



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY

DUNWOODY

digest

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

Local family's music videos go viral

Inside: "Buzz"worthy News | Bridging the Gap | Around Town

Upcoming Events

July

4

Dunwoody's July 4th Parade

Mt. Vernon Road from Jett Ferry to Dunwoody Village Parkway
9 a.m.



Dunwoody's July 4th Parade is the largest in the South. Bring your lawn chairs to the parade route along Mt. Vernon Road and Dunwoody Village Parkway to see bands, floats and more. The parade steps off at 9 a.m.

6

FREE First Saturday — Water

Dunwoody Nature Center
11 a.m.

12

Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Comedy)

opens at Stage Door Players

13

Walk With A Doc

Brook Run Park
9 a.m.

13

Groovin' on the Green Parks & Rec Month Concert

Emerald Empire Band
Pernoshal Park
6-9 p.m.

13

Summer Concert Series

The Breeze Kings
Dunwoody Nature Center
7-9 p.m.

14

Wine and Reading Playwright Series

Dunwoody Nature Center
2-4 p.m.

20

History Alive!

Donaldson-Bannister Farm
Speaker Jim Torbert: Vietnam War
9:30-11 a.m.

27

"B" at the Movies

"How to Train Your Dragon 3"
Brook Run Park Event Field
Starts at dusk

27

Summer Concert Series Battle of the Bands

Dunwoody Nature Center
7-9 p.m.

August

3

FREE First Saturday — Butterflies

Dunwoody Nature Center
11 a.m.

5

First Day of School

DeKalb County public schools

10

Walk With A Doc

Brook Run Park
9 a.m.



Don't miss the Groovin' on the Green Back-to-School Ice Cream Social August 10



Bring your blankets and chairs and relax on the lawn for the "Groovin' on the Green" concerts at Pernoshal Park.



Dunwoody Nature Center
Butterfly Festival
August 17



each week

10

**Groovin' on the Green
Back-to-School Social**

The Wheelers
Pernoshal Park
6-9 p.m.

11

**Wine and Reading
Playwright Series**

Dunwoody Nature Center
2-4 p.m.

17

Butterfly Festival

Dunwoody Nature Center
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

September

2

Labor Day

7

**FREE First Saturday
— Reptiles**

Dunwoody Nature Center
11 a.m.

7-15

Back to Spruill Week

Spruill Arts Center

8

**Wine and Reading
Playwright Series**

Dunwoody Nature Center
2-4 pm

21

Dunwoody Wine Stroll

Pernoshal Park
Save the date—
see website for details

21

History Alive!

Donaldson-Bannister Farm
9:30-11 a.m.

21-22

**Fall Workshop:
Nuno Felting for Weavers**

Chattahoochee
Handweaver's Guild
North DeKalb Cultural Arts Center



Every Saturday through September 28
Coordinated by the Dunwoody Homeowners' Association



Every Thursday through October 24 | 5-9 pm
Coordinated by the Dunwoody Homeowners' Association

**Master Gardener
Sessions**

July 13

Hot Weather Gardening

August 10

Shade Gardening

September 14

Cool Season Planting

All programs are free and open to the public at the Dunwoody Community Garden at Brook Run Park 11 a.m.- noon



Dunwoody's third annual wine stroll is scheduled September 21 in Pernoshal Park. Visit dunwoodyga.gov for ticket information.

Dunwoody joins Bee City USA:

Here's how you can Bee a part



Dunwoody joined more than 80 cities across the country as part of the Bee City USA program, a nationwide initiative to encourage healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators.

Its designation as a Bee City was initiated by the city's sustainability committee and approved by the city council in May.

"There are many ways that individuals, companies and schools can get involved with the program," said Michael Cowan, chair of

the sustainability committee and executive director of the Dunwoody Nature Center. "Planting a certified pollinator garden — one with abundant food sources from a variety of native plants that bloom throughout the year and pesticide-free maintenance — is an easy way to be a part of the movement."

Ninety percent of wild plants and trees depend on pollinators for species survival, yet pollinators are facing a variety of threats. Honeybees — just one of 20,000 varieties of bees — have been disappearing, in part due to the collapse of many bee colonies.

Its population has declined at a rate of 44 percent in recent years.

"The Dunwoody Nature Center will celebrate Pollinator Week beginning August 10," added Cowan. "The series of educational programs will culminate with our annual Butterfly Festival on August 17. In addition, we are working on a certification program for pollinator gardens and partnerships throughout the community that will enhance the Bee City program and allow more participation from the community."

Bee City USA is an initiative of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

4 ideas for attracting pollinators to your garden



Diversify your landscape

Select native plants wherever possible, and cultivate a garden with a variety of flowering plants that provide abundant pollen and nectar over several months each year.



Protect Egg-Laying Sites

Native bees use untidy areas of the garden, like tree stumps and brush piles, to nest. Supplement nesting opportunities with mason bee houses or bundles of hollow plant stems.



Limit Pesticides

Even "organic-approved" insecticides can be harmful to pollinators and other wildlife. Likewise, herbicides can reduce plant diversity.



Keep the 'BUZZ' going

Let your friends know you're providing a pollinator garden. Encourage more people to join the effort to help protect pollinators.

1.4 MILLION YOUTUBE VIEWS AND COUNTING...

ROGERS SIBLINGS COLLABORATE, EXTEND MUSIC TECHNIQUES

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HD

When the Rogers family began experimenting with extended piano techniques — like plucking strings, patting the frame and playing keys — on the piano, they knew they had struck a chord. But they never imagined their talents would go viral.

“Not much happened after our first video,” said Brydan. “But the reaction to our second video, which was a mash-up of ‘Shut Up and Dance’ and ‘Best Song Ever,’ was far beyond what we expected. Four different TV shows reached out to us.”

The Rogers have produced four YouTube videos since January 2016. Their videos have been viewed a total of 1.4 million times.

“I think people are intrigued by the family thing. They compare us to the von Trapps or the Partridge families,” said Aidan. “They also wonder how we thought of this. They haven’t seen anything like it on a piano.”

The Rogers grew up in Dunwoody.

Keenan and Devon are 25-year-old twins. Aidan, Brydan and Corin are triplets, who are 23. Leith is 21. Ivy Catherine is the youngest at 18.

“Growing up in Dunwoody, we had a lot of opportunities to be creative,” Keenan

explained. “We met a lot of incredible people who gave us a strong foundation and became important supporters along the way.”

The Rogers began playing piano when they were 3 or 4 years old. Their dad influenced their musical tastes. Their mom was their first piano teacher.

“Our second teacher was the organist at Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Mary Ruth Solem,” said Devon. “My mom would take us in shifts to piano lessons at church.”

As kids, the Rogers would race to the family’s baby grand piano to see who could play it first. As adults, they compete for parts in their compositions.

“It’s hard to give everyone equal time,” said Corin, who creates the arrangements with Brydan. “We see this as a fun family project. We all have full-time careers and school. The logistics of the videos are challenging.”

The videos are reaching people all over the world. “Music is a universal language,” he added. “We hear from fans in Argentina, Japan, everywhere.”

Each new video starts with an original arrangement, which takes several weeks to compose. Then the siblings have to learn and record their parts

separately. The video shoot is the final step, which takes a couple of days.

“We definitely don’t do it in one take,” Devon explained. The Rogers help manning the camera, but they do the rest. They direct, produce and edit every video.

“Our goal is to put out more videos at a faster pace with new sounds and techniques,” Keenan added.

Find the Rogers’ videos at www.youtube.com/rogersfamily or search “The Rogers Family Piano” on YouTube.



The Dunwoody Digest sat down with five of the seven Rogers siblings. Keenan works for the Georgia State Senate and in the film industry. Devon is an electrical engineer at Georgia Tech. Brydan is a research engineer at Georgia Tech. Aidan is a financial analyst. Corin is a music producer. Leith is a student at Georgia Tech. Ivy Catherine just graduated from Chamblee High School and will attend the University of Toronto in the fall.

A new kind of 3-wheelin'

Introducing trishaws: The happiest form of transportation

Donna Agolli stumbled across a “TED Talks” episode that unleashed a passion, launched a local chapter, and has Dunwoody’s senior citizens whizzing through its city parks on three wheels.

She saw a segment on “Cycling Without Age,” a Danish non-profit that was founded solely to get elderly citizens back on bicycles via trishaws—battery-powered, three-wheeled rickshaws with a two-passenger carriage in the front or back.



Donna Agolli (R) and a volunteer from Cycling Without Age’s Suwanee chapter, ride passengers through the crowds at 2019’s first Food Truck Thursday. “They love Food Truck nights,” said Agolli. “The park is extra full with children, animals and busy food trucks.”

Agolli immediately ordered a trishaw and started a local chapter of the organization, and every Thursday she pulls into Summer’s Landing Senior Center where some of her biggest fans are waiting in the lobby for her to arrive. Then they load up the trishaw—often with blankets or heating pads or sunshade—for rides through Dunwoody’s Brook Run Park.

“Every chapter is different. I’ve started with Thursdays at Summer’s Landing, but my hope is to add volunteers, new riders and more retirement centers to participate, as well as finding funding for the purchase of more trishaws,” said Agolli, who runs Dunwoody’s Progressive Medical Center with her husband, Gez, and is a native of England. “We could also expand to provide rides for

senior citizens that are still living at home, but are housebound.”

“I want as many seniors as possible to feel the wind in their hair again,” she said. “It’s such an invigorating experience for them, and so important to bring these men and women back into their community.”

Founded by Ole Kassaw in 2012, Cycling Without Age is now active in 35 countries with more than 1500 trishaws in operation.

Donna can be reached at donna.agolli.cwa@gmail.com.

New Fireworks Rules



The Dunwoody City Council recently passed a new consumer fireworks ordinance. During most of the year, fireworks can no longer be used after 9 p.m. or before 10 a.m., but there are important exceptions.

Fireworks can be used between 10 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. during the following holidays:

- Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day)
- the last Saturday and Sunday in May (Memorial Day holidays)
- July 3, July 4 (Independence Day)
- the first Monday in September (Labor Day)
- Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve) of each year.

In addition, on Jan. 1 of each year, fireworks are allowed between midnight and 1 a.m.



around dunwoody **DUNWOODY’S MAYOR DENIS SHORTAL HELD THE CITY’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS, AT THE CROWNE PLAZA RAVINIA HOTEL IN APRIL.**

Love your commute?



**Derek
loves
his**

Derek Vogel of Dunwoody has biked to and from work almost every day since the new pedestrian bridge opened on the Dunwoody Trailway in April.

The new pedestrian bridge over the north fork of Nancy Creek has put a whole new spin on the beginning and end of the work day for Dunwoody resident Derek Vogel.

Completed in April, the 145-foot bridge connects the Georgetown community at Old Georgetown Trail off Old Springhouse Lane to Perimeter Center at Perimeter Center East. It's an important component to the Dunwoody Trailway that will eventually connect all of Dunwoody and provide alternative means for transportation throughout the city.

"I've always loved any kind of biking," said Vogel, who transferred from Illinois with State Farm four years ago. "I tried many paths for biking to work before the bridge — even a narrow dirt path that took me over a shallow spot of the creek itself — but couldn't make it work."

"Some of my friends call this 'Derek's Bridge' because I made the suggestion for

a bridge on every community survey that was sent out," he said. "Since it opened, I've commuted to and from work on my bike all but two days."

His new commute is just a little more than four miles from his doorstep to his office. "And mostly downhill on the way to my office," he added.

"I've seen deer, bluebirds, wildflowers, dogs and my neighbors — but very few cars," said Vogel of his daily trek. "I arrive at work alert, happy, not sweaty, and ready to plow into my workday."

Dunwoody Mayor Denis Shortal gave credit to the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts and developers of Townsend at Perimeter Townhomes, which contributed right-of-way and construction costs.

"We are connecting the east with the west and residents with businesses," he said at the April ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Dunwoody officials cut the ribbon on the 145-foot bridge in April. It connects the Georgetown neighborhood to Perimeter Center East.

Guest Cottage completed at Donaldson-Bannister Farm

Rehabilitation of the third of six historic buildings at Dunwoody's Donaldson-Bannister Farm is now complete. The Guest Cottage, added to the property in the early 1930s, opened in June.

Located behind the main house of the historic property at the corner of Chamblee Dunwoody and Vermack Roads, the modest Guest Cottage was built by the home's second owner, Mrs. Lois Patillo Bannister. The three-room outparcel will serve as the offices for the Dunwoody Preservation Trust and will allow additional space in the main house for community events and rentals.

The circa 1870s Donaldson-Bannister Farm was a fully functioning farm less than three decades ago. Long-time residents remember the horses that grazed on the pasture as recently as the 1990s. Today it is a City of Dunwoody public park, open dawn to dusk for visitors on its grounds. Rehabilitation of the main house, barn and outdoor paved terrace is also complete and the buildings are available for tours by appointment, educational programs and special event and meeting rentals.

The privately-owned farm was purchased by DeKalb County in 2005 and deeded to the City of Dunwoody shortly after incorporation. The entire property was in dire need of repair, including the Guest Cottage which had a compromised foundation, roof leaks and rotting exterior frame and windows. The buildings and grounds have been refurbished and rehabilitated by the City of Dunwoody Parks and Recreation Department and the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, and has been funded through City of Dunwoody FIPP grants and cash donations of more than of \$700,000 by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust.

"With a budget of just under \$300,000 for the Guest Cottage and the lower parking lot redesign, the project came in on schedule and under budget," said Dunwoody Preservation Trust President Jim Williams.

Work included raising the cottage to rebuild its foundation, shoring up and reframing walls and roof, as well as installing insulation and renovating the interior to maintain the integrity of its original design. Screws holding the old metal roof had rusted, and the holes were causing roof leaks, so the roof was replaced with composite slate shingles. The old kitchen cabinets from the main house were saved and refurbished to be reused in the guest house.



"This project is just another example of the great relationship we have with the Dunwoody Preservation Trust to make this neighborhood park available to all citizens," said Brent Walker, Director of Parks and Recreation. "We expect many great programs and events to come."



The three-room Guest Cottage has been restored and renovated inside and out. The original floorplan and fireplace have been maintained, while new hardwood floors and windows echo the integrity of the original cottage.



around dunwoody **PROGRESS IN THE PARKS: IN SPRING 2019, THE CITY BROKE GROUND ON MAJOR RENOVATIONS TO BROOK RUN PARK, OPENED A BRIDGE CONNECTING THE DUNWOODY TRAILWAY OVER THE NORTH FORK OF NANCY CREEK, AND OPENED RESTROOMS AT WINDWOOD HOLLOW PARK.**

DNC constructs Eco-Classroom from recycled shipping containers

A new classroom at the Dunwoody Nature Center has an eco-friendly design in both its steel-reinforced structure and its green, plant-covered roof.

Though the building itself complements the design of the center's new cedar-planked North Woods Pavilion, its frame is made from a pair of old shipping containers.

"It's up-cycling at its best," said Executive Director Michael Cowan. "It's also a perfect use for the containers because the reinforced-steel frames will support the weight of the garden of native pollinator plants that will grow on the roof of the classroom."

The eco-classroom was paid in part through a FIPP grant from the City of Dunwoody and will be used for camps and programming, school field trips, Scout programs and other community events. As the center's current facility was once a private home built in 1946, its classrooms were once small bedrooms. The eco-classroom represents the first classroom designed specifically for teaching and is equipped with a modern white board.



Cranes place the shipping containers in place. The reinforced-steel containers will serve as the base structure for the new classroom, but will not be visible in the completed design. (Design rendering at right.)

The classroom will be named the Crean Eco-Classroom after the late Dennis Crean. Crean and his wife, Marie, have been long-time supporters of the DNC.

The roof will reduce heating and cooling costs via the insulation provided by the garden and will become relatively maintenance free once established.

"The ecological design of the new eco-classroom creates the perfect location for learning about the environment," said Parks and Recreation Director Brent Walker. "The City of Dunwoody is happy to partner with the Dunwoody Nature Center to construct this unique amenity for the park and Dunwoody citizens."

What is a FIPP Grant?

Dunwoody's **Facilities Improvement Partnership Program (FIPP)** started in 2013 as a pilot program designed to provide a kickstart for enhancements and capital improvements of existing park buildings, facilities and grounds for the city's Parks and Recreation partners.

Its success was immediately apparent, and Dunwoody's Mayor and City Council allotted \$250,000 for the program each year through 2018.



around dunwoody A COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY OF NANCY CREEK THE CITY OF DUNWOODY ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL, BROOK RUN PARK.

New look for a new development



HIGH STREET has released new illustrations of the mixed-use project, which has been dormant for more than 10 years. Located at Perimeter Park Center and Hammond Drive near the Dunwoody MARTA station, the planned project is being touted as an “entertainment destination” that could break ground by the end of 2019.

North American Properties, which was behind Avalon in Alpharetta, is developing High Street with property owner GID. It’s being touted as “an open, walkable, amenity-rich environment” with “chef-driven dining,” shopping, office space, hotel rooms and residences. For more, visit highstreetatlanta.com.

DPD on the move



Top: The Dunwoody Police Department welcomed back Officer Timothy Brown (at center with Deputy Chief David Barnes and Mayor Denis Shortal). Brown has eight years of experience as a law enforcement officer, including four in Dunwoody. Below: DPD celebrated three internal promotions this spring. Chief Billy Grogan (second from left) is pictured with Lieutenant Patrick Krieg, Deputy Chief David Barnes, and Sgt. Anthony Stallings. Major Mike Carlson was also promoted but had to miss the ceremony to attend the FBI National Academy.



around dunwoody **SPRING FESTIVALS BROUGHT DUNWOODY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OUTDOORS FOR LEMONADE DAYS AND THE DUNWOODY ART FESTIVAL. HUNDREDS ATTENDED DUNWOODY’S KIDS TO PARKS DAY — A NATIONAL EVENT CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO SHOWCASE ITS PARKS.**

A NEW VARIETY OF SUPER GREENS

Now at two locations: The Dunwoody Community Garden and the International Space Station

Tokyo Bekana is an Asian superfood that has the flavor of lettuce with a hint of cabbage. It has cancer-fighting properties and is three-times more nutritious than kale. Propagation techniques for the plants are underway in two locations: Dunwoody, Georgia, and outer space.

NASA is growing the nutrition-filled greens at the International Space Station both as sustenance for the astronauts there, as well as preparation for plants that might someday be taken to Mars.

The green thumbs and master gardeners at the Dunwoody Community Garden are also growing the superfood from seed. Several high-end restaurants are experimenting with incorporating the greens in their menus, while much is donated to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Still more will be available for purchase at the next community garden sale scheduled in the fall.



The Tokyo Bekana (left) is flourishing at the Dunwoody Community Garden. Like the Outrageous Red, a small romaine-style lettuce, it's also being grown at NASA's International Space Station.

It all started when DCG member Ed Mehrman was experimenting with hydroponic growing systems and Florikan, a controlled-release water-degradable fertilizer. He was introduced to the Tokyo Bekana in that process and brought several pounds of the seeds to the DCG's Brook Run greenhouse.

"The plants are flourishing — and doing best with the fertilizer," said Mehrman. "The garden is also experimenting with Outrageous Red, a small red romaine lettuce and Patsoi, another superfood and substitute for spinach. Specialty markets and restaurants are working the new varieties into their menus."

Early results for the Tokyo Bekana are promising. The consensus for those who have tried the supergreen?

Out of this world, of course!



Outstanding Traffic Ticket? Amnesty this August

During the month of August, Dunwoody Municipal Court is holding an amnesty program for individuals with past due traffic citations and/or active bench warrants for failing to appear in court. The goal is to settle outstanding violations with the court and reduce arrests.

"Some people think this is a trick. It's definitely not," said Dunwoody Municipal Court Clerk Norlaundra Huntington. "We simply want to encourage people to come back to court by easing the financial burden."



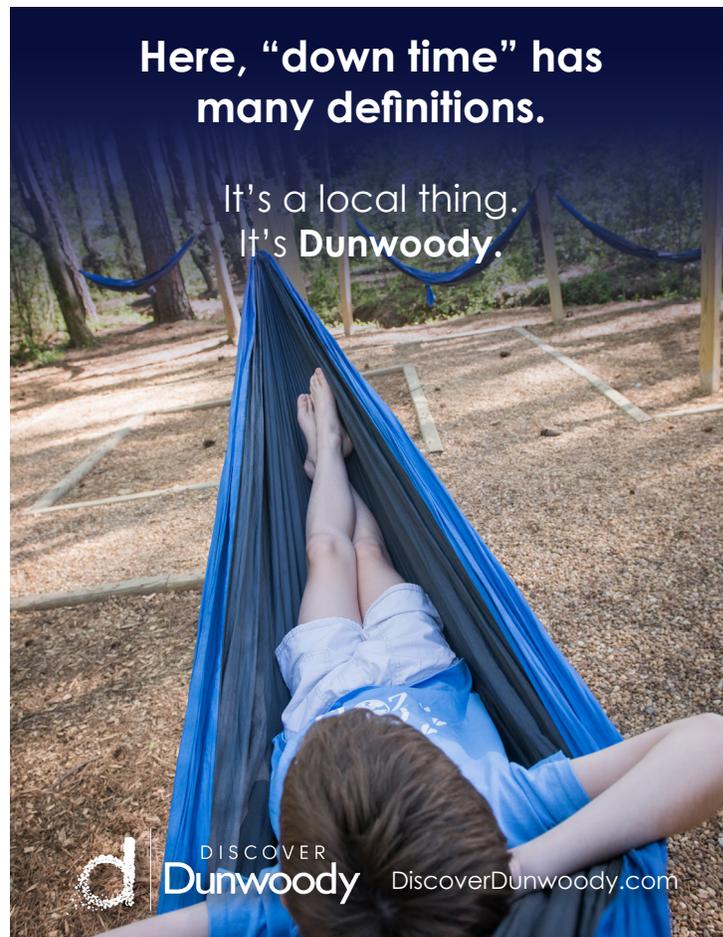
Dunwoody court clerks (back row, l-r) Monique Andrews, Chryse' Bowers and Rochelle Sanderson with Court Clerk Norlaundra Huntington

Those who want to take advantage of the program can walk in to Municipal Court, located at 4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road, on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. only.

During that time, if individuals pay their fines in full, all contempt fees will be forgiven. If the individual's offense(s) requires a mandatory court appearance, the individual will be

granted a future court date to appear before a judge, and all warrants will be cleared and warrant fees forgiven.

Forms of payment that will be accepted are cash, money order, cashier checks, and credit cards (Visa and MasterCard only) but no personal checks. For more information, call 678-382-6973.



CITY MEETING SCHEDULE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- July 4: Independence Day**
City Hall Closed
- July 8: Special Called Meeting**
City Hall, 8 am
- July 8: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- July 9: Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- July 11: Sustainability Committee Meeting**
City Hall, 7:45-9 am
- July 11: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- July 22: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm

- August 1: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- August 8: Sustainability Committee Meeting**
City Hall, 7:45-9 am
- August 12: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- August 13: Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- August 26: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm

- September 2: Labor Day**
City Hall Closed
- September 5: Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- September 9: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- September 10: Planning Commission Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm
- September 12: Sustainability Committee Meeting**
City Hall, 7:45-9 am
- September 23: City Council Meeting**
City Hall, 6-8 pm

INSIDE: Events Calendar

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 about what's
 happening in
 your city**

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