

What's Inside bluePrint

City invests in nuclear power to ensure affordable energy for customers	2
City announces \$2.2 million for repaving	2
Help plan Marietta's 175th anniversary	3
Calendar of Events	4



bluePrint

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA

Fall 2008

Development Update

Real estate agents announced this fall that Atlanta-based Diplomat Companies has purchased the **Holiday Inn** off Delk Road near Interstate 75 and plans to redevelop the property into one or two new hotels. The former hotel was damaged by fire January 16, 2006. A new Comfort Suites hotel will also be built on property recently purchased next to the site.



Meeting Park

This summer, Winter Properties celebrated the grand opening of **Meeting Park**, a new mixed-use development on Roswell Street between the library and Marietta Square. Meeting Park will extend the downtown area in a sensitive way respectful of the city's history and offer many owner-occupied housing options, along with office and retail.

The new **Starbucks** on Church Street near WellStar Kennestone Hospital opened October 2, and a grand opening celebration for the community will be held Saturday, November 8 from noon to 4 p.m. 



www.mariettaga.gov

Atlanta live theatre group announces move to Marietta, bringing economic boost to Square

The Marietta Square will soon be the home to more live theatre as The Strand Theatre and Atlanta Lyric Theatre, a 28-years-strong performing arts group, announced a long-term alliance. The Lyric will become the sole music theatre company in residence at The Strand and launch its 2008-09 season at its new home this December. The Lyric will produce and present six to eight musical theater productions at The Strand each year over the next five years.

Marietta City Manager Bill Bruton said the addition of another live theatre group will dramatically change the Square. "With



continued on page 3

City Council approves balanced budget without tax increase

Marietta City Council voted unanimously this summer to adopt the city's balanced budget for the next fiscal year that began July 1, 2008, and ends June 30, 2009. The budget was balanced without raising taxes.

Marietta has the lowest general fund millage rate — 2.788 mills — of any full service city in the metro area. The city portion of taxes on a Marietta home valued at \$200,000 are \$223.04 annually.

The new general fund budget of \$50.7 million includes funding for the day-to-day operations of the city, including police and fire services, parks and recreation programs and public works maintenance. Property taxes account for only 15 percent of the general fund budget. The city's total budget of \$255.7 million funds programs and services such as housing assistance, community development, SPLOST transportation improvements, and the city's power and water utilities.

City Budget Manager Lori Duncan said Marietta's overall financial condition remains strong despite difficult economic conditions the country faces. "We've seen rising costs for employee health insurance, fuel for our vehicles and pension contributions, so we've worked to keep this budget lean without raising taxes," Duncan said. "We're able to do so because of our use of technology and creative ideas by employees that help us work smarter, quicker and cost effectively."

The city is reducing costs wherever it can to save taxpayers money including cutting city department budgets; having the same number of employees as 10 years ago; utilizing energy-efficient lights including stoplights; capturing rain to water city trees and plants; using alternate fuels, including biodiesel, to cut fuel costs; implementing energy-efficient electric scooters so police officers can drive patrol cars less and save gas; placing restrictions on idling city vehicles; and contracting out services to save money where possible. 

Marietta invests in nuclear power to ensure affordable energy for customers

Marietta City Council approved \$405 million in investment over a 40-year period for an expansion of Plant Vogtle, near the Georgia and South Carolina border, which will allow the city to have cleaner energy and base power for decades to come.

In 2016 and 2017, Westinghouse will build two nuclear reactors, in addition to the two already in use. The new reactors are expected to cost \$14.2 billion.

Marietta is able to invest in the new reactors because it is a member of a statewide electrical organization that invested in the original reactors, and the city will own 65 megawatts of power each year that will be generated by the new reactors.

Because Marietta will not need the power until 2036, the city has negotiated to sell power to other utilities until that time. These other utilities will also pay for a sizable portion of Marietta's construction costs of the plant. This will cut the cost of Marietta's investment roughly in half, to \$200 million.

"Nuclear power is great for the environment," Marietta Power General Manager Bob Lewis said. "It doesn't contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, which is a major issue."



Marietta Power customers will not pay anything until the new power is serving Marietta customers' needs.

Marietta Power's residential rates are lower than those of its neighboring competitors, Cobb EMC and Georgia Power. One major reason is that nearly half of Marietta's power generation comes from low-cost nuclear plants. The city's commitment to the environment and providing dependable, low cost electricity to customers is a goal City Council established as part of their vision statement. 

City announces \$2.2 million for repaving

The city of Marietta is scheduled to repave 13 miles of city streets worth over \$2.2 million before the end of the year. Funding comes from the 2006 transportation special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST). Marietta Public Works Director Dan Conn said private consultants evaluate the condition of the city's streets on a regular basis and select roads to be repaved based on pavement conditions and traffic volume. Streets included in this round of paving are:

- Polk Street
- Kirkpatrick Drive
- Woodvalley Drive
- Chestnut Hill Road
- Campbell Hill Street
- Lees Trace
- Camp Street
- Maple Avenue
- Ridge Avenue
- Brown Avenue
- Woods Drive
- West Dixie Avenue
- Latimer Street
- Riverside Drive
- Marian Street
- Parkview Drive
- Merritt Road
- Stewart Avenue
- Seminole Drive
- Canton Road
- Cogburn Avenue
- Idlewyld Drive
- Pauline Drive
- Fairground Street near South Cobb Drive

the quality of life of city residents, is a goal City Council established as part of their vision statement. 

Marietta's transportation system, which places a high premium on



Blueprint Marietta is a publication of the city of Marietta Public Information Office to inform residents and property owners about city news, services and events. The newsletter is produced and mailed to residents and business owners within the city limits and is also available on the city's Web site, www.mariettaga.gov.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed and may be directed to:

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City Manager William (Bill) F. Bruton Jr.

Mayor

William B. Dunaway

Marietta City Council

- Ward 1 - Annette Paige Lewis
- Ward 2 - Griffin Chalfant
- Ward 3 - Holly Marie Walquist
- Ward 4 - Irvan Alan Pearlberg

- Ward 5 - Anthony Coleman
- Ward 6 - Jim King
- Ward 7 - Philip Goldstein

Help plan Marietta's 175th anniversary

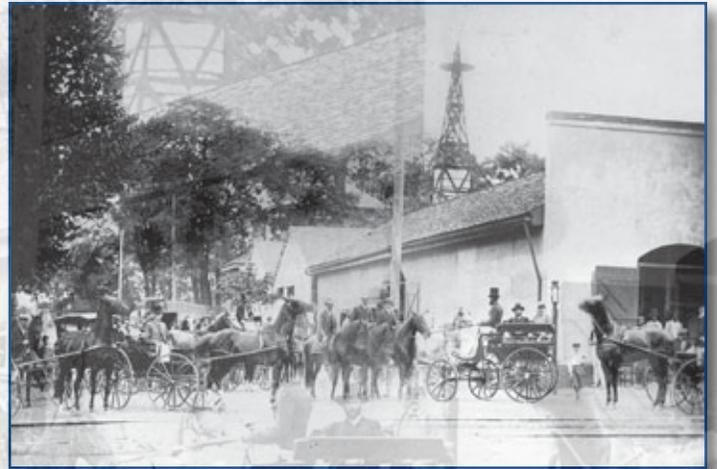
Residents are encouraged to join one of seven subcommittees now to help plan Marietta's 175th year-long anniversary celebration in 2009.

"Marietta has so many things to be proud of and so many people to be thankful for," City Manager Bill Bruton said. "Beginning in January 2009 and running through December, we will celebrate the people, organizations, events, history, culture and institutions that make our great community such a special place."

Volunteer committees

A steering committee will work on fundraising, publicity and organization for Marietta's anniversary. Volunteers are being sought to serve on seven subcommittees representing the Marietta community, including business, culture, education, government, history, neighborhood/civic and faith.

To register online to volunteer, visit the city's Web site at mariettaga.gov or call 770-794-5507 for more information. 



Whitlock Ave. at railroad 1888.

Atlanta live theatre group announces move to Marietta

continued from page 1

our established Theatre in the Square and its two stages, and now the addition of Atlanta Lyric Theatre, the Marietta Square will have a real niche as the home of live theater in metro Atlanta," Bruton said. "Three live stages will brand the Square as a true entertainment destination, and the additional visitors to our theaters will generate business for our merchants, art galleries and restaurants."

Brandt Blocker, artistic director and general manager of the Lyric, said the partnership is a perfect match. "Combining the Lyric's 28-year history of excellence in musical theater in Atlanta with the fabulous historic Strand in the heart of Marietta's Square is a win-win situation for our organizations and the local arts scene."

Earl Reece, Executive Director of The Strand Theatre, said he thinks the addition of the Atlanta Lyric Theatre to Marietta is one of the most exciting partnerships our community has ever seen. "It is obvious the arts are important to our community, and the Lyric will provide incredible opportunities for us," Reece said.

New season announced

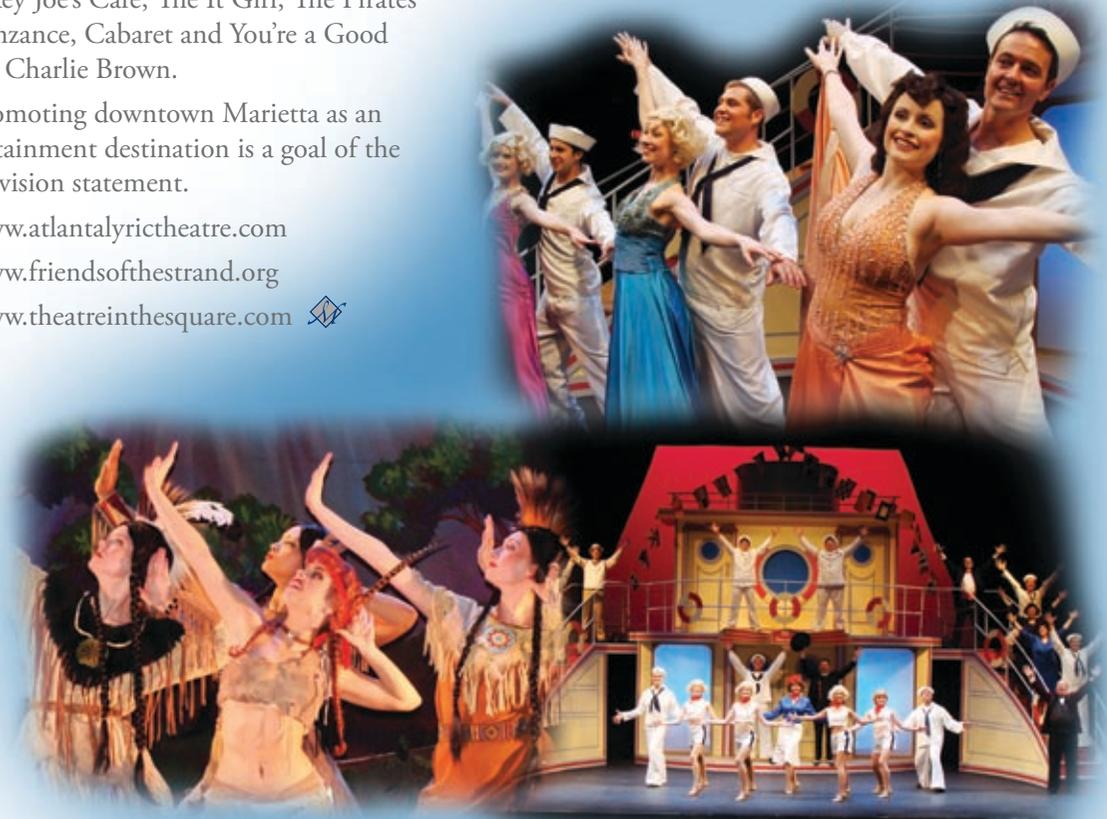
The 2008-09 Lyric Theatre season includes Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The It Girl*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Cabaret* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Promoting downtown Marietta as an entertainment destination is a goal of the city's vision statement.

www.atlantalyrictheatre.com

www.friendsofthestrand.org

www.theatreinthesquare.com 



Calendar of

Events



September 28- November 9

Looking over the President's Shoulder
Theatre in the Square

October 1-November 3 Scarecrows in the Square

Glover Park – Marietta Square

October 13

City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chamber

October 14

College Coffee Night
Marietta Museum of History

October 18

Halloween Happenings and Harvest Square Arts and Crafts Festival

Glover Park – Marietta Square

November 6

2008 Lecture Series: Evening with History
Marietta Museum of History

November 9- December 28

Christmas at Sweet Apple
Theatre in the Square

November 11

Veterans Day Parade
Glover Park – Marietta Square

November 11

College Coffee Night
Marietta Museum of History

November 12

Museum Mice Tours: Murray's Cool Tools
Marietta Museum of History

November 16- December 28

Sanders Family Christmas
Theatre in the Square

November 17

City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chamber

November 21- December 19

Candlelight Shopping on the Square
Glover Park – Marietta Square

November 27

Gobble Jog – 1K, 5K, 10K and Tot Trot
Glover Park – Marietta Square

November 27-28*

City Holiday - Thanksgiving
City Offices Closed

December 4

Christmas Tree Lighting
Glover Park – Marietta Square

December 5-21

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Atlanta Lyric Theatre at the Strand Theatre on the Marietta Square

December 6-7

Marietta Pilgrimage Christmas Home Tour

Whitlock Avenue Historic District

December 6-24

Santa in the Square
Glover Park – Marietta Square

December 9

College Coffee Night
Marietta Museum of History

December 10

Museum Mice Tours: Etta's Favorite Colors
Marietta Museum of History

December 10

City Council Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

December 18-20

Nativity in the Square
Glover Park – Marietta Square

December 24-25*

City Holiday - Christmas
City Offices Closed

*The city garbage and recycling schedule will change for the week. Please visit www.mariettaga.gov and click on City Services.

City Departments and Divisions

Budget (770) 794-5544	Community Development (770) 794-5437	Finance (770) 794-5544	Marietta Fire (770) 794-5450 For emergencies call 9-1-1	Parks, Recreation and Facilities (770) 794-5601	Sanitation (770) 794-5581
Building Inspection (770) 794-5650	Court (770) 794-5400	Fleet Maintenance (770) 794-5660	Marietta Police (770) 794-5300 For emergencies call 9-1-1	Human Resources (770) 794-5562	Section 8 (770) 794-5430
Business License (770) 794-5520	Development Services (770) 794-5669	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (770) 794-5552	Marietta Power (770) 794-5150	Planning and Zoning (770) 794-5440	Streets and Maintenance (770) 794-5676
City Manager (770) 794-5504	Economic Development (770) 794-5717	Management Information Systems (MIS) (770) 794-5588	Marietta Water (770) 794-5230	Public Works (770) 794-5650	Tax (770) 794-5680
Code Enforcement (770) 794-5439	Engineering (770) 794-5650		Mayor (770) 794-5502	Purchasing (770) 794-5699	Traffic Operations (770) 794-5676



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