

It takes a village (A Profile on Dunwoody Village), Article with *Living Northside*, a publication with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

*insider's guide* | **dunwoody village**



An architectural detail on the Bank of North Georgia building.



Dunwoody Art Festival held Miller's Day weekend on Dunwoody Village Parkway. Usually 60,000 people attend, outnumbering Dunwoody's population.

# It takes a village

Dunwoody Village is a quaint hamlet of shops and restaurants within walking distance of residential neighborhoods.

story by **OBENNA MORTON**  
Photos by **JASON GETZ**

Most restaurant and boutique owners open their doors hoping they will have a loyal following, but it's been more than that at Wright's Sandwich Shoppe in the Dunwoody Village neighborhood, where many customers have turned into friends. Manager Matt Wright and his wife, Allison, worked side by side as managers at the business started by his parents, John and Linda, in 1984. When the couple married years later, many customers were like family.

"I bet there were 20 or 30 people just from here... at our wedding," Wright says.

The sandwich place is one of many shops and enterprises in the Dunwoody Village community that have become the go-to place for surrounding neighbors. The bustling area is a 165-acre stretch near the crossroads of Mount Vernon and Chamblee Dunwoody roads, and only a few short miles from Dunwoody's well-known Perimeter epicenter.

Part of the area's charm are the buildings inspired by Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and designed with sloping roofs and cupolas. The largely commercial district is convenient to residents in nearby neighborhoods, such as the Leaches, Ashworth, Wynnethall and Cedarhurst. Many have breakfast at Purr Watch, dinner at Marie's Tavern, and in between, pick up tasty, healthy choices at the Fresh Market.



Bob Leavitt, Laura Pichter and Tim Adcox enjoy a glass of wine outside of the wine bar that he opened 12 years ago.

## HISTORY & ATTRACTIONS

### Chick Sprull Farmhouse

The Chick Sprull Farmhouse at the corner of Mount Vernon and Chamblee Dunwoody roads was originally a one-story home built in 1903 by John Henry Chick, owner of Chick Milling Company, for his adult son.

One of the most memorable days in the history of Dunwoody Village came in November 1920, when a boiler exploded at the Chick Mill complex, located at the crossroads intersection. Three male employees were killed, including two Sprull family members.

Sprull relations were early settlers in the Northside, and moved to Dunwoody in the 1840s. Family members eventually came to own the Chick Sprull farmhouse for decades. Carey Sprull and his wife, Florence, were the last residents.

In 1898, four years after Florence's death, Guardian Savings and Loan purchased the home and donated it to Dunwoody Preservation Trust. The Trust had already raised more than \$200,000 in a "Save the Farmhouse" campaign.

A law firm moved into the farmhouse in 2013, and has made the it available for tours, says Valerie Riggerstaff with Dunwoody Preservation Trust.

5455 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, 770-668-0401, [dunwoodypreservationtrust.org/ChickSprullFarmhouse](http://dunwoodypreservationtrust.org/ChickSprullFarmhouse)



The Donaldson-Bannister Farm and Cemetery is a historic property near the Dunwoody Village community.

In 2000, the property has several outbuildings, including a small caretaker house, a former blacksmith shop and a washhouse for clothes.

"You can see the fence to the right of the house from the road," Riggerstaff says. "The other buildings are behind it. They are not that visible unless you get out and walk around."

The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been under renovation to allow for greater public access. In the meantime, the property is open on the last Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The house is set for rehab in the way it would be for typical visits. Even so, Riggerstaff says, "Just seeing the space of the house, people are really happy to see it because it's been sitting there for so long."

6631 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, 770-668-0401, [dunwoodypreservationtrust.org](http://dunwoodypreservationtrust.org)

## We chose Dunwoody

because it has all the modern conveniences of intown living, great restaurants, shopping and easy access to the highways, yet there is a small-town feel and great schools and activities for our children.



The Parker Family  
City of Dunwoody Resident

Aug. 2011