

# Fairburn Connect

MAY 2022



## April Events

City Council In-Person Meetings:  
May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 PM  
Planning & Zoning Meeting:  
5/3 @ 7:00 PM

- Fitness In the Park 5/14
- Third Fridays -Taste of Fairburn Kick-Off 5/20
- Duncan Park Pool Opening Day 5/28



## City of Fairburn

56 Malone Street  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
770-964-2244 City Hall  
770-964-3481 Utilities  
770-964-1441 Police



## Mayor Mario Avery Councilmembers

Mayor Pro Tem Hattie Portis-Jones  
Linda J. Davis  
Alex Heath  
Pat Pallend  
Ulysses Smallwood  
James Whitmore

## Fairburn Welcomes New Team Members

A commitment to excellence is one of the primary goals for the City of Fairburn's leadership in keeping a promise to restore the staffing levels to full. Fairburn's population continues to grow, with an estimated 5,800 new residents by 2040. Population growth projections are at 37% percent, increasing demand for governmental services, and subsequently requiring more staff. Fairburn is proactively addressing its staffing needs, particularly in administration, police, fire, utilities, and the streets departments.

City Administrator Tony Philips in his monthly report to the council reported hiring nine new employees across five departments. Notably, City Clerk, Brenda James, Assistant Administrator Jamila Criss, MPA, Executive Assistant Tasha Goodine, and Human Resources Director TaLisha Champagne, MBA, PHR

## Employee Highlights



JCriss@fairburn.com

City of Fairburn, Assistant Administrator Jamila Criss brings more than ten years of progressive leadership experience. Formerly Executive Assistant to the City Manager of South Fulton; as Special Projects Manager for the Safety Housing Allowance Program, she led a team of more than 15 employees and managed the Community Block Grands (CDBG) for Fulton County and assisted with the formulation of the FY2019-FY2022 balanced budgets. Ms. Criss holds a Master of Public Administration degree and is currently participating in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) comprehensive two-year Emerging Leaders Development Program (EDLP).



TChampagne@fairburn.com

Human Resources Director TaLisha Champagne joins the Fairburn team with over 15 years of Human Resources experience; as a certified professional, she will administer programs. Achieve organizational objectives, facilitate, and customize professional development, enhance human resources policies and procedures, and promote employee morale. Ms. Champagne holds national and local memberships with the Georgia Public Employees Labor Relations Association (GAPELRA), carries a Master of Business Administration degree, and is completing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership.

## City Offices Re-Open

The City of Fairburn will re-open all City facilities on Monday, May 2, 2022, following a convening of a team of staff to develop a plan for ensuring the safety of employees and visitors.

The plan allows opening of offices and a return to in-person City Council meetings, Board and Commission meetings, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) best practices and guidelines.

As the City returns to in-person meetings, the administration and staff will continue to monitor and make recommendations as needed.

## Georgia Cities Week, Shaping the Future

Fairburn hosted a week of events sponsored by departments within the organization to engage citizens and showcase city services. The statewide campaign by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is designed to bring awareness about local government and spotlight events happening throughout cities. This year's theme was "Shaping the Future."

Kicking off on Saturday with a citywide "Spring Clean Up and Shred-It" event, more than 200 residents participated. Other events included "Citizens Day" at the Georgia Renaissance Festival. With record numbers of more than 190,000 people visiting the event since its opening on April 9th, Fairburn proved a great day. Families enjoyed an evening of story readings, crafts, and more during "Education Night" and Public Safety presentation. City Officials hosted a bus tour and Fridays on Main Street's Concert at the Frankie Arnold Stage & Courtyard, with live music and vendors, showcasing Fairburn businesses.

"City government is truly a government of, by, and for the people – the people making the decisions about our community are your neighbors, business owners, and community leaders," said Mayor Mario B. Avery. "We are in this together, and we want our city to thrive."



## May Celebrations

- Cinco de Mayo – May 5th
- Mother's Day – May 8th
- Celebrating All Graduates

Commemorating Memorial Day – May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Remembering & Honoring those we lost in  
service to our Country.



## AROUND FAIRBURN: Business Spotlight Golden Krust Caribbean Restaurant

For a taste of the Caribbean, one need only visit the Golden Krust Restaurant along Hwy 74 in Fairburn. Delectable entrees like oxtails and beef patties are on the menu daily, meals bursting with flavor ranging from the curried chicken and goat to jerk pork and curried shrimp. Daily lunch specials allow you to taste a new dish weekly.

Natives of Jamaica, owner-operators Pat and Rohan Scafe initially met in high school. Still, their paths would lead them in different directions, Pat to Charlotte as former Senior Wealth Management Consultant, and Rohan is a Mechanical Engineer. A chance meeting would bring them back together to marry, start a family, and move to Georgia.

Passionate about creating a business that would serve the community, Pat set on a journey to how she could combine her financial expertise and love of Jamaican cuisine. After detailing a 70-page business plan, her dreams began to take shape. However, the road was not easy and would take nearly a decade to fruition. Overcoming health challenges, raising a family, and saving enough to buy a Golden Krust franchise, Pat's dream became a reality with their grand opening in the Fairburn Commons Plaza in 2021. "We knew we wanted to locate our business in Fairburn," Pat explained. "Owning a business in Fairburn is a lifelong dream fulfilled God prepared us for this opportunity; while there have been many challenges along the way, it is good stress because everything we see when we serve the community."

Golden Krust at Fairburn Commons is a thriving business that provides "outstanding food," according to customers. Experience authentic Jamaican cuisine and its finest weekly Monday – Saturday, 9:00 am-9:00 pm, and Sunday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Contact 678-829-3548.