



THE MAIN STREET READER

A biquarterly newsletter created to highlight the activities and events relating to the functions, growth, and development of our city. The mission of Fairburn's Main Street Program is to promote economic development and historic preservation in the Historic Downtown Commercial District building upon traditional community assets to include business owners, governmental agencies, educational leaders, developers, residents, and the overall population.



Volume 1 | Issue 3 | Back- To-School Edition "Embracing Change" August/ September 2020

"He worked on the side of angels, and now he is with them." Saying Goodbye to Civil Rights Icon

America said goodbye to U.S. Congressman John Lewis, of Georgia's Fifth District on July 17, 2020, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Heartfelt words celebrating his life came from former Presidents George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and Barack H. Obama, who gave the Eulogy. A bi-partisan memorial, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi commented, "We always knew he worked on the side of the angels, now he is with them." *(continued page 3)*

Fulton County Schools set to start with Universal Remote Learning, including a return to "face-to-face instruction"

Returning to school for students and families will require patience and flexibility, as plans continue to change to keep everyone safe. During its July meetings, the Fulton County Board of Education granted Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney sole authority to waive policies, coordinate, and implement learning schedules at his discretion, in response to the current public health crisis. *(continued page 5)*

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Business Spotlight: Cochran Mill Brewery lifts community spirits with “Craft” beer



Family owned and operated, Cochran Mill Brewing Company delivers its beer with a loving touch, fresh and organic. In what started as a hobby for owners Ed and Jett Hattaway, a father and son team from Chattahoochee Hills, GA, has become a passion for serving “traditional well-balanced craft beer.” The difference as co-owner Jett Hattaway explains, “is a small batch system that ensures a fresh taste in every pint.”

When we first met the Hattaway family, they were rehabbing the brewery with “the goal of maintaining the character of the building to reflect its history,” the family shares. Visiting Cochran Mill Brewery offers customers an intimate setting, like walking into your best friends’ family room. Jett recalls, “we picked this site because our family has been in the Fairburn area nine generations, a place that carries special memories.” They derived their name from Cochran Mill Park where they grew up as children. The park holds fond memories of hiking and other recreational activities and helped influence the environment they are cultivating for customers. However, opening the Brewery was not simply about connecting to history, even though the location is the original site for the Fairburn Ice & Coal Company circa 1893, which is located within the Downtown Fairburn LCI Study area. Cochran Mill Brewing Company is also about serving families and community, bringing people together, and a place to exchange ideas, while building meaningful relationships over a cold craft beer.

A fan favorite for quality of beer, casual setting, and open-food policy (you can bring your own food). Since their soft-opening in late March 2020, Cochran Brewing Company is on the forefront in taking COVID-19 precautions such as 90% percent of the brewery is open-air seating, indoor social distancing policy, online ordering, and curbside service promote customer safety and trust.

Whether you’re tasting a *Blonde Moment*, a light bodied ale with subtle aroma that is reminiscent of a walk along the hot springs or enjoying a summer afternoon, or a more traditional Scottish ale made in the traditional style, Cochran Mill Brewing Company has the flavor to fit your fancy. Other popular blends include *English IPA*, *Snow Swan Saison*, *Professor Ted’s Irish Red*, *Muller Hund Molasses Porter*, and the newest addition *Depot Street Amber Ale*. Tap room hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., weekends 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Customers may also book the location for their own events via email at info@cochranmillbrewing.com or contacting a team member at 770-892-1539. Visit www.cochranmillbrewing.com for a full list of offerings.



Partnership with City of South Fulton 'Keeps Fairburn Clean'



Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst speaks with Channel 2 Reporter Lauren Pozen.

From the looks of it, Irwin Street, a little-known dirt road that runs off Spence Road in Fairburn appears as a war zone. At first glance, the area is shrouded with trees and shrubbery that mask the apparent violation of the city's code forbidding illegal dumping. However, as a team of city of South Fulton and city of Fairburn staff entered the roadway, they encountered piles of garbage that included residential and commercial waste.

Items ranging from furniture and toilets, to personal effects like yearbooks, personal tax documents, and family photos, made it clear that this was not from one or a few individuals, but the actions of dumping trucks. An unfortunate problem for both cities, residents have complained of several sites throughout Fairburn that are becoming illegal dumping grounds. The danger to residents is apparent, and has not fallen on deaf ears, but has been taken up by the leadership of both Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst and Mayor Bill Edwards. "Dumping in our communities will not be tolerated," commented Mayor Carr-Hurst to WSB-Channel 2 and Fox 5 news reporters. Other problem areas include Rivertown Road, Harris Road, Senoia Road, along Virlyn B. Smith, and surrounding Landmark Christian school.

The City of Fairburn is working with business and community leaders to address the issues related to keeping the city clean. In addition to identifying hot spots for illegal dumping, the city is also looking at ongoing clean-up of the Downtown Fairburn Commercial Historic District in conjunction with streetscapes projects for beautification and placement of additional garbage receptacles. The City is also exploring a taskforce to introduce a Downtown Ambassadorship program to support businesses and community clean-up efforts. The team will represent a cross-section of business, community, and government representatives who share the passion for keeping Fairburn clean and thriving. The taskforce will offer clean-up solutions to enhance community awareness and pride.



Saying Goodbye to Civil Rights' Legend U.S. John Lewis

(continued from page 1) A man of and for the people, known for advocating for human rights, and his stance against segregationist. He was one of the organizers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), who energized the Civil Rights Movement with a peaceful march across the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma Alabama, on March 7, 1965 that is known as "Bloody Sunday." Two years earlier, he was among the youngest participants and a keynote speaker at the March on Washington in August 1963. Congressman Lewis was a voice for all Georgians, a champion of human rights and the Voting Rights Bill, often referred by his colleagues as the "conscience of the U.S. Congress."

Lewis saw America as "The Beloved Community." Once appointed as director of ACTION a federal volunteer agency under President Jimmy Carter, former City Council member for the City of Atlanta, and later elected to Congress, he spent more than 50 years serving diverse communities.



Mayors Elizabeth Carr-Hurst and Bill Edwards survey illegal dumping site with police and building and property management team



Fairburn Residents support 'Georgia: Know Your Status' program



Cars line up for mobile COVID-19 nasal swab and antibody testing. Technicians and medical staff prepare under tents to administer testing.

In a time when many governmental resources are strained by the demands related to small business recovery, educational support, food for low-income children and families, and more leaders are increasingly looking for innovative ways to make ends meet. Fairburn's relationship with its business leaders proved resourceful in providing no-cost testing to more than 347 residents during a testing event held at the Georgia Military College Parking Lot, 320 NW Broad Street, in downtown Fairburn.

The program is *Georgia: Know Your Status*, a mobile testing initiative to help local entities address socio-economic conditions related to COVID-19. *Georgia: Know Your Status* offers services that include antibody testing, telemedicine allowing participants to live chat with physician assistants regarding symptoms and consult with nurses and physicians onsite regarding exposure and family history. "Testing is as much about economic development as anything we do right now and helps us get back on our feet economically," explains Bianca Thrasher-Starobin of 23 Consulting, who was one of the providers. "People knowing their status, helps us get them the treatment they need to recover and get back on their feet socially and economically.



Participants were treated to complimentary doughnuts by King's Doughnuts of Fairburn, as they exited



Staff from city of Fairburn police, community & economic development, planning and zoning, parks and recreation volunteer to help Know Your Status medical team

The City of Fairburn received support in the fight against COVID-19 through an unlikely source; a public-private partnership with Sampson Transportation Tours and Dr. Damon Christian Kimes, a quadruple board-certified physician, featured on *Married to Medicine*.

Of the more than 347 participants tested, most have received their results and for many it is an important service that the City and *Georgia: Know Your Status* provided. However, as reported by lab processing companies throughout the nation, delays have occurred due to an abundance of submissions and oftentimes errors or missing information on forms. Dr. Kimes explained, "COVID-19 test results will be emailed to participants within 5-7 business days, with reporting in accordance to HIPAA Compliance."

For those who still have not received their results after that time, please contact the *Georgia: Know Your Status Hotline* (in association with Roswell Pain Specialist) 678-736-7680 for more information about 23 Consulting contact 678-640-6819.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Save the Date: August 7th 8AM-1PM COVID-19 Testing in partnership with Fulton County Health Department

Visit www.fairburn.com or the Fairburn app regarding schedule of events and upcoming meetings.

We want to hear from you.

Send us your pictures, stories, and special events to Main Street: sabernathy@gmail.com. You could be our next Business Spotlight!



Fairburn's multi-family developments increase mixed use opportunities

A proximity to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport is a mixed blessing for the City of Fairburn, based on the surge of interest by developers to construct Class A multi-family developments. "Fairburn is a good target for multi-family development," Fairburn's Director of Planning and Zoning, Tarika Peeks explains. "As the trend for a majority of adults to live in walkable neighborhoods, within a 10-15-minute walk to amenities continues, more multi-family developments that offer greater options will continue."

The City of Fairburn was recently featured in The Atlanta Business Chronicle, along with other cities such as Newnan and Fayetteville, as among the next up and coming areas for multi-family projects for apartment developers. Dense residential development provides cities like Fairburn the investment needed to attract more commercial business investment, which also helps create more mixed-use opportunities. Commercial development is already underway in Fairburn along Hwy 74. Peeks explained, "Businesses like Moe's Southwest Grill, Pita Mediterranean Street Food, Golden Krust Caribbean Restaurant, and Sherwin Williams represent a strong presence that will continue with more commercial development expected in the area this year."

Shortages of housing options in Atlanta contribute to the increase in multi-family housing in suburban areas. What has been a challenge for Atlanta has become a blessing for cities like Fairburn that offer more affordable options, available land parcels, and comparable amenities and resources. Ultimately, this growth will aid in revitalizing Fairburn's downtown as well. For instance, the city has received funding through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for an LCI Downtown Master Plan that will investigate the possibility of additional mixed uses in the downtown area. This will complement the city's streetscape project, which has begun construction. The streetscape project will offer transportation, safety, and beautification enhancements for downtown Fairburn.

Fulton County Schools set to start with Universal Remote Learning, including return to "face-to-face" Instruction



(continued from page 1) What this means for students is that the 2020-21 school year is scheduled to start on August 17, 2020 with Universal Remote Learning. A phased structure for in-person learning is planned for Pre-K – Second Grade students that is slated to begin after Labor Day. For parents, communication with teachers at their home schools is critical, considering some schools are opting to allow faculty to conduct classes from their homes rather than from the school building. In many cases, parents will have to correspond with their student's teachers solely, by email and phone.

According to Fulton County and Learn4Life Educational Consultant Dr. Ken Zeff, in a recent webinar sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission, "How to return to school amidst COVID-19," the significant challenges facing educational stakeholders and leadership, aside from public health and well-being, is digital inequities that exacerbate all other aspects of this new learning model. As many schools' grapple with the "how-to" and "when-to" resume in-person class instruction, virtual learning as the go-to option presents unique challenges for already vulnerable groups. As indicated in the ARC's webinar, students, on average, lost nine weeks of instruction related to the pandemic. The impacts include decreases in students' proficiencies in math, language, and reading across grade levels. Additionally, socio-economic conditions have resulted in further setbacks for some families with the loss of employment and wages that increase food insecurity and technological inequities related to access.

Schools and teachers are increasingly relying on the financial help and support of communities and local government. As the State of Georgia requires that all agencies, including the Board of Education, cut their budgets by 11% percent at the beginning of the 2021 fiscal year (AJC, 06/17/2020) However, Fulton County Schools offers help to parents and students alike through Student Support Services: www.fultonschools.org/studentsupport.

Special needs groups are particularly at risk. Administrators are exploring best practices for enhancing their efforts but encourage parents to connect with their student's case managers regarding available resources, sooner rather than later. Parents may reach the Office of Community Supports at 470-254-0499 or via email: schoolcommunityconnection@fultoncountyschool.org.



On the Horizon: New Developments



Construction signs are rising throughout downtown Fairburn with the start of the streetscapes project. The project will include median construction for approximately 12-18 months.

Downtown businesses open slowly but, purposefully

For many small businesses reopening is met with challenges regarding new governmental regulations and requirements, operating budgets, paying staff, and replacing loss revenues. However, according to new findings Main Streets are seeing increased opportunities, as malls are closed from the pandemic, retailers are looking closer to home for those willing to innovate.

In *The Dirt*, a journal published by American Society of Landscape Architects, Robert Gibbs describes a shift from traditional employment to entrepreneurship at a rate of 51 percent. He goes further to explain that, “As regional malls continue losing consumers due to changing shopping habits and fears of COVID-19, an excellent opportunity presents itself for villages, towns, and cities to regain their dominance as thriving centers for retail and entertainment. “Gibbs reflects a growing sentiment held by local business owners who are gathering confidence in exploring new ways to bring customers back to main street.

Here in Fairburn, local business owner Chris Wiley, reflects that while there have been challenges, he has been able to keep Oz Pizza open throughout the pandemic because of the support from the community, providing monthly, sometime weekly updates to customers through social media. He credits his ability to stay afloat on having an incredible staff of people, who he considers family. He believes innovation is key. While dine-in options have been discontinued, having a strong on-line presence, and pick-up option has kept orders going. Increasing patio space for outdoor dining has also help increase revenues. Oz Pizza believes in its people, community, and customers. “We control our destiny,” Wiley explains. Embracing a similar mantra, Main Streets are innovating, according to Gibbs’ report, “reinventing themselves, making them a more attractive alternative for retail shopping in the era of COVID-19.”

Other streetscape work includes enhancements along US 29 from Malone Street to approximately 175 feet north of Strickland Street. US 29 will remain four lanes. Other improvements include a 10 feet wide vegetated median, removal of the southbound right turn lane onto Campbellton Road, expansion of pedestrian facilities along the westbound side of US 29 and signal upgrades at Smith Street, Campbellton Road, and Dodd Street. Pedestrian improvements along the west of US 29 includes new granite header curb, brick paver sidewalks, street trees, raised planter beds, and new pedestrian street lighting.



Promoting and supporting our local businesses is vital to the success and growth of our downtown area. Through our economic development program, we are launching a new campaign to promote local dining options, small businesses, professional services and more in downtown Fairburn’s Historic Commercial District and citywide. If you are interested in complimentary listing of your business and placement in our upcoming directory, please send your contact information: sabernathy@fairburn.com. Reference: Fairburn First

The Fairburn Planning & Zoning Office is currently accepting resumes and letters of interest to fill vacancy on the following Commissions:

- **Planning & Zoning Commission**
The purpose of the Planning and Zoning Commission is to review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding development plans, special use permits, text amendments, zoning; and make a final decision on variance requests.
- **Historic Preservation Commission**
The purpose of the Historic Preservation Commission is to protect and enhance historical elements and beautification of the Historic Commercial District.

Candidates should send their resumes to:

City of Fairburn
Planning & Zoning Office
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, GA 30213

Or via email: kfrancis@fairburn.com

