



Clarkston Residents Express Support for Streetscape Project

The Clarkston community had another opportunity to review and comment on concept drawings for the new streetscape enhancements planned along major roadways in portions of the city. On June 3rd, 2015 nearly 100 residents, property owners and community stakeholders attended the Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancement Project Public Information Open House held at the Clarkston Community Center. The event, co-sponsored by the Georgia Department of Transportation, received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees as they reviewed the drawings and conversed with city staff and consultants.

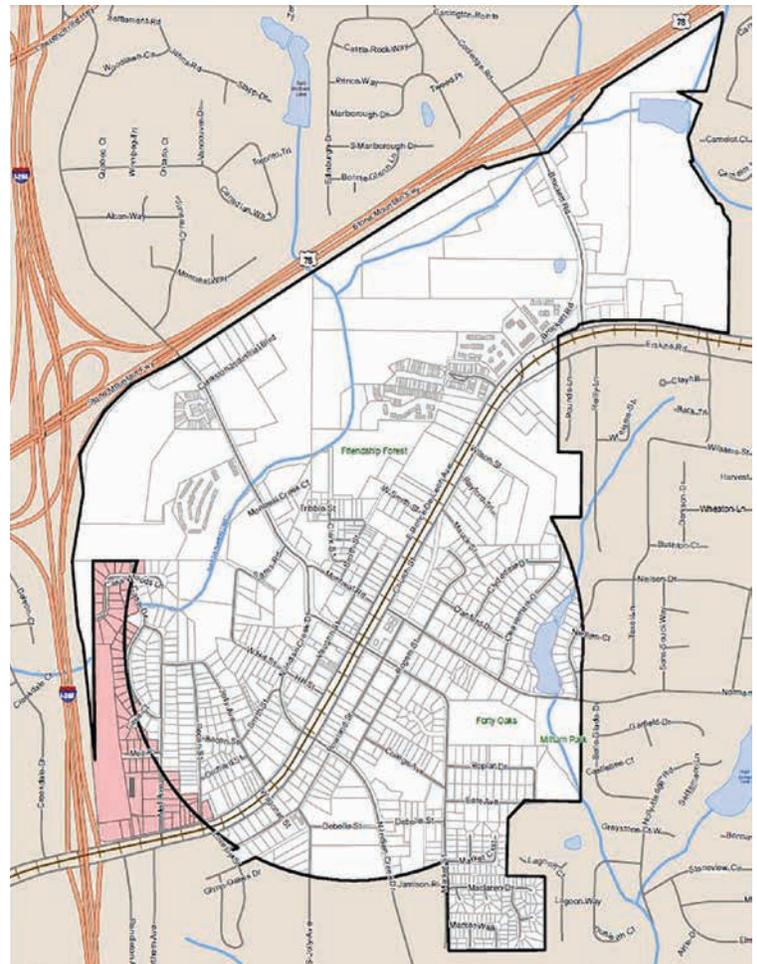
There was much excitement surrounding the slideshow depicting various sections of the project as they exist today and corresponding imagery of the potential transformation resulting from the streetscape enhancements. Many attendees provided verbal comments to the court reporter on hand along with written comments on how the streetscape project will impact their vision for the future of

Continued on page 3

Governor Signs Clarkston Annexation Bill

For a second consecutive year, the City of Clarkston will be growing. On May 12, 2015, Governor Deal signed H.B. 661 which will authorize the city to change its corporate limits. The Clarkston City Council, after seeing its net property value digest decline by one-third between 2010 and 2013, developed a strategy to increase and diversify its tax base. “At the time, we were a city of only 1.1 square miles with a high concentration of single family and multi-family residential housing units. We saw a need to both expand and diversify our tax base to include more commercial and light industrial property,” states City Council member Dean Moore. In addition to expanding the tax base, controlling the “gate-ways” leading into the city and areas included in the City’s 6.5 million dollar streetscape improve-

Continued on page 3



Highlighted Area to Vote in November for Proposed Annexation Referendum

Employee Profile



This past February, the City of Clarkston hired the municipal services consulting firm Clark Patterson Lee to assume all duties related to code enforcement. It is because of this arrangement that Solomon Teklu has come to Clarkston as its new full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Solomon comes to Clarkston having previously worked in the City of Doraville as a Code Enforcement Officer under CPL’s contract with that DeKalb County city. Fortunately, Solomon comes to us with a personal affinity for Clarkston and its citizens, one that goes beyond enforcing property maintenance codes.

Solomon has spent the past 17 years either living in Clarkston or serving the youth of our community. For more than 10 years, he has mentored local youth and tutored elementary and middle school-aged children. “I want to help kids who come from meager beginnings to aspire to be great,” he says. “I want kids to go get a college education and to do great things in this world.”

Solomon sees his job as a Code Enforcement Officer as an extension of his role as a mentor

and a teacher. “I see this job as that of an educator more than an enforcer,” he says. “There is so much beauty in Clarkston in terms of the ethnic and cultural diversity. By using my job as a means to educate our citizens – many of whom are refugees – about how to live in a community based on American customs and standards, I can help everyone realize that this city has the potential to be just as beautiful in terms of its appearance.”

Solomon was born in Ethiopia and spent many years in Zimbabwe prior to arriving in the United States in 1998. His father was a diplomat for Ethiopia for many years, serving at the Ethiopian Consulate in Los Angeles. Solomon credits his father for influencing him to go into a career of public service. He is active in ministry at his church (Life Ethiopian Church in Lilburn) and leads a weekly Bible Study in Tucker. “My faith is my biggest motivation,” he says.

Solomon’s motivation and positive attitude are remarkable, and the City of Clarkston is fortunate to have him as a part of its team.

Growth of Clarkston Staff

Since 2014, the City of Clarkston has hired 14 new employees. While some of the additions were part of the normal turnover rate in any agency, still more are the result of the recent successful annexation of the Brockett Road area. The City Council determined in 2014, that in order to provide adequate services for the additional geographic areas acquired through annexation, additional staffing would be necessary. Due to an increase in territory patrolled and a projected significant increase in call volume, six (6) new patrol officers, one (1) patrol sergeant and one (1) new detective were approved for the Police Department. Given the anticipated increase in case loads, as a result of annexation and the anticipated increase in multi-family and commercial business quality of life related cases, one (1) Deputy Court clerk position was added to the Municipal Courts Department. Maintaining additional public right-of-way gained through annexation necessitated increasing the Public Works Department by one (1) Laborer position. “A seamless transition of service provision to the annexation area was a top priority for 2015,” Mayor Ted Terry said, “and I think we achieved that goal.”

Clarkston Employees Hired Since 2014

Employee Name	Date Hired	Department
Shanique Brewer	5/13/2015	Police
Curley Sparks	4/27/2015	Police
Dorothy Roper-Jackson	4/21/2015	Courts
Amanda Pritchett	3/23/2015	Police
Megan Sinclair	2/27/2015	Police
James McKinney	2/16/2015	Police
Charmyne Montfort	2/4/2015	Admin
Daniel Defnall	1/5/2015	Finance
Jedidia Hazlewood	12/31/2014	Police
Christopher Hardy	12/15/2014	Police
Jasond Elliott	11/24/2014	Police
Matthew Jay	8/20/2014	Police
Eddie Washington	6/2/2014	Public Works
Nam Le	3/31/2014	Police

City of Clarkston Connection is a publication of KDA Communications. Subject matter published is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher of this newsletter. Professional advice should be obtained before making any decision in which a professional is readily available. Advertisers assume responsibility for the content of the ads placed in this publication. Material published may not be reproduced without the written permission of KDA Communications. The information and advertisements contained in this Newsletter are provided for City of Clarkston as a courtesy only. No representations are made as to information presented, the quality of the goods or services advertised, or the veracity of the statements relating to the goods and services. The printing of opinions, information or advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the Neighborhood of such opinions, information, goods or services.



Contact us today for more information!
 678.905.4842 • sales@kda-communications.com
 www.kda-communications.com

Streetscape Project Continued From Cover

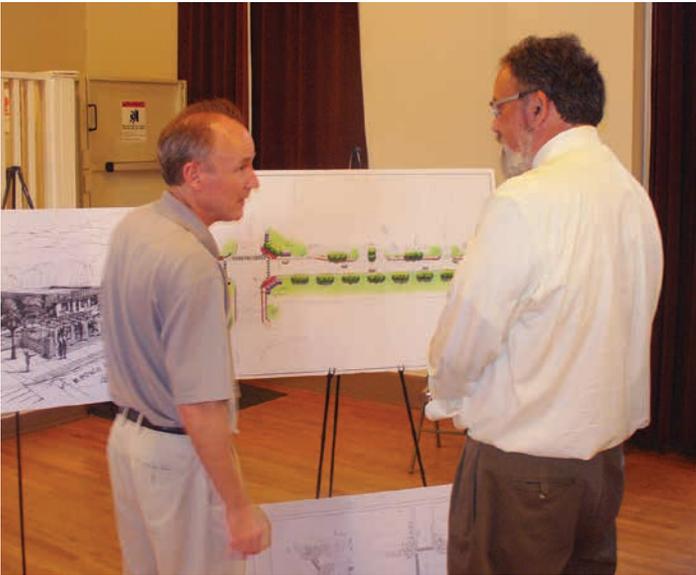
Clarkston. “I feel that this project will help revitalize the business area and community as a whole,” said a Clarkston resident.

“The city’s commitment to engage the entire Clarkston community in this process was evident,” stated Clarkston Mayor Ted Terry. “We are very proud of our efforts to engage our native born and immigrant community members.” Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Nepali and Somali interpreters were on hand to translate questions regarding pedestrian safety, sidewalks widths, construction materials, and parking orientation, to name a few. “Clarkston is becoming a statewide model on how to effectively engage a diverse population,” stated City Manager Keith Barker. “We have been asked to share our strategies with other elected and appointed officials at the Georgia Municipal Association conference in Savannah in June.”

Over the next year, the design and construction plans will be finalized followed by the property right-of-way acquisition phase. Utility relocation and construction is expected to begin in summer 2017. More information about the Clarkston Streetscape and Pedestrian Enhancement Project is available at www.VisualizeClarkston.com.

Project Description:

Project limits include East Ponce de Leon from I-285 to Market St; Market Street from North Indian Creek to Rowland St; Rowland St from Church St to Norman Rd; and Norman Rd from Church St to Milam Park. Typical enhancements include sidewalks, bike lanes, curbing, fencing, street tree planting, storm water improvements, signage, signals, new traffic signal mast arms, decorative lighting, road repaving and road resurfacing, railroad crossing enhancements, utility upgrades and relocations within city-owned rights-of-way and other operational improvements to the roadway network.



Annexation Continued From Cover

ments project were also incentives for pursuing annexation.

The Clarkston annexation bill has two separate provisions. The first provision will cause the city limits of Clarkston to extend along the Church Street corridor, pass the current city limits, across I-285 and ending at North Decatur Road. “The City met with the business owners and industrial park leasing managers along the Church Street corridor and they are pleased to become a part of our community and work with our staff for permitting and inspection issues,” states Mayor Ted Terry. This portion of the annexation will occur by “Legislative Action” and due to the low number of people residing in the area, it will not require a referendum vote.

The second provision of the bill, which would extend the current city limits on Ponce de Leon from Mell Avenue down to I-285, will require a referendum vote. There are approximately 231 voters residing in that area and they will have an opportunity to choose to join the City of Clarkston during an election held on November 3, 2015. Only residents in the area intended for annexation will be

able to vote on this referendum. Informational meetings will be scheduled for residents in that area prior to the November election.



Dusty Attic Photos
Scan. Share. Remember.
George “Zeke” Dunn, Jr.
Professional Photo Scanner
404-491-0478
dustyatticphotos@gmail.com
www.DustyAtticPhotos.com

Welcome to Milam Park Pool

Looking for a fun and safe family environment? Visit the City of Clarkston Milam Pool! We offer a variety of summer aquatic programs.

Pool Hours • Opening Day – May 16th

Open Swim	Saturday	12 pm – 6 pm
-----------	----------	--------------

Pool Hours • May 23rd – August 9th

Open Swim	Monday & Wednesday	11 am – 7 pm
-----------	--------------------	--------------

Open Swim	Friday & Saturday	11 am – 6 pm
-----------	-------------------	--------------

Open Swim	Sunday	12 pm – 6 pm
-----------	--------	--------------

Adult Swim	Tuesday & Thursday	6 pm – 7 pm
------------	--------------------	-------------

Pool Hours • August 10th – September 6th

Open Swim	Saturday	11 am – 6 pm
-----------	----------	--------------

Open Swim	Sunday	12 pm – 6 pm
-----------	--------	--------------

Pool Hours • Labor Day – September 7th

Open Swim	Monday	11 am – 6 pm
-----------	--------	--------------

General Admission Costs

Residents may bring proof of residency in the form of a tax bill or utility bill to City Hall or to Milam Park Pool beginning on May 23rd to be issued a City of Clarkston residency card. This residency card will be presented to the front desk attendant and will allow the cardholder to be admitted to the pool at the resident rate.

Age	Resident	Non-Resident
1 and younger	Free	Free
2 – 17	\$2	\$3
18 – 59	\$3	\$5
60 and over	Free	Free

Season Swim Pass

For more information, please call 404-296-6489 or email Charmyne Montfort at cmontfort@cityofclarkston.com

Residents	Cost
Individual (2-13 yrs.)	\$30
Individual (14-59 yrs.)	\$45
Household (5 or less)	\$125
Household (5 or more)	\$125 + \$10 each additional member

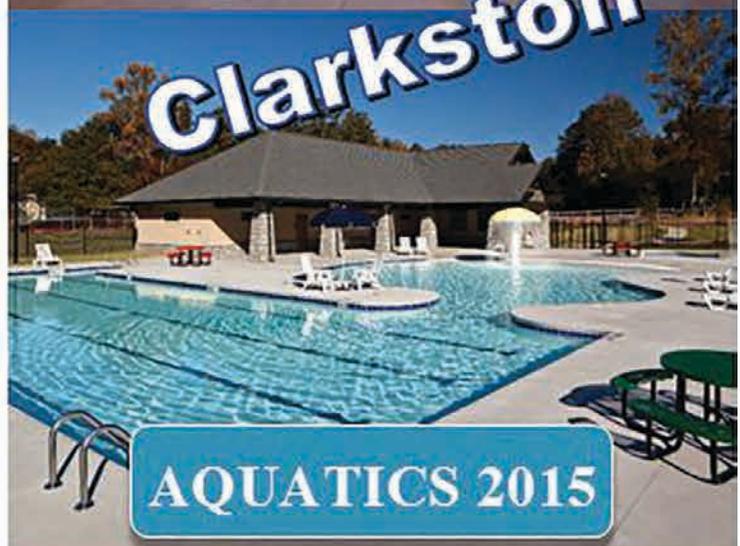
Non-Residents	Cost
Individual (2-13 yrs.)	\$60
Individual (14-59 yrs.)	\$90
Household (5 or less)	\$250
Household (5 or more)	\$250 + \$20 each additional member

Milam Park Pool

Pool Information • Group Swim Lessons • Pool Rentals



City of
Clarkston



AQUATICS 2015



3867 Norman Road • Clarkston, GA 30021

404-296-6489

Clarkston City Council Election Set for November 3

The City of Clarkston government consists of a Mayor and six Council Members. The term of office is four years. The elections are staggered every two years. City elections are non-partisan, i.e., candidates do not run as members of a particular political party, and their individual party affiliations are not relevant to their positions in City of Clarkston Government.

City of Clarkston Elected Officials

Mayor: Ted Terry (Elected Nov 2013)

Council Member/Vice-Mayor:

Ahmed Hassan (2013)

Council Member: Dean Moore (2013)

Council Member: Robert Hogan (2013)

Council Member:

Jean Brown (Next Election Nov 2015)

Council Member:

Warren Hadlock (Next Election Nov 2015)

Council Member:

Dianne Leonetti (Next Election Nov 2015)

City Council meetings

The Mayor and Council Members attend Council meetings that take place the first Tuesday of the month, barring a holiday, in the City Council Chambers, which are in 3921 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise posted.

The Mayor and City Council also hold a Work Session the last Tuesday of the month at the same time and place. Please check the City's Event Calendar for a full list of city-sponsored meetings and events.

Election of the Mayor and City Council Members

The City of Clarkston's Municipal elections are held every two years in odd numbered years at the Clarkston International Bible Church, 3895 Church Street, Clarkston, GA 30021. The Mayor and Council members are elected to serve a four year term of office and serve Clarkston at large (the entire city); however, they must live in the city limits of the City of Clarkston.

2015 Candidate Information

The City of Clarkston election type for Council Members is plurality with the candidates for council members receiving the greatest, second greatest, and third greatest number of votes cast for council members shall be elected. You must declare the office you are running for when you qualify as a candidate.

The qualifications to run for office include: candidate must be 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, a bona fide resident of the City of Clarkston for a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately prior to the date of the election; must have no debts outstanding against them in favor of the city, county or state. Candidate must continue to reside in the City of Clarkston during their period of service; candidate must be registered and qualified to vote in the municipal elections for the City of Clarkston and continue this qualification throughout their term of office. For the newly annexed area, candidates must have been a resident and a registered voter in their annex area for 12 months preceding the election.

The qualifying period will be Monday, August 31– Friday, September 4, 2015 (8:30-4:30pm each day) in the City Clerk's Office, 1055 Rowland Street, Clarkston, GA.

The qualifying fee for a Council seat is currently \$105.00 (one hundred five dollars, which is 3% of the total gross salary of the preceding year (\$3,500) (Georgia Election Code 21-2-131).

Candidates elected to office in the November election take office in the month of January of the following year. They will be sworn in at the first Council meeting of the year.

For questions or for more information please contact Tracy Ashby, City Clerk, at 404-296-6489 or email tashby@cityofclarkston.com



Feature Movie Will Be Big Hero 6

Snacks Cold Drinks For Sale

The Pool Will Be Open Until 7:00pm

Bouncy House, Music and Lots of Fun

So Come on out bring a chair, blanket and all the kids.

MILAM PARK
3867 Norman Rd.
Clarkston, GA 30021

More information contact City Hall at 404-296-6489

Be A Hero and Bring Your Kids for Fun

“MOVIES AT MILAM”

The City of Clarkston would like to invite you and your family out to a Movie at Milam Park.

Event Fun Starts at 7:00PM

Movie Starts at 8:30PM



Citizen Budgeting Project Wraps Up

By Mayor Ted Terry

This year's city budget included a \$10,000 set aside for a pilot project designed to give ordinary residents a voice in deciding how their tax dollars are spent. For the last 3 months, residents have gathered, collaborated, tweaked and presented on project ideas they think the City of Clarkston should implement. More than 50 residents participated in this pilot project, and altogether, there were five project ideas that received the most votes:

- 1) Little Free Library Construction - a project to purchase the materials necessary to build at least 5 "little libraries" to be placed around the City.
- 2) Wild Flower Project at Brockett Triangle - a small wildflower bed would be planted on the grassy section of the Brockett Rd and Ponce De Leon triangle.
- 3) Senior program – start-up funds for meeting space at the Community Center,

with various activities and outings geared towards Clarkston seniors.

4) Custom Park Bench Molds - a project that would purchase materials for the construction of park benches that could be placed along bus routes and in public parks.

5) Custom Canvass Bags - a project that would purchase 1,000 City of Clarkston branded canvass bags to give out, free, at community events.

The results have been sent to the City Council for final approval. This was a great exercise in citizen-led grassroots democracy. Everyone who participated agreed the City should continue the Citizen Budgeting Project for next year's budget. Several residents felt that even more Clarkston taxpayers could have been involved in presenting and voting for projects. I agree, the more who participate in our democracy, the better

it becomes. It will be important to hear your ideas and thoughts on how to improve and grow this so next year even more neighbors and business owners can participate.

But for now, congratulations to the residents who worked so hard on their projects, and for their commitment to complete the funded project ideas by the end of 2015. I'm excited by the prospect of our city using tax dollars to expand access to free books, building rest spots for pedestrians, beautifying the roadways, reducing plastic bag use, and supporting programs for Clarkston seniors. What ideas will you think of next? I can't wait!

If you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts about the Citizen Budgeting process, please email Mayor Ted at ted@cityofclarkston.com, or text at 404-585-0833.



KDABusinessConnect

Connecting Local Businesses to Your Neighborhood.

A/C Heating Services

E. Smith Heating & Air - 770-422-1900

Blinds & Shutters

Classic Blinds & Shutters
770-924-0282

Closet Organization

Closets By Design - 678-999-8122

Golf Clubs - Private

Club Corp (Canongate Golf)
404-443-8557

Foundation Repair/Waterproofing

AquaGuard - 678-956-7098

Home Theater/Automation

Atlanta Audio & Automation
404-602-0559

Landscape Borders

Georgia Borders - 678-369-8894

Outdoor Kitchen/Fireplaces/Gas Logs

The Mad Hatter - 770-740-8133

Painting

Painting Plus - 404-382-9988

Plumbing

Dupree Plumbing - 770-872-0476
Greenlee Plumbing - 678-954-1781
Plumb Pros - 770-384-1886
Serv'All Plumbing - 770-917-1852

Swimming Pools

Mirage Pools - 770-886-1304

Tree Services

AKA Tree Removal - 404-496-5405

Under Deck Systems

Undercover Systems - 678-608-4384

Summer Safety Tips for Kids

The final school bell has rung, the pencils and notebooks are packed away and the kids are ready for some summer fun! Children love the hot summer months, because they provide the perfect opportunity to spend lots of time outside. Whether it's swimming in the pool, hiking through the woods, taking long walks, or going for a bike ride, there is something for everyone, no matter how young or old.

The Clarkston Police Department hopes that everyone enjoys this special time of year, but we want to also remind parents that there are potential dangers during the summer months, and it's important to be aware of what they are. The more information one learns about how to prevent illnesses and injuries, the less likely they will occur.

There are many areas to cover when it comes to summer safety, and we'll review just a few here. Please keep in mind that this is a brief list of tips.



Helmet Safety



- An appropriate helmet must be worn whenever a child is "on wheels." This means bicycles, scooters, skates, rollerblades, skateboards and more!
- The helmet must fit properly.
- Helmets can be lifesaving and can protect a child from serious injury.
- Be sure the right type of helmet is being used. For example, a bike helmet needs to be used for biking.
- Moms and dads should wear helmets as well.

Pedestrian Safety



- Teach children to walk, not run, across the street.
- Children should cross only with an adult or an older, responsible child.
- Whenever crossing the street, try to make eye contact with any drivers nearby, to be sure they see you.
- Teach children to avoid running out from between parked cars.
- Use sidewalks whenever possible.
- Always hold your child's hand near any moving or parked vehicles.
- Adults always need to set a good example!

Water Safety



- Adult supervision is of paramount importance. Parents need to focus on their children 100% of the time. No distractions!
- Practice "touch supervision" (a term used by the American Academy of Pediatrics). This means that at all times, the supervising adult is within an arm's length of the child being watched, when near or in the water.
- Remember, no child or adult is "drown proof."
- Keep in mind that children can drown in many different water sources including: bathtubs, toilets, buckets, baby pools, backyard swimming pools, community pools, streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, oceans and other places.

Sun Protection



- Avoid sun exposure during peak sun hours (10 AM – 6 PM).
- Wear protective clothing and a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses (with 99-100% UV protection).
- Sunscreen is a must (on sunny and cloudy days)! Look for products with UVA and UVB protection and

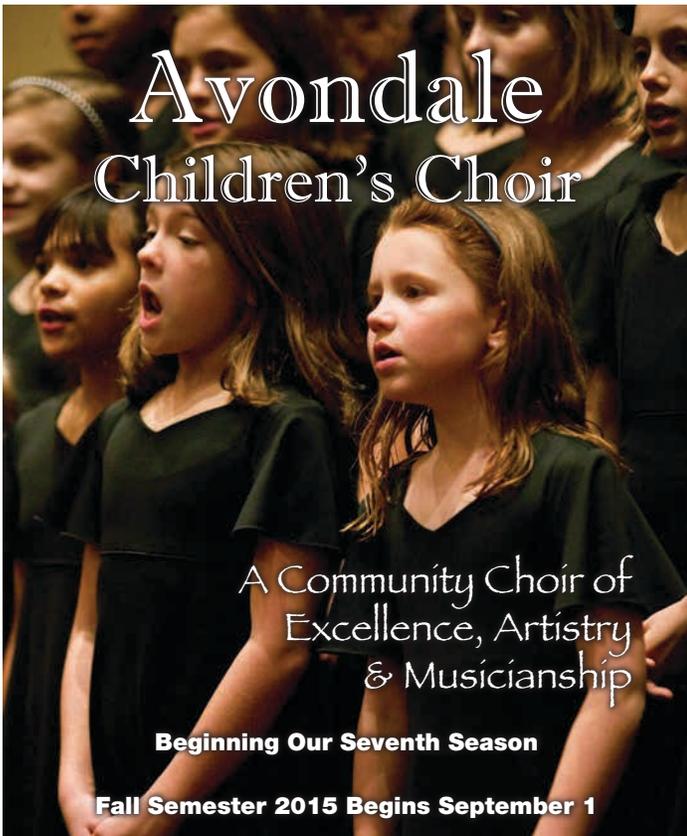
an SPF of at least 15 (according to the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Association of Dermatology).

- Sunscreen should be applied liberally 30 minutes before going out in the sun, and reapplied every two hours or sooner if swimming, sweating or toweling off.
- Look for shade whenever possible.

Summer First Aid Kit



- Every family should have at least one first aid kit at home which is well stocked and readily accessible.
- It's also helpful to keep a first aid kit in the car and one to bring on trips.
- Kids get lots of cuts and scrapes during the warm summer months, so it's nice to be prepared.
- Don't forget to restock the kit once an item has been used.
- Be sure to keep a list of emergency numbers where they are easy to find. This list should include: emergency medical services (911), the doctor's number, the dentist's number, poison control, a number where mom and/or dad can be reached and any other important phone numbers.



**Avondale
Children's Choir**

A Community Choir of
Excellence, Artistry
& Musicianship

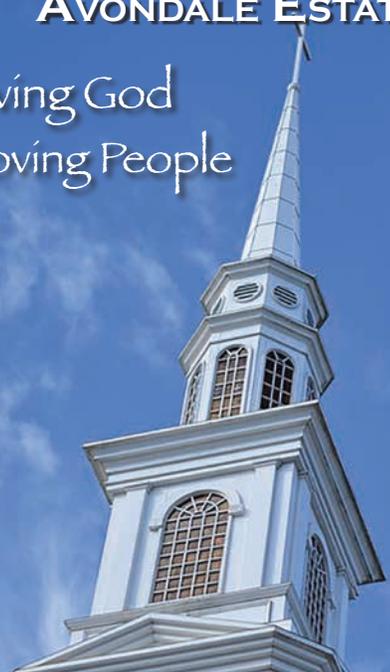
Beginning Our Seventh Season

Fall Semester 2015 Begins September 1

Now scheduling Voicing Auditions for FALL Semester 2015
More information: www.avondalechildrenschoir.com

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
AVONDALE ESTATES**

Loving God
Loving People



"A community within a community for a community!"

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP • SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM
DR. KRIS MULLIS, SENIOR PASTOR
FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.AFBC.COM

Accident or Pain?
Get Well Here!

CALL NOW!

404-288-8433



Dr. Garcia, DC



**Injury2Wellness
CENTERS**

KDA
cömmünícations.

Get noticed. Advertise.
Contact us Today!

To advertise in a KDA Neighborhood
Newsletter, please contact us at
678-905-4842 • sales@kda-communications.com

3300 Highlands Pkwy • Ste 100 | Smyrna, GA 30082
678.905.4842 | www.kda-communications.com