

PROGRESS

Chronicling Smart Growth and Development in Fairburn

November 2008, Volume 1, Issue 3

Development Authority's First Class Success

Educational Campus Celebrates Grand Opening

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The City of Fairburn hosted a Grand Opening on November 18, celebrating the first phase of Fairburn's Educational Campus for principal tenant Georgia Military College, a Liberal Arts Junior College.

The City's vision for the establishment of a strategically located campus within its Downtown Historic District has become a reality. The Grand Opening Celebration was another milestone along the way in this exceptional and unprecedented \$10 million project funded by the Development Authority and the City of Fairburn.

Mayor Betty Hannah, in her welcoming remarks noted, "Just nine short

months ago when we broke ground for the campus, I indicated the economic impact of this project on the citizens and the City of Fairburn would prove to be enormously beneficial. That impact is already noticeable according to several of our local retailers. Anchor tenant Georgia Military College moved in on October 13, with 78 full and part-time instructors and staff and an enrollment of 550 students from all over metro Atlanta. Classes are held everyday of the week. The addition of over 625 people to our city each week is true economic development."

Highlights of the day included the appearance of the GMC Drill Team and the Campbell Elementary School

Chorus. Music was provided by the Creekside High School and Bear Creek Middle School Bands.

Over 400 people attended the official opening of the campus. Featured speakers included Campus Director Deborah Condon, Major General Peter Boylan, President of Georgia Military College, Atlanta Technical College President Dr. Alveta Thomas and Georgia State Senator Ronnie Potts.

The four-acre 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.



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.



Additional Grand Opening Photos

Ray Hannah, Development Authority Chairman noted, “Ultimately, we envision our campus as a first class educational venue incorporating adult and technical education and customized business and industry workforce training. This combination of programs, courses and services will enable the city of Fairburn to be recognized as the intelligent choice for South Metro Atlanta residents seeking post secondary training and lifelong educational experiences; and for companies and organizations requiring customized training and retraining services.”

Member Spotlight

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

Hal Shields is the Development Authority Secretary-Treasurer. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Hal holds a Master’s degree from Emory University and a Ph. D. in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University.

Hal retired from the Fulton County School System in 1991 after a career spanning 35 years. He served in variety of positions including classroom teacher at Campbell High School here in Fairburn and then continued his career with Fulton County Schools as Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

As a member of the Fairburn Development Authority and a resident of Fairburn for 61 years , Hal brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our city and our citizens.



Jeff Couch, a principal in Couch Realty has been restoring historic properties for over 20 years in Alabama, Atlanta and in Fairburn. In the last eight years Jeff has concentrated his energy in the restoration of buildings on our Main Street and attracting new businesses to Fairburn. He has single-handedly been his own Development Authority in renovations of historic properties at 98 West Broad Street, 110 West Broad Street, 136 West Broad Street and 123 East Broad Street.

With a keen interest in design, Jeff understands the importance of enhancing the attractiveness of our Downtown Business District. He has been one of the driving forces behind Fairburn’s involvement in the Main Street program. An Army veteran with a marketing degree from the University of Alabama, Jeff is also a talented musician who can often be heard picking and singing at the Farmers’ Market on Saturday mornings.

Development Authority Seeks Your Input

Maintaining a healthy business environment is a high priority for the City of Fairburn. A healthy business sector provides the resources necessary to sustain jobs and services for our citizens and area residents. Along with initial efforts for our Main Street program the Development Authority is considering additional strategies to improve the City's revenue base, create jobs for area residents and provide for the overall well being of our business community.

We're asking new and established businesses to communicate with the Authority in order to determine programs and activities which can be developed to address your company's needs. We'd like to hear from you. Phone 770. 969. 6315 or email econdev@fairburn.com.

Ongoing discussion with **Atlanta Technical College** and other institutions as potential additions to our Educational Campus continues. We have created an online survey and are **seeking input from business owners and managers in the Fairburn Business Community**. Responses to the survey will enable Atlanta Tech and others to reach a decision about opening satellite operations here and will help us to insure information, training and educational resources will be more readily accessible to citizens. Ultimately additional educational institutions will strengthen and elevate the City's economy by enabling area residents to become highly skilled graduates ready to meet the demands of the future.

Here's your chance to share information about your training and occupational needs. You can access it online in the dropdown menu on the left hand side of the city website at www.fairburn.com. Look for Community Business Needs Survey. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. It will help us help you.

Additions to Downtown

Fairburn Sporting Goods is now open at 23 W. Broad Street. Owned by husband-and-wife team James and Japonika Crawford, the store carries sports equipment, team uniforms, cheer and dance apparel, trophies and more.

Personal Touch Medical Center recently opened at 65 West Campbellton Street. Dr. Latasha Burgess is a board certified Family Physician. Medical treatments include Physical Exams/Preventive Care, Diabetes Screening and Management, Hypertension Screening and Management, Women's Health and Elder Care.



The Development Authority/Downtown Development Authority meets at 4:00 pm on the third Monday of every month at City Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. We're on the web at www.fairburn.com. The Authority is composed of seven (7) 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 projects within the central business district that will develop and promote the public good and general welfare
- Issue bonds to finance projects

Authority Members : Ray Hannah, - Chair, Jean Barkley Russell, - Vice-Chair, Hal Shields, Secretary-Treasurer, John Carr, Sr.,

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Main Street Program a Step Closer

The initial on-site visit by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Downtown Development (**ODD**) took place at City Hall on September 15. Martha Reimann of the **ODD** staff met with key stakeholders, the Mayor and members of City Council and the Downtown Development Authority to provide information and outline the steps in the process. A question and answer session followed. The meeting was a critically important first step for the City in moving forward in attaining Main Street status. Additional meetings will be scheduled for key stakeholders and members of the community. The Development Authority will be seeking a group of dedicated and supportive volunteers to assist in this effort. All citizens are encouraged to participate. Updated information will be made available on the city website at www.fairburn.com.

It is of interest to note that investing in downtown development has returned some significant dividends statewide. **Since 1980, in Georgia Better Hometown and Main Street Cities, over 7,000 net new businesses and over 36,000 net new jobs have been created in cities under 50,000 in population, for a total public and private sector investment of over \$1.7 Billion!** That is reason enough for city leaders to continue to nurture the heart and soul of their city - its downtown.



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