

PROGRESS

Chronicling Smart Growth and Development in Fairburn

August 2010, Volume 3, Issue 3

Development Authority Continues Its Mission

Inside this issue

Site Selector
Tour 3

Sidewalk
Stories Pre- 2

Southcreek
Project 2

Fairburn Festi-
val Returns to
Downtown 4



Championship Fields Project Back in the Game

Fairburn City Council voted to approved a resolution giving the Fairburn Development Authority the ability to execute a Letter of Intent to issue \$11 million in revenue bonds for use in a public/private partnership which will create the Championship Fields baseball and softball complex on Spence Road, one mile from I-85 and GA Hwy. 74.

Championship Fields , when completely finished , will contain an 18,000 square foot training facility and five fields, one of which will be a Signature Field replicating an old time ballpark

Once operational, the complex is expected to draw upwards of 70,000 visitors per year to Fairburn for both team and tournament play.

The impact of this regional facility which will draw teams from the metropolitan Atlanta area and beyond is expected to fill more than 20,000 hotel rooms and provide approximately 100 full and part-time jobs.

Plans include scholarships and summer jobs for Fairburn youngsters.

Jean Barkley Russell, Chair of the Development Authority noted , “The economic impact of the facility, according to a study done by Electric Cities of Georgia, is anticipated to be millions of dollars. Money spent by tournament participants, their families and spectators at our local business will prove enormously beneficial for years to come. It will be one of the most important economic development projects in the city in years.”



This quarterly newsletter is designed to inform Fairburn residents, property owners, business owners and others about events, challenges, changes and facts relating to Development in our City. This publication will keep you up-to-date on all development issues including news, highlights, events, business tips and tourism efforts.

Sidewalk Stories Fairburn Premiere

Originally launched in 2008 by People TV, *Sidewalk Stories* provides cities and organizations an opportunity to share stories about their communities in ways that accurately reflect their memories, values and ideals. Fairburn is the only city in the Atlanta region chosen to participate in this prestigious program in 2010.

Mayor Avery, members of city council, city residents and others attended the Fairburn Premiere of *Sidewalk Stories* on August 19 at City Hall. They were joined by the *Sidewalk Stories* project production crew of Anthony Bazydlo, Brenda Cooper, Tundra Jenkins, Gwen McCloud and Roberta Smith. Fairburn citizens who participated by sharing their stories during the months long taping of this project were in the audience as well.

At the conclusion of the presentation it was very clear that while our area is filled with a wide variety of communities that have countless stories to share about their beginnings, collective accomplishments and future visions, Fairburn's story, as told in this production, shows a community well on its way to becoming one of the "jewels in the crown" in our region.



Pictured left to right, Fairburn residents Roberta Smith, Brenda Cooper, Gwen McCloud, Tundra Jenkins and People TV staff Antoine Haywood & Shannon Terzo.

Sidewalk Stories is supported in part by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of Fulton County Arts Council, the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, and Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) though the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts.

Project "Bulldog" Underway in Southcreek Industrial Park



This 72 acre project currently under construction which will contain a 1.1 million square-foot distribution center that is expected to open in early 2011.

The distribution center is located on Creekwood Road, an extension of Oakley Industrial Boulevard on the west side of Hwy. 74.

June Site Selector Tour brings Economic Development Decision Makers to Our City

Selecting outstanding and easily accessible sites makes sound business sense for all parties involved.



The tour on June 15, enabled top consultants from government agencies and others, including the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Location Georgia/Electric Cities, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Fulton County Development Authority, Atlanta Gaslight and the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, to quickly evaluate our city for their clients as they narrow a "long list" and "short list" down to a few "finalist" locations for new businesses.

This “working” breakfast, industrial and residential site tour, followed by a “working” luncheon, was intended to help recognize the relevance of our city for future projects and served to reinforce the relationship between the site selectors, Development Authority members and City Staff, enabling them work more efficiently together on future projects.

It also provided valuable feedback and insights which can help our community improve our potential to attract the types of businesses and companies we seek. This information will enable us to recognize relevant market opportunities which may have been overlooked or underestimated.

“We think we successfully showcased Fairburn as a city which can be counted on to get the job done for development projects with demanding schedules,” said Mayor Avery during closing comments at the luncheon following the tour. His sentiments were echoed by Jean Barkley Russell, Development Authority Chair, when she said, “Fairburn is ‘*open for business*’ and you can always expect that projects you bring our way will be welcomed by a group of dedicated, enthusiastic, professionals who will extend every effort on your behalf.”

Additional tours for other Economic Development decision makers who were unable to join us in June are scheduled for September.

The Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Freight Depot. The public is encouraged to attend. We're on the web. Visit us at www.fairburn.com. The joint Authority is composed of seven (7) members appointed by the City Council and recognized by the State of Georgia as a public corporation with a specified set of powers and a specific purpose and mission to:

- Develop and promote for the public good and general welfare, trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities within the city
- Revitalize and redevelop the central business district
- Issue bonds to finance projects within the city

Authority Members

Jean Barkley Russell, Chair, Steve Thomas, Vice-Chair, Hal Shields, Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Couch, Ray Hannah, Danita Jones, Dyan Matthews

Development Authority of Fairburn
c/o City Hall P.O. Box 145
Fairburn GA, 30213

PRESORTED STD RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
PEACHTREE CITY, GA
PERMIT NO. 91

Or Current Resident



Fairburn's Festival of Arts, Antiques and Music Returns

Fairburn's Festival of Arts, Antiques and Music will be held Saturday, October 2, 2010 in downtown Fairburn. In addition to artists and antique exhibits, the festival will also feature food vendors, musical entertainment, children's activities and the Fairburn Festival Parade. For updated details and information visit the Fairburn Festival page at www.fairburn.com

This newsletter is published by the Development Authority of Fairburn to promote the affairs of the Authority as well as to highlight programs and activities of affiliated groups. You can direct comments, suggestions and questions to Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority at econdev@fairburn.com or call 770.969.6315 Editor: Patrick Pallend