



Contact: Layne Mitchell  
Office: 678-297-2811  
[layne@awesomealpharetta.com](mailto:layne@awesomealpharetta.com)

**For Immediate Release**

## **Alpharetta's history lives on through the opening of the Alpharetta and Old Milton County History Museum**

**ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA – (May 2, 2018)** – Residents, city officials, civic organizations and local churches recently gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the new Alpharetta and Old Milton County History Museum. The museum is located within Alpharetta City Hall, located at 2 Park Plaza in downtown Alpharetta and will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is free.



Curated by the Alpharetta Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services Department, the museum is comprised of a permanent collection of artifacts and interpretative displays which guide visitors through a chronological timeline of Alpharetta's past. More than two years in the making, the collection brings to life the history of Alpharetta, from its earliest days as Cherokee Indian territory through its remarkable emergence as one of the nation's most vibrant high-tech cities. Because the city's history is deeply connected with that of the neighboring cities in North Fulton, the museum reaches beyond the current boundaries of Alpharetta. From 1858 to 1932, Alpharetta was the county seat of Milton County, which encompassed the present-day cities of Johns Creek, Milton and Mountain Park, much of Roswell and portions of northern Sandy Springs. This connection is reflected in the collection and variety of displays found throughout the museum.

"We're excited to welcome the Alpharetta and Old Milton County History Museum as a new attraction for our community," says Janet Rodgers, President and CEO of the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We invite visitors to learn about the families and founding members of our community that helped make Alpharetta the great city it is today."

The project was funded by the City of Alpharetta and developed in partnership with the Alpharetta and Old Milton County Historical Society, which provided the extensive historical research and many of the artifacts displayed in the new museum. To assemble the museum's content, local residents and descendants of the area's founding families came together, telling their stories and contributing the photographs and artifacts that now create a living history of Alpharetta. Museum visitors both see and hear Alpharetta's history, as listening devices are strategically placed along the museum's story timeline. At the "Stories Project" kiosk, visitors enjoy the first-hand memories of 70 long-standing Alpharetta citizens, recorded in their own voices. Over the course of this two-year endeavor, seven of the "Stories Project" residents passed away since sharing their stories on film, but their personal contributions to Alpharetta's history will now live on through their recordings. Recognizing that history is ongoing, with the city having additional interviews planned for the future.

"It was an honor and a privilege to work with the community, residents and other contributors to collect, connect, and present the history of Alpharetta in a way that is engaging, thoughtful and inclusive," said Kim Zane, Manager of the City of Alpharetta Cultural Services Division.

Beyond the walls of the Alpharetta and Old Milton County History Museum, visitors can also uncover the story of Alpharetta's past at their own pace as they tour the twenty-two historical markers that make up

the Alpharetta History Walk. Located throughout downtown, the markers are mostly within walking distance of one another, and give a current-day depiction of the early days of Alpharetta. Many of the buildings, structures and sites on this self-guided tour can be seen through the historical photos displayed in the Museum. The History Walk brochure, containing a map, photos and descriptions of the twenty-two sites along the tour, is available for download at [www.awesomealpharetta.com](http://www.awesomealpharetta.com) and can also be found in print at the Alpharetta Welcome Center, located at 178 S. Main Street, Suite 200.

Dating as far back as 1835, Alpharetta was an overnight stop for travelers and traders. Today, Alpharetta has grown into a vibrant, dynamic destination that attracts visitors from around the southeast to experience endless options of shopping, dining, attractions and events. With so many things to do, plan to stay the weekend and discover what makes Alpharetta so special.

For more information about Alpharetta's history, visit [www.awesomealpharetta.com](http://www.awesomealpharetta.com) or call 678.297.0102. Invite friends and guests into town and make it a weekend full of adventure. Book your weekend hotel stay at [awesomealpharetta.com](http://awesomealpharetta.com)!

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#### **About The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau**

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the official destination marketing organization for the city of Alpharetta, promoting tourism and attracting visitors to all of Alpharetta's upscale and modern hotels. Visit [awesomealpharetta.com](http://awesomealpharetta.com) for more information.