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Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Brent Walker, Parks and Recreation Director
Date: February 1, 2021
Subject: **Presentation from the Dunwoody Preservation Trust**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

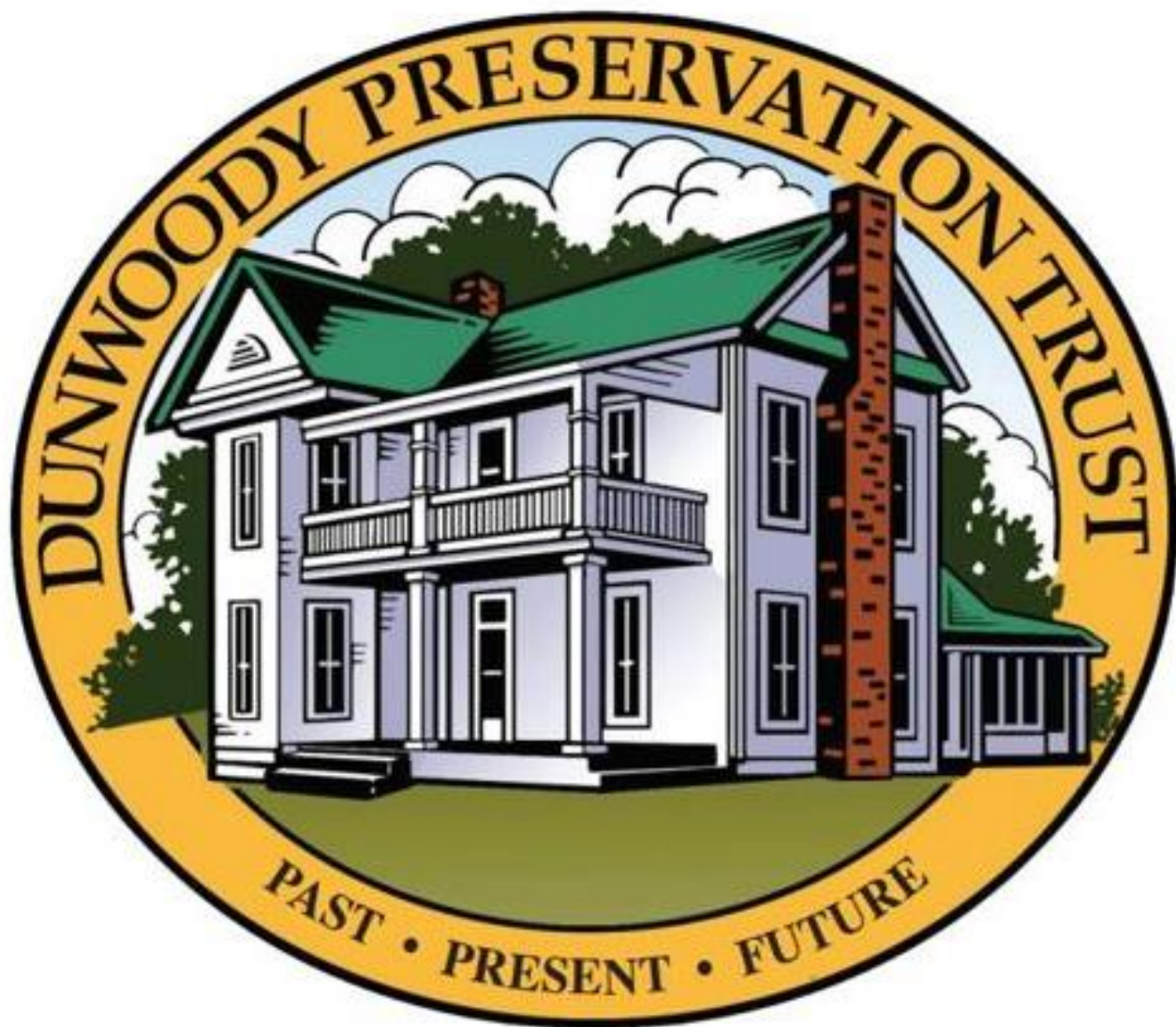
The City values the on-going partnerships with our non-profits partners. Suzanne Huff will be presenting current and future initiatives by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust at the Donaldson-Bannister House.

Lynn Deutsch Mayor
Eric Linton, ICMA-CM City Manager
Sharon Lowery, CMC City Clerk

Pam Tallmadge City Council Post 1
Jim Riticher City Council Post 2
Tom Lambert City Council Post 3

Stacey Harris City Council Post 4
Joe Seconder City Council Post 5
John Heneghan City Council Post 6

Packet page:...



DUNWOODY PRESERVATION TRUST

DUNWOODY PRESERVATION TRUST'S ORIGINS

Dunwoody Preservation Trust was founded in 1995 when Joyce Amacher and Lynne Byrd, two longtime Dunwoody residents, awoke one morning to find that two of three 1880 railroad section houses had been demolished (the remaining one still stands in Dunwoody Village today) and developers were closing in on a more significant property – the 1906 Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse. Both women, experienced historic preservationists, founded Dunwoody Preservation Trust (DPT), a 501(c)(3), with seed money from the Dunwoody Homeowners Association.



DUNWOODY PRESERVATION TRUST'S ORIGINS



- DPT's first order of business was to "Save the Farmhouse" (the Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse). We were successful with that goal and today this central property serves as the unofficial symbol of Dunwoody appearing in the City's Seal and in Dunwoody Preservation Trust's logo.
- The farmhouse was painstakingly rehabilitated and is the site of community gatherings including the 4th of July Parade and Light Up Dunwoody.

CHEEK-SPRUILL
FARMHOUSE

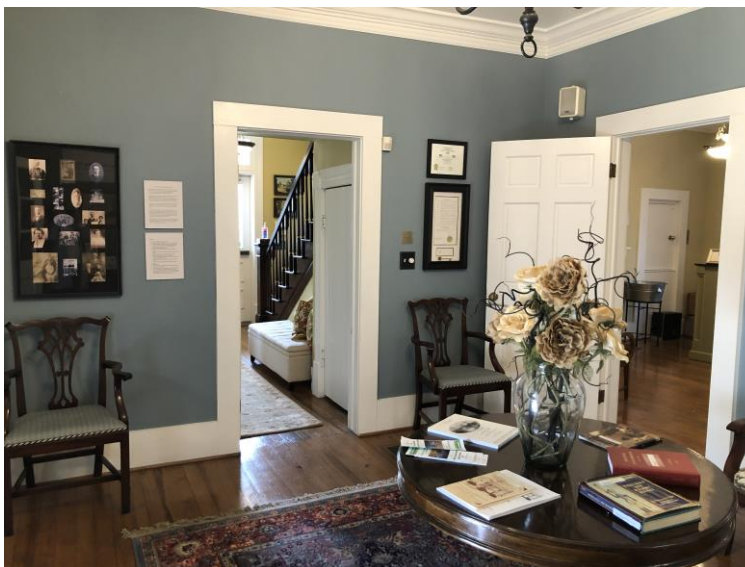
OFTEN REFERRED
TO AS THE
DUNWOODY
FARMHOUSE



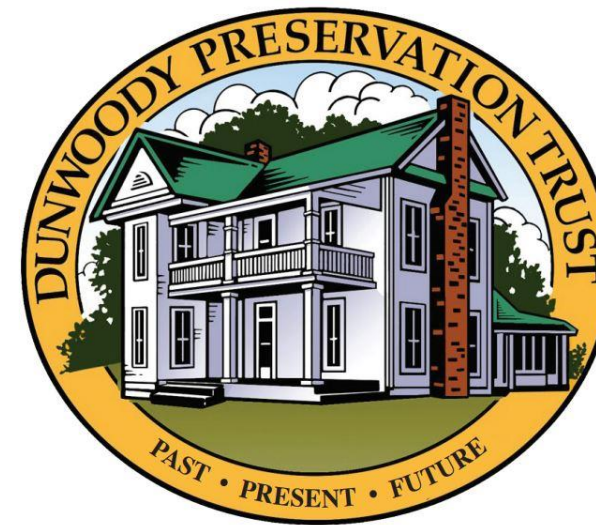
CHEEK-SPRUILL FARMHOUSE (THE DUNWOODY FARMHOUSE)



A History Room with tea service is located inside the Cheek-Spruill House and open to the public



City's Seal
And
DPT's Logo



ADDITIONAL DUNWOODY PRESERVATION TRUST CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DUNWOODY COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- Added both the Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse and the Donaldson-Bannister Farm to the Georgia AND National Register of Historic Places.
- Maintaining the historic New Hope and Stephen Martin family cemeteries.
- Partnering with the City of Dunwoody to rehabilitate the circa 1870 Donaldson-Bannister Farm. The property is open to the public, hosts community events and can be booked for private events as well.
- Hosting Lemonade Days – It started as a fundraiser to help re-plant trees after the 1998 tornado and has turned into Dunwoody's premier community event and our major fundraiser.
- Hosting educational events for all ages – Camp Flashback summer camp, school and scout fieldtrips and our History Alive educational programs for adults.
- Hosting additional community events including Flick N Chick, Apple Cider Days and Farm to Table Dinner in the fall, High Tea in the spring and more!

THE DONALDSON- BANNISTER FARM



THE DONALDSON-BANNISTER FARM

- A City of Dunwoody Park lovingly restored via a partnership between the City of Dunwoody and Dunwoody Preservation Trust.



- Dunwoody Preservation Trust has spent over \$910,000 of its own money over the past 10 years to help rehabilitate the property. (Master Plan drawings, three FIPP grants, landscaping and other projects)
- The 2.89-acre property opened to the public less than 3 years ago in May 2018.

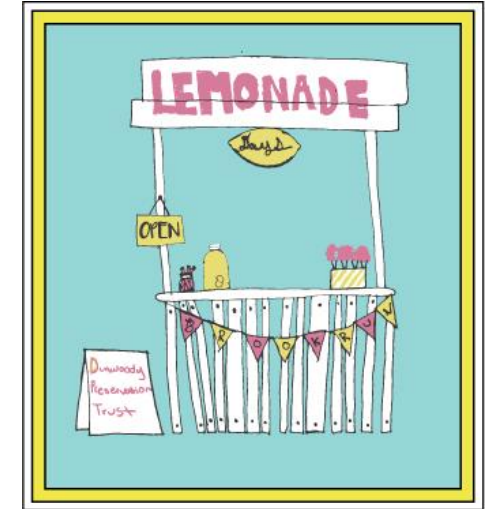
DONALDSON-BANNISTER FARM COMMUNITY EVENTS

Since the property opened in May 2018, we have:

- Started Camp Flashback – 2021 will be our 4th year
- Re-started our adult education program - History Alive – 6x per year
- Started a yearly Farm to Table Dinner
- 2020 was the Sesquicentennial of the Donaldson-Bannister Farm. We had planned multiple celebratory events. We were able to host a Champagne Concert and a Tea before the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Hosted Apple Cider Days – 2020 was our 5th year
- Work with Scout troops and Home School groups for tours and education field trips
- Offer Fitness/Yoga Classes – 4x Weekly
- Hosted Flick N Chick (family movie night on the farm) and Painting with a Purpose (joint event with the Dunwoody Police Dept & Painting with a Twist for charity) 2x prior to 2020

2020 – COVID-19 IMPACT NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- The most significant impact to DPT was financially.
 - Loss of Lemonade Days – our primary and most significant fundraiser.
 - Loss of private events: weddings, family reunions, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, meetings, graduation parties, fund raisers. (many of these events contribute to hotel occupancy)
 - The loss of both resulted in a 36% drop in revenue in 2020
- Unable to continue the Sesquicentennial celebration of the Donaldson-Bannister Farm and other previously planned Community events.
- Docent program and tours were put on hold.



2020 – COVID-19 IMPACT POSITIVE OUTCOMES:



- DPT's purchase of a 40'x40' tent covering the plaza area next to the barn in early February prior to the pandemic has turned out to be a blessing. The tent allowed us to host events in a covered space outside during warmer weather when the community started to re-open.
 - Allowed us to re-start our History Alive program. Of 6 planned programs, we were able to host 4 in 2020.
 - Allowed us to host a few smaller private events such as the Rotary Club and small weddings.
 - Provided covered space for Camp Flashback (though not during storms).
 - Provided cover for Apple Cider Days.
 - Provided back up cover for Farm to Table Dinner.