



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 2 | Independence Day Edition: "Making progress by working together."

ARC's Livable Centers Initiative Awards \$100,000 to Fairburn for a Downtown Planning Study

By Tarika Peeks, Director of Planning & Zoning, tpeeks@fairburn.com

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a \$100,000 Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant to fund a *Downtown Master Plan* for the City of Fairburn. The grant is designed to help communities become more vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide improved access to jobs and services. Upon completion of the study, Fairburn will be eligible to apply for federal transportation funding for projects such as sidewalks, multi-use trails, and smart corridor improvements that help implement the plan. The Downtown Master Plan will provide a goal-oriented, strategically focused blueprint for creating a vibrant and economically thriving downtown area. The master plan will build upon the assets and advantages of the area as the "historic downtown node" of Fairburn, with its historic buildings, stage and courtyard, education campus, and proximity to Hartsfield Jackson Airport. Specifically, the Downtown Master Plan will help us address some needs in downtown such as: *(continued page 5)*

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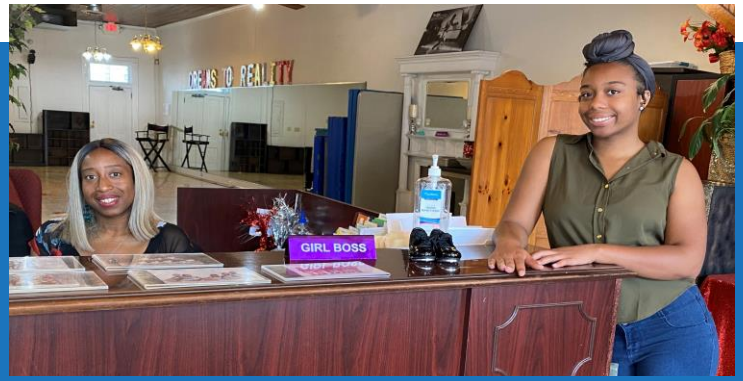
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Business Spotlight: Moving forward with Purpose, Welcoming Students Back

By Sylvia Abernathy, Main Street Manager, sabernathy@fairburn.com

Laughter from students entering South Fulton Dance & Performing Arts School is a sound Jacqueline Dolsey has grown accustomed to. Dolsey, a dancer herself, teaches the discipline of dance, taking young people with little or no experience to a competitive level. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Dolsey moved to Fairburn with the dreams of having her own dance studio to help “unlock the talent in young dancers, building their full potential,” daughter Isriel Young explains.

This mother-daughter business represents a story of triumph, a single mother of three who inspired her daughters to dance and achieve their dreams, pushing past many obstacles. Hers is a story about a life-long passion for seeing the young people in the community thrive and connect to the larger world of arts and entertainment. Dolsey explains, “I’ve always wanted my own studio,” a place in Fairburn, where the City offers, “a premier home for diverse performing arts programming in education, collaborating with artists, organizations, schools and community to encourage the creation, appreciation and understanding of the arts.” The city of Fairburn provides a welcomed space. “We love the antique feel Downtown Fairburn offers, especially with our shop on Broad Street,” states Dolsey.



“Art touches people in profound ways: in their understanding of themselves, their connection to local and world communities and cultures, and in their understanding of their own creativity.”

~Jacqueline Dolsey, Owner of South Fulton Studios

Customers come to South Fulton Studios to enhance their children’s performance readiness. Specializing in competitive dancing, having several local, state, and regional awards, they offer a variety of classes that include introductory ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop. They appeal to all age groups, offering an Adult Fusion class as well. Ms. Jackie and Ms. Izzy as their students affectionately call them were cautious about how to re-open. As they explain, “Safety is our first priority.” They have equipped the studio with cleansing stations and will check all visitors’ temperatures at the door. As an added precaution, social distancing stickers are placed for students to ensure safety. Virtual options began in March 2020 to allow those who were enrolled to complete their season. Plans are underway for fall and winter performances to enable students to showcase their talents. South Fulton Studios is currently accepting enrollment, with approximately 80 students, spaces are filling up. Dancing their way out of quarantine, the Studio has a Summer Boot Camp, and is also working in conjunction with Campbell Elementary School to help mitigate the stress and trauma caused by the public health crisis. The program starts June 15th -July 31st, with scholarships available and CAPS accepted. Register now at: www.southfultonstudios.com or call (770) 892-7157.

Community Development Moves Streetscapes Forward

Contributor Lester Thompson, Director of Community Development, lthompson@fairburn.com

Projects for downtown improvements are underway, and with the construction agreement for the Downtown LCI Streetscape Project recently executed by GDOT, businesses and residents will begin to see streetscape enhancements within the Downtown Historic District. The project includes the areas along US 29 from Malone Street to approximately 175 ft north of Strickland Street. Pedestrian improvements are included along US 29, with street trees, raised planter beds and new pedestrian street lighting, brick paver sidewalks and a grass buffer strip along with rehabilitation of the former Smith Street underpass. Downtown Fairburn, a quaint and compact area within the core of the city, consists of two blocks with historic buildings along Broad Street. It spreads the length of Broad Street, from Smith to Dodd Streets. The existing downtown showcases the unique character of the community with retail shops and restaurants; however, it lacks pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, limiting walkability. Additionally, as the main access road to nearby I-85, state routes 74 and 138, Fairburn’s downtown area has been a pass-through for commuters without notice of the downtown. *(continued page 4)*



*From the Mayor's Desk
"Community in Motion,"
Moving Forward Together*



*By Honorable Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst,
MayorHurst@fairburn.com*

Experiencing a national pandemic has forever changed how we function as a society. The strength of our community is our responsiveness and willingness to continue to work together. We must also embrace these challenges and adapt to a new normal in ways that are innovative and make us stronger than we were before.

Fairburn's Historic Downtown has tremendous potential in garnering new businesses and developments to make the area a major destination for art and entertainment. Historically, known as cutting edge for its transportation system, and as a banking town, Fairburn continues to embrace the future while remembering the past. A comprehensive revitalization plan is in the works, to transform Fairburn from a commuter town to a thriving town center with an abundance of retail, restaurants, entertainment, offices, and housing options. We are continuing to work with all our business and community leaders to coordinate and implement revitalization strategies to transform the downtown area. Creating a thriving community vision entails attractive public spaces, ample parking for visitors, infrastructure improvements followed by private developments. These enhancements will act as a catalyst for future growth and development in the downtown district.

The challenge is that transformations of this scale take time. Fairburn completed its first Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study in 2009. Since that time, the City has made significant strides even after a setback with the downtown fire in 2010 that destroyed three buildings along West Broad Street, which is now the Frankie Arnold Stage and Courtyard. New eating options are now in downtown, Sliders Burger Joint and Casablanca Café is coming soon. The City's Creative Placemaking Strategy will facilitate the creation of public spaces with public art that will continue to produce opportunities for community social interaction and leisure. A new mural will be calling Fairburn home soon! The City was recently awarded a Mural Grant from Go Georgia Arts; and to further enhance public art in the City, we have established the Fairburn's Art Advisory Council. The Council represents the community and will work with city staff to plan and execute public art projects throughout the city.

Fairburn's Historic Downtown is moving forward towards a thriving destination for business, art, and entertainment. We are looking to the future by cultivating a welcoming downtown district, with a comprehensive streetscape plan that will beautify our downtown with landscaping, benches, new street lighting, pedestrian walkways, and other enhancements. We are determined to remember Fairburn's history, embrace its future, strive to add new jobs, affordable housing, higher educational opportunities, and business growth and development. Fairburn's story is a multi-faceted one, encompassing a legacy of excellence in community services, representing various walks of life and across age groups. Fairburn is again, *Open for Business*. Measured in our approach to ensure the health and safety of our citizens, we are "Moving Forward Together" with a renewed commitment to push through the setbacks we face.





Community development moves forward with Streetscapes *(continued from page 2)*

Revitalization efforts have been at work for some time since implementation of the Historic Downtown Livable Cities Initiative (LCI) study in 2009, with dozens of roadway improvements and resurfacing projects completed. Projects impacting downtown include the Dodd Street Pedestrian Improvement, 2020 TSPLOST, improvements to Campbell Elementary School, and placement of sidewalks along Bohannon Road. The LCI program empowers Fairburn’s local government to implement strategies to link land use development and transportation improvement in a sustainable way. Dozens of road improvements and resurfacing projects around downtown and throughout neighboring communities provide the framework for having an attractive and vibrant city.

We continue to make progress by implementing projects that are community priorities. The benefit of the smaller-scaled projects is not always as noticeable but allow approval quickly, while more substantial improvements like the Northside and Southside Pedestrian bridges take longer. “Small projects add up and can really shape the look for downtown,” Director of Community Development, Lester Thompson explains. Under his tenure, the City of Fairburn, under the leadership of the Mayor and City Council have created more significant opportunities for growth and development downtown, along Hwy 74, and throughout the Industrial area. Fairburn is situated for continued growth and development by continuing to make our communities more attractive, walkable, and connected. By doing so, we are moving closer to a thriving town center that will offer more diversity of mixed-income residential neighborhoods, employment, shopping and recreational choices.



Parks and recreation innovate, amidst COVID-19 precautions

*Contributor John Culbreth, Director of Parks & Recreation
jculbreth@fairburn.com*

Fairburn’s Department of Parks and Recreation is exploring virtual options to ensure its residents continue to enjoy healthy living and well-being through events such as walking groups, junior golf, gardening, and Yoga. Safely opening the parks ensures the overall welfare of the Fairburn community, “tranquility of the mind, physiology of the body,” Director John Culbreth says. Although Fairburn’s parks and playgrounds are currently closed until further notice, upcoming programs include STEAM Summer Camp (Mental Fitness), Zumba, and Line Dancing, with plans for Youth Track & Field, Basketball and Football to resume at a date to be determined. A Fairburn Teen Empowerment group is also in the works.

For more information regarding upcoming programs call (770) 964-2244. Request for refunds for Parks and Recreation athletic or Duncan Park activities cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic should be directed to Jada Berry at jaberry@fairburn.com. The CDC’s guidance for parks recommends a soft opening of recreational facilities and admonishes to postpone or cancel organized activities and sports. When Fairburn’s parks open to the public, visitors are cautioned to enter at their own discretion. Signs are being placed advising on the COVID-19 social distancing policies and preventive actions. Pools will remain closed until further notice. Please visit www.Fairburn.com for more information about Parks & Recreation schedule you may download the City of Fairburn’s Mobile App to receive regular updates regarding services and upcoming events.



Fairburn Summer Program, Receives Public Funding Support

Contributor Jaclyn Colona, Executive Director Innovation Fund Foundation, contact@iffga.org



Georgia's Innovation Fund

The Georgia Foundation for Public Education and the Innovation Fund Foundation – the philanthropic arms of the Georgia Department of Education and the Governor’s office of Student Achievement – are awarding \$100,000 in COVID-19 Response Fund grants to Georgia districts and schools.

Campbell Elementary School will address the mental health and emotional impacts caused by the pandemic. The school will partner with the Atlanta Ballet, Fairburn’s South Fulton Dance Studio, Atlanta’s Mindfulness Institute, and other to implement a summer program focused on mitigating the stress and trauma caused by the public health crisis. “These programs go beyond education –we feel confident that they will address the consequences of the pandemic in schools, but also in the community,” IFF Executive Director Jaclyn Colona said. “The selected schools and districts will use this small investment to make a potentially long-term impact on the lives of students, families, faculty, and the community.”.

Campbell Elementary was one of more than 900 schools who applied for the program and was awarded \$10,000.

Education is a part of Fairburn’s story as a growing community for businesses and residents alike. Increasingly, the City is receiving support for its educational initiatives and partnerships. Fairburn’s educational campus, located along its Main Street corridor, houses both Brenau University and Georgia Military College and will soon be expanded to include a state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) academy, operated by Fulton County Schools. Fairburn will welcome a film school on its educational campus in by year’s end—more information on the project to come.

ARC’s Livable Centers Initiative Awards \$100,000 to Fairburn for a Downtown Planning Study *(continued from page 1)*

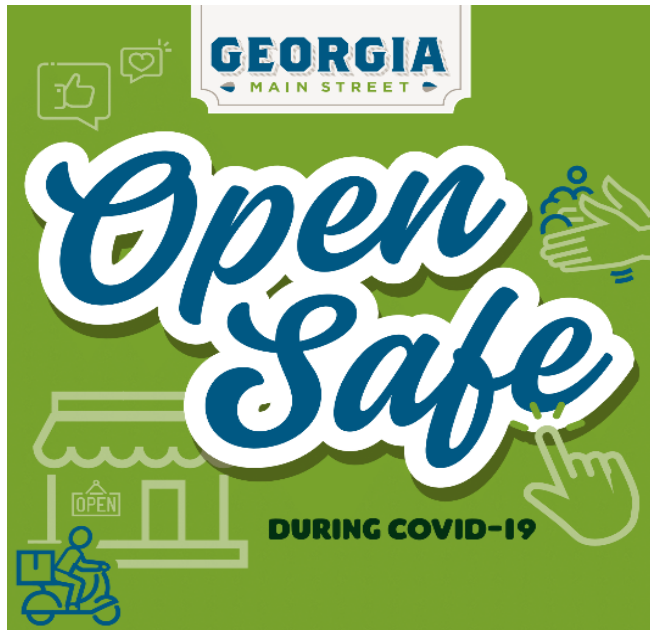
- More residential density with the inclusion of commercial uses;
- Additional parking;
- Improved curb appeal and cohesive architectural building style and historic preservation;
- Redevelopment of key areas in downtown to spur revitalization; and
- Implementation strategies (i.e. recommendations on the prioritization of projects, action plans with supporting maps)

The future is BRIGHT for downtown Fairburn!



Live Music @ Cochran Mill Brewing Co. Scotty Paulk 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm 27 Word Street Fairburn, GA 30213 770.892.1539	June 20th
Father’s Day	June 21st
Fairburn Feeding GA Families Mario Avery Park Washington Street Fairburn, GA 30213	June 27th
Casablanca’s Food Truck @ Cochran Mill 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm 27 Word Street Fairburn, GA 30213 770.892.1539	June 27th





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW TO
Open Downtown • Open Businesses • Engage the Public

Georgia Main Street offers resources to businesses as they begin to reopen, helping with strategies for engaging the public.

#OpenSafeMainStreet
@gamainst

*We want to hear from you!
Send your pictures & story ideas to:*

*Fairburn Main Street
Sylvia Abernathy
sabernathy@fairburn.com
(770) 964 – 2244 ext. 127*



Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Art Advisory Council	June 18 th @ 6:00 pm
DDA Board of Directors	June 23 rd @ 6:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Commission	July 7 th @ 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting	July 27 th @ 7:00 pm

We are convening the Fairburn Business Association that will provide complimentary business resources, marketing, and advertising to its members. Contact us at sabernathy@fairburn.com for more information.

Interested in joining the Historic Preservation Commission? All interested parties should forward a letter of interest and resume to:

Department of Community Development, Planning & Zoning
Main Street Program
56 Malone Street
Fairburn, Georgia 30213
Or send via email to: sabernathy@fairburn.com



FEEDING GA FAMILIES

BEAT COVID 19

ALL SENIOR CITIZENS
IN THE CITY OF FAIRBURN

SATURDAY JUNE 27

MARIO AVERY PARK
WASHINGTON STREET,
FAIRBURN, GA
(NEXT TO FAIRBURN CITY HALL)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FOOD GIVEAWAY

The City of Fairburn will host COVID-19 Testing in Collaboration with Margie's House (Food Drive) at Georgia Military College. Testing conducted by MAJL Diagnostic Laboratory.

320 NW Broad Street, Fairburn, GA 30213
Saturday, June 20 / 12 pm - 2 pm
Tuesday, June 30 / 12 pm - 2 pm

Free: Medicaid, Medicare & Uninsured with ID Insured Individuals: Antibody Test - \$100 Nasal Test - \$250 (Seek reimbursement from Insurance Company) Pre-Register: <https://covidtesttinow.com>

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Visit www.fairburn.com for more information