

PROGRESS

Chronicling Smart Growth and Development in Fairburn

May 2008, Volume 1, Issue 1

Newly Appointed Development Authority Revs Up Fairburn

The members of the Development Authority /Downtown Development Authority of Fairburn (DA/DDA) are very energized about the great potential that exist in Fairburn for positive growth that will continue to support the quality of life that exists in our city. One of the authority's first initiatives is the development and publication of this economically focused newsletter, PROGRESS. 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.

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City Breaks Ground on New Campus

The City of Fairburn hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on February 25 to launch the first phase of Fairburn's Educational Campus. The Campus, a \$10 million project funded primarily by the City of Fairburn through a bond issued by the Development Authority of Fairburn is located at 326 West Broad Street at the intersection of Highway 29, West Broad Street and Barton

Drive, approximately one-half mile from the center of Downtown Fairburn. Construction for Phase I is already underway and will be completed by Fall 2008, in time for principal tenant Georgia Military College to begin classes. Phase I of the new complex will consist of two classroom buildings, the administration building and two retail buildings all

designed to fit in with the historic architecture in The Fairburn Educational Campus will eventually consist of four 18,400 square-foot brick classroom buildings, an 11,400 square-foot administrative building and two 2,000 square-foot retail buildings.



In welcoming the audience of Fairburn residents, guests, local business and political leaders, GMC staff and Fairburn City employees Mayor Hannah noted "The impact of this Educational Campus on the citizens of the City of Fairburn and the students of Georgia Military College will prove to be enormously beneficial for all the years to come."

Committees & Volunteer Opportunities

The Development Authority is seeking a group of dedicated and supportive volunteers. Opportunities abound for interested residents, business leaders and others to assist in our efforts. Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of at least three to five hours per month.



The **Design Committee** will be concerned with finding ways to enhance the physical appearance of the commercial district by rehabilitating historic buildings, encouraging supportive new construction, developing sensitive design management systems, and long-term planning.

The **Organizational Committee** will seek to build consensus and cooperation among the many groups and individuals who have a role in the revitalization process. Volunteer Development, Strategic Planning, Fund Raising, and Advocacy will be part of this process.

The **Promotions Committee** works in the areas of Marketing and Public Relations, Image Development, Retail and Business Promotions, and Special Event Planning.

The **Economic Restructuring Committee** will seek to strengthen the district's existing economic base while finding ways to expand it to meet new opportunities and challenges from outlying development.

We invite you to add your talents to continue to help make the Fairburn DDA a rousing success. To volunteer, simply complete and return the volunteer application form inserted into this edition to City Hall. You can also access the form on the Development Authority page at www.fairburn.com.

Member Spotlight



John Carr has over 30 years experience working with children and adults. Dr. Carr received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After graduating from Southern, he received degrees from the University of Minnesota (MA), Georgia State University (Ed.S) and Atlanta University (Ed.D).

Dr. Carr's professional career includes work as a middle school and high school teacher, high school assistant principal, elementary principal, professional development coordinator, instructional coordinator, area assistant superintendent and assistant superintendent for secondary instruction. Currently, Dr. Carr works with parents referred by the courts in the areas of anger management, domestic violence and effective parenting strategies. In addition, he works as an educational consultant with Developing Minds, Inc.



Dr. Carr and his wife, Jacquelyne have been residents of Fairburn since 2006.

In each issue of **PROGRESS** we'll provide information about members of the Authority who serve our city and our citizens.



Stephen Thomas is President and co-founder of Production Tool and Gage, Inc., a design and build firm that provides synergy services to international markets. Steve, a provider of customer specific turnkey quality control gauging systems that includes gauge design and build, statistical software and computer interface, performs installations all over the United States as well as in Europe, Africa, Saudi Arabia, Southeast Asia, China, Central and South America. A long-time resident of Fairburn when Steve isn't traveling, he's working to renovate the historic home he lives in with his wife Gloria. Steve is active in his church and is an AWANA Leader of 5th and 6th graders.

**The Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority Meets The Third
Monday Of Every Month At Fairburn City Hall At 4:00 pm.
The public is encouraged to attend. We're on the web at www.fairburn.com**

The Development Authority & the Downtown Development Authority is composed of seven members created and 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:

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



Entrance to Southpark Industrial Area

Development Authority Members

Term expires

Ray Hannah, Chair	01/31/12
Jeff Couch	01/31/12
Hal Shields, Secretary/Treasurer	01/31/12
John Carr, Sr.	01/31/10
Steve Thomas	01/31/10
Jean Barkley Russell, Vice-Chair	01/31/10

New Director of Economic Development Will Soon Be On Board

City Council voted unanimously to create a new Economic Development Program, to approve an amendment to the 2007-2008 budget to provide \$130,000 to finance the operation of the Program, to approve a change to the City's Organization Chart to add a new Department of Economic Development, and to approve a job description for the position of Director of Economic Development.

City Council is reviewing a Proposed Ordinance for the creation of a **Historic Preservation Commission** and is in the process of discussing the creation of a **Community Design Review Board** for the Historic District, Broad Street, Senoia Road and GA 74.

Loft Space May Be In Your Future

On March 24th the Fairburn Development Authority considered a proposed ordinance to allow residential loft apartments in the DC Zoning District. City Council conducted a public hearing on this ordinance change at the Council meeting on April 14 and then voted unanimously to approve this change.

Before too much time passes you may be able to walk to dining establishments, stroll to shops, meet friends for a coffee or other beverage and return to your loft home right here in Fairburn. There's no other place on the Southside of Atlanta quite like it.

Current Development Activities On Oakley Industrial



Score Indoor Sports, the Southside's newest indoor soccer and sports complex opened in mid-April at 1245 Oakley Industrial Boulevard West. General Manager Graham Tutt, pictured at left, is looking forward to welcoming area residents to the facility. Tutt says, "We are committed to your family's complete fun, exercise, recreation and relaxation programs for all ages and offer a full range of activities for schools, church and business groups. We're available for special event needs as well.



Additional retail construction is underway on Highway 74 at The Shops at Old Campbell.

Try Something New In Downtown Fairburn!

Whether you're a first time visitor to Downtown Fairburn or have lived here for years, we invite you to try things that you've never done before in the downtown district.



Fairburn's Education Campus—Under Construction



Fairburn's Historic Main Street

- Stop by the Education Campus site and follow construction progress.
- Buy a slice of pizza or a calzone.
- Tour the Fire Department with your kids.
- Bring your family to the Memorial Day Commemoration, May 26th on the steps of the Old Campbell County Courthouse.
- Have a picnic at Freight Depot Gazebo.
- Visit a shop or restaurant you've never tried before.
- Meet a friend for a cup of coffee or an ice cream.
- Visit a local bakery.
- Attend a performance at the Southside Theatre Guild.
- Stop by the Farmers' Market on Saturday Mornings.