

STAYING current

Visionary City Award Winners

Adel, Hogansville, Marietta and Thomasville were 4 of the 9 recipients of the inaugural Visionary City Award presented by the Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Trend Magazine. “These cities exemplify what it means to be forward-thinking for their residents and generations to come and also serve as inspiring examples of civility, collaboration and creating communities of positive change across Georgia,” said GMA Executive Director Larry Hanson.

Vogtle Update

Plant Vogtle Update – In late May, a massive 750,000-gallon water tank, part of the unit’s passive safety system, was placed atop the containment vessel and shield building roof. The installation represents the final module placement for Unit 3, marking a significant milestone for the project. Earlier in May, the Integrated Head Package (IHP) for Unit 3 was set into place atop the reactor vessel. Work on Units 3 and 4 is now approximately 85% complete.

Record Renewable Investments

According to a BloombergNEF report, the U.S. hit a record \$55.5 billion in renewable energy investments in 2019, as overall global investments beat out 2018. Worldwide investment hit \$282.2 billion in 2019, up \$2 billion since 2018. New wind and solar is estimated to have hit 180 GW, up 20 GW from 2018.

Georgia’s Top-Ranked Workforce

Georgia ranked first for workforce development in the South Atlantic Region, according to Site Selection Magazine’s 2020 Workforce Development Rankings. Site Selection pointed to ranking factors such as depth of the labor pool, availability of certified applicants for job openings, and legislatures that are committed to funding workforce programs.

Judge Upholds PPA MEAG POWER PREVAILS VS. JEA IN FEDERAL COURT

MEAG Power on June 17 prevailed against JEA in U.S. District Court. Judge Mark Cohen granted MEAG Power’s Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, specifically declaring in bold print that the power purchase agreement (PPA) between JEA and MEAG Power “is VALID AND ENFORCEABLE” and affirming that “the PPA unconditionally requires JEA to pay MEAG for capacity and energy at the full cost of production of Project J, including debt service on the bonds and DOE-guaranteed loans.”

“From the beginning, we have simply argued that the PPA is valid and fully enforceable, and that the suit brought by JEA and the City of Jacksonville was meritless,” said MEAG Power President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Fuller. “Judge Cohen’s ruling was very thorough and perfectly clear – JEA and the City of Jacksonville knew what they were doing when they entered into this agreement, and they have to honor their commitment.”

JEA also attested to the validity of the PPA in three separate court validation proceedings, fully understanding that the financial community would rely upon such representations in providing funds necessary to finance the Project.

Despite this, in late 2018, JEA and the City of Jacksonville launched a series of legal and regulatory maneuvers in an attempt to have that agreement invalidated. These included filing a lawsuit in state court in Florida, launching a failed attempt to seek intervention by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and engaging in a costly, misleading public relations campaign against MEAG Power.

JEA initially filed its lawsuit challenging the validity of the PPA in the State Court of Duval County. MEAG Power was successful in first removing the suit to the Federal District Court in Jacksonville and then successfully argued that the suit should be transferred in its entirety to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

In their lawsuit, the City and JEA leveled a lengthy series of claims regarding the legality of the agreement. In his 53-page order, Judge Cohen rejected each of these claims in turn.

There are now two claims remaining in the lawsuit, neither one of which challenges the enforceability of the PPA. The first is a “negligent performance” claim by JEA against MEAG Power seeking monetary damages as the result of the decision on the part of the Co-Owners to proceed with the construction of the Vogtle Project. The second is a counterclaim by MEAG Power against JEA for damages as the result of JEA’s failure to cooperate with the financing relating to Project J.

“We look forward to Vogtle units 3 and 4 coming into service as planned in 2021 and 2022, respectively,” Fuller said. “We will continue to honor all of our commitments, as we always have, and are hopeful that JEA will reconsider the ongoing litigation in light of this ruling.”



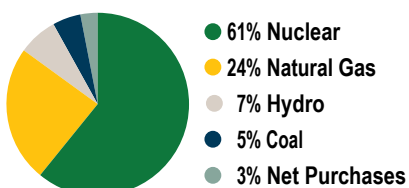
MEAG POWER LAUNCHES NEW IR PORTAL

As the first stage of a project to create a new MEAG Power corporate website in 2020, the company developed and launched in mid-June a new investor relations portal. The new IR Portal provides an array of detailed information of interest to existing and prospective MEAG Power bondholders on one comprehensive site: InvestorRelations.MEAGPower.org.

The new IR Portal, accessible by a direct main navigation link from the MEAG Power corporate site, contains: background information about MEAG Power and its projects; relevant news releases on MEAG Power and the Vogtle Units 3&4 project; current bond ratings and outlooks from Moody’s, S&P, and Fitch; an array of corporate documents such as Annual Reports, Audited Financials and Annual Information Statements; and a link to a list of MEAG Power CUSIPs and additional related information on the MSRB EMMA® website.

“The new IR Portal is an extremely useful and necessary tool, providing a clearinghouse of MEAG Power financial and project information to current and potential MEAG Power investors,” said Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Edward Easterlin.

MEAG Power Delivered Energy



*12-mo. rolling average, as of May 2020

Albany The downtown Pretoria Fields Brewery, part of the Pretoria Fields Collective — including brewers, farm workers, med student volunteers and nurses — shifted to production of vital industrial-grade hand sanitizer at the end of March to help meet local demand.

Commerce Enchem Ltd. will build two manufacturing plants in Jackson County. The company will invest \$61 million in the facilities and will create 300 full-time jobs.

Covington Lidl announced plans to build a new U.S. distribution center in Covington. The \$100 million investment will create 270 new full-time jobs over the next five years.

East Point TX Holdings has announced the establishment of a crypto-mining facility with an investment of about \$2.5 million.

Marietta The city dedicated a section of roadway near Wellstar Kennestone Hospital as “Pandemic Heroes Honor Way” to honor all health care workers and first responders fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monroe Publix announced that it would be the anchor tenant for the Monroe Pavilion development, with groundbreaking having taken place in early 2020, and an opening date of 2021. Total investment for the 350,000-square-foot project was set to exceed \$80 million.

Newnan Amazon announced it will open a new fulfillment center by leasing a more than 1-million-square-foot facility at The Cubes at Bridgeport. The new location will create 500 new full-time jobs.

Thomaston Chick-fil-A in June opened its new all-electric store. It was a customer-choice win for the city, which is serving the new facility.

Thomasville Flowers Foods Inc. said it has paid “appreciation bonuses” of \$500 for full-time workers and \$250 for part-timers to nearly 12,000 eligible workers. The company said it has 46 bakeries operating non-stop during the pandemic.

Washington Rekord Tent LLC, a Polish company that manufactures large tents used by the military, in construction and for large events, purchased a vacant building in Washington and has begun production of the company’s first U.S. plant. The company is bringing an initial 20-30 new jobs, with the goal of 100 jobs.

MEET YOUR
colleagues



Howard Thrower
Mayor
City of Cairo

Howard Thrower, a Cairo native, in June was sworn in as Cairo’s mayor, winning a special election to fill the position after the previous mayor left office to run for the state legislature.

Thrower’s connections in the community are deep and wide. Historical documents reveal his great grandfather, W.H. Robinson, participated in the launch of the community’s Roddenbery Library. This library, named for food industry giant Seaborn Anderson Roddenbery, replaced the humble library that resided on a floor of city hall. His great grandfather also served as Cairo mayor during World War II.

Thrower’s retirement from a career with a nationwide financial advisory firm and the contributions of public service patriarch Robinson prompted his decision to seek the job of the city’s top elected official.

“I am excited to further the initiatives already underway in Cairo, such as those for downtown,” Thrower said. “The Depot that housed our police professionals is now available for an entrepreneur’s vision or a public space for visitors.”

Thrower believes the city’s utility enterprise is critical to the city’s overall operation. “Working with MEAG Power is a relationship that leverages our financial position to service residents and business,” he said. “Attracting new industry like Nivel Manufacturing sparks the economic engine of our city and Grady County.”

Nuclear ‘a large part of solution’

“Nuclear is by far the largest source of carbon-free power in the United States. In 2019, nuclear power plants accounted for 55.1% (807.8 million MWh) of all carbon-free electricity production in the country. There are currently 96 reactors operating in 29 states that produce about 20% of the nation’s electricity. The average age of the reactor fleet is nearly 40 years.... For the country, states, local governments, and corporations to meet ever-increasing carbon-emission reduction goals, nuclear will need to be a large part of the solution.”

—Kent Knutson, Energy Market Content Specialist, ABB Inc.

2020 MAKE A NOTE

MEAG Power Board Meetings

July 15, August 20, September 17

MEAG Power Board Election

July 14

MEAG Power Annual Meeting

July 15 (part of the July Board Meeting)

MEAG Power Mayors Summit

November 6-8

What Do You Think?

CURRENT DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Because of the pandemic and lack of access to the office, we elected to email you this issue of CURRENT.

Doing so saved on the normal printing and postage costs, as well as the time and effort to affix labels, etc.

In short, we’re considering changing over to email-only for all future issues – and we value your opinion:

Do you prefer a print or electronic issue? Or don’t have a preference?

Let us know at: current@meagpower.org



1470 Riveredge Parkway, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30328-4640

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www.meagpower.org – (800) 333-MEAG

James E. Fuller – President & Chief Executive Officer
John D. Marsh – Communications Manager & Editor

MEAG POWER **Current** COMMUNITIES

CAIRO, GEORGIA

Howard Thrower
Mayor

Chris Addleton
City Manager
caddleton@cairocity.net

Alyssa Blakley
Main Street Director
ablakley@cairocity.net

Julian Brown
Economic Developer
gradyjda@gmail.com



CAIRO

Leadership Ignites Economic Growth

Strategic thinking and vision are vital to the prosperity of a rural community, particularly when applied to finances and infrastructure. Leadership in these areas is imperative to attracting new industry, improving quality of life and bringing new residents to town.

In early 2020, City Manager Chris Addleton reported an important financial achievement. Over a 10-year period, the city had managed to cut long-term debt in half, helping to lower interest costs and freeing up revenue for other purposes.

During that same period, city leadership made \$10 million in investments in the city water system, which had not seen improvements since the 1970s. Plentiful, competitively priced, quality drinking water is a bedrock necessity for serving existing industrial and residential customers, and attracting new ones. Now, with a redundant system, maintenance issues never interrupt customers.

Another basic infrastructure need in the modern world is broadband access. It's one of the first things an industry, small business or individual considering locating in a city asks about. Cairo was a founding member in a rural broadband system in the late '90s. The product offered today is CNSNext, a robust fiber-based service.

Another quality-of-life measure astute cities embrace is the revitalizing of historic buildings for modern use. A new public safety facility for Cairo's police force is being constructed to enable the historic Train Depot, the police department's present home, to be preserved and creatively re-purposed in the near future. Community leadership invited Cairo citizens to present ideas during two sessions to discuss the Depot's future. A public-private partnership is expected to complete the facelift.



Cairo's high school athletic teams claimed the moniker "Syrupmakers," and it remains so to this day.





CAIRO

POPULATION: 9,434

GRADY COUNTY POPULATION: 24,819

UTILITIES: Electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, wastewater and solid waste

TRANSPORTATION: Highways 84, 93, 111 and 188 are key corridors serving Cairo. Interstate 10 is approximately 30 miles away.

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Koyo Bearings North America – manufacturer of automotive bearings
- Monrovia Nursery Company – wholesale plant nursery
- Woodhaven Industries – manufacturer of furniture
- Performance Food Group – food distribution
- Ira Higdon Grocery Company – food distribution
- Nivel Parts & Manufacturing Co., LLC – manufacturer of aftermarket golf cart products
- Seminole Marine Group – boat manufacturer
- Grady County School System – school district

“Nivel Parts & Manufacturing is a true community partner; they are interested in internships for young people and hiring our graduates. They are interested in Cairo’s future.”

Mayor Howard Thrower

Cairo Notables:

- **Zebulon Theater:** Built in 1935, The Zebulon Theater in Cairo is an Art Deco-style, old-time theater operated by the Regional Community Center to bring film to the community. The Zebulon Theater is an architectural jewel and one of the few remaining theaters from its era. The 150-seat theater shows current family-friendly movies; all tickets are \$5. Film students from Florida State University have used the Zebulon for period filmmaking.
- **Roddenbery Memorial Library:** The Roddenbery Memorial Library dates back to January 1939, when it began as the Cairo Public Library on the second floor of city hall. In 1964 the library moved to a new building on North Broad Street, a gift from the Roddenbery family to the Cairo community.
- **Grady Cultural Center:** The old syrup plant near downtown was built as a warehouse for syrup barrels in 1915. The renovation of 14,000 square feet of this historic facility into an event venue was completed in August 2003.
- **Festivals:** The Great Southern Antique Car Show and Rally is a spin-off from the Great American Race. In 1989, Cairo started with 70 participants and now averages 120 each May. The show ends with a concert. In 2019, Main Street initiatives drew over 14,000 attendees. The Mistletoe Market happens the first weekend in December, attracting artists and vendors who sell their wares. Outdoor concerts throughout the year draw citizens for fun and food.

Makers Make Their Mark IN CAIRO

Cairo's Ben Huntzinger is a typical entrepreneur. He's confident his invention and new company, Spartan Wheel Chariots, will change lives, including his own. "That's why I started my business," he said.

It's a business made with his two hands, built on four wheels. Huntzinger crafted an all-terrain wheelchair; it has rear suspension, large wheels and a rugged frame. It is a wheelchair perfected for outdoor devotees, like Huntzinger himself.

With his Southern Regional Technical College team, he won a \$25,000 second prize in the state of Georgia's 2019 Inventure Competition for the invention. Today, he is changing lives at his Cairo production facility.

Makers come in all forms and skill sets. A maker might be one who creates a gastronomical delicacy, or a team that forges steel; it might be a boat builder, or a painter. Cairo makers include manufacturers and artisans alike.

Koyo Bearings North America manufactures high-volume automotive components utilized in engine valve train and transmission applications. The Cairo facility employs more than 400 associates who produce nearly 90 million high-quality bearings annually for global customers. Koyo customers include Fiat, Ford and General Motors. In 2018, Koyo was named automotive supplier of the year by the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

One of the newer Cairo makers is Nivel Parts & Manufacturing, North America's largest independent provider of golf cart aftermarket parts and accessories.

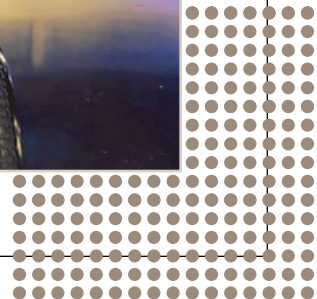
The Jacksonville, Fla.-based company expanded an existing Cairo facility in 2019, creating more than 50 jobs. "We are proud to call Georgia our home and a center of excellence for research, design, and manufacturing," said Rob Darrow, director of change management at Nivel.

Seminole Marine Group, a builder of premier high-end boats, is a seasoned Cairo maker. For more than 30 years, the company has designed, engineered and manufactured Sailfish-brand saltwater fishing vessels and Southwind Deck Boats, a newer line of freshwater boats.

And, of course, there is Cairo's first famous maker, Seaborn Anderson Roddenbery. Roddenbery started his business in 1862, when he opened a doctor's office and a general store. He made sugar cane syrup, which



Ben Huntzinger is the prize-winning founder of Spartan Wheel Chariots, a company that makes all-terrain wheelchairs for outdoor devotees, like Huntzinger himself.



Makers Make Their Mark IN CAIRO



Built in 1935, The Zebulon Theater is an architectural jewel and one of the few remaining Art Deco theaters from its era.



Budding artists display their work at the downtown Queen of Arts Studio, which nurtures the next generation of Cairo's "makers."



Festivals and outdoor concerts throughout the year draw Cairo citizens out for fun and food. Main Street initiatives boasted more than 14,000 attendees in 2019.

he sold in the store. It grew in popularity, so much so that he gave up his medical practice to focus on the more lucrative syrup business.

In 1904, Roddenbery made an appearance at the St. Louis World's Fair, where he served pancakes topped with his unique syrup. Roddenbery put Cairo on the map for over a century. Cairo's high school athletic teams claimed the moniker "Syrupmakers," and it remains so to this day, even though the W. B. Roddenbery Company was long ago sold off and has not operated in Cairo for nearly 20 years.

Next-generation designers and makers can take inspiration from, and display their wares at, the downtown Queen of Arts Studio, as well as the annual Elevate Artists Market. The market features artisans in fiber, wood and a range of innovative media. It's free to attendees and artisans. Nivel sparked young imaginations to trick out golf carts for a fund-raiser raffle to support the local Jackie Robinson Boys and Girls Club. The Cairo College and Career Academy, launched in 2014, fosters the crafts of welding, drafting and auto mechanics among up-and-coming makers.

"Making stuff" seems to be in the DNA of this small Southwest Georgia community. It's interesting to see the diversity on display in Cairo today. It will be fascinating to see what's in store in the future.