



Volume 2 / Issue 1 / February/March 2021

Celebrating Community Diversity Edition



Artwork design by Wendy M. Brown, Fairburn Police Department


## Murals coming to Main Street



Creating unique and beautiful spaces throughout Fairburn is an essential component of revitalization of the downtown Historic Commercial District. A part of the downtown’s beautification efforts is placement of murals, art designs on utility boxes and receptacles, among other projects for the remainder of the year. With the reopening of Casablanca, the area continues to attract new retail and restaurants. Fairburn residents want the downtown area to be a place to bring their families, and to enjoy arts and entertainment. One residents explains, “We need the economic development side of public art, but as a resident, I want to enjoy it too. I want to see beauty and show off my city.”

Fairburn Police can move with greater confidence, after receiving COVID-19 vaccines. To ensure the safety of those who sacrifice their lives to serve the Fairburn community, it is a necessary part of Georgia’s COVID-19 vaccine roll-out that frontline workers are voluntarily vaccinated.

Approximately, 50% percent of Fairburn’s Police and Fire Departments chose to move forward with receiving their shots, which were provided through a partnership with the Fulton County Health Department. Service to the community is a major reason that many of our local fireman, police, and emergency workers dedicate their lives. With the global pandemic their commitment is challenged more than ever. As frontline workers they encounter hazardous conditions and interactions that not only threaten their lives, but their family members as well. That is why in January 2021 Fairburn’s fire and public safety staff were provided the option of whether to take the vaccine. *(Continued on page 4)*





## City of Fairburn, standouts in region for COVID-19 responsiveness



The City of Fairburn and its leadership was featured in *Focus Atlanta 2020* for early responsiveness to COVID-19. Fairburn acted quickly to partner with Fulton County Health Department to provide mobile sites, ensuring regular testing of citizens. “We were able to procure disinfectant wipes from Clorox and alcohol gel, which was unavailable in the city, and we distributed these supplies to our employees,” stated Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst

The City of Fairburn worked with civic leaders to provide more than 5,000 meals to residents and solicited groups like the Community Teen Coalition to offer support with rent, utilities, mortgage assistance, and student support.

Mayor Carr-Hurst remained at work to provide support of key staff and guidance, during a time when there was no state-wide plan or model to deal with a global pandemic, “Nobody knew how to handle it and everyone was scrambling to get Personal Protection Equipment (PPE),” explained Mayor Carr-Hurst. Although the global pandemic continues to impact the region, economically, Fairburn is working with local mayors in South Fulton to review and share best practices to help residents address the impacts of COVID-19.

The City of Fairburn continues to offer monthly COVID-19 testing in partnership with the Fulton County Health Department. PPE supplies are also provided for frontline workers, senior citizens, and schools to help address disparities brought on due to impacts of the global pandemic.



## COMMUNITY VOICES

### *In His Great Name Ministry: “Teaching, revitalizing, equipping, and empowering”*

For more than 25 years, *In His Great Name*, a non-profit, has worked in the Lightning community to support families and individuals' personal growth and development. Apostle Danita Jones, founder of the Fairburn ministry, will share that while the ministry call was unexpected, it has been a labor of love that has brought the greatest fulfillment.



She recalled years ago when she first came to the community, thinking, "God, is this where you want me?" At the time, the Lightning area was blighted and overridden with crime. Apostle Jones rolled up her sleeves and got to work, recognizing the first step was to help the families and individuals who wanted help to get the food, clothing, housing, public safety, and educational resources they needed. *In His Great Name Ministry*, expanding beyond the Lightning community to help a broader range of people, Apostle Jones' holistic outreach ministry focuses on T.R.E.E. teaching, revitalizing, equipping, and empowering youth worldwide. She also supports the city as a civic leader serving on Fairburn's Downtown Development Authority (D.D.A.) as vice-chair, a member of the Main Street Board, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (D.C.A.), and Fairburn's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (G.I.C.H.) team.

Apostle Jones explains, "We have had a lot of work to do in the community and could not have done it alone. We've worked with businesses and the city's leadership to help the community that is needed. Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst has always ensured that the city did not forget the Lightning Community. A lot of what we've done couldn't have happened without her dedication and support." Apostle Jones has received community awards and city resolutions, and more for her untiring efforts; however, she believes that real change begins with prayer and love. "Many have put their drugs down and asked her for prayers of forgiveness, and they were set free," Apostle Jones stated.



# “Celebrating Unforgettable People,” Fairburn welcomes Cook Brothers Funeral Directors to downtown

At first, glance, when entering Cook Brothers Funeral Directors, the nostalgic elegance of being in a familiar place makes one forget where they are. By design, Rev. Tamarkus T. Cook and their family have created an environment that focuses on cultivating an unforgettable experience and tailoring celebration of life services that honor those who have transitioned. A sentiment that we all can agree is most important when we must say goodbye to our loved ones. Life often takes us full circle in our journey to destiny and purpose. For Pastor Cook of Newnan, Georgia, what once began as a childhood dream has brought him to Fairburn. The son of Terry Cook and Adriane Patrick, he was raised by his great grandparents.



A tribute to them, Pastor Cook always wanted to serve in ministry and lead as a funeral home director. However, as he excelled in academics, professors urged him to study business and finance. After graduating from Morehouse College, he found himself working on Wall Street at Morgan Stanley Securities in wholesale banking until he no longer quieted an internal calling to ministry. Leaving the finance world, he enrolled and graduated from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service and, in August 2014, entered Emory University Candler School of Theology's Master of Divinity Program.

Pastor Cook will tell you that of his many life experiences thus far, purchasing the property that is now the Cook Brothers Funeral Home is of his most cherished accomplishments. He is passionate about serving the community and offering enhanced funeral services that honor and celebrate life. Cook Brothers Funeral Home focuses on the details, providing comprehensive plans ranging from pre-planning and financial services to supportive resources and grief counseling. All end-of-life preparations include virtual options and live video streaming.

While on the property, families have full use of the grounds, with complements such as a premier coffee area, gift shop, reflection garden, state-of-the art chapel with lighting and technology to support video production. Cook Brothers Funeral Directors' offerings appeal to diverse individuals and families regardless of age, race, religion, or walks of life. The facility also provides access to a crematory, and urn selections onsite.

Pastor Cook is described as a passionate and socially conscious shepherd, which is reflected in the revitalization of the facility. From the selection of the eco-friendly sage green color scheme, to the technological innovations, the Cook family and staff are here in Fairburn to offer you and your family "Unforgettable experiences, for Unforgettable people." For more information, visit: [www.cookbrothersfd.com](http://www.cookbrothersfd.com) or contact Ms. Lucy McConnell, CFSP at 678-833-1001.



# COVID-19 vaccines offer Fairburn's frontline "Peace of Mind" (continued from page 1)

## WHEN WILL I GET MY VACCINE?

### Georgia Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends phases, or priority levels, for vaccination. These recommendations are used by the state to formulate its plan for vaccination.

#### Currently Vaccinating: PHASE 1a

As more vaccine becomes available, more people will be vaccinated.



Deputy Chief Anthony Badzylo was one of the first, "My goal is to lead by example and let my fellow officers know that the vaccine is safe." Deputy Chief Badzylo reflects a growing national concern of whether the vaccines are effective and safe?

Deputy Chief Badzylo completed the two-part vaccination in early January and reported no side effects. None of the Fairburn staff are experiencing health complications or issues. Of the frontline workers who also participated, CDC reports that the COVID-19 vaccines help equip the body with germ-fighting tools to destroy the virus. The body also builds up an immunity to the virus that protects against future occurrences. According to

CDC reports, they found that both vaccines were used in the U.S. (Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech), to reduce coronavirus infection by 95.5% in clinical trials.

According to published reports, vaccines in the U.S. began on December 14th with health-care workers, totaling approximately 27.3 million shots. Worldwide more than 87.1 million doses in 60 countries have been given (Source: Bloomberg). While the number of amounts given may seem relatively high, the medical community's growing concern is that not enough people consent to vaccinations. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. top infectious disease official, states that "70% to 85% of the U.S. population would enable a return to normalcy." Georgia has approximately 791,254 vaccinations, which is 54.9% percent of its supply and only 6.2% percent of the population.

The CDC reports we are currently in Phase 1A, which is immunizing all residents 65 and older, along with those ages 16 and older with certain medical conditions. The directive to open vaccines up in phases ensures that demand does not exceed supply. The CDC admonishes that everyone should get a vaccine as soon as it becomes available to protect themselves and others and stop the pandemic. While masks and social distancing help with the spread of the disease, vaccines work with our bodies' immune system to fight the virus if you are ever infected. Remember that those who are vaccinated should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing to prevent COVID-19 exposure and spread. For more information regarding CDC guidance, vaccine roll-out, and locations, visit: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)





# Black History: A *Celebration* of America's first named National Youth Poet Laureate

Accolades do not begin to describe the true beauty and essence of our nation's first National Youth Poet Laureate and founder of the nonprofit organization One Pen One Page, a youth writing and leadership program. Imagine diagnoses of a speech impediment, auditory processing disorder, and hypersensitivity to sound while a young girl during early development. Now, imagine overcoming all these challenges to become an American poet and activist, focusing on issues related to race, marginalization, feminism, and oppression.



*Amanda Gorman,  
American Poet, and  
activist*

Amanda Gorman is a force of nature and a young woman who early in life decided her disabilities would not define her. Instead, she would see them as a “gift and strength,” as explained by her childhood speech therapist Elida Kocharian. The daughter of a sixth-grade English teacher and single parent, Gorman is a twin and one of three children. Born in Los Angeles, California, the 23-year-old has spent most of her years writing. A self-described “weird child,” she recalls not watching television when she was younger and always being encouraged by her mother to apply herself to her studies.

The award-winning writer attended Harvard College, graduating cum laude in 2020, where she studied Sociology. Other accomplishments include becoming the first youth poet to perform at the Library of Congress and Lincoln Center, Glamour magazine College Women of the Year Awards, and her original poem recited at Super Bowl LV's pregame ceremony this year. Gorman believes that seeing obstacles as a gift is part of why she excelled in reading and writing. Her writing “The Hill We Climb” was a powerful declaration of grace and humanity at the 2021 Inauguration of President Joe Biden, however, for Gorman the poem is like an anthem of her story, the song of triumph that is yet fully pinned.

## Rhonda Appleby

Economic Development, Governmental Relations, Non-Profit, and Chair Fairburn Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

## Kimberly Bracey

Corporate Relations, Project Management, Supply Chain Demand, and Logistics

*Business Affiliation: Coca Cola Company*

## Leonte Benton

Commercial Real Estate, Commercial Developer, and Community Development

*Business Affiliation: T. Dallas Smith & Company*

## Paris Hill

Marketing, Entrepreneurship best practices, Restaurateur, and CEO of *Sliders Burger Joint*

## Apostle Danita Jones

Non-Profit, Community Development, Intergovernmental Relations, Housing and Urban Development, and CEO of *In His Great Name Ministry*

## Lee McMichael

Tourism, Hospitality, and Hotel Management

*Business Affiliation: Hampton Inn Atlanta/Fairburn/ Strand Hospitality*

## Mika Smith

Cosmetology, Business Administration, and Owner of HairLooms

## Isriel Young

Business Management, Youth Arts and Education, Dance, and Co-Owner *South Fulton Studios*

*Welcome*

2021

Main Street  
Board



# Campbell Creek Elementary School’s innovation during COVID-19 garners academic success

Remote learning is gaining momentum as parents take precautions to protect their children from potential COVID-19 exposure, instead of returning to in-person learning. The challenge, educators warn, is that students over time, can miss the full benefit of the in-school experience, both socially and academically. Educators are continuing to explore best practices for balancing the virtual and in-class instruction across their diverse body of students with varying learning differences and skill levels. At Campbell Creek Elementary, students are engaged in interactive projects to enhance learning. Programs include a STEM curriculum. Students also benefit from small class sizes for continuous one-on-one teacher interaction, and for students needing additional services, Campbell Creek Elementary encourages students to join the Extended Learning program that offers extra help for Grades 3-5. For more information parents can email Ms. Tyson at [tysonjl@fultonschools.org](mailto:tysonjl@fultonschools.org) or call 470-254-9132.

Campbell Creek Elementary has also launched ‘The COVID-NINE Teen Project’, which is an international project that Principal Leah McDaniel is connecting teen mentors with elementary school students. The program that is not affiliated with the Fulton County School system, is organized to keep participants active and inspired as many recreational activities remain virtual. Daily activities include one-on-one tutoring, classes like “Let’s Explore Environmental Science,” painting, animal appreciation, and more. Activity hours are Monday – Friday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Students receive support academically and with food resources. Campbell Elementary is a Fulton County Schools FoodStop site, which allows students to take home weekly supplies of fresh produce.

The City of Fairburn is partnering with Campbell Creek Elementary to address the impacts of COVID-19 and explore options to mitigate digital inequities with support in technology, gardening project, and other programming. We salute the work of Principal Leah McDaniel and faculty. This year a record number of Campbell students were inducted in a virtual ceremony on January 21<sup>st</sup> to the National Beta Club.



## Creative Placemaking in Downtown Fairburn

*(article continued from page 1)*

In April 2019, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) featured the city of Fairburn in, “Making the Case for Creative Placemaking,” which is a comprehensive plan for enhancing the city’s community identity. The city of Fairburn is a 2020 Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grants recipient. As Sam Shenbaga, Community Development Manager for ARC explained, “LCI grants have empowered communities across metro Atlanta to become more livable, walkable, and sustainable.”

While the 2020 LCI grant award to Fairburn is being used to update the Fairburn Downtown Master Plan, the growth and development to the downtown area is enhanced with quality art projects such as the mural designs slated for downtown, alley creative placemaking project, and the activation of the underpass located near Landmark Christian School.

The goal of creative placemaking is to showcase the city of Fairburn, establishing a sense of place that makes every day experiences within the community, remarkable. Fairburn, with its hometown charm, is situated as a thriving community of beautiful public spaces and people.





# AROUND FAIRBURN



The City of Fairburn is now the proud recipient of the Old Campbell County Courthouse. Fulton County transferred the deed to Fairburn's ownership in January 2021. Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst was presented the deed by Fulton County Commissioner Joe Carn, and joined by Fairburn's Councilman James Whitmore.



Mayor Carr-Hurst pictured at Campbell Courthouse reviewing historic photos and documents.



Director of Parks & Recreation John Culbreth, participated in a food giveaway at Cook Brothers Funeral Directors, giving away more than 150 meals to residents in conjunction with the City of Fairburn.



## FAIRBURN DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETING

YOUR FEEDBACK  
**MATTERS!**

JOIN US  
**THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18TH 2021  
TIME: 6:30PM VIA ZOOM**

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING  
USING THE LINK BELOW

[tinyurl.com/4rysrtbp](https://tinyurl.com/4rysrtbp)

 WATCH LIVE  
ON FACEBOOK

The City of Fairburn is updating its Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Downtown Master Plan, which has not been updated since 2009. This plan will help the city in continuing to invest in the pride of Fairburn and its Historic Downtown District by creating a vibrant and connected downtown where the people of Fairburn can live, work, and play.

The study will also focus on attracting the market and creating smart housing investment strategies, as well as create an action for strategic investment, targeted economic programming, and forging real estate partnerships.

For more information email: [FairburnLCIUpdate@fairburn.com](mailto:FairburnLCIUpdate@fairburn.com),  
or visit: [tinyurl.com/13J81kue](https://tinyurl.com/13J81kue)



# Upcoming Events



## City of Fairburn Virtual Meetings

- **City Council Meeting**
  - March 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM
  - March 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM
- **Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting**
  - March 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM
- **Main Street Board Meeting**
  - February 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM
  - March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM
- **Keep Fairburn Beautiful Interest- Community Ambassadors (CBA) Meeting**
  - March 12, 2021 at 1:30 PM

For more information or time changes visit:

[www.Fairburn.com](http://www.Fairburn.com)

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

Right now you can schedule to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by your local healthcare partners.

YourTown Health has partnered with the cities of Chattahoochee Hills, Fairburn and Palmetto to provide easy registration and vaccination opportunities.

Vaccinations are administered **Tuesday – Saturday** at the Palmetto Community Center ... **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.**

To schedule YOUR vaccination ...

- ONLINE: <https://www.yourtownhealth.com/contact-us/>
- PHONE: 770-463-4644



A caring, efficient vaccination program adapted locally for you by trusted community healthcare partners



**The Main Street Reader**  
Department of Community Development,  
Planning & Zoning  
**Main Street Program**  
26 W. Campbellton Street  
Fairburn, Georgia 30213

For advertisement, story ideas, features, and announcements contact:

**Sylvia Abernathy, Main Street Manager**  
[sabernathy@fairburn.com](mailto:sabernathy@fairburn.com)  
770-964-2244 ext. 127