FAIRBURN, GEORGIA

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FAIRBURN

Location, Location, Location

An Important Transportation and Logistics Hub

The City of Fairburn is a prime spot for business; its location is enviable on many fronts. The city is just 25 minutes south of Atlanta, minutes from Interstate-85, close to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and is a CSX Railroad intermodal terminal.

Its impressive roster of companies bears evidence that the community is an important transportation and logistics hub.

Fairburn's CSX Intermodal rail network provides transportation service access to the entire United States. The CSX 24-hour terminal is a model of efficiency with dozens of containers from China, Korea, Italy and other countries arriving and departing from the facility weekly.

Another Fairburn commercial enterprise, Exel Logistics, helps the world's leading companies get their products to market faster and improves efficiency and quality in every phase of the supply chain. And the latest corporate additions to Fairburn's distribution hub are Electrolux, Aaron Rents, Inc. and the Clorox Company, with a combined increase of over two million square feet of space.

It's no secret, businesses looking for the perfect location are heading to Fairburn.
**FAST FACTS FAIRBURN**

**POPULATION:** 12,950

**COUNTY:** Fulton – Population 920,581

**UTILITIES:** Water, Sewer, Electricity, Telecom and Sanitation

**TRANSPORTATION:** Fairburn is located on I-85 just 10 miles from the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The city’s CSX Intermodal Rail Center offers container rail service.

**NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:**
- ADESA Auto Auction – Vehicle auction and remarketing
- Exel Logistics – Logistics
- Fairburn Health Care Center – Nursing home facility
- Nestlé Purina PetCare Co. – Pet products
- Owens Corning – Fiberglass
- Prism Pointe Technologies – Information technology services
- Porex Technologies Ltd. – Plastics
- Strack, Inc. – Pipeline contractor
- US Foodservice, Inc. – Food distribution

“Fairburn is a great place to live, work and play, whether you are a resident, business owner or visitor.”

– Mayor Avery

- Early records show that what is now called Fairburn was settled as early as 1830. In 1833, the town was founded as Cartersville, changing its name one year later to Berryville. According to historian Lucian Lamar Knight, Fairburn was probably named for a township in the County of York, England. Fairburn’s town charter was enacted by the State Legislature in 1854.

- Fairburn has experienced remarkable growth and is the second-fastest-growing community among the MEAG Power Participants, based on the U.S. Census data. From 2000 to 2010, Fairburn’s population has grown from 5,464 to 12,950.

- One of the largest theme festivals in the Southeast has a Fairburn address. Each spring for 27 days, the Georgia Renaissance Festival recreates a 16th century country fair that draws tens of thousands of visitors to 32 acres of music, food and entertainment.

- The City of Fairburn thinks and lives green. The city’s sustainability policies and procedures are compiled in the Fairburn Clean & Green – Guide to Sustainability in Municipal Operations. Just a few of the policies include a commitment to LEED-certified construction for new city-owned buildings greater than 5,000 square feet and xeriscaping and drought-tolerant landscape practices at government facilities to minimize the use of chemicals and encourage the use of native plant species. Fairburn offers curbside recycling for single-family, multifamily and commercial establishments. Recycled materials include glass, newspaper, magazines, plastics, aluminum and bi-metal cans.
When a 2010 fire ravaged Fairburn’s downtown, destroying three buildings and severely damaging two others, it was especially painful for this community. Prime historic real estate was no longer available to local businesses. The future of the city’s commercial district that had long been recognized on the Registry of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of Interior was definitely in jeopardy.

Yet, in early 2012, Fairburn Mayor Mario Avery and others gathered together for a ceremony celebrating the resurgence of Fairburn’s historic downtown. Mayor Avery’s welcoming remarks were followed by a ribbon cutting for Oz Pizza and Fairburn Antique Mall, two of Fairburn’s businesses closed by the fire. Oz Pizza has returned to its original location on West Broad Street, and the Fairburn Antique Mall is now housed in the old Jernigan’s Hardware store, just a few doors away.

 Appropriately, S. J. Collins Enterprises, the contractor who completed the fire restoration, is now at home on the second floor of the renovated space. With the return of two of the city’s key sources of foot traffic, along with several newly opened businesses, a vibrant, vital downtown is on the horizon.

A further boost to economic development in Fairburn’s downtown area began in 2008 when the City of Fairburn and the Development Authority of Fairburn decided that investing in postsecondary education was the answer. As University of Georgia economist Jeffrey Humphreys observed: “On average, every dollar of initial spending generates an additional 50 cents for the host economy. In addition, for each campus job, 1.4 off-campus jobs exist because of spending related to the institution.”

So, with an anchor tenant waiting in the wings, this community partnership used $10 million to finance a built-to-lease college campus to facilitate customized workforce training. Today, satellite campuses of Georgia Military College and Brenau University occupy space in classically designed education buildings. “Ultimately,” said Mayor Mario Avery, “we envision our campus as a first-class educational venue incorporating adult and technical education and customized business and industry workforce training.”

Moreover, cultural and educational programs and facilities often provide intangible benefits to the community by improving local residents’ quality of life.

This innovative Fairburn initiative caught the attention of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and earned the Fairburn Educational Campus a Development of Excellence Award.

The city has also received an ARC Livable Centers Initiative Award and a $3.1 million grant for an innovative transportation project. Fairburn will use these funds to make its historic downtown area a more pedestrian-friendly, livable environment, providing citizens with improved connectivity between homes, shops, offices and the education campus.

Keep your eye on Fairburn. There is more to come.
More About HOMETOWN FAIRBURN

- To revitalize a 140-acre community park, Duncan Park, Fairburn invested approximately $2 million. The park is home to a youth football program that launched the football career of University of Tennessee standout and National Football League Kansas City Chief player, Eric Berry. The Eric Berry Foundation is a contributor to the park’s facelift.

- The Fairburn Fall Festival is a great affair that takes place in the heart of downtown. The festivities include children’s activities, musical performances, arts and craft vendors, a food court, street entertainment and the much-awaited Fairburn Festival Parade. The Festival brings together the “best of the best” from artists, musicians and vendors.

- The Old Campbell County Courthouse was built in 1871 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

- Fairburn is home to the Southside Theatre Guild that hosts five live theater productions each season through an all-volunteer cast and crew.

- Fairburn maintains a traditional small-town atmosphere coupled with the advantages of a sophisticated metropolitan area nearby.