and most popular attraction is the stone outcropping that rises 1,683 feet above sea level. The park itself covers 3,200 acres, and its myriad activities can easily fill a day. Plan your itinerary using our suggestions below and explore the history, fun, and adventure awaiting you at this internationally recognized landmark.



Lasershow Spectacular

MORNING

Beat the crowds and start your day with a hike. Stone Mountain Park draws droves of runners, birders, hikers, and tourists eager to explore its 15 miles of hiking and walking trails. For a gorgeous view of the lake, the mill, and the mountain, take a rigorous five-mile walk on the Cherokee Trail. Given the distance, this walk can easily fill two hours or more (depending on your pace). If you still have energy—or prefer a shorter trek—hike the Walk-Up Trail to Stone Mountain’s summit. This is only a one-mile hike, but don’t be fooled by the low mileage. This is a tough climb.

Once you reach the peak, stretch out on a rock and admire views as far as 60 miles away. Then, take the short—but thrilling—ride down the mountain aboard the high-speed Swiss cable car, the Summit Skyride.

EARLY AFTERNOON

Once you’ve refueled with a picnic or lunch at one of the on-site offerings like Base Camp BBQ or Waterside Restaurant (located at the park’s Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort), get schooled on the mountain’s history at the Memorial Hall Museum. The museum brings together artifacts and exhibits that tell the story of the mountain’s 12,000-year history. Continue your quest for knowledge at the Confederate Hall Historical and Environmental Education Center. Located at the base of the Walk-Up Trail, this center focuses on the geological and ecological aspects of the mountain. It’s also home to the Confederate Hall Theater, which regularly airs the Hal Holbrook-narrated documentary, *The Battle for Georgia—A History of the Civil War in Georgia*.

Once you’ve had your fill of museums, hop aboard the Scenic Railroad for a 30-minute ride around the

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK (6)



SkyHike



Summit Skyride

mountain. The open-air train (meaning it's fun even during those warm summer months) departs every 40 to 45 minutes from the Marketplace Depot from March through December.

MID-AFTERNOON TO EARLY EVENING

Those spending the day with kids would do well to commit the remaining daylight hours to one of the park's numerous family-friendly attractions like Camp Highland Outpost (featuring a low ropes course and rock climbing), SkyHike (a treetop adventure course), Ride the Ducks (a guided land-and-water tour of the park aboard a 1940s-era Army DUKW), or Geyser Towers (an outdoor climbing and play area with regular blasts from a water feature).

If you prefer spending the rest of your day on the lake, rent a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard from REI Boathouse. Or, sign up for a class—they offer everything from stand-up paddleboard yoga to back-country skills. If your visit is in early spring or late fall when the blooms and leaves are their prettiest (and the water's a touch cool), you may want to rent a bike or a Segway for an interesting vantage point from the park's meandering roadways. Meanwhile, golf fans can sign up for tee times through Stone Mountain Golf Club where they can play 18 holes on two scenic championship courses.

EVENING

After a day spent hiking, golfing, adventuring, and learning at Stone Mountain Park, settle in for Southern fare (dishes include shrimp and grits and fried

chicken with hot pepper honey) at The Commons restaurant, located at Stone Mountain Golf Club.

If you're visiting from April through October, stick around (or come back later) for the fun and kitschy Lasershow Spectacular in Mountainvision, featuring lasers and digital graphics spanning the face of the mountain, along with fireworks and music. Stretch out on a blanket and relax as you enjoy the performance with friends and family.

For a memorable lodging choice, reserve one of the lakeside yurts available at the onsite campground. These small accommodations are a mix between a cabin and a tent and provide a unique "glamping" experience. Additional camping options include trailer camping, safari tents, and pop-up tent camping. You also can opt for more traditional overnight accommodations at the Stone Mountain Inn or the Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort.

WINTER WONDERLAND

If you're visiting in the winter months, Stone Mountain Park transforms into a faux-snow winter wonderland. Among the seasonal fixtures at the park are a snow-filled play area (great for building a snowman) and a hill for snow tubing at "Snow Mountain." The park twinkles with 2 million lights during the holidays, and its seasonal lineup includes musical performances, a nightly Christmas parade, Santa Claus visits, a ride on the Singalong Christmas Train, Rudolph's Merry Little Meet and Greet (featuring costumed holiday characters), and the winter-themed Skylights Spectacular Lasershow.



Camping



Geyser Towers Tunnel Bridge



Scenic Railroad



Arabia Mountain

MOUNTAIN HIGH

ADVENTURE AWAITS AT ARABIA MOUNTAIN

» by KELLY JORDAN

Inside Callanwolde's Rich History

Built in 1920 by (and for) Charles Howard Candler, eldest son of The Coca-Cola Company founder Asa Griggs Candler, Callanwolde spans 12 lush acres in DeKalb's Druid Hills neighborhood and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Designed by Henry Hornbostel—who also designed several buildings at Emory University—the Tudor Revival-style home got its name from Candler family lore, which links the Candler's descendants to

If this is the first time you're hearing about Arabia Mountain, you're not alone. Even with its status as a National Heritage Site, the mountain and the 2,550-acre Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve on which it rests slip just beneath the radar in its Stonecrest home.

"It's DeKalb County's best-kept secret," says Robby Astrove, a park ranger at the preserve. "I like to refer to it as Atlanta's untouched urban wilderness. When you're out here, you feel like you're in the middle of nowhere, even though Decatur is only a 15-minute drive away."

And while the mountain is now a protected area, it was once a quarry. Granite from Arabia Mountain appears in structures across the country, including the Brooklyn Bridge and buildings at the U.S. Naval Academy. The Davidson family owned Arabia Mountain during the majority of the 20th century; in the 1960s, Davidson Granite Enterprises was the largest producer of granite in the world. In the 1970s, the Davidsons donated 500 acres of Arabia Mountain

and its surrounding lands to DeKalb County as a nature preserve. Since then, the park has continued to expand, and now includes several granite outcrops, streams, two lakes, and wetlands.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Human occupation at Arabia Mountain can be traced as far back as 10,000 years—the mountain itself has taken more than 400 million years to form. The lunar-like surface of the mountain is teeming with plant species and pools that add to the mountain's beauty and its varied biological diversity.

Visitors will see ancient—and in some cases, endangered—plant life as they hike trails that span the mountain. Given the short distances of the nine hiking trails (the longest is 1.8 miles), you can easily explore several routes in a single visit and enjoy the vivid plant life dotting the face of the mountain. The fragile, pristine ecosystem encompasses fiery red diamorpha (small red plants with white blooms),



Ranger Robby Astrove



Hikers on Arabia

which covers the surface in winter, and yellow daisies that explode across the mountainscape in fall.

First-time visitors will definitely want to hike the half-mile Mountain Top Trail, a moderate-level trail with otherworldly views. Those interested in the mountain's history may want to explore the Mile Rock Trail, which takes you past rock ledges, drill holes, metal wedges, and other remnants of the site's near past. For a closer look at the mountain's ecology, rise early and attend one of the park's ranger-led hikes (held for two to three hours every Friday and Sunday beginning at 8 a.m.).

HITTING THE TRAILS

If you're itching to see more of the preserve and its surrounding areas, lace up your running shoes or grab a bike and explore the 33-plus miles of PATH trails that span the area. The routes link Lithonia to a number of heritage sites that make up the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, including the

preserve, Panola Mountain State Park (including Vaughters' Farm), the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Historic Downtown Lithonia, the Flat Rock Community, and the South River.

ANIMAL RESCUE

Animal lovers, meanwhile, should make it a point to visit the Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE) on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. for free public tours. During the tours, you will learn about the ways in which AWARE works to rehabilitate and return sick and injured animals to the wild and meet "ambassador animals" like owls, hawks, and squirrels. To bring in injured animals, contact the center first at help@awarewildlife.org or call 678-418-1111 and leave a message.

Entry to Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve is free and there are no parking fees. Dogs are welcome on the trails and the mountain, but must remain on a leash.

the Irish town of Callan ("wolde" means woods).

The house was donated to Emory University after Charles's death, and was later acquired by the First Christian Church, which eventually put it up for sale in the 1970s. Members of the community, who feared the house would be destroyed, rallied and raised funds to purchase the property.

Today, DeKalb County owns and manages the estate, which is the home of the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. It is open to the public for tours and myriad arts classes (everything from pottery to gardening).

"For 40-plus years, we have provided arts to the community," says Peggy Still Johnson, executive director from 2013 to 2017. "Today, we're calling it a community conservatory. Our mission is to preserve the estate and offer both fine arts and outreach to the community."



Mountain Lake



Fernbank Museum's
A Walk Through Time in Georgia



MUSEUM MADNESS

FROM ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TO MODERN MEDICINE—AND DINOSAURS, TOO—DEKALB COUNTY MUSEUMS HAVE IT ALL

» by LYNN COULTER



Fernbank Forest

FERNBANK MUSEUM

Take a walk on the wild side at Fernbank Museum of Natural History, where prehistoric beasts clash in exciting exhibits, live animals scamper through an old-growth forest, and visitors discover the natural world through hands-on adventures.

Imagine the sounds of the world's largest dinosaur, the 100-ton *Argentinosaurus*, when you enter the museum's Great Hall. Its fossil cast towers over the *Giants of the Mesozoic* exhibit, which features replicas of animals and plants that lived in the badlands of Patagonia some 145 to 165 million years ago.

Outside the museum, 75 acres of new nature experiences await in Fernbank Forest. Follow an elevated walkway into WildWoods to look for animals from the tree pods, hike to a wetlands meadow and wildlife sanctuary, or explore a Nature Gallery and interactive exhibits. Drop in on a fun educational program, or join a guided nature walk.

In Fernbank's signature exhibit, *A Walk Through Time in Georgia*, galleries, theaters, and dioramas tell the story of modern-day Georgia and help

explain how Earth developed over millions of years. You'll take a virtual journey from the state's oldest geographic region, the Piedmont, to its youngest, the Coastal Plain.

Catch an award-winning science film in the museum's new Giant Screen Theater. Its state-of-the-art 4K laser projection system uses 2D and 3D technology to transport moviegoers to destinations that range from outer space to hidden animal burrows in their own backyards.

After dark, explore the constellations in Fernbank's Star Gallery, or check the museum's schedule for adults-only nights, which offer music, food, and science activities.

MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM

Discover treasures from the distant past at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, located in the heart of the Emory University campus. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors explore the museum's extraordinary collections of art from ancient Greece, Egypt, Nubia, Rome, Africa, Asia, the Near East, and the Americas.

FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (2), MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM (2), JIM GATHANY



Michael C. Carlos Museum

CDC SAFE WATER SYSTEM HOUSEHOLD TREATMENT

The CDC Safe Water System is a very simple solution to a very big problem. In response to a 1991 cholera epidemic in Peru, CDC scientists designed a way for families to treat unsafe water. A diluted hypochlorite (bleach) solution was used to treat water in specially designed vessels to protect the treated water from recontamination during transport, storage, and handling in the household. The solution and vessel both had to be products that families would be willing to use, and education to improve hygiene and water handling practices was critical.

Promising pilot studies in Bolivia led to partnerships with Procter & Gamble and Population Services International, a non-governmental organization. In 1996, the first national Safe Water System program—called “CLARO”—was launched in Bolivia.

CDC Safe Water System programs are now running in 24 countries around the world—from Afghanistan to Zambia. Partners are many—ranging from international organizations such as UNICEF to local non-governmental agencies to Ministries of Water and Education to manufacturers, both local and multinational.



David J. Sencer CDC Museum

With more than 17,000 art objects, as well as works on paper dating from the Renaissance to the present, the Michael C. Carlos Museum is the South's premier museum for ancient art.

The collections began in 1876 in a museum housed on Emory's first campus in Oxford, Georgia. As the university grew, so did its acquisitions. The Emory University Museum was founded in 1919 after the campus moved to Atlanta. Over the years, Atlanta businessman and philanthropist Michael C. Carlos donated millions of dollars to the museum, which was renamed in his honor. A new building to house the collections, designed by Michael Graves, opened in 1993.

Today, the Michael C. Carlos Museum is known for its teaching lab and conservation center, educational programs, and fine exhibits. More than 30,000 school children attend its educational programs each year, and the museum also opens its doors to scholars, students, tourists, and art and history buffs.

Check the museum's online calendar for a schedule of tours, chamber music concerts, lectures, classes, workshops for adults and children, book discussions, and other events. A temporary exhibition, *Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt*, is on view February through November 2018. It traces the roles of cats, lions, and even dogs and jackals in Egyptian myths and daily life.

DAVID J. SENCER CDC MUSEUM

Old-fashioned detective work and cutting-edge technology combine to solve the mysteries of disease

at the David J. Sencer CDC Museum. This museum, a Smithsonian affiliate, uses award-winning exhibits and collections to show how scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigate public health issues like Ebola, Lyme disease, and antibiotic resistance.

The CDC was founded in Atlanta in 1946 to prevent outbreaks of malaria, typhus, and other infectious diseases. The David J. Sencer Museum, originally called the Global Health Odyssey Museum, opened in 1996 when the CDC celebrated its 50th anniversary. It took on its current name in 2011, when it was renamed to honor its longest-serving director.

The Story of CDC tells this public agency's history through documents, photographs, and artifacts that include an iron lung and a wooden intelligence test. A multimedia presentation traces the CDC's role in eliminating polio, identifying Legionnaire's disease, and more.

Guided student field trips, group tours, and self-guided tours are available. Speakers may be available upon request to discuss the museum's exhibits or specialized topics like environmental health. A highlight of each guided tour is the opportunity to try on a Biosafety Level 4 lab suit, so bring a camera (cameras are allowed only in the museum area).

Today, the CDC continues to battle current, new, and emerging diseases around the world. It's recognized as the top federal agency for promoting health, preventing disease and injury, and responding to bioterrorism and other health emergencies.



Michael C. Carlos Museum



Marvel Studios' Black Panther

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE COUNTY IS A KEY PLAYER IN THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY

» by AMY MEADOWS

Show Time

See movies and TV shows filmed right around the corner:

The 15:17 to Paris, a Clint Eastwood-directed feature film about American soldiers who thwart an attack on a Paris-bound train, starring Jenna Fischer, Judy Greer, and Tony Hale

Atlanta, Donald Glover's runaway hit show about the Atlanta rap scene, airing on FX

Boy Erased, slated for release in 2018 and starring Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, and Lucas Hedges, the film tells the story of the son of a

The 2018 Golden Globe Awards took a bit of a local turn with major studio films *Baby Driver* and *I, Tonya*, and popular television shows *Ozark* and *Stranger Things* all nominated in various categories. And each production can thank DeKalb County for providing a home—all of them were filmed in what has become one of Georgia's most coveted film industry locales.

"There has been a lot of filming going on, and we're very excited about it," says Shelbia Jackson, director of the DeKalb Entertainment Commission. "DeKalb has become the number one site for film production, and we're here to support the industry as it continues to grow."

With four bustling studios—Eagle Rock Studios, Blackhall Studios, Third Rail Studios, and Wilder Studios—and myriad on-location spots ranging from Stone Mountain to downtown Decatur, DeKalb offers both film and television productions the space they need to bring projects to fruition. The county also boasts an experienced workforce that is now well-versed in the film industry and has access to

training through such entities as the Georgia Film Academy. Yet, the draw of the county goes far beyond basic logistics, and efforts by the DeKalb Film Commission throughout 2017, as well as its strategic plans for 2018, have made the process of filming in the area easier and more viable than ever.

STREAMLINING THE SYSTEM

To start, the commission recently launched a web-based film permitting system, which consolidates the permit application process for incoming production location managers. In the past, individuals had to fill out permit requests by hand and deliver the paperwork and permit fees to the county during certain weekday times. The system was cumbersome and challenging, but now everything can be done online.

"The industry has been waiting for this," Jackson says. "It streamlines so much." It also allows the county to keep tabs on all filming. For instance, permits previously were not required to film on

THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EAGLE ROCK STUDIOS



Filming into the night



Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler filming *Blended*



Chadwick Boseman filming *Black Panther*



Eagle Rock Studios

private property, but for public safety reasons, it is crucial to ensure that the county is aware of all ongoing productions. With the online system, all filming sites can now be noted and permitted.

Additionally, the new online resource includes a searchable location database, or jurisdictional mapping system, complete with potential on-site filming spots, photos, contact information, and more. Residents and business owners can put their locations into the database for filming consideration, and their information is then checked and confirmed by the county before being made available to production managers. The process brings together the county and its citizens to ensure that the film industry has access to everything it needs to succeed. It also allows residents and businesses to create new revenue streams by leasing out their locations for filming.

“This puts everything location scouts need right at their fingertips. They used to have to build their own databases, but we’re now offering them a streamlined system,” Jackson says. “It’s exceptional. It’s something you can’t get anywhere else.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

“I believe that our growth [in this area] is due to the fact that we took the initiative and reached out to location scouts and production managers to find out what they need. We talked to them about what they were missing and what we could do to help them,” Jackson says. “We were not the experts in this

industry, so we took that advice and used it to get a strategic plan done. And from that plan, we have worked to grow the industry and support the creative community in DeKalb.”

While much work has been done, Jackson and her team at the DeKalb Entertainment Commission have many more plans. In the coming months, the organization will focus on school programs that will help young people find career paths into the entertainment industry through mentoring, training, field trips, and more. In addition, the commission will organize and host its annual entertainment expo, which brings together panelists to discuss creativity and the entertainment business.

The commission also will turn its attention to two additional arenas: music and digital entertainment. (In 2017, the Georgia legislature approved tax credit incentives for the music industry that are comparable to the ones enjoyed by the film industry.) Of course, as that work moves forward, the strides made in the local film industry will continue, spurred on by a county that understands the important economic opportunities the film business has brought not only to the state of Georgia but also to DeKalb.

“All of this growth has sparked individuals to work together to support the industry,” Jackson says. “It’s been incredible for us, and we want to see more productions that are made for and paid for here. We have the ecosystem to support them. We are a one-stop shop.”

Baptist preacher who participates in a gay conversion program

Kevin (Probably) Saves the World, an ABC vehicle starring Jason Ritter and JoAnna Garcia Swisher, about a man who is tasked by God to save the world

Logan Lucky, a tale of two brothers who attempt to pull off a heist during a NASCAR race in North Carolina, featuring Channing Tatum, Adam Driver, and Katie Holmes

Misfits & Monsters, a 2017 scripted anthology comedy series from Bobcat Goldthwait

Nappily Ever After, a 2018 romantic comedy starring Ernie Hudson, Ricky Whittle, and Sanaa Lathan

Tag, a 2018 comedy with Jon Hamm, Isla Fisher, and Annabelle Wallis in which former classmates organize an elaborate game of tag around the country



Warbird Weekend

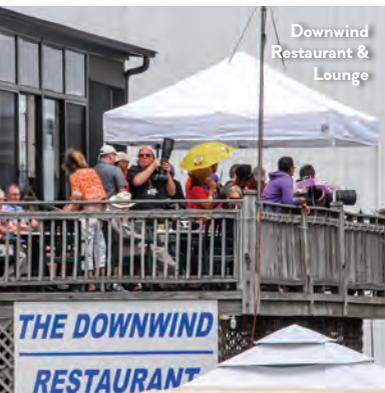
SKY'S THE LIMIT

DEKALB PEACHTREE AIRPORT SOARS WITH HELICOPTER TOURS, BIPLANE RIDES, DINING, AND MORE

» by CANDICE DYER



Downwind Restaurant & Lounge



Downwind Restaurant & Lounge

THE DOWNWIND RESTAURANT

You might call Cindy Jo Proctor a “plane whisperer.” She perches for hours at a time on the observation deck at DeKalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) and sends telepathic signals to incoming and outgoing aircraft.

“First, I Google the serial number on the tail to see who the plane belongs to,” she says. “I listen to the engine and note the speed. Then I’ll think, ‘Keep your nose down,’ or ‘Bring down the choke.’ There are so many things a pilot needs to be aware of.”

Proctor grew up among the clouds. Her father was a pilot who owned a Luscomb and a Cessna 172. “He wore a leather flight jacket, and he would hand-polish the silver aluminum exteriors until they gleamed in the sun,” she recalls. “When I was a child, I sat on his lap while he flew, and he would explain the instruments. I don’t have a pilot’s license, but I know how to fly a plane.”

Her dad died in 2002. “When I’m at PDK, I can look up in the sky and feel his spirit,” she says. “Being up close to a takeoff is so exhilarating. It’s just a special place to be.”

You don’t have to be a pilot, or a pilot’s daughter, to

enjoy spending time at this airport, located squarely in the middle of a residential part of Chamblee. More than just a bustling transportation hub, it is also a hangout and a “scene” rich in history and atmosphere. There’s something for everyone here, from an aviation-themed children’s playground to two restaurants with picture windows looking out on the tarmac.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

PDK celebrated its centennial last year. It began as a cavalry station in World War I, and then served as a naval air station in World War II. The military handed the site over to civilian control in 1959. Today, it ranks as the second-busiest airport in Georgia.

Sprawled across 745 acres, it comprises three runways, 100 hangars, 409 aviation-based businesses, and seven flight schools. PDK has averaged 230,000 takeoffs and landings annually for more than 30 years, or around 550 per day. It is also home to Angel Flight Soars, a nonprofit that coordinates a network of 1,000 pilots who transport medical patients to out-of-state hospitals.

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Good Neighbor Day Airshow



Good Neighbor Day Airshow

“PDK really functions as a small city, and I’m the mayor,” says Mario Evans, airport director, noting that its economic impact for metro Atlanta is \$211.7 million. “We try to be good neighbors in our community. Local kids play at our park every day, year-round, and thousands of people come to the air shows [Good Neighbor Day Airshow and Warbird Weekend are two popular events] and open-houses we have several times a year, with the Blue Angels and other acrobatic air performers. You can talk with the pilots and check out what 75 vendors are selling. There’s always something interesting going on here every day.”

And you don’t have to stay earthbound. Two businesses (**Prestige Helicopters** and **Helicopter Rides of Atlanta**) offer visitors sight-seeing helicopter rides—you can get close to the bas relief sculptures on Stone Mountain. For a more retro experience, check out **Biplanes Over Atlanta**, which provides views of downtown Atlanta, Stone Mountain, and Lake Lanier in a 1930s-era, open-cockpit biplane designed for two passengers. “For couples, we recommend the ‘romantic sunset tour,’” says owner Steve “Old Boy” Collins. “You can watch the sun slip below the horizon as the lights come on in Atlanta.”

AIRPORT DINING

At the **Downwind Restaurant & Lounge**, located in the administration building, you can eavesdrop on the pilots who are wolfing down their burgers while Piper Cubs circle outside. Family owned and operated for 28 years, this Zagat-rated spot offers kid-friendly meals and great views, not to mention

adults-only live music on Friday evenings and team trivia on Wednesdays.

The sentimental heart of PDK, though, is the **57th Fighter Group Restaurant**, home to a bastion of museum-worthy World War II memorabilia, including a tattered Nazi flag, in a building designed to look like a 1940s-era French farmhouse. A “Wall of Heroes” invites veterans to leave their autographs. You can borrow a headset to listen to the broadcasts of the PDK Tower, or the speeches of Winston Churchill. And come out on the weekends if you like to dance, especially if you can tango. The restaurant is owned by Pat Epps, an Air Force vet who is considered aviation royalty—his father was the first pilot in Georgia to man a plane with an engine.

“For me, flying is a family tradition,” Epps says. “There’s nothing like the freedom of being in the air in my Bonanza. It’s a feeling we try to celebrate at PDK. I hope that once I’m gone, someone will still maintain the restaurant.”



57th Fighter Group Restaurant



57th Fighter Group Restaurant



Buford Highway
Farmers Market

Maomi

GLOBAL VILLAGE

DEKALB IS GEORGIA'S MOST DIVERSE COUNTY, A KALEIDOSCOPE OF PEOPLE, CULTURES, CUISINES, AND STORIES

» by KATYA RIDDERBUSCH



Pho Bac

It's easy to travel the world in DeKalb County, whether for a day or just a few hours. Visitors can see colorful displays of food from all over the globe; hear lively chatter in multiple languages and dialects; enjoy the tastes and smells of far-away lands; feel the thrum of deep African drumbeats gently pouring out of the windows of an otherwise quiet Clarkston community building; and so much more.

Here are some suggestions for visitors who want to explore international DeKalb. The “best of” list is based on recommendations by members of the county’s diverse international community.

BEST PLACE TO BUY INTERNATIONAL FOOD

There can only be one: The **Buford Highway Farmers Market**, or BHFH, which is a fixture in DeKalb’s international community. The sprawling 100,000-square-foot grocery megastore is abuzz with shouting vendors and rummaging customers. Since 1974, the market has offered a vast variety of exotic produce, meat, seafood, breads, cheeses, spices, herbs, healing remedies, and even cleaning supplies from Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa. The BHFH also offers cooking classes

where people can learn how to prepare authentic ethnic meals from native chefs—from Thai massaman curry to a Mongolian hot pot.

BEST PLACE TO GET A BANH MI

For a selection of fresh and delicious banh mi (traditional Vietnamese sandwiches), locals typically flock to **Quoc Huong Banh Mi Fast Food**, located at the Asian Square in Chamblee. People from nearby offices come here during lunchtime and stand in line. Another Atlanta institution is **Pho Bac**, also on Buford Highway, which is famous not only for its banh mi, but also for beef noodle soup, chilled and steamed rice plates, and authentic Vietnamese coffee.

BEST CHINESE IMMERSION

Be sure to check out **Maomi**, a Chinese bookstore located in the **Atlanta Chinatown Mall** in Chamblee. Maomi offers a unique selection of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs, and Chinese learning materials for people of all ages, from kindergarten to adults.

For a more hands-on language immersion experience, stop at **Dinhho Market**, a very traditional Chinese grocery store where the staff enjoys

© JGLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (5), © JANDD IMAGES, ISTOCK



Cafe Bombay



Refuge Coffee

engaging non-Chinese visitors in conversation and offering advice about Chinese food and culture.

BEST PLACE TO EXPERIENCE INDIA

Every spring, Atlanta's Indian community celebrates the **Festival of Colors**. It signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the end of winter. It takes place at different venues, often in DeKalb County, and is open to the public. There are food stalls where vendors prepare authentic Indian street food; booths where Indian designers sell traditional jewelry and fashion; and performances by Indian dancers, actors, and musicians.

BEST INDIAN CURRY

Cafe Bombay, tucked away in a strip mall on Briarcliff Road, offers a lunch and dinner buffet, which is a big draw for Indians and non-Indians alike. Among the most popular items on the menu are the goat and lamb curries. For those who want to prepare their own curries, all the authentic ingredients are available at **Patel Brothers** in Decatur, an Indian supermarket mini-chain.

BEST FRESH GUACAMOLE

There may be tough competition among all the family-run Mexican restaurants in Chamblee, but you can never go wrong visiting **Plaza Fiesta** on Buford Highway, one of the largest Hispanic shopping malls in Georgia. After checking out authentic Latin American apparel and hand-painted tableware, stop at the food court to snack on freshly prepared avocado dip, accompanied by Latin American beverages like Inca Kola.

BEST PLACE TO WATCH FUTBÓL

Futból, or soccer, is a big deal for Latin Americans of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. You won't find an authentic Latino eatery where the TV is not showing a futból match and where staff and guests are not passionately debating a referee's decision. One of the liveliest places to enjoy a game with the locals in DeKalb County is **Las Delicias de la Abuela**, a Columbian restaurant where most patrons are Columbian natives.

BEST PLACE FOR THE SPIRIT OF AFRICA

Clarkston, a 1.4-square mile area east of Atlanta, is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the United States. A large portion of the 12,000 people calling Clarkston home are refugees, many of whom hail from Africa. The **Clarkston Community Center** organizes international events each year. One of the most popular is a food tasting fair. People from different ethnic groups—mostly Ethiopian, Sudanese, Kenyan Nigerian, and Somali—prepare and showcase their dishes, from tasteful stews and traditional East African flatbreads to *shahan ful*, a fava bean paste with minced vegetables.

BEST SOCIAL COFFEE SPOT

The answer is **Refuge Coffee**, a shiny red truck-turned-coffee shop in the heart of Clarkston. The coffee shop is staffed with refugees from many different countries; it caters to refugees, residents, and visitors alike. It's also a meeting spot for people to connect with peers, listen to African music, mingle, chat, and exchange information and gossip. The truck serves pretty tasty coffee as well.



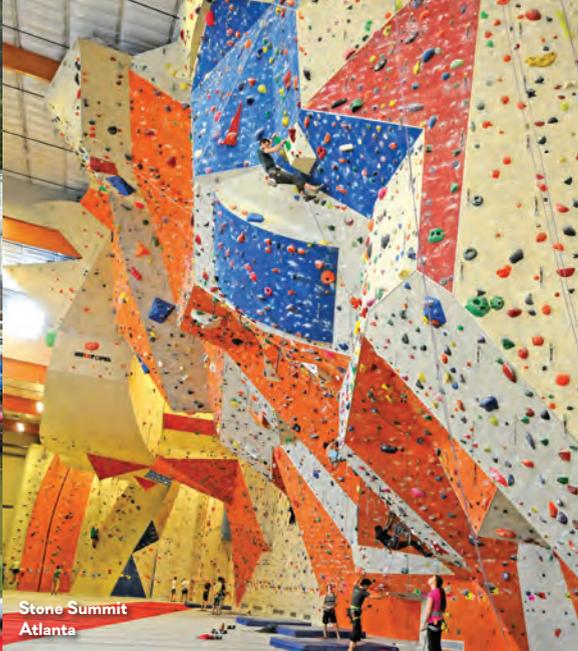
Plaza Fiesta



Festival of Colors



East Lake Golf Club



Stone Summit Atlanta

GOOD SPORTS

DEKALB COUNTY IS A WIN-WIN FOR SPORTS FANS

» by CAROLINE EUBANKS



Atlanta Hawks new HQ and training facility

Game on! Sports fans and athletes will find great facilities in DeKalb. Whether it's cycling through nature preserves or teeing off in the footsteps of legends, there's no better place.

AT THE LINKS

Golfers should look no further than DeKalb for some of the metro area's most impressive courses. **East Lake Golf Club** has been home to the Tour Championship since 2005. Greats like Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, and Phil Mickelson have claimed titles here. Founded in 1898 as a men's social club, this is the home course of legendary Bobby Jones. It was saved from developers in the 1990s and later restored to its original design. Even if you don't play golf, you can take a tour of the historic facility's clubhouse thanks to a partnership with the Atlanta History Center.

The **Stonemont at Stone Mountain**, built in 1969 by Robert Trent Jones, is frequently praised by *Golf Digest*. It's one of two courses located within Stone Mountain Park. The second is **Lakemont at Stone Mountain**, located on the Atlanta Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort campus.

GOAL SETTERS

The **Atlanta Silverbacks** men's professional and women's semi-professional teams call Atlanta Silverbacks Park home. The \$20 million sports facility includes four full-sized soccer fields and a 3,500-seat stadium. Soccer leagues of all ages practice here, as does the Atlanta Renegades Rugby Club. The team and stadium take their name from Willie B., Zoo Atlanta's beloved silverback gorilla, who died in February 2000.

DEKALB ON TWO WHEELS

DeKalb includes a number of bike-friendly communities. Thanks to a partnership between Bicycle Tours of Atlanta and Ride With GPS, Bike DeKalb has launched turn-by-turn directions for cyclists in Decatur, Clarkston, Druid Hills, and Stone Mountain. Companies like **Aztec Cycles** in Stone Mountain rent out bikes and also service them. **Snyder Cycles** in Tucker offers custom bikes, full-service repair, maintenance classes, and weekly group rides.

Stone Mountain Park and **Davidson-Arabia Nature Reserve** have some of the area's best bike

SCOTT WANG AND ATLANTA HAWKS; EAST LAKE GOLF CLUB/TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP; STONE SUMMIT ATLANTA; DYNAMIC SWIM CLUB; ©JGLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (3); AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE



Dynamo Swim Club



Biking the Stone Mountain PATH



Blackburn Tennis Center

paths. At Stone Mountain Park, visitors can bike the paved five-mile loop around the mountain on Robert E. Lee Boulevard. The Stone Mountain PATH trail runs between Centennial Olympic Park and Stone Mountain Village, including four miles of street riding. Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area offers more than 30 miles of trails that vary in difficulty.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Some neighborhoods may boast swim and tennis facilities, but DeKalb kicks them up a notch. **Dynamo Swim Club** is one of the metro area's best swim clubs, with a swim school and competitive teams. The Chamblee location offers daily passes. The temperature of the pools is kept in the 80s year-round.

Blackburn Tennis Center, located just inside the Perimeter, features 18 lighted hard courts (sessions rent out by the hour), UTA junior academy coaching, junior summer camps, adult and junior ALTA/USTA teams, adult drills and round robin competitions, and private lessons.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Consistently ranked one of the state's best schools academically, **Emory University** also shines in athletics. Between its various teams, the Emory Eagles have won 20 NCAA Division III national championships. The baseball team has been ranked among the top 10 in the nation for the last three years.

Agnes Scott College is a private women's college that dates to 1889 and is one of the Seven Sisters of the South. Home to the Scotties, the school excels in

athletics. It boasts six sports teams, including soccer and tennis.

Brookhaven's **Oglethorpe University** also claims top sports honors. The men's golf team won the NCAA Division III title in 2009 and 2012. The Stormy Petrel, their seabird mascot, represents the school's basketball, track and field, and soccer teams.

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

You can climb at **Stone Summit Atlanta** year-round without worrying about the weather. First-timers and experts alike are welcome to start with a belay lesson before hitting the climbing walls at this 45,000-square-foot space. Rent gear or bring your own before making your way up the 60-foot walls. Take advantage of lessons and member appreciation nights, along with yoga and Pilates classes.

TRAINING DAYS

The newest addition to DeKalb's sports scene is the **Atlanta Hawks'** headquarters and practice facility in Executive Park in Brookhaven. Built in partnership with Emory University, the 90,000-square-foot complex will be a unique combination of functional practice space and healthcare space for sports medicine. Other NBA teams have established similar partnerships with local medical practices, but this combination will be the first of its kind, bringing together the best of both worlds. The facility will include offices, practice space, and a medical component. State-of-the-art equipment will make it easier to diagnose player injuries and make treatment almost immediate.



Stonemont at Stone Mountain



Agnes Scott College basketball



Doll's Head Trail



OFFBEAT DEKALB

THE COUNTY'S MOST INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ATTRACTIONS

» by CANDICE DYER



David J. Sencer CDC Museum

While popular tourist attractions are certainly worth visiting (they're popular for a reason, after all), we've uncovered some lesser-known attractions that are also worth a look. Here are seven spots that are weird, wild, and off the beaten path.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS

The glassy eyes seem to follow you as you trek **Doll's Head Trail**, a spooky path that derives its name from the toys arrayed on its edges, left behind when the South River flooded the site. Part nature preserve and part alfresco gallery, the 125-acre park was once a 19th-century brick company. When the factory was abandoned more than 50 years ago, its excavation pits filled with rainwater that created Constitution Lakes. In 2003, the county installed walking trails beside the water that since have attracted a mix of bohemians and birders. Visitors are encouraged to craft their own tableaux from the accumulated detritus, and the projects have grown steadily from there. The objective here is quirky repurposing; each piece must be "found art," not new trash. Bring your camera and watch for snakes.

MONKEY SEE

Three good ol' boys were driving down Bankhead Highway in 1953 when they claimed they struck an extraterrestrial scurrying to board a flying saucer. To be fair, the two-foot tall, hairless creature did look otherworldly. An autopsy, though, determined it was a monkey. Turns out, the men had bought the animal at a pet store and slathered it with depilatory. Today, it remains ghoulishly preserved in formaldehyde, with its mouth agape, at the **Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab Museum**. Other exhibits at the museum include a swatch of carpet that belonged to a serial killer; a hatchet inscribed with a voodoo curse; and a case of fraudulent Vienna sausages, considered a crime in its day.

LITTLE FURNITURE

You might want to sit down for this. In 2008, the *Guinness Book of World Records* created a new category to honor Barbara Hartsfield's unusual collection. She owns the world's largest stash of the world's smallest chairs—more than 3,000 of them. The following year, she opened the **Collectible and**

© JGLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (3), © JIM GATHANY, DISCOVER DEKALB, COLLECTIBLE AND ANTIQUE CHAIR GALLERY (2)



Star Community Bar



The Commuter Gallery

Antique Chair Gallery in Stone Mountain. The exhibits are not dollhouse furniture, she is quick to clarify, just diminutive chairs. And the variety is overwhelming. There are chairs celebrating every holiday; chair lamps; twig chairs; a Christmas tree with more than 100 chair ornaments; chairs inside bottles; 150 chair salt-and-pepper shakers; a chair garden in a bath-tub; and more. You might survey this array of stuff and wonder: Why? Hartsfield works with schizophrenics at Grady Hospital. She was writing an article about mental illness and pregnancy when she decided she needed props for inspiration. She bought a doll and a chair. Something about the cuteness of the chair struck her fancy, and she has been collecting ever since.

YARD ART

The Commuter Gallery is the sculpture garden created by outsider artist Clark Ashton. He began his career as a welder, and his elaborate pieces—one cathedral-like creation with spires stands 35 feet—pleasantly distract motorists stalled in gridlock on North Druid Hills Road. They are invited to veer into his driveway and get the guided tour, free of charge. “I harvest souls from the chaos as they’re lost in the mundane ritual of the daily commute,” says Ashton, who is prone to grandiose proclamations. “My goal is to manufacture psychic unity for the masses.” The half-acre attraction holds hundreds of sculptures that include a variety of figurative entities—from buzzards to fertility icons—interacting with machines. Note the shrine for horror legend Bela Lugosi.

BURNING LOVE

The Star Community Bar, a rockabilly music venue in the heart of Little Five Points offering live music, dance parties, and a fun vibe, used to be a bank. The proprietors have transformed the treasures of its vault into a campy, eclectic shrine to Elvis Presley—it’s one of the largest assemblages of the icon’s memorabilia this side of Memphis. It is a cluttered, glittery hoarder’s paradise, including numerous portraits of the snarling King from all phases of his life (both lean and bloated), an altar, a throne, and a painting of Presley’s mother— displayed reverently over a full-size gilded toilet.

MODERN MEDICINE

At the **David J. Sencer CDC Museum**, the sleuths wear lab-coats. This one-of-a-kind venue tells the stories of heroic Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scientists who combine old-fashioned detective work with high-tech science to squelch pandemics. It features award-winning exhibitions that examine a variety of public health topics, from diabetes to Ebola. The museum also maintains a staggering archive of more than 3,000 items for researchers or the curious public, including equipment, photographs, papers, films, documents, audio recordings, oral histories, and storied microscopes. Check out the *Hidden History* section, which explores the more colorful stories behind these items. One example: Shapona, the Yoruba god of smallpox, an African idol that symbolizes the international effort to eradicate the disease.



Collectible and Antique Chair Gallery



Collectible and Antique Chair Gallery



Waffle House Museum



The Crypt of Civilization



Waffle House Museum



Dr. Thornwell Jacobs with film for the crypt

WAFFLES, PLEASE

The Waffle House chain began with a modest, 14-stool diner in the Avondale Estates community. It had a simple mission: “Take care of the poor old cash customer.” Today the site comprises two buildings: the diner restored to period perfection from its 1955 inception and a small museum of memorabilia. You can see the way servers’ uniforms and menus—and prices—have evolved, and also learn about the trademark lingo (“scattered, smothered, and covered” was incorporated into the menu during the 1980s). Note the vintage jukebox with tracks by Elvis, Sinatra, and Gladys Knight. Waffle House is known for its inclusive stance on integration during the Civil Rights era, and its role in responding generously to the public during natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. The complex holds four “open house” days a year, but free private tours can be booked through wafflehouse.com.

DO NOT OPEN

Note to would-be burglars: **The Crypt of Civilization at Oglethorpe University** contains no gold or jewelry. However, it does hold just about everything else. Sealed in 1940, it is not supposed to be opened until May 28, 8113. The crypt preserves microfilms of 800 authoritative books on every subject deemed important by its creator, then university president Dr. Thornwell Jacobs (1877–1956), who has been dubbed “the father of the modern time capsule.” Jacobs believed it is “our archaeological duty” to provide a thorough record of life in the 20th century. The crypt, which measures 20 feet long, 10 feet high, and 10 feet wide, preserves drawings of all of our inventions; a record of sports, amusements, pastimes, and games; and an apparatus for teaching the English language in case it is no longer spoken. Visitors cannot go inside it, but they can pay homage at its steel door.

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES (2); DISCOVER DEKALB (2); © KRISTIN BOYE, © J. GLENN PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF WORD OF MOUTH RESTAURANTS



Murphey Candler Park

Brookhaven

Scenic parks, historic houses, an acclaimed liberal arts university that looks like a castle (Oglethorpe), and pedestrian-friendly shopping and dining destinations are hallmarks of DeKalb's largest city.



Brookhaven Village



Vero



Blackburn Tennis Center



Marguerite's on Dresden

DRESDEN DRIVE

AN URBAN POCKET WITH A VILLAGE FEEL

» by *KATYA RIDDERBUSCH*



Valenza

ABOUT A DECADE OR MORE AGO, Brookhaven started developing a number of lively urban-style pockets. One is **Brookhaven Village**. The bustling town center that emerged on Dresden Drive, just east of the Brookhaven MARTA station, is anchored by **Village Place** and **Village Park Place** mixed-use developments, with condominiums, town homes, offices, and retail space.

Brookhaven Village is bordered by the residential neighborhoods of Ashford Park to the north and Drew Valley to the south. Both are, for the most part, made up of single-

family homes that are within walking distance of the village.

The pedestrian-friendly area along Dresden Drive is abuzz with activity. Visitors will find a variety of interesting and unique retail stores as well as restaurants and bars featuring many different cuisines and catering to many different tastes, styles, and wallets.

DINING DESTINATIONS

Start things off at **Haven**, an upscale yet casual neighborhood restaurant. Even though the dining room is set in an airy loft space, the atmosphere is warm and inviting,

© J GLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (3), COURTESY OF WORD OF MOUTH RESTAURANTS (2)



Kaleidoscope Bistro

with furniture made from cypress wood. The shaded patio, where food lovers can enjoy their meals and specialty cocktails under a canopy of lush elm trees, has become a favorite neighborhood spot.

Just a few steps down from Haven is **Valenza**, a fine Italian eatery with an equally popular patio and a dining room framed by Venetian-style plastered walls. Next door is Valenza's sister restaurant, **Vero**. The rustic Neapolitan pizza parlor is built around a gigantic clay oven, which weighs over three tons and is made from Mount Vesuvius' volcanic rock.

For more dining options, visitors simply cross the street, where they can check out **Kaleidoscope Bistro**. This bistro-pub features an ample selection of beer and wine from around the world and a menu chock full of self-described "global comfort food." **Pour Kitchen + Bar** is a stylish neighborhood wine bar and eatery with a modern seasonal menu, small plates, and appetizers.

Family-friendly **Verde Taqueria** serves fresh Mexican fare. Tasty tacos are the signature dish, and they come in a wide variety of preparations. The restaurant, which also has a heated patio, is popular with locals and visitors alike. On a Friday night, especially in the summer, there can be a long wait until a table opens up.

J. Christopher's is the place to go for those looking to grab a quick coffee, a hearty and healthy breakfast, or a simple lunch with colleagues. The regional daytime restaurant chain is always crowded on Saturdays and Sundays when families and friends pour in for an opulent weekend brunch.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

The lively restaurant scene on Dresden Drive is complimented by a number of designer boutiques and specialty stores. For example, one can find gourmet food made from locally sourced and organically grown ingredients at **Savi** as well as exquisite wines from around the world at **Brookhaven Wines**.

Marguerite's on Dresden is a European-style home accessory store that offers an eclectic selection of design furniture and tableware, original artwork, custom monogrammed bedding, unique baby clothes and toys, and one-of-a-kind jewelry. There is also a beauty parlor (**Salon Briggs**), a massage studio (**Natural Body Spa and Shop**), and a nail salon (**Hammond Nails of Brookhaven**).

ON THE HORIZON

And the booming district is about to grow even more. Construction has begun on **Dresden Village**, a 3.7-acre mixed-use project connecting Brookhaven Village to the area around the Brookhaven MARTA station. The new development will include a four-story apartment building with ground-floor retail, seven townhomes, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes. And renowned Atlanta chef Scott Serpas plans to open a much-anticipated new restaurant, **Dixie Moon**. The Brookhaven resident also owns Serpas True Food in Old Fourth Ward.

With all the building and expansion excitement, city leaders, neighborhood advocates, and commercial developers have promised to keep the casual village feel that makes the Dresden Drive district such a lively and comfortable experience.



Valenza



8 Brookhaven Drive

HOUSE HUNT

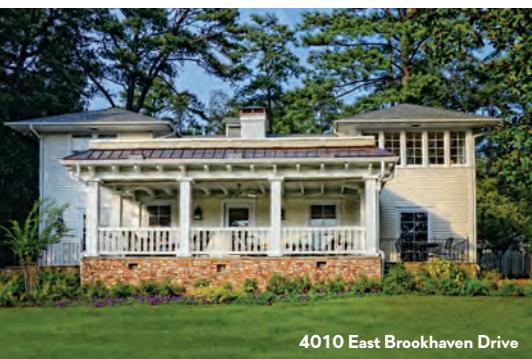
Every house tells a story

By *Katja Ridderbusch*

Historic Brookhaven is an eclectic district in an eclectic county. “You will not find two houses that have the same facade,” says Richard Diedrich, author of *The Storied Houses of Historic Brookhaven*.



3970 East Brookhaven



4010 East Brookhaven Drive

Designated a National Historic District in 1986, the area is roughly defined by Vermont Road on the south, East Brookhaven Drive on the north, Peachtree Road on the east, and Peachtree Dunwoody Road on the west. The predominant styles of the 150 original houses built between 1910 and 1942 are Colonial, Georgian, and Tudor Revival, but one can also find English Cottage, Romantic, Cape Cod, and even Mediterranean.

The history of the neighborhood is as interesting as the houses themselves. The community was the first in the Southeastern United States to be planned around a golf course. The Capital City Club Brookhaven—originally called the Brookhaven Country Club and completed in 1911—is the green heart of the neighborhood. But, unlike other golf course communities where the houses back up to the golf course, in Historic Brookhaven almost all of the houses are located across the roads from the streets that border the course.

Diedrich, an area resident, says that the best way to experience the charm of Historic Brookhaven is to set out on foot. A tour around the golf course is almost equal to a 5K walk. “You have the green space on one side, and the panorama of landscaped yards with the ever-surprising variety of residential architecture on the other side,” he says. Every house tells a story, the author says.

Here are some of his favorites:

» 4010 East Brookhaven Drive

This is one of the area’s oldest houses. While under construction in 1914, it was pictured in *The Atlanta Constitution*, the morning paper at the time. Despite several rounds of remodeling, the house has stayed true to its original features—high ceilings, wood floors, and a stately porch offering a panoramic vista.

» 8 Brookhaven Drive

Built in 1925, this is the only Mediterranean-style home in Historic Brookhaven, and it happens to belong to Diedrich. The white paint, airy floor plan, and large windows make it a sun-drenched oasis all year long.

» 3970 East Brookhaven Drive

Built in 1940, this was originally a modest, two-story home set on a small hill overlooking the golf course. It was designed by Atlanta architect Philip Shutze, who gained recognition for his design of the Atlanta History Center’s famous Swan House.

» 4040 East Brookhaven Drive

Named “White Chimneys” for its painted brick, this house was built in 1928 for LeRoy W. Rogers who established Rogers Grocery in 1892. It was designed by Preston Stevens Sr. whose firm also designed the Capital City Club’s Brookhaven clubhouse.



Sugarboo & Co.

UP MARKET

Shopping in Brookhaven

By Jennifer Bradley Franklin

Brookhaven is booming. Minted as a city in 2012, it has quickly become one of DeKalb’s “it” neighborhoods and a shopper’s paradise to boot. It offers something for just about every interest. Here, some of the best:

» **Sugarboo & Co.** in Town Brookhaven sells charming art prints and originals, handmade accessories, home goods, serving platters, paper goods, metal signs, rugs, furniture, lighting, kids’ gifts, and much more. The store’s tag line says it’s a “dealer in whimsy,” and it’s true. From hostess gifts to baby showers, this cute store has you covered.

» Also in Town Brookhaven, **Boogaloos** is a destination boutique for women’s fashion. The shop features styles from top-tier clothing brands like from KLD, Krisa, RD Style, and others, as well as jewelry from local designers Olivia Rae, Snapdragon Studios, and Isobel. Enjoy complimentary personal styling services, as well as private shopping events (book with five or more friends and everyone gets 15 percent off).

» For those living a P.A.L. (that’s “pedestrian-active lifestyle”), **Big Peach Running Co.** is an essential stop. The runner’s paradise has a proprietary method of fitting clients for the ideal shoe, including measuring foot shape and a video gait analysis—all complimentary. The store stocks brands like Brooks, Hoka, Nike, and Saucony, and hosts running events year round.

» A stroll through any Brookhaven park makes it clear that this city loves its pooches, and **City Dog Market** is the go-to spot for pampered pets. The stand-alone store offers free samples of food and treats for four-legged family members and self-service wash stations outfitted with supplies to get your dog squeaky clean.



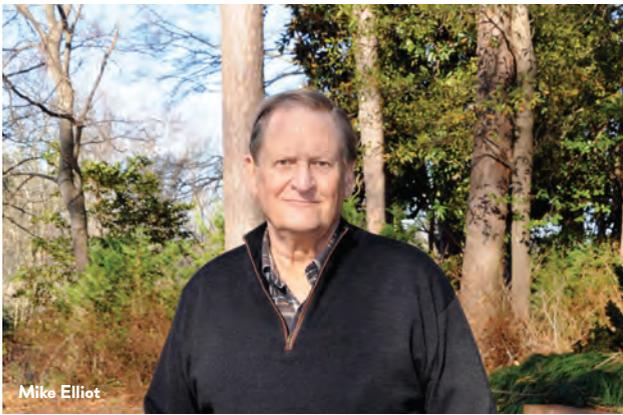
Big Peach Running Co.



Boogaloos



City Dog Market



Mike Elliot

LOCAL PICKS

Mike Elliot shares his favorite Brookhaven haunts

Mike Elliot, a Brookhaven resident for 27 years, enjoys the city for its central location, great parks and city services, and sense of community.

» **BEST-KEPT SECRET:** **Drepung Loseling Monastery** is the North American location of the Drepung Loseling Monastery in India and a branch of the monks led by the Dalai Lama. It is open to the public for meditation several times a week.

» **FAVORITE ARTS DESTINATION:** The **Oglethorpe University Museum of Art** is on par with the Michael Carlos Museum at Emory, and offers many private art collections, visiting shows, and high-quality lectures and concerts.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC FOOD:** **Pollo Campero**, a Guatemalan restaurant on Buford Highway, has the best fried chicken.

» **NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITE:** **Sugar Shack** is much more than cakes, cookies, and other sweets; it's a great place for a cup of coffee, breakfast, or lunch. It's my favorite place for community and business meetings.

» **ALL-AROUND FAVORITE RESTAURANTS:** I like **Haven** for its creative dishes and wine list; and **Valenza** for its Italian and European-inspired dishes.

» **BEST PATIO:** **Kalcidroscope** has a great terrace for outdoor dining and people watching.

» **BEST ATMOSPHERE:** I like the greenhouse garden dining room at **Terra Terroir**. It's like being in a jungle, with plants and a waterfall. It's unlike any other restaurant space.

» **BEST NIGHT OUT:** **CineBistro** in Town Brookhaven is a great place to enjoy dinner, drinks, and a movie in a very comfortable setting. And you can reserve your seat online so you don't have to show up early to get a good seat.

» **FAVORITE TRADITIONS:** There are so many great events every year, such as the **Atlanta Chili Cook-off** every October; the **Brookhaven Beer Fest** in June, which features a wide selection of international beers; and the **Brookhaven Arts Festival**, now in its 13th year, which is a juried show.

~ By Jennifer Senator



NEW HAWKS HEADQUARTERS

Last December, the Atlanta Hawks moved into a new 90,000-square-foot headquarters and practice facility, located on a five-acre campus in Executive Park. Built in partnership with Emory University, the space is a unique combination of functional practice space and healthcare space for sports medicine (Emory will receive naming rights). State-of-the-art equipment will make it easier to diagnose player injuries and make treatment almost immediate.

~ By Caroline Eubanks

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Places to park, play, and enjoy nature

» **Murphey Candler Park:**

This 135-acre facility was first conceptualized in 1950 and named after local politician Charles Murphey Candler. Visitors have access to tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic tables, and trails. It also has fields for tennis, baseball, softball, and football. The lake allows fishing; waterfowl and beavers call the area home.

» **Blackburn Park**

Popular events like the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival take place at 50-acre Blackburn Park. The Blackburn Tennis Center is the park's most notable feature, along with multiuse fields for soccer and softball, hiking and jogging trails, and picnic areas.

» **Skyland Park**

Skyland Park underwent a major transformation in 2017. It now includes the area's first sand volleyball courts, an open field for multiple sports, a canopied playground area, dog parks, and picnic shelters. It is the first park in Brookhaven to offer free charging stations for electric cars.

~ By Carolina Eubanks





LET'S BRUNCH

Brookhaven's top spots

» Hobnob

Fill up on tiramisu French toast, loaded breakfast sliders, steak Benedict, and a pizza with three eggs over easy. On the beverage menu, there are nine types of Bloody Marys and five variations of the mimosa.

» Kaleidoscope Bistro

Get ready for Indian curry chicken spring

rolls, poutine, ahi tuna tartare, and shrimp and grits. Looking for something more traditional? The 3 Little Pigs Biscuit Sandwich is always a good choice. Bonus: Brunch reservations are available until 12:30 p.m. It's open seating after that.

» Olde Blind Dog

Home of the bottomless mimosa, Olde Blind Dog serves Irish-style Sunday brunch. Expect a hearty meal with offerings such as biscuits and banger gravy, and four varieties of boxty (Irish potato pancakes). If the weather is nice, dine on the front patio.

» There

This neighborhood gastropub located in Town Brookhaven is known for its burgers. But you also can't go wrong with corned beef hash, crab cake Benedict, or something called French Toast Bacon Grilled Cheese.

» J. Christopher's

Located on Dresden Drive, J. Christopher's offers an expansive menu of familiar favorites, from eggs and bacon to oatmeal and yogurt. Diners will enjoy omelets, skilletts, crepes, pancakes, waffles, and more.

~ By Carly Cooper

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CASTLE-LIKE CAMPUS

Drive through Oglethorpe University's McConnell Gate House and you enter a 100-acre enclave dedicated to higher education, one that serves to both honor our state's history and develop its future bright minds. The liberal arts and sciences university was founded in 1835 in Midway, Georgia, but closed twice (the first time due to most of its students fighting in the Civil War). It was re-chartered in 1913 in its current location along Peachtree Road in Brookhaven's city limits.

Named for Georgia's founder, Englishman James Edward Oglethorpe, the buildings on the manicured campus are constructed to resemble Corpus Christi College in Oxford, England,

which the statesman himself attended. The distinctive Gothic Revival architectural style is evident with granite and slate elements, sloping roofs, and lacy latticework, making a stroll through the 1,200-student campus a delightful way to spend an afternoon.

While all of Oglethorpe's buildings are technically open to the public, many, such as residence halls and structures full of classrooms, should be viewed from the outside. Don't miss a glimpse of **Lupton Hall** and its iconic 42-bell carillon tower, which chimes every quarter hour. Another favorite is the **Great Hall of Hearst**; the lobby features exposed beam ceilings and a massive stone fireplace surrounded by plush leather sofas. In the same building, take a look at the stainless steel door that conceals the **Crypt of Civilization**, the largest and oldest millennial time capsule in the world.



Carillon ceremony for graduating seniors on top of Lupton Hall.

It was sealed in 1940 by then university president Dr. Thornwell Jacobs and won't be opened until 8113.

One of the campus's main draws is **Lowry Hall**, originally built in 1927, which houses both the **Weltner Library** and the **Oglethorpe University Museum of Art (OUMA)**. Open seven days a week, the library boasts more than 200,000 print books, 400,000 e-books, and a rotating collection of 20,000 pieces of political memorabilia from the John & Camilla Comerford

Collection.

On the hall's third floor, the 7,000-square-foot OUMA showcases a robust permanent collection, with works from artistic greats including Pissarro, Delacroix, and Matisse. The museum also hosts three major exhibitions a year.

During your visit, keep your eyes open for famous film sites—the campus has played a major role in films such as *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *Vacation*, and *Bad Moms Christmas*.

~ By Jennifer Bradley Franklin

BLAZING A PATH

Brookhaven's proposed Peachtree Creek Greenway is a 12.3-mile linear park and path along North Fork Peachtree Creek connecting the northeast metro communities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville, and unincorporated DeKalb. The vision is to create a multiuse transportation and recreation path and park for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized vehicles.

"The Peachtree Creek Greenway is an opportunity to provide an alternative transportation route, as well as recreational opportunities through these jurisdictions, improving livability and connectivity," says Sarah Kennedy, vice chair, board of directors, Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc.

The city is receiving federal funding for the project; it is also being funded by the city's hotel and motel tax. Given the size of the project and the number of jurisdictions involved, the Greenway could take some time to complete; the final route is still being determined.

In the short term, the "Model Mile" (running from Briarwood Road near REI to Corporate Boulevard near the Salvation Army) breaks ground sometime in 2018, making it the site of the first construction on the Greenway. There is also talk of redeveloping Chamblee's Century Center into a mixed-use area, making it accessible for visitors to the Greenway.

~ By Kelly Jordan



Calendar of Events

THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS AND HIPPEST HAPPENINGS IN BROOKHAVEN

JANUARY

MLK Day Dinner & Celebration

Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during this annual event held at Lynwood Park. Special tribute is paid to the Lynwood Integrators, who helped to desegregate the DeKalb school system in 1968. brookhavenga.gov

MARCH

Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival

Blackburn Park blooms with 240 Yoshino and Kwanzan trees during this annual flower fest. You can also run a 5K or 1K, attend a classic car show, hear live music, check out the art fair, play in the childrens area, or walk Fido in the pet parade. brookcherryfest.org

APRIL

Brookhaven Easter Egg Hunt

It's BYOB (bring your own basket) for this all-ages egg hunt in Blackburn Park. Also take a selfie with the Easter Bunny, or jump in the bounce house. brookhavenga.gov

MAY

Food Truck Roundup, May–October

Every Wednesday night, eight to 10 food trucks pull up to Blackburn Park. In addition to all the good eats, you'll also find entertainment, beer and wine, and a bounce house. brookhavenga.gov

Lynwood Park Community Day

A parade goes from Lynwood United Church of God in Christ to Lynwood Community Center. But that's just the start of this annual community get-together. Join a cookout, listen to live music, and play games, too. brookhavenga.gov

JUNE

Brookhaven Beer Fest

Choose from more than 150 beers while also enjoying DJs, food vendors, and music at one of Atlanta's largest beer-tasting events, held in Brookhaven Park. brookhavenbeerfest.com

SEPTEMBER

Paint the Park

Everyone is invited to make art in Blackburn Park. Paint brushes, paint, and paper are provided; pieces are displayed along Ashford Dunwoody Road during the event, with the winning art showcased at City Hall later. But awards and ice cream come throughout the day. brookhavenga.gov

OCTOBER

Atlanta Chili Cook Off

Brookhaven Park is home to this free festival featuring music, arts and crafts, kids activities, and lots and lots of delicious chili. brookhavenchilicookoff.com

Brookhaven Arts Festival

Highlights of this annual festival—held the third weekend in October—include wares from more than 140 artists, along with two days of music. brookhavenartsfestival.com

DECEMBER

Light Up Brookhaven

Both a Christmas tree and a menorah are lit at this holiday shindig. Keep the festivities going with a live musical performance, Santa meet-and-greets, holiday crafts, and a Toys for Tots collection box. brookhavenga.gov

~ By Tess Malone



The Commodore
Tonsorial Parlor

Chamblee

Once a small railroad town, Chamblee has blossomed into a varied and vibrant community. It is home to the expansive Chamblee Motor Mile, one of the South's largest antiques areas, nine city parks, and Buford Highway, with a large concentration of international markets, restaurants, and residents.



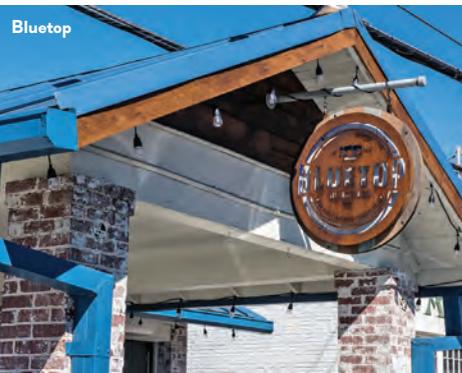


Bluetop

EAT LOCAL

THERE'S MORE TO CHAMBLEE'S FOOD SCENE THAN MEETS THE EYE. HERE, CHEFS AND RESTAURATEURS SHARE WHAT SETS THEM—AND THEIR RESTAURANTS—APART.

» by CAROLINE EUBANKS



Bluetop

BLUETOP

Named for a taxi stand that operated in the 1950s, Bluetop sits on that space but now includes the building and a 1969 moving van that was turned into the kitchen. "I always have liked the building," says owner Andy Lasky, who renovated the space, of the charming spot.

Helmed by Chef Paul Seidner, formerly of Buckhead's Portofino, the menu consists of "high-end food at cost-effective prices," says Lasky. It includes vintage sodas like

Cheerwine and Nehi alongside classic burgers—the most popular item—and pulled pork sandwiches. Dishes are rotated seasonally to keep as much of a local flavor as possible.

There's also an adult drink menu that features items like Jameson Vietnamese Coffee, which is sure to put some pep in your step. Desserts are made by Lasky's wife and daughter-in-law, including cheesecakes of the month. You'll enjoy games like bocce and corn hole on the outdoor patio.

© J GLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (2), © GREGORY MILLER PICTURES (2), © JANDD IMAGES

SOUTHBOUND

Celebrate a night out dining on Southbound's menu of "creative Southern comfort food" in a cool setting in a former Masonic lodge. Owners Amanda Averill and Mike Plummer chose Chamblee as the setting for their restaurant because they're residents themselves.

"We saw a big need for a casual neighborhood gathering spot," says Averill. "We always felt that we had to venture down to Decatur or other in-town 'hoods to find an authentic bar or food experience. When we found this building from the late 1800s, we knew it had the potential to be the hub of Chamblee we'd always envisioned and, four years later, we're proud to be an established part of the community."

Share small plates like the Chamblee fried chicken and black eyed pea hummus or enjoy the Southern ramen on your own, which comes with smoked pork, collard greens, and chow chow. The bone-in beef short rib is another popular choice; it is smoked on the Big Green Egg for more than eight hours. Served atop sweet potato mash, collard greens, and housemade barbecue sauce, it's sure to warm you up. And during the workweek, you can grab a bite at the upstairs coffee shop.

HOPSTIX

This downtown Chamblee eatery is the first in the state—if not the nation—to combine a brewpub with an Asian-inspired menu. Founder and brewer Andy Tan's family had a restaurant and seafood company in Indonesia, and that inspired his concept. "I feel that Chamblee is the true melting pot of Atlanta," Tan says.

Executive Chef Dony Raymond pairs dishes like miso ramen, skewers, and sushi with the restaurant's in-house brews. One must-try item is the duroc pork belly, cooked on the robata grill, which comes from a heritage breed sourced locally. It's become one of the menu's most popular items.

The beer lineup spans just about every style, including pilsners, porters, and golden ales, and also includes other brews on guest taps. Tan has been brewing for more than a decade and uses his knowledge to create unique brews. The Rice & Shine is ideal for craft beer newbies as it combines the familiar flavors of a Munich-style lager with steamed Jasmine rice for added aroma.

THE ALDEN

The newest arrival to Chamblee is The Alden, which offers a casual neighborhood setting and a menu of New American seasonal fare. The 2,000 square-foot space in the Parkview on Peachtree development is the brainchild of Chef Jared Hucks, who also operates the Dogwood Table Supper Club. He has worked all over the country, including time at Anne Quatrano's critically acclaimed restaurant, Bacchanalia.

"I grew up in Brookhaven," says Hucks. "Chamblee is a great town for businesses like ours as the city continues to build infrastructure to accommodate new residents and businesses alike."

The menu includes both small plates and entrees with seasonal ingredients with a modern twist on Southern classics. Dishes are also influenced by cuisine around the globe, including Latin America, Europe, and Asia.





Paper Daisies

RETAIL THERAPY

Shop 'til you drop in Chamblee

Getting your shopping fix in Chamblee used to mean scouring antique stores for a treasure, but a new breed of shops is broadening the city's scope. For instance, at the shiny new **Peachtree Station** shopping center, **The Cook's Warehouse** is the go-to spot for everything from Big Green Egg smokers and fancy Nespresso coffee machines to fun cooking gadgets you didn't even know you needed. You can even get your knives sharpened and take cooking classes in the tricked-out show kitchen. While you're parked, stroll over to **Hollywood Feed** for all the food, toys, beds, and treats your four-legged family members could ever need. The natural and holistic pet store sources all of its products from the United States and donates dog food and other supplies to local shelters.

In downtown Chamblee, check all gift or hosting needs off of your

list at the diminutive free-standing **Broad Street Mercantile**, which stocks gorgeous serving platters, fragrant candles, seasonal and holiday decor, jewelry, baby gifts, bridesmaid necessities, and much more. Around the corner, the expert barbers at **The Commodore Tonsorial Parlor** give luxe shaves and haircuts to clients who sit in vintage Belmont barber chairs. The tightly curated retail shelves also make the gorgeous shop worth a visit. You'll find natural grooming products from Col. Conk and Uppercut Deluxe Australia, as well as handcrafted leather goods from Stori Dry Goods Co.

Next door, **Paper Daisies** offers primarily customized stationery and printed goods for weddings and special occasions. The space hosts occasional pop-up shopping events, but customers seeking greeting cards and thank you notes need to order them online. On Malone Street, packed-to-the-gills **Hello Gorgeous Boutique & Cafe** features everything from kitschy tea towels and unusual books to makeup from under-the-radar brands and funky women's clothing.

~ By Jennifer Bradley Franklin



The Commodore Tonsorial Parlor



Hollywood Feed



Hello Gorgeous Boutique & Cafe



Bluetop Restaurant & Bar



Jimmy Furst

LOCAL PICKS

Jimmy Furst shares his favorite Chamblee haunts

A resident of Chamblee for four years and a member of Chamblee’s Recreation Advisory Council, Jimmy Furst was first attracted to the city by its affordable housing and convenient location. “You get more bang for your buck,” he says. “And being so close to the city was a definite plus.”

» **BEST ON A BUDGET:** My favorite is **Las Tortas Locas**, a really great taco place with a salsa bar. Every time I go I get something different, but I especially like the Nortena steak sandwich.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC RESTAURANT:** We go to **Lec’s Bakery** quite often. They have great Vietnamese food and the best banh mi I’ve ever had.

» **FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** My favorite in downtown Chamblee is **Vintage Pizzeria**. It’s probably the granddaddy of all Chamblee restaurants. I really enjoy the barbecue chicken pizza. On Buford Highway, I like **Food Terminal**, which is based on Asian food stalls, with a mostly Malaysian menu that looks like a magazine. It’s overwhelming when you first get there, but it’s amazing, especially the Thai Chili Pan Mee.

» **BEST PATIO:** At **Bluetop Restaurant & Bar**, 80 percent of the restaurant is a patio. The kitchen is in an old cargo container and the rest is a patio, with a grassy area where kids can play and space for outdoor games. The food is fantastic, and they have a great drink menu.



Hopstix



Food Terminal

» **BEST COCKTAILS/BAR:** **Hopstix** is the first brewery in Chamblee. They have a full bar with local beers, plus a rotating list of brews they make in-house such as “Seven Seas” and “Rice and Shine.”

» **BEST PLACE TO FIND A GREAT GIFT:** **Hello Gorgeous!** is a one-stop shop for cards, jewelry, and lots of unique gifts.

» **BEST PARK:** **Dresden Park** is our version of Central Park. It’s beautiful, with a stream running through it, playgrounds, and running paths. It’s quite amazing, and it’s huge!

» **FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:** Running on the **Rail Trail**, a great path that starts at Keswick Park and runs to Chamblee Tucker Road. I’m a runner, so it’s really nice. It connects to other trails, so I can get a good, long run on it.

~ By Jennifer Senator

LATIN BAZAAR

IT’S ALWAYS A FIESTA AT PLAZA FIESTA

Walk into **Plaza Fiesta**, a 350,000-square-foot shopping center at the intersection of Clairmont Road and Dresden Drive, and you’ll feel like you’re entering a Latin mercado, complete with colorful storefronts, hanging paper garlands, and fountains. **Discolandia**, a global music lover’s paradise, sells reggaeton, Latin pop, and salsa music CDs, as well as top 40 hits. To outfit your inner cowboy, stop at **Laredo Western Wear** where you can score ostrich and alligator skin boots, pearl-snap plaid shirts, and even chinchilla cowboy hats. Sports fans score at the **Soccer Corner**, which carries jerseys from just about every team on the planet, including Atlanta United. Plaza Fiesta is a go-to spot for wedding and quinceanera wear, but there’s trendy women’s clothes and accessories at **Yalsin Boutique**.

After shopping until you (almost) drop, you’ll want to refuel. Follow your nose to the food court, where the counter-service restaurants offer everything from ceviche and arepas to tacos and “quekas” (slang for quesadillas). After eating your fill, meander over to **Soy Garapiñados** for candied nuts and sweets or to **La Moreliana** for fruit paletas, ice cream, and chamoyadas. Want to take a bite for later? Visit **Mercado Fresco** supermarket where you’ll find all the ingredients for an at-home feast.

~ By Jennifer Bradley Franklin





Broad Street
Antique Mall



Antique Factory

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lights, camera, Chamblee!

It's always a treat to watch movies and television shows filmed in and around Chamblee and identify the spots used as backdrops. But that's not what Syl Turner is trying to pinpoint when he's watching everything from *I, Tonya* to *The Walking Dead* and *Stranger Things*.

"I really enjoy looking for the items we've helped place in the movies and TV shows," says Turner, owner of Broad Street Antique Mall and president of Chamblee Antique Row LTD. For years, his shop, along with numerous other stores that are part of Chamblee's Antique Row District, have provided period pieces and props for productions filming in the area.

The practice actually dates back several decades, when set designers approached local antique shops for the sets of movies like *Fried Green Tomatoes* and television shows including *In the Heat of the Night*. It's been

in the last five years, though, as the Georgia film industry leapt into the number three spot worldwide in film production, that the demand for items has increased exponentially.

Whether renting items for weeks at a time or purchasing them outright, set designers have discovered a treasure trove of goods right around the corner from the productions on which they're working. And with a number of studios nearby, the need for props—and advice from shop owners to ensure an item's authenticity—is prevalent.

For instance, **Antique Factory** provided Danish modern and mid-century American furniture to *The Hunger Games* set. **Broad Street Antique Mall** furnished nearly an entire farmhouse for several episodes of *The Walking Dead*, and also provided late '70s and early '80s items for *Stranger Things*. And **Chamblee Antiques & Collectibles** contributed

vintage girls' bikes and other items for a film set in the 1960s.

"Working with the set designers definitely has me take a second look at acquiring items that I may not have bought before," Turner says. In fact, the film industry has changed the way some local antique stores do business. For instance, the demand for materials encouraged **Biggar's Antiques** to move to a warehouse in Chamblee and transform strictly into a prop house, serving such productions as *Hidden Figures*, *Pitch Perfect 3*, and *Ozark*.

"The antiques business hit a slowdown a few years ago when

the economy went soft, but the film industry carried us through that rough period," Turner says.

It's also providing an unexpected marketing opportunity; shops can tout productions that showcase rented items that ultimately go on sale, such as a Tiffany lamp that appeared on the desk of Harrison Ford's character in the Jackie Robinson biopic *42* or a princess phone that appeared in *Stranger Things*.

"Now there's one more thing to consider and appreciate in these old items," Turner says. "Now there's a memory of a great movie or television show."

— By Amy Meadows

SCENE STEALERS

FILMS AND TV SHOWS FILMED IN AND AROUND CHAMBLEE

» ***The War With Grandpa***, featuring Robert DeNiro, Uma Thurman, and Christopher Walken

» ***Good Girls***, broadcast on NBC, starring

Christina Hendricks, Retta, and Mae Whitman

» ***I, Tonya***, the story of Tonya Harding, with Margot Robbie and Allison Janney

» ***Blockers***, released in April 2018 and featuring Leslie Mann, John Cena, and Ike Barinholtz

» ***Greenleaf***, a series from Oprah Winfrey,

starring Keith David and Lynn Whitfield

» ***Lodge 49***, an AMC drama starring Wyatt Russell, Brent Jennings, and Sonya Cassidy



Crawfish Shack Seafood



Cuba Mia



The Halal Guys

BUFORD BITES

Tasty spots on Buford Highway

» Opened in 1997, **Pho Bac** is a longtime local favorite. It's known for its signature Vietnamese noodle soup, but the rare steak and tender brisket pho and vegan pho are also popular. Add bean sprouts, hot peppers, cilantro, basil, and lime, sit back in one of the comfortable booths, and savor the flavorful broth as long as you can. Try the housemade ché pudding for dessert.

» A colorful mural of Cuban singer Celia Cruz welcomes you to sandwich shop **Cuba Mia**, owned by veteran restaurateur Mirtha Diaz, who owned Morro Castle in Midtown for nearly 15 years. The menu offers

traditional Cuban favorites such as ropa vieja (shredded steak), green plantain tostones topped with tender pork and marinated in garlicky Mojo sauce, Cuban sandwiches, empanadas, cubed yuca, and homemade flan.

» Amy Wong and Howie Ewe, who moved to Atlanta from Malaysia in the 1980s, opened Malaysian restaurant **Food Terminal** in early 2017. Crowds pack the modern, neon-lit space for Asian street food-inspired dishes such as grilled skewers, crispy baos, chicken wings, roti plates, noodle soups, and a variety of tossed noodle dishes, including the signature thin garlic noodles.

» **The Halal Guys** opened its first Atlanta location of the popular franchise in Chamblee last year. Devotees come from

across the metro area to the popular restaurant, which began as a Manhattan street cart, where they line up for Middle Eastern favorites such as gyro sandwiches, and beef and chicken platters with rice, falafel, and famous white and hot sauces.

» At **Crawfish Shack Seafood**, owner Hieu Pham serves Vietnamese-influenced Cajun food including po' boys, gumbo, and seafood. Since opening in 2008, the restaurant has received positive reviews from *The New York Times* and *USA Today*, as well as Anthony Bourdain, who featured the restaurant on his show, *The Layover with Anthony Bourdain*. His pick? The Shack-tastic Platter, a mix of snow and blue crab, crawfish, mussels, shrimp, corn, and red potatoes.

~ By Jennifer Bradley Franklin



I.D.E.A.

ARTS SCENE

Got culture? In spades.

» Since its founding in 2008, nonprofit theater company **Onion Man Productions** has produced 120 new plays that generated 100 opportunities for directors and 363 roles for actors. Each June, the company presents its "Summer Harvest," a collection of 10-minute plays. The company also offers classes and programs for aspiring writers.

» Voted Atlanta's best art gallery in a 2017 poll conducted by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, **I.D.E.A.** (Innovate•Design•

Exhibit•Art) showcases paintings, sculptures, and other pieces created by new and already-known artists. Gallery tours are available.

» **Dryad's Dancing** is a retail store and factory in one. The store is home to a collective of 25 Atlanta-area painters, jewelers, and other artists; it also sells items that are not locally made. Frames, furniture, wall decor, and mirrors are crafted at the factory location. They're created from reclaimed metal and wood, which often come from houses slated for salvage in Grant Park, West End, and other sections of Atlanta.

» **Chamblee's Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance**, or SEFAA, is all about textiles, whether you're interested in creating them, preserving valuable techniques, or simply looking for inspiration from the fiber arts community. Classes, lectures, and workshops are offered, and SEFAA hosts exciting exhibitions and special events, including a sale each November.

~ By Lynn Coulter

PARKLANDIA

Chamblee is home to nine scenic green spaces. **City Hall Park's** gazebo is the perfect spot for an outdoor lunch. **Huntley Hills Park** has a Little Free Library where visitors can take a book and leave a book, as well as a Butterfly Garden. **Keswick Park**, at 45 acres, is the city's largest and features plenty of fields and trails. "You don't even know you're in Chamblee," Jodie Gilfillan, director of Chamblee Parks and Recreation, says of the park. And while Gilfillan loves all of the parks she manages, **Dresden Park** is a favorite. "That park is beautiful, especially around the creek," she says.

~ By Caroline Eubanks



Keswick Park

Calendar of Events

THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS AND HIPPEST HAPPENINGS IN CHAMBLEE

MAY

Good Neighbor Day Airshow

DeKalb Peachtree Airport's annual event draws large crowds for a day of aerial acrobatics, airplane rides, and kids activities. Visitors can see a rare C-46 Commando, *Tinker Belle*, during the Warriors & Warbirds Veterans Celebration and Air Show. pdkairshow.com

Cinco de Mayo

Univision Atlanta puts on the biggest Cinco de Mayo celebration in Georgia with more than 40,000 people in attendance. Highlights include live music, games, food, kids activities, crafts, and lots of music. plazafiesta.net

Chamblee Summer Concert Series, May-August

Catch live music in downtown Chamblee every month. Blues, funk, and jazz create the soundtrack to the summer, with a big show culminating the season; past headliners include Everclear. chambleega.gov

JULY

Chamblee Fourth of July Celebration

This patriotic event is full of fun for the entire family. Activities include live music, food, a bike parade, train rides, a corn hole tournament, and a fireworks show. chambleega.gov

SEPTEMBER

Mexican Independence Day

Plaza Fiesta on Buford Highway is the site of this Mexican Independence Day celebration, which includes live music, food vendors, game booths, giveaways, and more. plazafiesta.net

OCTOBER

Taste of Chamblee

The city's largest festival celebrates the diversity of its local cuisine in bustling downtown. Festivalgoers can expect to sample food from favorite eateries like The Halal Guys and Vintage Pizza, plus there will be live music, a kids play zone, and even large LED TVs so they don't miss the big college game that night. Bonus: It's free! tasteofchamblee.net

~ By Tess Malone





Buford Highway
Farmers Market

Doraville

Doraville was put on the map when General Motors opened a new assembly plant here in the 1940s. Now the site of the former plant—and the city—are getting a new lease on life thanks to development and an increasingly diverse population.



Pho Bae



NO PASSPORT NEEDED

A DRIVE DOWN BUFORD HIGHWAY, DEKALB'S SEVEN-MILE STRETCH OF INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANTS, CAN GO FROM MALAYSIA TO MEXICO. HERE, A GUIDE TO SOME OF THE BEST INTERNATIONAL EATS BY CUISINE.

» by *TESS MALONE*

MALAYSIAN

Mamak celebrates the best of Malaysian cuisine, but don't be surprised to taste the flavors of India, China, and Singapore as well. Those flavors influenced the country's food cuisine, and this translates to tofu satay covered in peanut sauce, pork porridge, flat noodles topped with shrimp and scallops, and tofu stuffed with shrimp and fish. In fact, the bountiful menu earned the vibrant cafe an *Atlanta* magazine 50 Best Restaurant award.

CHINESE

A longstanding Buford Highway staple, **Yen Jing** serves traditional Korean-Chinese dishes such as noodles with black bean paste and pork (*jjangmyeon*), and spicy seafood soup (*jjamppong*), but you'll also find more unique menu items like jellyfish salad.

KOREAN

Although **Sokongdong Tofu & BBQ** offers seafood pancakes, *bibimbap*, and barbecue, the star of the show is the rich tofu soups.

The soybean-based protein may be the main draw at this Korean family-style restaurant, but you can also expect beef, oysters, and even tripe. Just be careful with the four spice levels; "very spicy" is not for the faint of heart.

With a name like **Stone Bowl House**, it shouldn't be a surprise that this Korean restaurant specializes in *bibimbap*, the rice bowl topped with meat, egg, and fresh vegetables that literally sizzles at the table. For those looking to branch out, try the seafood pancake (*haemul pajun*) and kimchi

soup, both served with a variety of veggie sides (*banchans*).

Have a traditional dessert at the Buford Highway outpost of bakery **White Windmill**. Grab a pair of tongs to pick through the dozens of savory and sweet breads, including traditional red bean buns and blueberry pound cake. Presentation is what sets this cozy cafe apart from other Buford Highway bakeries, with elaborate cakes in a case by the counter, bread shaped like fish overflowing with vanilla cream, and lattes decorated with roses.

For Korean comfort foods, stop by **Yeh Tuh**. From the palate-cleansing barley rice (*boribap jeongsik*), to hearty, spicy beef noodle soup (*yukgaejang*), classics make up this menu. People also come for the massive pancake (*pajun*) stuffed with seafood—even a whole baby octopus.

VIETNAMESE

For more than 20 years **Pho Bac** has been ladling out steaming bowls of *pho*, a beef noodle soup, in an unassuming but large Chamblee dining room. Yet all Vietnamese favorites are represented on this menu, such as freshly brewed coffee sweetened with condensed milk; a cold rice noodle salad bursting with tangy flavor called *bun*; and *com*, a comforting mix of rice, egg, and meat. Every menu item has multiple meat or add-on options and plenty of garnishes, like fresh basil and sriracha, to complete a meal.

THAI

At the Thai street vendor–inspired **Roll It Up Ice Cream**, employees pour cream on a metal plate chilled to -8 degrees, spread, then roll it into perfect circles. The Instagram-worthy cups and cones are some of the freshest ice cream you'll ever find, plus the store offers 21 flavors with toppings like cinnamon toast crunch and fresh strawberries.

MEXICAN

Monterrey Mexican is all about Tex-Mex. Stop by for the strong margaritas, loaded nachos, and chicken fajitas sizzling on a hot skillet. Live guitar music accompanies a fun night out.



Taqueria del Sol has a Chamblee location, but the corn tortillas are still just as fresh as the ones Chef Eddie Hernandez first made on the Westside in 2000. Order them filled with brisket, fried tilapia, or carnitas. Enchiladas coated in mole, fresh chile rellenos, and bittersweet margaritas round out the menu.

EL SALVADOR

Staples like tacos and a soothing chicken noodle soup are on the menu at **Rincon Latino**, but this humble space is known for its *pupusas*. The homemade masa tortillas are loaded with savory fillings, including black beans, cheese, chicken, and pork.



EL REY DEL TACO

Translating to “the king of tacos,” this Buford Highway favorite earns its name. Corn tortillas are made to order and piled high with specialty meats like *cabeza* (cow’s head), *lengua* (cow’s tongue), and *barbacoa* (goat). Add a sprinkling of fresh cilantro and onions and you have the county’s freshest and most authentic tacos. You’ll also find things not wrapped in a tortilla, including grilled steak plates, seafood tostadas, steaming fajitas, fish soups, cactus, and, of course, tequila. There’s a reason this has been an institution for 15 years.





Rich Hammett



White Windmill

LOCAL PICKS

Rich Hammett shares his favorite Doraville haunts

A resident of Doraville for more than 12 years, Rich Hammett chose his current home because of its access to the nearby MARTA station. He enjoys sampling the city's many multicultural offerings with his wife, Lisa, and their two children.

» **BEST BREAKFAST:** **White Windmill**, on Buford Highway, has a great hot breakfast sandwich bar. I like to browse the regular cold pastries. Lisa likes the bacon, egg, and cheese croissant.

» **BEST ON A BUDGET:** **Mi Pizza** has great deals to feed the family. I like the veggie supreme or the Tex-Mex special, and we usually get a ground beef and onion pizza or plain pepperoni or cheese.

» **ALL-AROUND FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** **Shoya Izakaya** is where my family goes to try new Japanese dishes. It's also a great place to take guests from out of town. We usually order comfort food, like teriyaki chicken, try some new small plates, and have some sushi. The tuna and salmon sashimi and nigiri sushi are excellent, especially the fatty tuna (*otono*).

» **FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP:** **White Windmill** always has delicious coffees and pastries. I like to try a new pastry every time, although I usually get a red bean or green bean roll with something else. My wife and kids enjoy the bubble teas and lattes, as well as the choux cream buns, pecan cookies, and cream puffs.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC RESTAURANT:**

Yet Tuh is a wonderful, authentic Korean comfort food restaurant. I've had a great experience every time I've been, although I had to get used to the idea of boiling hot barley tea served in plastic tumblers. I haven't tried everything yet, but I've enjoyed the *bori-bop* (barley rice), and the seafood pancake is delicious and filling.

» **BEST PARK:** **Autumn Park** is a convenient, safe, well-managed place to relax, play Frisbee, or swing with the kids.

» **FAVORITE PASTIME:** **Movies Under The Stars** take place every summer in Honeysuckle Park. It is a great place to keep in touch with friends around town.



Movies Under The Stars

» **FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:**

I have walked to the **Buford Highway Farmers Market** several times. I can get some fruits, vegetables, bread, and spices, and I always enjoy grabbing some Finnish bread and chocolate. I lived in Finland for a couple of years, and it's very unusual to have a real Finnish baker so close.

~ By Jennifer Senator

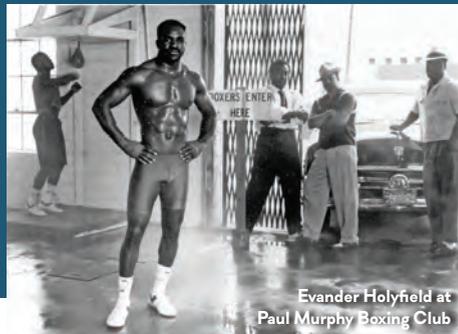
HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT

OLD-SCHOOL PAUL MURPHY BOXING CLUB IS A KNOCKOUT

The young middleweight works, with sharp jabs, on his body shots. It's just a small part of his daily workout at the **Paul Murphy Boxing Club** in Doraville, where his father, Evander Holyfield, the world's only four-time world heavyweight champion, learned the "sweet science." "There's so much history here that it was really the only place I considered," says Evander Holyfield, who is preparing for the 2020 Olympics. "The best trainers in the world are here."

The legendary, old-school boxing gym with two rings has been producing champions since its inception in 1976. Named for a city councilman, it is operated by "Sugar Bert" Wells, who got his moniker from training with Sugar Ray Leonard. "We have boxers as young as five years old," Wells says. What sets it apart? "Other gyms treat you like clients," says Myles Mizell, who will represent Georgia in the Golden Gloves. "But here they treat you like family—a tough family."

~ By Candice Dyer



Evander Holyfield at Paul Murphy Boxing Club



SETTING THE STAGE

Third Rail Studios anchors a major mixed-use development in Doraville

When the General Motors assembly plant in Doraville closed in 2008, it left behind 165 acres of land and memories. When The Integral Group purchased the land in 2012, it envisioned a completely repurposed mixed-use complex called Assembly, which would include housing, dining, entertainment, retail, parks, and office space. At the center of that development would be a film and television production studio designed to serve the local film industry.

CREATIVE MINDS THINK ALIKE

“Our parent company researched the idea and decided to start with an anchor to the property that would add a creative element to Doraville, Chamblee, and the surrounding area,” says Dan Rosenfelt, president of Third Rail Studios, which opened in September 2016. Located adjacent to MARTA and close to Interstate 285, the property offered visiting productions an incredible opportunity to access everything the metro Atlanta area can offer, as well as a local community that has become a bona fide hub for filming in Georgia. Housed in an existing building, Third Rail Studios boasts 60,000 square feet of purpose-built sound stages, nearly 30,000 square feet of production office space, 70,000 square feet of flex space, extensive fiber optic bandwidth, and the most coveted technology in the industry. And third party productions are taking notice.

During its first year in business, the studio welcomed the independent film *An Actor Prepares* starring Jeremy Irons and Matthew Modine, which filmed for several weeks; and the Dwayne Johnson-helmed *Rampage*, a 2018 release based on the classic 1980s video game. “These productions are able to use the studio as a home base, filming here and then going all around Atlanta to film on location,” Rosenfelt says. “And here in DeKalb, we are surrounded by every type of filming location they can imagine or want.”

Also nearby is a wide array of businesses—from hotels to florists—that can serve productions’ many needs. With that in mind,



Rosenfelt often goes out into the community to connect local companies with incoming productions, ensuring that the community truly benefits from the projects. “We are surrounded by amenities, which saves productions a ton of money,” he says.

FILMMAKERS OF THE FUTURE

The studio also wants to help raise the next generation of local storytellers, which is why it is working with re:imagine/ATL to provide mentorship and training to teens who want to find pathways into the industry. “We want to figure out ways to allow filmmakers to make projects here,” Rosenfelt says. “Right now, this is a place for physical production, and we want to find ways to help move along the opportunities to create here, taking projects from the genesis of an idea to post production.”

In the meantime, Third Rail Studios will continue to provide superior customer service for productions coming to town to take advantage of DeKalb’s many opportunities. “Filmmaking is akin to manufacturing. There are so many people on the ground making things happen everyday. This is an industry of jobs and opportunity, and it is spreading out into the local community,” Rosenfelt says.

~ By Amy Meadows



Neighborhood leaders Rick Dovi and Bonnie Grey Flynt

HOMES, SWEET HOMES

There's no place like Doraville's historic Northwoods community

Once 500-odd acres of farmland, Doraville's historic Northwoods has grown into a thriving, diverse community. Northwoods began as a planned-use development in the 1950s, located a block east of Buford Highway near Chamblee Tucker Road. Then, as veterans came back from World War II and business and industries in the area began hiring, Walter L. Tally, a Doraville contractor, foresaw a demand for new homes.

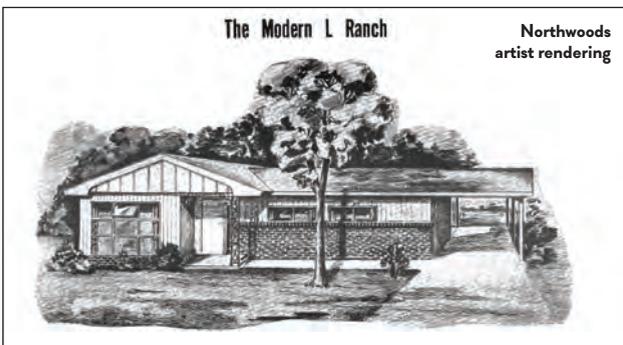
Tally hired two Georgia Tech graduates, architects Ernest Mastin and John Summer, to design contemporary ranches for his new development. Soon six models were available, featuring open floor plans and amenities like fireplaces and floor-to-ceiling windows. Prices were affordable, starting at \$10,000. Atlanta architect John Portman, later known internationally for

his designs, was tapped to build two schools, Carey Reynolds Elementary and what is now Sequoyah Middle School.

Over time, four other developments—Gordon Hills, Gordon Heights, Fleetwood Hills, and Sequoyah Woods—joined the original. In 2014, the Northwoods Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, recognized for its acclaimed mid-century and contemporary styles.

Today, Northwoods is the largest neighborhood in the district, with a multicultural mix of residents from Korea, Vietnam, and other countries. Buyers drawn to the community's vintage feel have settled in, happy to host backyard barbecues, plant flower beds, and jog along the winding streets.

~ By Lynn Coulter



The Modern L Ranch

Northwoods artist rendering

FUN FACTS

TEST YOUR DORAVILLE IQ



» STUDIO ONE

Music history was made in the 1970s and '80s at this small recording studio formerly located at 3864 Oakcliff Industrial Court. The Atlanta Rhythm Section was created here, and it's where they recorded their biggest hit, *Doraville*. The studio closed in 1989 and was later torn down.

» HOME DEPOT

One of the country's first two Home Depot

stores opened in Doraville on June 22, 1979; a sister store opened the same day in Decatur. The Doraville store was located close to where the Buford Highway Farmers Market is today, but has since been relocated to the Tilly Mill/Flowers Road area.

» GEORGIA'S FIRST MCDONALD'S

Nearly 60 years ago, the very first McDonald's restaurant in Georgia was

located on Buford Highway in Doraville. Opened in 1961, it was the 338th McDonald's in the United States.

» CARVER HILLS

When General Motors built its assembly plant in the late 1940s, 408 acres of land for the site was purchased for \$171,667 from 50 landowners, many of them African American. As part of the purchase, GM helped relocate the residents to a

150-acre neighborhood named Carver Hills. The area is currently being revitalized.

» GM PLANT

A "special" batch of 1,000 Chevrolet Impalas built at the General Motors plant were the first American-made cars to feature passenger air bags. (Only two of these special Impalas survive today and each is estimated to be worth \$500,000.)

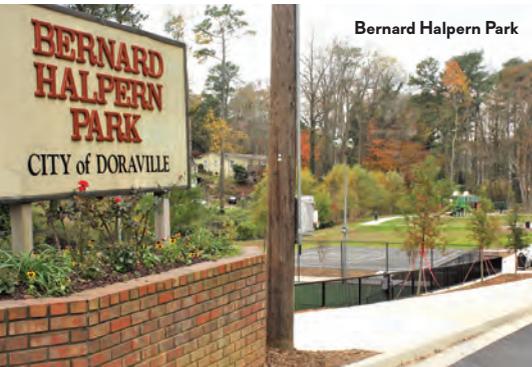
~ By Robert Kolley



Honeysuckle Park



Chicopee Park



Bernard Halpern Park



Flowers Park

PLAY ON!

Doraville's green scene

Doraville's seven municipal parks have something for everyone in every season. The Arbor Day Foundation named Doraville a "Tree City USA" community.

» ENGLISH OAK PARK

Recently upgraded and just over an acre in size, English Oak Park features a playground, a picnic pavilion, and a walking trail.

» FLOWERS PARK

One million dollars in renovations were completed to this 4.7-acre park in 2017. New landscaping was added, along with bike racks, picnic tables, and playground equipment. The pool house for the 25-meter pool was also renovated.

» AUTUMN PARK

Plans are underway for a new walking trail, picnic pavilions, exercise stations, a play area, and new lighting at this 6.3-acre park.

» BROOK PARK

New playground equipment was recently added to this six-acre park, which offers two lighted tennis courts and picnic facilities.

» BERNARD HALPERN PARK

This four-acre park has two soccer mini-pitches, an outdoor basketball court, a play area, a picnic pavilion, a walking trail, and a playground.

» CHICOPEE PARK

This small park covers just over an acre and includes playground equipment, a picnic pavilion, and a medium-size play area.

» HONEYSUCKLE PARK

At 20 acres, this is Doraville's largest park. It is home to two basketball courts, two volleyball courts, two regulation football/soccer fields, and four baseball fields designed for adult softball, T-ball, and minor, major and senior baseball leagues.

~ By Lynn Coulter



PLANTING THE SEED

GM'S ASSEMBLY PLANT SITE GETS NEW LIFE

General Motors' Doraville assembly plant was a local employer for 60 years, producing classic cars like the Chevrolet Impala and Pontiac Bonneville. But after a downturn in the economy, the plant closed for good in 2014. For years, it sat vacant as a reminder of another time in American manufacturing. After a major demolition in 2015, plans were made for what would come next to the more than 100-acre site with easy access to highways and MARTA rail.

Third Rail Studios opened on the former assembly site, producing blockbusters like 2018's *Rampage* and NBC's new show *Good Girls*. Next up was plans for a development that would serve the community, especially housing and retail.

That's where Assembly Yards came in. When it opens (the exact date is still unknown), the 130-acre site will be the largest mixed-use, transit-oriented project in the Southeast. In addition to residential and office spaces, shops, and restaurants, it will also offer public green space with miles of hiking and biking trails.

Features from the space's original life will remain, including rail lines and the former car paint reservoir. Serta Simmons Bedding is set to open its headquarters in the space and communal workspaces will be set up.

~ By Caroline Eubanks

Calendar of Events

THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS AND HIPPEST HAPPENINGS IN DORAVILLE

APRIL

Mayor's State of the City Program

Since 2011, Mayor Donna Pittman has been presenting the city's achievements and goals for the year. Hear what's in store for 2018 at City Hall. doravillega.us

Mayor's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

At Mayor Donna Pittman's second-annual egg hunt, little kids don't have to worry about the older ones taking all the best eggs because the children are divided into three age groups. This way, there is an Easter surprise for everyone. The Easter Bunny makes a special appearance; you can also make like a bunny in the bounce house in Honeysuckle Park. doravillega.us

MAY

Movie Under the Stars, May–September

Grab a lawn chair and a blanket, and head to Honeysuckle Park to watch family films al fresco. Food trucks offer concessions, and a bounce house and other fun kids activities provide more entertainment at this free event. doravillega.us

OCTOBER

Center for Pan Asian Community Services TEA Walk

TEA stands for "together empowering all." For 14 years, residents have marched down two miles of Buford Highway to celebrate the strength of the diverse community that is Doraville. Participants from more than 20 countries make up the inclusive walk that has grown to include 3,000-plus people from different ethnic groups, religious organizations, schools, and more. At the end of the walk, enjoy refreshments, dance, live music, and inspiring speeches from local leaders. teawalk.org

DECEMBER

Mayor's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Festival

Downtown's almost-20-foot Christmas tree is lit by Mayor Donna Pittman at City Hall. Christmas carols, organ music, and a s'mores truck keep the holiday cheer going. Don't miss

the opportunity to meet Santa and his elves and get a photo. Kids can also make ornaments to take home to decorate their own tree. This is only the start of Doraville's holiday season, with more opportunities to decorate cookies, make arts and crafts, and write letters to Santa scheduled throughout the month. doravillega.us

YEAR-ROUND

Buford Highway Farmers Market

This wonderful farmers market turns grocery shopping into an event, thanks to 100,000 square feet of international eats, from dumplings to doughnuts. Don't miss cooking classes from local chefs; there are also lots of demos showing you how to use new products and rare ingredients. aofwc.com

~ By Tess Malone



Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Festival



Mayor's Easter Egg Hunt



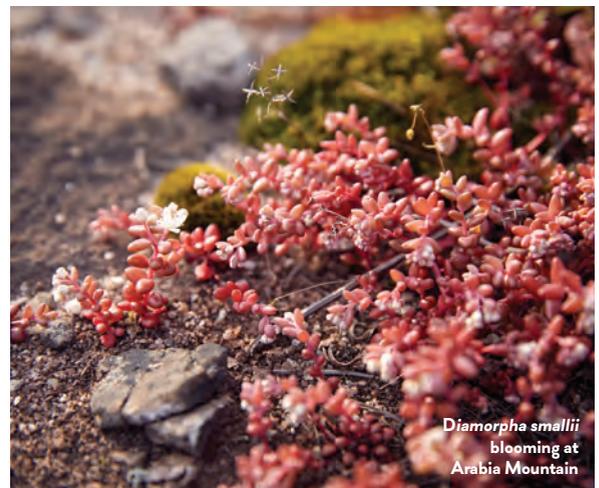
CITY OF DORAVILLE (3), AWARE, ©GREGORY MILLER PICTURES



AWARE ambassador owl

Stonecrest

Expect big things from DeKalb County's newest city (incorporated in 2016). Home to the the Mall at Stonecrest and the Arabia Mountain Heritage Site, it also made a pitch for Amazon's second headquarters—even offering to rename part of the city.



Diamorpha smallii
blooming at
Arabia Mountain



The Mall at Stonecrest

IT'S "MALL" GOOD

DISCOVERING THE MALL AT STONECREST

WHEN STONECREST OFFICIALLY became a city in 2016, it already had a rather impressive feather in its cap: a 1,100-acre mixed-used development located on the I-20 corridor that has become one of DeKalb County's most popular live-work-play communities. And at the center of that development is the Mall at Stonecrest, the go-to shopping destination for residents and visitors alike.

The 1.2 million-square-foot mall opened its doors in 2001. Today, it welcomes eight million visitors annually for some of the best shopping in the metro area. Shoppers can visit anchor stores Dillard's, JCPenney, Macy's, or browse more than 120 additional shops, including familiar names like American Eagle, Foot Locker, Victoria's Secret, and Zales, and up-and-coming monikers like Mix & Match, Rainbow, Pink Clove, and Nature's Gift. It's a perfect blend, offset by an assortment of dining choices, such as Bourbon Street Cajun Café, Barbecue Works, Chick-fil-A, and Cinnabon.

And the amenities don't end there. The Mall at Stonecrest also has become a family-friendly hot spot that's home to outstanding entertainment alternatives. The New Vision Stonecrest 16 & IMAX Theater offers today's

biggest feature films in RealD, 3D, and IMAX, in addition to special events like \$5 Tuesdays, Cinema Events, and Vision Club Rewards. Patrons can also visit Round1 Bowling & Amusement, a state-of-the-art facility with bowling, billiards, arcade games, karaoke, darts and ping pong, and a kids play zone.

Surrounding the mall are restaurants, stores, offices, hotels, and residential offerings. New restaurants like The Pizza Bar and Barnacles have been joined long-time favorites, including Don Tello's Tex Mex Grill, This is It BBQ, and Arizona's. Additional retail hubs like Stonecrest Marketplace and Turner Hill Marketplace enhance the area's shopping opportunities with a combination of big box stores, boutiques, and small shops. Even outdoor enthusiasts can take advantage, as the mall serves as the starting point for the Arabia Mountain PATH, a 33-mile trail system that weaves through 7,000 acres of green space in southeast Atlanta.

As Stonecrest looks toward the future, there is no doubt that the Mall at Stonecrest will continue to play a key role in the community. A bona fide attraction, it shines a spotlight on this ever-growing and burgeoning part of DeKalb County.

~ By Amy Meadows

IT'S CARNIVAL!



In 2018, the Mall at Stonecrest became the new home of the Atlanta Caribbean Carnival, a

rousing celebration of Caribbean culture that has become one of Atlanta's most beloved Memorial Day weekend events. The centerpiece and kick-off of the annual event is an electrifying parade full of spectacular costumes, dazzling floats, musicians playing steel drums, and exhilarated visitors lining the streets. The parade winds its way along Mall Parkway from noon to 5 p.m.; when it concludes, festival-goers head to the Festival Village to enjoy calypso and reggae music, arts and crafts, food vendors, and more. A 30-year tradition, the event is a collaboration between the Atlanta Carnival Bandleaders Council and the Atlanta DeKalb Carnival Committee.

© JANDD IMAGES, ATLANTA CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL BANDEADERS ASSOCIATION (ACGBA), AWARE, © GREGORY MILLER PICTURES

WILD THINGS

AWARE RESCUES ANIMALS IN NEED

Think of it as foster care for animals. AWARE, or the Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort, rescues sick or injured animals, rehabilitates them, and returns them to the wild. Those that can't be returned become permanent residents of the facility. In other words, they're adopted. They become "ambassador" animals, helping volunteers educate the public about how to protect wildlife.

The nonprofit has been operating in Lithonia adjacent to the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area since 2006. According to Executive Director Scott Lange, "just about every animal has been brought to us by the public." That includes owls, hawks, snakes, turtles, skunks, possum, and even bobcats. "People take them in as pets, forgetting that they are wild animals," says Lange.

AWARE is almost entirely funded by private donations and almost entirely run by volunteers. In addition to feeding and caring for the animals, volunteers also participate in about 100 programs a year, including school visits, festivals, and leading free weekend tours of the center every Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Spring and summer are busy seasons at the center because it's baby season for animals and hiking season for people. If you come across a hurt animal, call 678.418.1111 or visit awarewildlife.org.

~ By Jennifer Coltrin

AWARE ambassador owl



Robby Astrove

RANGER ROBBY

Robby Astrove, park ranger at Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve, shares what it's like to work at his dream job

» **How long have you been a ranger?**

This is my sixth season.

» **What drew you to this career path?**

At the end of the day, it's about having a great curiosity about the world around me.

» **What does your day-do-day routine look like?**

No two days are the same. It's kind of like being a jazz musician—you have to go where you fit in. You're playing by nature's rules.

» **What are a few of your duties?**

There are several aspects to the job. There's the visitor's services element—I see myself as an ambassador for the preserve. We do a lot of public safety and patrolling. There are 2,500 acres, which requires lots of stewardship, trail work, and native plant restoration. I manage staff and coordinate and deliver the educational programs for the preserve. There's even an element of biological

research and monitoring. I'm a science major, so I get to geek out a lot.

» **Could you give an example of some of the biological research you're involved with?**

Arabia Mountain is home to two federally endangered plant species, the black-spored quillwort and the pool sprite [the scientific names are *Isoetes melanospora* and *Amphianthus pusillus*]. We are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Botanical Garden to protect and to expand the numbers of these plants on the mountain.

» **What's the best part about your job?**

Being present every day. I get to see things unfold before me. I have a lot of gratitude for this job. I see it as a great privilege.

Free ranger-led hikes are offered every Friday and Sunday at 8 a.m. Visit arabiaalliance.org for more information.

~ By Kelly Jordan



LET'S EAT

Dining in Stonecrest

» BARBECUE WORKS

Located in Mall at Stonecrest, Barbecue Works offers hearty fare and ample portions. Dig in to wings, ribs, collard greens, and more.

» FLETCHER'S RESTAURANT AND BAR

This wing spot has eight varieties to choose from. Not feeling wings? Order a burger and fries, or opt for the lasagna.

» HILL TOP CARIBBEAN GRILL

If you're looking for a pick-me-up from shopping, this restaurant is just the place. Try the jerk chicken and conch fritters, snack on coco bread, and sip a piña colada.

» KAMPAI SUSHI & STEAK

Kampai offers Japanese eats ranging from sushi and sashimi to teriyaki and tempura. Ideal for groups, it can easily accommodate large parties around its hibachi tables.

» THE MILL BAR AND GRILL

Enjoy a variety of cocktails at this chic spot (we like the Mill Cooler). Entrees include lamb chops and cedar plank salmon.

» SILK 2 BAR & GRILL

This sports bar meets lounge is *the* place to watch the big game while chowing down on Southern-style chicken, ribs, and mac and cheese prepared by "Auntie" Pope.

~ By Carly Cooper

STONECREST FEST

This fall festival includes everything that makes the city special, including poets, speakers, a talent show, a senior jamboree, jazz music, and nature hikes at Arabia Mountain. The festival is in early October at various locations.



LOCAL PICKS

Matt and Maria Hampton share their favorite Stonecrest haunts

Matt and Maria Hampton moved to Stonecrest nearly four years ago when Matt became the director of Allen Entrepreneurial Institute (AEI), which works to increase the number of minority and women-owned businesses. The family enjoys frequenting locally owned restaurants and businesses.

» **FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT:** **Arizona's**—not only because they serve great food, but for what it represents in south DeKalb. It's a beautiful space; it's family-friendly, perfect for meetings, and is our go-to spot for evenings out. We love the salmon chips, which can feed a crowd.

» **FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP:** **GrindTime Cafe**, inside the AEI Startup Factory [an incubation space for new businesses], is the perfect spot for working, a meeting, or a change of scenery.

» **BEST BREAKFAST:** Father-daughter team **Leighton and Sydney Hull** own two Bojangle's locations. The biscuits will make you think you're back in Arkansas. The restaurants are unlike any other fast-food experience—they even have a hostess! Ms. Margie is the sweetest hostess you will ever meet.

» **BEST VEGETARIAN SPOT:** Family-owned **Green Love Kitchen** in Lithonia is one of our favorite places for lunch. We love their wraps, burgers, and teas, and the family that owns and runs it is awesome.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC RESTAURANT:** We like **Rice Thai**, a great family-owned restaurant.

The servers have great personalities and will learn your name really quickly. We love their pho, sushi, and noodles, and they have a really unique ginger catfish dish.

» **BEST DESSERT:** The classic, down-home Velvet Victory red velvet cake at **Red Velvet Mama**, at the Mall at Stonecrest. They have a variety of other delicious cake options, too. It is a great startup story—they began with a small booth at the mall, then grew into a kiosk location, and now have a full store.

» **BEST OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:** Spending the day at **Arabia Mountain**. There are beautiful waterfalls that cascade across the stones, and it's a wonderful place for an easy walk, hike, or just connecting with nature.

» **BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN STONECREST:** There's so much to love about Stonecrest. It's peaceful, has natural beauty, and is bursting with energy and potential. We're grateful to have found such a dynamic place.

~ By Jennifer Senator





Tucker Farmers Market

Tucker

This lovely community centers around Main Street, which in recent years underwent a major renovation and streetscape design. Additional draws include scenic parks, popular restaurants, a farmers market, and a local theater.



The Freakin Incan



Crowler Time



Downtown Tucker

MAIN STREET EATS

TUCKER'S DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT SCENE IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE CITY

» by JENNIFER SENATOR

TODAY, TUCKER'S MAIN STREET district is a bustling destination including restaurants, shops, and local businesses, but it wasn't so long ago that it had a very different vibe.

"It was like tumbleweeds; there was nothing out here," says Chris Cordero, who owns **Growler Time**, one of Main Street's most popular restaurants. "Now it's revitalized, and more and more people are coming to Main Street to try something new."

Thanks to a major multimillion dollar renovation and streetscape design, Tucker's Main Street district—and its restaurant

scene—is thriving like never before.

Luis Finley, owner of **The Local No. 7**, says the changes have been positive and have improved both the look and feel of the community. "Taking the street from four lanes down to two, adding more greenery, putting up wreaths and lights at Christmas—it's a nice feeling out here," he says.

Finley has worked to build a sense of community on Main Street; he is the founder of the annual Tucker Chili Cook-off, held annually in March. He even sought out local input when opening The Local No. 7 in 2011. "They wanted sandwiches for lunch, a

family-friendly environment, and a place you could watch sports on TV," he says. And they got it. Located next to the railroad tracks, The Local No. 7 is also a popular spot to watch trains go by; the bar offers "Woowoo" shots for \$2 when one passes. Finley has plans to open a barbecue restaurant on Main Street in the near future.

TRIED AND TRUE

Along with The Local No. 7, **Las Colinas** and **Growler Time** were among the first to open on revitalized Main Street and continue to draw crowds.

Las Colinas, popular with groups and families, is a favorite spot for authentic Mexican food, Texas-style margaritas, and \$1 tacos on “Taco Tuesdays.”

Originally opened as a growler store, Growler Time now also includes a restaurant serving tapas and homemade flatbread pizzas made from Cordero’s personal recipes. With 39 taps, it’s a popular meeting spot for locals, and still offers beer and wine growlers.

Cordero says he appreciates the sense of community among Main Street’s restaurants. “Everyone has each other’s back. I can go over to Local 7 if I need a high chair and they will loan it to me,” he says. “Everyone is very neighborly.”

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Main Street’s resurgence has continued with new restaurants such as **Village Burger**, which is known for its Angus beef hamburgers and crispy onion rings. Manager Justin Beaudrot says that since opening, “there’s hardly ever an empty seat.” Born and raised in Tucker, he credits the restaurant’s success to locals. “The people here like to support local businesses. Plus, I recognize about half the people who walk through the door,” he says.

Chef/owner Mikiel Arnold opened a second location of his popular Peruvian restaurant **The Freakin Incan** on Main Street in late 2017 after noting the success of The Local No. 7. “I like how Main Street is laid out, and that it is walkable to nearby businesses,” he says. Customers pack the restaurant for traditional dishes such as ceviche, *saltados* (stir fries), *seco de res* (braised beef), and pisco sours.

But the pioneer of Main Street’s restaurant scene is **Matthews Cafeteria**, which opened in 1955 and is known for its daily-changing menu of homestyle fried chicken, mac and cheese, biscuits, fried pork chops, pies, and a host of other Southern favorites, all made from scratch. Family-owned and operated, the restaurant is a popular destination for locals, including the Tucker High School football team, which can be seen here fueling up before most home games.

“That’s what so great about Tucker,” says Cordero, “It still has local personality and a small town feel you don’t find in a big city.”



Las Colinas



Growler Time



The Freakin Incan



Tucker Farmers Market

OFF TO MARKET

TUCKER FARMERS MARKET, THAT IS

Because of the city’s proximity to rural areas, you can find a farmers market in just about every corner of metro Atlanta. Tucker is no different, offering the Tucker Farmers Market every Thursday from April to December. Here, you’ll find everything

from produce, meat, and flowers to crafts from local artisans. On any given day, you might find fresh seafood, mouth-watering strawberries, or gluten-free bread—the only requirement is that all items are either homegrown or handmade.

Located on Main Street, the market celebrates its seventh year in 2018. It brings in vendors and shoppers from surrounding

communities like Stone Mountain, Lilburn, and Clarkston. Shoppers enjoy live music while chowing down on prepared foods from food trucks and booths like King of Pops; childrens activities keep the young ones entertained while they browse. Cooking demos and educational sessions related to Georgia Grown products are also offered.

~ By Caroline Eubanks



BUILDING A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Cofer Bros. has found a unique niche in the local film industry

It was the call that changed everything. It came during the economic downturn, when Chip Cofer, president of family-owned Cofer Bros. Inc., and his team were making plans for navigating the future of their 100-year-old building material supply company.

FROM HOMES TO HOME SCREENS

"Homebuilding had come to a screeching halt, and we were trying to figure out how to weather the storm," says Cofer of the Tucker-based company, which was founded by his grandfather and great uncle. When his phone rang during lunch one day, he didn't realize that the answer was waiting on the other end. The caller was a set production manager who needed very specific building supplies to construct a movie set—as well as a reliable supplier that could continue providing materials during an extended six-month film shoot. The opportunity was one Cofer never expected but instinctively knew that he and his team had to pursue, as Georgia's film industry was just beginning to gain steam.

Initially, Cofer Bros. created a position for a single salesperson to follow up on leads from the building industry. As demand grew, the company expanded to employ three dedicated salespeople in an area that now accounts for one-third of the company's business. And today, Cofer Bros. provides a wide range of building materials for

ON THE LOOKOUT

FILMS AND TV SHOWS
FILMED TUCKER

- » *"Dumplin',"* a 2018 feature film starring Jennifer Aniston and Danielle Macdonald
- » *"The Front Runner,"* a biopic about Gary Hart's presidential campaign starring Hugh Jackman and Vera Farmiga
- » *"Stranger Things,"* Netflix's runaway hit drama
- » *"Halt and Catch Fire,"* AMC drama about the personal computing industry set in the 1980s

productions throughout DeKalb County and the surrounding areas.

Those materials are often different from the ones needed for standard homebuilding, incorporating lighter-weight supplies that can be constructed and torn down easily. Fortunately, the company is known for its diversified inventory base, as well as its ability to quickly track down items it may not have on hand. It's that excellent customer service that has made Cofer Bros. stand out and become a trusted name in the local film industry.

"We understand the set production managers and their objective. We understand why time is so important to them," Cofer says, adding that the company has to ensure that the entire process is seamless, from pickup and delivery to invoicing. And the overall effort has allowed the Cofer Bros. team to work together in a new way to keep that side of the business flourishing.

A FUTURE IN FILM

The film industry has "caused us to step up our game. It's been a unified effort, and we all pitch in and help," Cofer says. What's more, it's reshaped the company's view of customer service in general. "We sometimes have to jump through hoops to help [the production managers], and we realized that is how we should treat all of our customers. It's made us very keen to think about customer service," he says.

From *The Fast and the Furious* franchise to *The Walking Dead*, Cofer Bros. has been part of an array of productions. And Cofer looks forward to what's in store for the future. "We love the film industry. It's been good to us. We want to see it keep growing, and we want to grow with it," he says. "We're all in with them, and we feel that we've helped the film industry find a home in Georgia. We've enjoyed helping them find their comfort level here."

— By Amy Meadows



The Atkins family

LOCAL PICKS

Christy and Jason Atkins share their favorite Tucker haunts

Christy and Jason Atkins began dating in high school, moved away for college, and found their way back to Tucker after getting married and having children. Now a family of five, they enjoy the parks, restaurants, and traditions of their hometown.



The Moonshadow Tavern



Matthews Cafeteria



Old Hickory House

» **BEST BREAKFAST:** Our go-to breakfast place is **Old Hickory House**. Sure, it's a little sticky, but the pancakes are great and my kids eat every bite.

» **BEST ON A BUDGET:** **Matthews Cafeteria**. We typically leave stuffed to the gills, and often with leftovers. It's not necessarily the cheapest, but it's a great value.

» **FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP:** We love **Paramount Coffee Shop**, which is more like a comfy bookstore than a regular coffee chain. The coffee is great!

» **FAVORITE RESTAURANTS:** It's a tie between **The Local No. 7**, **Growler Time**, and **Matthews Cafeteria**. We like The Local No. 7 because it's a great place to get a drink, next to the train. We go to Growler Time for adult time. We like the tapas and variety of beer. And we like Matthews because it's such

an institution and a family go-to when we can't decide where to go.

» **BEST PATIO:** You can't beat the train coming right by the patio at **The Local No. 7**. We also like the large deck at **Village Burger**, which faces Freemasons Square.

» **BEST COCKTAILS:** Definitely **Moonshadow Tavern**. You don't find many places like this anymore. They have great live music, good food, and a wide selection of drinks.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC RESTAURANT:** **EI Naco Taco** has amazing authentic Mexican food. It's a mom-and-pop kind of place, with fresh food. We love the tacos and tortas.

» **BEST SHOP:** We can find almost anything we need at **Handy Ace Hardware**. And the staff is delightfully helpful.

» **BEST PLACE TO FIND A GREAT GIFT:** **The Garden Enthusiast** has gardening gifts and specialty items, as well as unique jewelry and birdhouses by local artists.

» **BEST PARK:** We like **Henderson Park** for its lake, trails, and, soon, a new playground. There are big plans for the parks in Tucker.

» **FAVORITE PASTIME:** **Tucker Day!** It's great to get out and enjoy the community. There is great music, food, and shopping.

~ By Jennifer Senator

TUCKER AFTER HOURS

THE MOONSHADOW TAVERN

Let yourself be followed by a moonshadow. This nightspot is irresistibly hippie-dippie in its sensibility. On nights without music locals belly up to the bar, but on nights with bands—four or five times a week—they whirl like dervishes on the dance floor. Expect to get your palm read or your aura analyzed by a girl with kaleidoscope eyes. The bar also serves craft beer and cheap eats.

THE WOODEN NICKEL PUB

This unprepossessing bar with fading furnishings is known for its ongoing poker game and straightforward drinks. It just acquired new management, but it gleefully and unabashedly bills itself as a "dive bar," so don't expect any ferns, fountains, or other drastic changes. Count on solid burgers and greasy fries to blot the alcohol. Warning: The mostly local crowd occasionally indulges in karaoke.

~ By Candice Dyer



Newk's Eatery



Tucker Meat Market

FOODIE FINDS

Tucker offers a booming dining scene outside of Main Street. Next time you're heading out, try these local favorites.

» **Coco Cakes by Coco**

From wedding cakes to birthday cakes, Coco Cakes has sweet treats for every celebration. Flavors range from buttery caramel and island coconut cream to German chocolate and lemon pound. And yes, they deliver!

» **Colossus**

Greek food and pizza receive top billing at this family-friendly restaurant. Enjoy lamb or beef gyro straight from the rotisserie and tzatziki sauce made fresh. Dine at the bar and enjoy drink specials during many big games.

» **Enzo's Pizza**

Dine in or take out Enzo's authentic New York-style pizza. There are both Neapolitan and Sicilian options by the slice and by the pie. Other popular items include garlic knots, pasta, salad, and calzones. Hungry late night? Enzo's is open until 1 a.m.

» **Kochi Sushi & Hibachi**

With hibachi, teriyaki, sushi, and bento boxes, there's something for everyone at Kochi. It's a great spot for an affordable group lunch, with hibachi prices starting at \$6.99. Prefer sushi? Try the seafood specialty roll.

» **Los Hermanos**

Owned and operated by six brothers, Los Hermanos serves a mix of authentic Mexican fare and Tex-Mex. There are tacos, burritos, taquitos, and dinner combos. Just don't forget to save room for dessert; the flan and bread pudding get rave reviews.

» **Newk's Eatery**

Bright, airy, and casual, Newk's offers sandwiches, salads, soups, and pizzas for lunch and dinner. Can't decide between options? Order a pairing, which offers the most customization. No time to wait? Visit the grab 'n' go station.

» **Tucker Meat Market**

A butcher shop, grocery, and restaurant in one, Tucker Meat Market offers poultry and cuts of meat sliced fresh in front of you. Dine in and enjoy hearty burgers, seasonal chili, wings, and more.

HISTORY LESSONS

Discovering the Browning Courthouse

Driving along busy, five-lane LaVista Road, one can easily miss the historical landmark on the front lawn of the Tucker Recreation Center. The tiny house with white, slightly timeworn wooden planks, surrounded by a picket fence and a picturesque butterfly garden, is the historic Browning Courthouse, circa 1860.

Built as a DeKalb County Circuit Court for Militia District #572 in what was then known as Browning, the building was mentioned in federal military records as Browning's Court House in 1864, one year before the end of the Civil War. Interesting fact: In the days leading up to the Battle of Atlanta, Union troops took up positions around the courthouse to aid in the destruction of the Georgia Railroad.

The courthouse ceased operations in 1977, when the office



Browning Courthouse

of Justice of the Peace moved to the nearby Cofer Building, named after a family-run hardware store. In 1988, Browning Courthouse, which is the only standing building of its kind in the county, was dedicated as a small museum. It contains archival photos, letters, documents, and other artifacts showcasing the history of Tucker and its families. The courthouse is also available to rent for weddings and small events.

~ By Katja Ridderbusch

~ By Carly Cooper

PRODUCE POWERHOUSE

Peaches, okra, and eggs brim over the hand-painted wooden stalls at **Sherry's Produce**. For 20 years, Sherry Harris has run this farm stand on the corner of Brockett Road and Lawrenceville Highway from March to December. As the daughter of a produce vendor,

54-year-old Harris always knew she wanted to run her own stand, taking over her current location from her sister. The stall has expanded from just fruits and vegetables to ham hocks, fresh-churned butter, jams, and flowers—all from local farms when possible—but tomatoes remain the bestseller. Harris is particular about her products. "I stay up worried about



tomatoes," she says. "I want the best tomato there is to buy every day." The quality of her food has kept her customers coming back for years and has been the most rewarding part of the business. "I thank everyone that comes up here," she says. "I love them all. They're like my family."

~ By Tess Malone



Main Street Theatre

MAIN STREET THEATRE

Sabrina Chambers never meant to start a theater company. In 2014, she merely posted a question on a community Facebook page: "Do you think Tucker could support a community theater?" She never expected the overwhelmingly positive response.

"It blew up," she says. "There was so much interest."

Today, thanks to a group of 10 volunteer board members, including Chambers, who is president, Tucker's Main Street Theatre offers two stage productions each

year as well as two murder-mystery dinner theaters, which have been known to sell out in three minutes.

Chambers says that when the first show, *Harvey*, opened in May 2015, ticket sales were low, and the group expected maybe 20 people to attend. Instead, more than 200 people showed up for opening night.

"It was very clear that night that Tucker had a need and we filled it," Chambers says.

In selecting its shows, Chambers says comedies are most popular. "People want to laugh," she says. "We usually try

to choose classics or lesser-known plays that have been around awhile that have a good meaning or provide a chance for actors to shine."

Recent productions include *The Sunshine Boys* by Neil Simon, *Second Samuel* by Pamela Parker, and, most recently, the company's first musical, *Smoke on the Mountain*, which drew a crowd of more than 1,000.

The company continues to be volunteer-run and so far has been able to produce each play with the proceeds of the previous one. Shows are held at the Tucker Recreation Center and are often sold out. And when it comes to auditions, Chambers has one rule: Tucker always wins.

"We are community first," she says. "If one person is pretty good and is from Tucker and another person is better but lives in Smyrna, Tucker always wins."

~ By Tess Malone

PARK PERKS

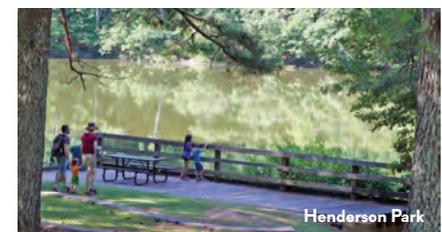
Henderson Park has it all

Pack a picnic when you visit Henderson Park, a forested gem in Tucker. More than six miles of paved and natural hiking trails wind through this 121-acre greenspace, including a 1.75-trail that loops around a lake. While a few stretches are challenging, most trails are easy to moderate, and dogs are welcome if they're leashed and well-behaved. Stroll the Native Plant and Wildlife Walk, or volunteer to help remove invasive plants along the path. A new walking group, 50+ Walks, is available for people age 50 and older.

If you're into sports, bring your gear to one of the four tennis courts or six soccer fields. The park is home to Triumph Youth Soccer Association, one of the largest youth sports associations in DeKalb County and the fifth-largest in the state. You'll also find a children's playground; birding, biking, and fishing are popular.

Visitors are welcome at the Henderson Park Community Garden, located next to the soccer fields. Organically grown produce from the garden is donated to the Friends of St. Martin de Porres Food Pantry at Holy Cross Catholic Church.

~ By Lynn Coulter



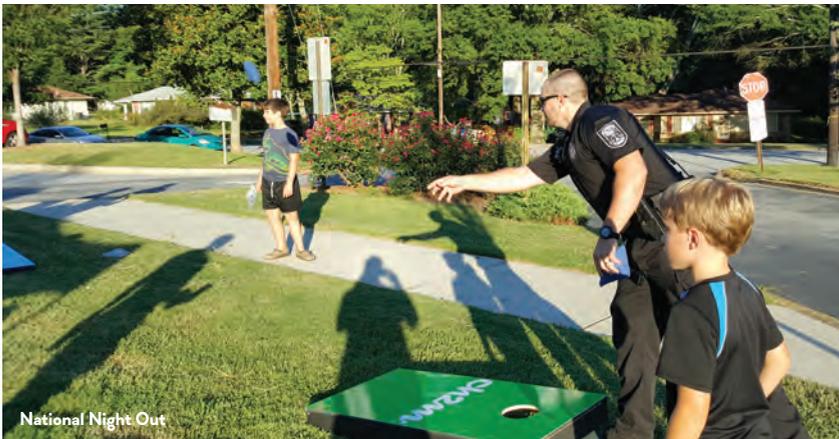
Henderson Park

Calendar of Events

THE BIGGEST FESTIVALS AND HIPPEST HAPPENINGS IN TUCKER



Tucker Chili Cook-off



National Night Out

MARCH

Tucker Chili Cook-off

Visitors can sample all the savory stews, and vote for the best in the People's Choice award at this eighth annual festival. Five dollars lets you taste chilis; restaurants and amateur chefs can submit entries for \$50 and \$30 respectively. tuckerchilicookoff.com

APRIL

Tucker Farmers Market

A diverse group of local farmers, bakers, growers,

and producers from around Tucker, the Atlanta area, and the state of Georgia sell fresh local produce, flowers, cheese, baked goods, meat, and prepared foods every Thursday afternoon from April through December. tuckerfarmersmarket.com

MAY

Tucker Day

Watch a parade, hear live music, and celebrate all things Tucker. The highlight of the annual event is the foot-powered parade; anyone can enter on bikes, human floats, or with pets, and costumes are strongly encouraged. tuckerday.com

JUNE

Movie on Main

Grab a chair or blanket, pack a picnic, and settle in to enjoy a family-friendly movie under the stars. This new community event takes place on Main Street. tuckergera.gov

JULY

Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Spectacular

Celebrate the good ol' U.S.A. the Tucker way. Main Street will be shut down for an evening of fun and fireworks. tuckergera.gov

OCTOBER

Taste of Tucker

Sixty signature dishes from 25 local restaurants show off all the best eats in Tucker. Try sample-sized bites from local eateries like Lunch on Main, Maddio's Pizza, and more, all priced from \$7 to \$14. Live music and a kids play area round out the weekend. tasteoftucker.com

DECEMBER

Christmas on Main Street

The tree lighting is just the beginning of the holiday festivities at this event hosted by the Old Town Tucker Merchants Association and Tucker Farmers Market. Visitors can also say hello to Santa, shop for artisan crafts, sample local bites, jump in the bouncy house, and enter the Ugly Christmas Sweater Competition. ottma.com

~ By Tess Malone



Christmas on Main Street

CITY OF TUCKER. ILLUSTRATION BY CAMILA GRAY

Dekalb County



DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED

