



Locust Grove Flyer

February 2010

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY FOR 2009

Big Projects. In 2009, the City saw the culmination of plans for new projects that will be breaking ground early this year, including the much anticipated Wal-Mart supercenter. This 155,820 square foot store is the newest prototype and incorporates both groceries, department store, and garden center items. The store will be located off Bill Gardner Parkway on a new road connecting Tanger Boulevard to Highway 42.

Zaxby's to Relocate. As part of the new development a new Zaxby's will be constructed along the new roadway adjacent to the new Wal-Mart Supercenter. The new store will likely employ approximately 200 persons and

is anticipated to open in late 2010.

IMR Study. With new development, the City began in late 2007 a process to improve the I-75 interchange with Bill Gardner Parkway. A feasibility report was submitted to GaDOT for review in late 2008, and then a redrafted version was approved in the middle of 2009. RS&H Engineers will begin the full Interchange Modification Report study this month at a total cost of \$185,000. This amount is substantially under the original budget set in the SPLOST III project list.

Census. Finally the 2010 Census is underway. Forms will be mailed out beginning late this month and throughout March. Census Day is April 1, 2010 and deter-

mines both US House seats, local district boundaries, and is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal and state funds. BE COUNTED. The forms consist of only 10 questions and take 10 minutes.

Public Works/Trailhead/Connecting Trails. Also beginning is relocating public works to have new park downtown and new trails to connect to Tanger. Over \$750,000 in ARRA Stimulus Funds.

Tim Young,

Community Development Director

MESSAGE FROM BETTER HOMETOWN

The year 2009 will long be remembered in the city of Locust Grove. Downtown businesses grew, building facades in historic downtown changed, and a new look was created. Pedestrian traffic on sidewalks increased, the downtown pocket park saw additional events being held, new businesses opened, and the addition of a new traffic light at Peeksville Road helped eliminate some traffic congestion. The Better Hometown program reached new accomplishments and created new events for our downtown.

Christmas downtown was cold and windy but citizens turned out in good numbers for events and shopping. Merchants decorated their windows and the look was festive. Winners of the window contest in downtown were as follows:

First Place went to Zack's Properties office building. Zack's was one of the first buildings in downtown to implement a new façade. Second Place went to Heather's Flowers. Heather's business has grown and expanded as she has added wedding gowns, linen rentals, and tuxedos to her inventory. There were two (2) third place winners. Butterfly Barn, a children's clothing consignment shop that also carries nursery furniture and baby items and Old South Ceramics where you can paint your own ceramic treasure while visiting with others who are doing the same. "Thank you" to all of our businesses who decorated their windows and helped make our downtown area bright and inviting during the Christmas season.

Our Better Hometown program is always looking for volunteers to help with our downtown events. If you would like to volunteer, please call Linda Hutchison at 770-692-2320. Volunteering is a great way to support your community and to make new and lasting friendships. Review the calendar of events and take advantage of the many free opportunities for family entertainment.

Linda Hutchison,

Downtown Development Coordinator

**EASTER EGG HUNT****April 3**

Annual Easter egg hunt for ages 2yr-6th grade at the Locust Grove City Hall complex. Easter bonnet/hat contest for adults and children. Tanger gift certificates will be awarded for the most colorful, largest, and most unique bonnets/hats. Event begins at 10:00am

LOCUST GROVE DAY**April 24**

The City of Locust Grove will hold its' annual Locust Grove Day event on April 24, 2010. The parade will begin at 10:00am at the Locust Grove library and travel through historic downtown Locust Grove ending at the City Hall complex where the festivities of the day will take place. There will be arts and crafts, food, games, and entertainment throughout the day. The event is free to the public. For more information call 770-957-5043. To participate in the parade please call 770-692-2321.

GROOVIN IN THE GROVE**May 8**

The fifth annual "Groovin in the Grove" event will be held on May 8, 2010. Come join us for an evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Tables for eight are available. For more information or to purchase a table call 770-692-2320.

PEACH STAND ROAD RACE**May 22**

The 3rd Annual 5K Peach Stand Road Race will be held on May 22, 2010 at 8:00am. It will begin and end at the Gardner Farms Peach Stand on Hwy 42 in Locust Grove. For more information, or to receive an application, please call 404-867-7954.

JULY – SEPTEMBER

The 2nd and 4th Friday nights during the months of July – September enjoy music in historic downtown Mayors Walk Park. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic and enjoy a free event for families.

OCTOBER

The 2nd and 4th Friday nights in October free coffee and story telling is happening in Mayors Walk Park. Our first story night will be stories from the Grove. Featuring long time residents of Locust Grove telling tall tales of ghosts, friends, and acquaintances of Locust Grove. The 4th Friday night will be Ghost Stories and a visit by Johnny Appleseed.

SCARECROW VILLAGE**October 2-31**

Businesses are invited to display a scarecrow advertising their business in the downtown scarecrow village area during the month of October. Families as well as civic groups are also encouraged to participate. We invite citizens to visit the scarecrow village and enjoy the display of various kinds of scarecrows throughout the month. For more information, call 770-692-2320

LIGHTING OF THE TREE**November 25**

The annual lighting of the Locust Grove Christmas tree will feature various singing groups and choirs beginning at 7:00pm with the arrival of Santa at the close of the program. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras for pictures with Santa.

CHRISTMAS IN THE GROVE**December 4**

The City of Locust Grove and the Locust Grove Better Hometown will sponsor their annual Christmas Downtown on December 4, 2010. This is a free event for children and adults and features a parade, stage entertainment, food, train rides, rock climbing wall, craft activities and the arrival of Santa via the Locust Grove fire truck. Downtown merchants also participate through "open house" where you may visit their stores and shop for that special Christmas gift. Refreshments are provided in each establishment and merchants welcome your visit. The Downtown Development Authority will have a hotdog stand where you may purchase hot dogs and drinks. The festivities are from 10:00am – 2:00pm.