It’s been more than three decades since the City of Stockbridge had its own police department. Come 2014, Stockbridge’s Finest will be patrolling our streets, educating our citizens on how to be safe, and contributing to the quality of life our growing city deserves.

In July, the City Council approved the creation of the Stockbridge Police Department. “Our total objective is to protect and serve our citizens,” said Mayor Mark Alarcon. “This is the time, the date, the hour that we need to bring this service back.”

Stockbridge is the only city in Henry County that does not have its own police force. The city contracts with the Henry County Police Department for our public safety services. The Council’s move is no way a reflection of a lack of professionalism or commitment on the County’s part over the years. We are so grateful for their partnership.

The move to have a Stockbridge Police Department means a greater law enforcement presence and more officers familiar with our streets and our greatest asset, our people. “We want more zone integrity,” Mayor Alarcon said, “which means that a police officer knows when a citizen leaves his house at 3 a.m., he isn’t looking to commit a crime but is on his way to work the third shift.”

Our own police also mean more opportunities for Neighborhood Watch programs, a citizen’s police academy and public safety training for residents. “We are not ever going back to Mayberry,” said Mayor Alarcon, referring to the show centered on a mythic small town and its folksy sheriff that so many of us grew up watching. “But there is a personal touch that can be infused that can make our citizens and businesses feel safer and more comfortable.”

Councilman Harold L. Cochran was on the City Council that voted some 35 years ago to abolish the city’s police department. Finances were an issue then as was criticism that Stockbridge police were supposedly operating a speed trap. Councilman Cochran, who for years served on the public safety and finance committees, says the city is ready to have its own department again. “We need to have officers in the neighborhoods all the time,” the Councilman said. “The county does a good job but a lot of times they will be called somewhere else.”

Under an intergovernmental agreement and a Service Delivery Strategy, Henry County taxes Stockbridge property owners more than $1.1 million to provide police services at the same level it does in the unincorporated portions of the county. On top of those tax dollars, Stockbridge pays an additional $775,000 for extra patrols in the City plus provides Henry County the use of the renovated old City Hall as its North Precinct. So together with state and federal grants and other revenue sources, that’s plenty to fund a local police force. “Even though the City is in excellent financial condition,” the Mayor said, “we would be short-sighted not to utilize all those dollars.”

Our new private-public partnership that is delivering a state-of-the-art fiber optic network to our City will directly benefit our police. “Every car is going to have the best computers, the best radar, the best tag readers,” Mayor Alarcon said. “We are going to use technology to its fullest to do an excellent job protecting our City.”
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Stockbridge City Council
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Email: Initial of first name followed by last name @ cityofstockbridge-ga.gov (e.g. malarcon@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov)

Mark Alarcon, Mayor
678.951.5561
Richard Steinberg, Mayor Pro Tem
678.951.5626
Alphonso Thomas, Councilman
678.951.5562
Harold Cochran, Councilman
770.474.4440
Robin Buschman, Councilwoman
678.713.8729
Shirley Dabney, Councilwoman
770.362.3664

Administration
David Milliron, City Manager
770.389.7904
Rhonda Blackmon, City Clerk
678.833.3303
Mike Bush, Treasurer/CFO
678.833.3313
Kevin Walter, Public Works Director
678.833.3350
B.J. Mathis, Economic Development
678.833.3348
Vicki Coleman, City Planner
678.833.3354
Anita Gunnoe, Clerk of Court
678.833.3321
Clark Rainer, Information Technology
770.389.7909

Frequently Dialed
Utility Billing
770.389.7901
Code Enforcement
678.833.3307
Purchasing
678.833.3322
Occupational Tax
770.389.7902
Municipal Court
770.389.7906
Public Works
770.474.0972
Water & Sewer
770.474.1232
Merle Manders Conference Center
770.389.5982
Ted Strickland Community Center
770.389.5982

STOCKBRIDGE CITY CALENDAR

All meetings at City Hall unless noted otherwise. Please check with City Hall at 678.833.3303 as meeting dates and times are subject to change. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.cityofstockbridge.com.

Oct. 4 & 5: Third Annual Bridgefest
Oct. 7: State of the City Address and Reception @ 6 pm
Oct. 10: Urban Redevelopment Agency @ 5 pm
Oct. 15: City Council Work Session @ 6 pm
Oct. 17: Downtown Development Authority @ 3:30 pm

Oct. 21: City Council Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm
Nov. 5: City Council Work Session @ 6 pm
Nov. 7: Urban Redevelopment Agency @ 5 pm
Nov. 11: City Council Monthly Meeting @ 6 pm

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SeeClickFix is an online and mobile app to help residents report and track non-emergency problems, such as graffiti, illegal dumping or potholes throughout Stockbridge. Visit www.cityofstockbridge.com/SeeClickFix

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Supporters of the arts and the Stockbridge community as a whole are gearing up for the kickoff of the city's first theatre series in October, and for a rebirth of sorts to cultural life in the city. It's all part of the relocation of Academy Theatre, the state's longest-running professional theatre, to Stockbridge. In line with the city's economic development and quality-of-life initiatives, the Academy Theatre has relocated to Stockbridge from DeKalb County as part of an initial three-year public-private partnership.

Mayor Mark Alarcon and city leaders see the move as a major force in the economic revitalization of downtown Stockbridge. A partnership between the Stockbridge Downtown Development Authority and Academy Theatre will result in a new home for the arts housed in the former First State Bank Operations Center on Burke Street. The facility was purchased by the city in December and is undergoing renovations. Upon completion, the 22,000-square-foot Community Arts Center will include a 250-plus seat Proscenium Theatre, 99-seat Black Box Theatre, two community spaces, digital computer lab, special events space, dance studio, art gallery, and small cafe.

“The Academy Theatre will play an important role in the economic revitalization of our downtown community,” Mayor Alarcon said. “In addition to providing new jobs, the Community Arts Center will attract thousands of residents and visitors to Stockbridge, for classes for children and adults, festivals, cultural activities and more.”

Residents will have an opportunity to enjoy the talents of this group in the very near future as City Council members approved a $15,000 Community Partnership Grant for the Academy Theatre to present a short play and improv festival during the city's annual BridgeFest event the first weekend in October.

“With the new Community Arts Center, we're excited to be able to offer a breadth of activities,” said City Manager David Milliron. “These include classes and workshops, new play readings, main-stage theatrical work, a Theatre for Youth Artists-in-Schools program, and an Academy Senior Theatre Program.”

Elizabeth “BJ” Mathis, the city's Community and Economic Development Officer, summed up the economic impact: “In addition to the quality of life improvements for our citizens, it has long been recognized that the arts serve as a powerful economic development tool. Communities that invest and support the arts are more successful in attracting corporate businesses, with higher paying jobs, than those who do not.”

Founded in 1956 by 25-year-old Army veteran Frank Wittow, the Academy Theatre began as the Southeastern Academy of Theatre and Music, Inc. The first professional theatre in the South to be integrated, the theatre premiered the First Southeastern Shakespeare Festival in 1960.

City leaders participate in Back to School event

Mayor Mark Alarcon and Stockbridge City Council members together with Henry County School Board Vice-Chair Erik Charles and other volunteers recently handed out school supplies to deserving children. The City contributed $500 toward the 5th Annual Back to School Event at Stockbridge Elementary School, which included health screenings and a Family Fun Day. This year a partnership was formed with The Southern Crescent Pearls Foundation, Inc., affiliate of the Psi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
City of Stockbridge 2013 Municipal Election

Notice is hereby given that a General Municipal Election for the City of Stockbridge will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 to elect a Mayor and two (2) Council Members. The term of office is four (4) years. The following candidates have submitted their qualifying paperwork to appear on the Election Ballot:

For Mayor:
Mark Alarcon (incumbent)
Vanessa Holiday
Houston Nelson, III
Timothy Thompson

For City Council:
Harold Cochran (incumbent)
Shirley Dabney (incumbent)
Anthony Ford
Lakeisha Gantt
George Hawxhurst
Tonja Meadows
Bruce Smith, Sr.

Oct. 7: Last day a person may register and be eligible to vote in the Municipal General Election and any applicable Runoff. To register to vote or check your registration status go to http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/

Oct. 10: Candidate Forum for 2013 Stockbridge Municipal Election from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Merle Manders Conference Center. Open to the General Public.

Oct. 14-18: Countywide Advance Voting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Henry County Elections Office, 345 Phillips Drive, in McDonough. Excluding Sundays.

Oct. 19 - Nov. 1: Early Voting from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Ted Strickland Community Center, 130 North Berry Street, in Stockbridge. Excluding Sundays. Registered voters can also early vote at the Henry County Elections Office, 345 Phillips Drive, in McDonough.

Nov. 5: Election Day from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Ted Strickland Community Center, 130 North Berry Street, in Stockbridge, and at all county precincts. To check your registration status or locate your poll location go to http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/

Dec. 3: Runoff election, if applicable.

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For more info about KDA Communications, visit www.kda-communications.com.
Ballot Initiative: Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

The City of Stockbridge together with the cities of McDonough, Hampton and Locust Grove and the Henry County Board of Commissioners have approved intergovernmental agreements to proceed with putting a referendum on the upcoming November ballot regarding a one percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to fund capital and transportation projects in the community.

The county and cities worked together to decide how the funds would be allocated, resulting in a 75/25 split between Henry County and its four municipalities. Of the 25 percent that will go to the cities, Hampton will receive 11.64 percent, Locust Grove will receive 8.99 percent, McDonough will receive 36.74 percent, and Stockbridge will receive 42.64 percent.

The City of Stockbridge does not levy a property tax and its annual operating budget is funded mostly through a county-wide penny local option sales tax (LOST) and service fees. The one-cent special purpose local options sales tax (SPLOST) pays for capital projects and improvements.

The City currently has forecast the need for $58.3 million in capital infrastructure and upgrades to keep up with the sustainability and growth of the City, according to its published Short-Term Work Program annual update for 2013-2017. Any excess revenue from the city’s operational budget is generally transferred to reserves or other funds so as to defray the cost of providing sanitation and water and sewer service to city residents as well as defray the cost of capital projects. The city has among the lowest sanitation, water, sewer and business license fees in the metro Atlanta region.

Based on revenue projections for SPLOST IV, Stockbridge’s portion will yield between $20.2 and $26.6 million for capital city projects. This includes potential funding for the following projects:

Regional Projects

$1,500,000 - Design and/or construction of regional road projects

Mayor Mark Alarcon and the Stockbridge City Council wish to especially thank Henry County District V Commissioner Bruce Holmes for allocating $4 million toward the Ga. Highway 138/Rock Quarry extension project from N. Henry Boulevard to East Atlanta at Valley Hill.

Water Department Projects

$8,250,000 - Land acquisition for water provision, major equipment acquisition and installation, major equipment inventory mechanisms, buildings, and facilities

Sewer Department Projects

$3,750,000 - Sewerage construction, major equipment acquisition and installation, and facilities

Public Works/General Maintenance Projects

$7,000,000 - Public works land acquisition, buildings, facilities, roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks

Parks and Recreation

$2,000,000 - Recreation facilities and major equipment

Public Safety

$4,180,000 - Public safety major equipment, buildings, facilities, and vehicles

SeeClickFix app to improve quality of life, encourage greater civic engagement

Stockbridge residents now have a way of playing a more active role in their neighborhoods by serving as resident reporters. Through a new partnership between the city and SeeClickFix.com, citizens can do their part to help the City of Stockbridge by reporting non-emergency issues such as traffic safety concerns, non-working streetlights, graffiti, potholes, and cracked sidewalks.

With the online and smartphone application, residents will be able to see, click and fix, thus reporting in a public format by mobile phone or online those issues they want to see resolved. After downloading the app to their smartphones, they will be able to report and view issues through keyword and geography-based “watch areas.”

Stockbridge Mayor Mark Alarcon recently introduced the program that will allow for more citizen engagement, while helping to improve and empower communities.

The SeeClickFix app makes the city more accessible and empowers residents to connect directly to city officials in an effort to improve the Stockbridge community,” Mayor Alarcon said. “There are some 26,000 residents in Stockbridge, so this app allows each and every one of those residents with a smart phone to become the eyes and ears of the city and let us know what issues need attention.”

With SeeClickFix, residents can report concerns through service request categories via the City of Stockbridge website, mobile smartphone devices and City of Stockbridge Government Facebook page.

When reporting issues by mobile phones, residents can provide information regarding locations, descriptions and photos as they see the issue in real time. The resident reporter, City of Stockbridge, and anyone “watching” the area will receive an alert. The City of Stockbridge then may acknowledge the service request, route it to the proper department, update the request, and along with residents follow the issue until it is closed.

The partnership allows residents to report community issues, as well as view, comment on, propose solutions to issues submitted and vote to fix problems. Citizens can even create their own “watch areas” to receive notifications about all issues reported in their community, enabling them to track the progress of service requests, which are not limited to the ones they report.

Residents can download the app or check out its online portal at www.cityofstockbridge.com/SeeClickFix
Legislative Update: City Council Takes Action

The following is a summary of key actions taken by the Stockbridge City Council in July, August and September. Copies of the council packets are available in the “Agenda & Minutes” section of the City’s website at cityofstockbridge.com. Please contact the City Clerk at 678.833.3303 for more information on any of the items below.

- Reviewed the Service Delivery Strategy and Intergovernmental Agreements between the City and Henry County. The City Council voted to bring the following services in-house next year: Building Permits, Inspections and Impact Fees; Comprehensive Plan; Development Plan Review; Planning & Zoning; Police Services; and Soil Erosion.

- Adopted an ordinance to create the Stockbridge Police Department and delineate its duties and functions

- Adopted job descriptions and pay scale for Chief of Police and Chief Information Officer

- Reviewed and amended the City’s Urban Redevelopment Plan

- Public hearing and approval for the City to make application for Opportunity Zone status with the state

- Approval for the City to make application to the Main Street program

- Finalized the proposed SPLOST IV project list and adopted a joint intergovernmental agreement with Henry County

- Approved a resolution that would reimburse the City from SPLOST IV funds expended for priority projects in advance of receipt of any revenue.

- Voted to acquire five tracks of land from First Baptist Church of Stockbridge for $358,000 as part of the Town Center project outlined in the adopted Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) plan

- Public hearing and subsequent approval of a zoning variance for Komisarow Enterprise, LP regarding City Code Section 3-7-192 (C)(1)

- Public hearing and subsequent vote to alter an existing development agreement with Drapac Investments, LLC

- Approved the voluntary annexation of 502 Country Club Drive into the City Limits

- Approved receipt of the donation of the Stockbridge Garden Club at 104 Club Drive to the City

- Approved a construction contract for $247,561.63 with Georgia Development Partners for the Publix Detention Pond at Eagles Landing project

- Approved a construction contract for $137,787.51 with Glosson Enterprises, LLC for the South Berry Streetscape sidewalk and lighting project

- Approved a construction contract for $144,093 with Northeast Concrete for the Stockbridge City Hall Turnaround and Parking Addition project

- Approved the purchase of nineteen 150-watt Enhanced Granville decorative light fixtures for $86,879 from Georgia Power (13 for the South Berry Streetscape project and six for the Eagles Landing Park project)

- Amended City Code so as to permit home brew competitions in the City Limits

- Appointed Mike Bush as City Treasurer and Chief Fiscal Officer

- Extended for six months a conditional use permit for the Islamic Society of South Atlanta

- Extended the existing sign moratorium for 30 days while the sign ordinance code is reviewed and re-written

- Approved a resolution for an agreement with GCIC/NCIC for computer access at the municipal court

- Adopted an ordinance regulating beer and wine home brewing competitions

- Issued the following proclamations: Recognition of National Payroll Week; Recognition of the Henry County Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency/E-911; Recognition of Frank’s Faithful No. 94; Recognition of Constitution Week; and Recognition of Red Ribbon Week

- Awarded “Certificates of Appreciation” to members of the ad hoc sign ordinance steering committee
Big things are happening in Stockbridge!

Exciting news just keeps rolling out from the City of Stockbridge! Multiple initiatives since the first of the year have positioned Henry County’s most populous city to attract new types of business developments, developments not previously experienced in the city or on the south side of Atlanta for that matter.

Stockbridge jump-started the momentum with the reactivation of its Downtown Development Authority.

Following quickly on the heels of this was the announcement of a $15 million public-private partnership with Community Broadband, which will result in 38 new jobs and the fastest and most powerful internet systems in the state. The partnership will attract technology dependent companies that previously could not locate here due to lack of this critical infrastructure. Mayor Mark Alarcon spoke to the breath of this initiative: “This is a phenomenal opportunity, but it is not just a City of Stockbridge win, this also will benefit the people of Henry County, particularly our students.”

Before the ink had dried on that deal, the first technology company was knocking on the city’s door. Citing the fiber network and intrigued by Stockbridge’s progressive and business friendly environment, the World Internet Group decided before they relocated outside of the state of Georgia they needed to learn more about such a progressive city. The Mayor and City Council together with the Downtown Development Authority worked aggressively with World Internet to keep them in Georgia. As a result of the efforts, World Internet made the decision to move their headquarters to Stockbridge and expects to create approximately 75 new technology jobs.

As the old saying goes, “opportunity knocks once.” Stay tuned, the best is yet to come!

Renovations of the 22,000 square foot city-owned former bank operations center on Burke Street are underway. Once complete it will house a 250-seat proscenium theatre, a 99-seat black box theatre, and multiple classrooms for dance, art, and computer classes. City leaders understand that quality of life infrastructure is a critical element to attracting new businesses. During a recent Downtown Development Training Session, the instructor remarked that the theater project would have the same impact on business development as attracting a major retail anchor store.

In addition to the aforementioned projects, two streetscape projects totaling $1.4 million are underway along North and South Berry Street. The city has received two Community Development Block Grants totaling $250,000 and the city planning department is in the process of rewriting the sign ordinance thanks to a grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission. The city is reactivating the Stockbridge Business Association. A $1.7 million upgrade is in progress at the city’s sewage department as a SPLOST III project. And several other planning initiatives are in the works, such as seeking Main Street and Opportunity Zone status in an effort to sustain the businesses we have and to recruit more businesses to the city.

Mayor Mark Alarcon and the Stockbridge City Council does not believe in sitting idle and letting the “chips fall where they may.” The city’s leadership believes it is time for the city to embrace the fact that Stockbridge is the 31st most populous incorporated city in the state; is located just 15 miles south of the world’s busiest airport; is accessible from multiple interstate interchanges; and is in close proximity to the Port of Savannah. Stockbridge is ideally positioned to become a model 21st century city. As the old saying goes, “opportunity knocks once.” Stockbridge has not only opened the door to opportunity, but has completely removed it from the hinges! Stay tuned, the best is yet to come!
Krispy Kreme coming to Stockbridge

Stockbridge Mayor Mark Alarcon says a new Krispy Kreme Doughnut Factory is coming to Stockbridge as part of the international sweet treat retailer’s planned expansion efforts in the Atlanta metropolitan area. And along with it will be the creation of nearly 50 full and part-time jobs by early 2014.

“The City of Stockbridge is seeking to have a portion of the city designated as an opportunity zone by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs,” Mayor Alarcon said. “Once approved by the state, Krispy Kreme and other new or existing businesses creating two or more jobs in the opportunity zone will be eligible to receive a $3,500 credit toward their state income tax liability and withholding tax for up to 10 years.”

Construction plans are currently underway for a new 2,400 square foot free-standing facility in Stockbridge with a drive-thru, Hot Light™, and featuring the company’s new prototype interior and exterior design and architecture, Mayor Alarcon said.

The Stockbridge location will offer more than a dozen varieties of Krispy Kreme’s one-of-a-kind doughnuts, including the signature hot Original Glazed®, as well as a complete menu of Krispy Kreme Chillers®, iced beverages and Krispy Kreme Signature Coffee Blends.

Krispy Kreme plans to seek qualified candidates for full and part-time team member, production specialist and shift supervisor, assistant manager and general manager positions at its Stockbridge location.

“The Opportunity Zone Job Tax Credit Program offers the highest and most user-friendly job tax credit in the state,” Mayor Alarcon said. “So the City wants to leverage this program for what it is, a powerful attractant for new business that will facilitate job creation and redevelopment in Stockbridge.”

Cub Scout Pack 346 “Go-See-It” Stockbridge City Hall Tour

Stockbridge Mayor Mark Alarcon recently hosted members of Cub Scout Pack 346 at City Hall as part of their requirements to earn Citizenship Badges. While at Stockbridge City Hall, the Scouts enjoyed a tour of the facility, including City Council Chambers, and learned about how municipal governments work and what services are provided by the City. Among the funniest questions asked of the Mayor by pack members:

- Are any surgeries performed here?
- Do you have a splash pad in your office?
- Can (the city fountain) send up the Bat Signal?
- Is there room service available here?
- Are there any bathrooms in City Hall?

Pack 346 is chartered by Faith Baptist Church at 346 Highway 138 East in Stockbridge. The 1st through 5th graders meet every Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm unless Henry County Schools are out. If you have any questions concerning Pack 346, contact Ray or Bobbie Scott at 678-644-5055.

Opportunity Zone Tax Credit Incentives

- Maximum Job Tax Credit allowed under law: $3,500 per job created
- Lowest job creation threshold of any job tax credit program: 2 jobs
- Use of Job Tax Credits against 100 percent of Georgia income tax liability and withholding tax
- Provides for businesses of any nature to qualify, not just a defined “business enterprise”

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September/October 2013 City of Stockbridge • City News Link Page 9
Join us for the 3rd Annual Bridgefest!

This year’s festivities will start with a Friday evening Kickoff event from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday, October 4th across from Stockbridge City Hall. Preview the vendors and dance to the grooves of Unisogh’n’s Tribute to Motown! Get in the spirit and dress in your best Motown costume for a chance to win a prize pack!

Saturday, October 5th will start early for our running community with the first ever Stockbridge ½ Marathon benefitting Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. The race begins at 7:30 am and ends at Bridgefest, where the day will be packed full of family fun from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. It will be a great time to start your holiday shopping by visiting our art and unique craft booths. There will also be an interactive children's area, live entertainment throughout the day and a wide variety of food trucks!

For information on Bridgefest, please visit the events tab on the city's website at cityofstockbridge.com.

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Bridgefest Schedule of Events

Friday, Oct. 4th
- 6:00 pm: Vendor booths open
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Free community concert

Saturday, Oct. 5th
- 7:30 am: Bridgefest 1/2 Marathon brought to you by Edward Jones to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (register at www.raceforthecity.com)
- 9:00 am - 5:00 pm: Vendor booths open

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Tapas: Nine Short Plays about Rebirth and Renewal

Join The Academy Theatre and The City of Stockbridge as we christen the new Stockbridge Community Arts Center with “Tapas: Nine Short Plays about Rebirth and Renewal.”

Stockbridge Community Arts Center at 146 Burke Street academytheatre@mindspring.com or 404.474.8332
October 4, 5, 11, 12 at 8 pm and October 5, 6, 12, 13 at 3 pm

Tickets: http://academytapas.brownpapertickets.com/
$12 in advance or $15 at the door

Tapas will present nine new plays by nine local playwrights, featuring local directors and actors. These plays contain adult content. Presenting...

"Waystation” by Paige Steadman Ross
"Piedmont Park” by Peter Hardy
"Farm Girl” by Evan Guilford- Blake
"Chasing Satan” by James J Walsh
"Juke Box Hero” by Matt Myers
"Butterfly Dilemma” by Hannah Carey
"Birds of a Feather” by Nathaniel Lachenmayer
"A Return to Silver Hill” by David L Fisher
"Saved on the Day” of Atonement by Henry W. Kimmel
Main Street status would be boon for Stockbridge

In an effort to sustain the businesses we have and to recruit more businesses to the city's central business district, the Stockbridge City Council recently gave a green light to apply for Main Street status with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

According to Mayor Mark Alarcon, Main Street communities receive free technical assistance from the state that includes help with marketing, training, design issues, planning corridors, fundraising and more. They are also eligible to receive bonus points when applying for grants and loans. Main Street communities receive lower interest rates (2 percent versus 3 percent) on Downtown Development Authority Revolving Loan funds that help renovate downtown businesses, for example.

Getting accredited will be a two-year process, but first Stockbridge must apply and be accepted by the state to participate in the start-up program. City officials will learn in November if Stockbridge is selected for the program. City leaders would then receive the necessary training and assistance over a two year period to become nationally accredited. Of the 530 cities in Georgia, 96 are Main Street communities, including our sister cities of McDonough, Hampton and Locust Grove in Henry County.

The Main Street approach has been implemented in over 1,800 cities and towns in 44 states across the nation with the help of the National Main Street Center and statewide downtown revitalization programs. By carefully integrating four points into a practical downtown management strategy, a local Main Street program will produce fundamental changes in a community's economic base. These four points include:

**Organization:** Involves building a Main Street framework that is well represented by business and property owners, bankers, citizens, public officials, chambers of commerce and other local economic development organizations. Everyone must work together to maintain a long-term effort.

**Promotion:** Creates excitement downtown. Special events and image development campaigns are some of the ways Main Street encourages customer traffic. Promotion involves marketing an enticing image to shoppers, investors and visitors and also positioning the downtown in the market place.

**Design:** Enhances the attractiveness of the business district. Historic building rehabilitation, street and alley clean-up, colorful banners, landscaping and lighting all improve the physical image of downtown as a quality place to shop, work, walk, invest in and live. Design improvements result in a reinvestment of public and private dollars to downtown.

**Economic Restructuring:** Involves analyzing current market forces to develop long-term solutions. Recruiting new businesses, creatively converting unused space for new uses and sharpening the competitiveness of Main Street's traditional merchants are examples of economic restructuring activities.

Stockbridge seeks residents to serve on Board of Ethics

City of Stockbridge residents interested in serving on the city's Board of Ethics are encouraged to complete and submit an application for consideration of appointment by the Mayor and City Council.

The purpose of the Board of Ethics is to encourage high ethical standards in official conduct by city officials; establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all such officials by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the interest of the city; require disclosure by such officials of private financial or other interest in matters affecting the city; and serve as a basis for disciplining those who refuse to abide by its terms.

The Board of Ethics of the city shall consist of three (3) residents of the city, one appointed solely by the mayor, one appointed solely by the city council, and the third appointed by the mayor and approved by a majority of the city council. All members serve a four-year term.

Qualification requirements and applications can be obtained from the Stockbridge City Clerk at 770.389.7900 x203 or rblackmon@cityofstockbridge-ga.gov or from the “Board and Commissions” folder in the Document Center on the city’s website at http://cityofstockbridge.com/documents.aspx
Life is made up in moments in time. These moments weave the stories we tell about our lives. From new beginnings of weddings and receptions to making connections with family and business partners, the Merle Manders Center understands the importance of how just one single meeting or event can change your life. Let us help you create those memories and start a new story here.