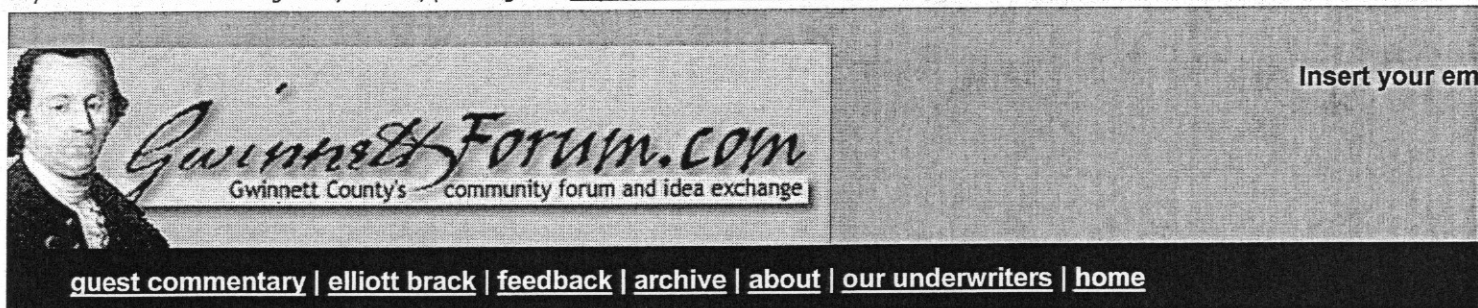


From: news@gwinnettforum.com
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 7:39 AM
To: jallen@gwinnettplacecid.com
Subject: 9/14: CID's initiative; Continuing objectives for Gwinnett

If you have trouble viewing today's issue, please go to: <http://www.GwinnettForum.com>.



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PARTNERS: AGCO of Duluth and the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center are teaming up to develop a partnership that will serve as a model of excellence for demonstrating, teaching, and explaining the complexities of farming technology. AGCO is contributing \$50,000 to this effort. For details, read more in [Upcoming](#) below.

TODAY'S FOCUS

County gives go-ahead to CID's livable cities initiative

By LEO WIENER
Gwinnett Place CID
Special to GwinnettForum

DULUTH, Ga., Sept. 14, 2012 -- On the evening of August 28, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners took a bold step forward and endorsed a future vision for the Greater Gwinnett Place area--- Gwinnett County's central business district and the strategic heart of our community.



Wiener

For the past year, the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) has worked in close concert with Gwinnett County, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, area stakeholders and concerned citizens to craft proactive strategies that can dramatically transform greater Gwinnett Place, functionally and aesthetically, into a vibrant mixed-use activity center. The resulting recommendations are market-driven and are aimed at reestablishing the area as the thriving nucleus of Gwinnett County.

Launched in partnership with Gwinnett County and the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Gwinnett Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a roadmap that will create a new type of community in Gwinnett's central business district. Successful implementation of the market-driven recommendations of this plan will require a true public-private partnership. Through the LCI process, stakeholders gained an understanding that doing nothing or maintaining the status quo would lead to failure because it places the area at a disadvantage relative to other competing communities. Gwinnett Place must evolve and remake itself if it is to be competitive again in the marketplace.

To achieve this vision the concept plan recommends the implementation of new economic development strategies such as Opportunity Zones and Tax Allocation Districts. Also, the plan calls for the revision of local land use policies/regulations and new infrastructure investments aimed at changing the current suburban development pattern. Central to this implementation strategy is the creation of what has been called the Great Lawn, a signature-gathering place that can provide an outdoor venue for public gatherings, art, entertainment, and recreation. This would be a central green space or public park that will span both sides of Pleasant Hill Road, and promote sustainable development while providing a much needed pedestrian friendly environment in this urban setting.

Another key element of the plan's implementation strategy is its transportation recommendations that stress the need for more multi-modal transportation facilities, as well as additional roadways and bridges to provide greater connectivity and mobility. Pedestrian elements that improve walkability are also part of this plan with recommendations for streetscapes and the conversion of auto-orientated streets to complete streets that accommodate all forms of transportation.

The LCI is only the first step in a long journey to transform the area. There are still many details to be worked out. We are just now taking our first steps toward transformation and re-emergence. It will take a high level of cooperation and engagement between all parties, both public and private, to see this vision become a reality. But the stakes are too high for us not to succeed. The very future of the Gwinnett community will be determined along the streets of Pleasant Hill Road and Satellite Boulevard.

- To review the LCI plan, visit www.gwinnettplacecid.com.

ELLIOTT BRACK

Forum presents list of continuing objectives for Gwinnett

By ELLIOTT BRACK
Editor and publisher
GwinnettForum.com

SEPT. 14, 2012 -- Back years ago, when publishing a weekly newspaper in Jesup, one tactic we adopted on the editorial page was something I stole from the *Chicago Tribune*. Each week we published a list of

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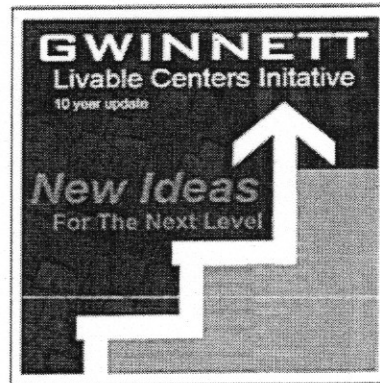
TODAY'S QUOTE
Choice though will

"Our bodies are gardeners."

-- Engl.
William
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"Continuing Objectives" for Wayne County. These were long-term suggestions for improving the county. We introduced topics from time to time by editorializing about the subject. When significant ideas became obvious, we would add it to the list as another long-range goal for the community. When objectives were implemented and funded, we took this one off the list.



Brack

Change comes slowly. We didn't remove many of the ideas, though one in particular, we remember, was accomplished. This was "Bridging the railroad tracks." You see, Jesup was on the main line of the CSX railroad, and often Jesup vehicular traffic was blocked by lengthy trains, or the train sat for long moments without moving blocking all three major street crossing in town. It was about a half mile from the northern to the southern crossing. Ambulances were sometimes on the lee side of the hospital. Or a fire engine was blocked when it was needed on the other side of town. Eventually a new bridge provided this access and we could editorialize about the removal of this objective.

Another long term Wayne County objective is slowly taking place these days in that county, nearly 40 years after we moved from Jesup. In the recent primary, several old-time Democratic candidates, including the sheriff and tax commissioner, ran for office as Republicans for the first time. This cheered us, since the Democratic Party has controlled the county for years. And this year, the previous Democrats won as Republicans! Our objective then was simply: "Development of a two-party system for local offices."

Of course, here in Gwinnett, after the 1984 election, the objective would have been stated slightly different: "Democratic candidates for local offices." Both objectives would work toward having a real, viable two-party system for local political offices.

So, with this in mind, and after reviewing various positions GwinnettForum has taken in the past four years, we offer today our list of long range Continuing Objectives for Gwinnett County. We will publish this list each issue, and add or subtract from it from time to time.

For Gwinnett, the list includes:

- Development of a **two-party system** for local offices
- **Transparent operations** to restore faith in Gwinnett's County Commission
- Moving statewide **non-partisan judge election runoffs** to the General Election
- **Light rail** for Gwinnett from Doraville MARTA station to Gwinnett Arena
- **Extension of Gwinnett Place CID** area to include Arena and Discovery Mills Mall
- Banning of **tobacco** in all Gwinnett parks
- Making Briscoe Field a **commercial airport** for jet-age travel
- Approval of **Educational SPLOST** in 2013
- More **diverse candidates** for political offices and appointment to local boards
- **Physical move** of former St. Gerard's Catholic Church in Buffalo, N.Y., to Norcross
- Creative efforts to **support the arts** in Gwinnett
- Advancement and expansion of city and Gwinnett **historical societies**
- Stronger **regulation of late-night establishments** with alcoholic licenses

That's our list. If readers have other suggestions for improving our community, please send your thoughts to Feedback.

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