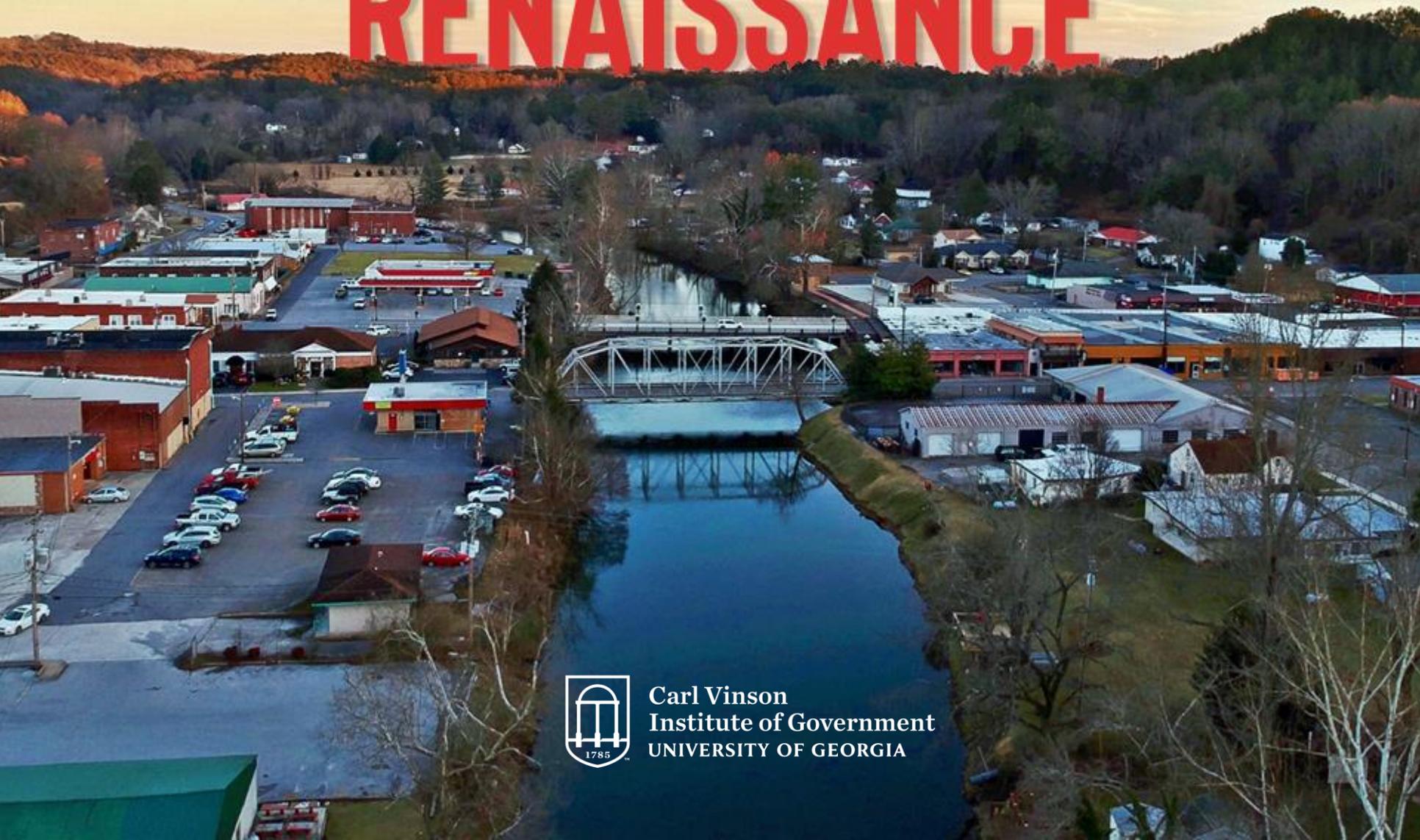


Downtown **RENAISSANCE**



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The GEORGIA DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE *Partnership*



Carl Vinson
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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



College of Environment + Design
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Small Business
Development Center
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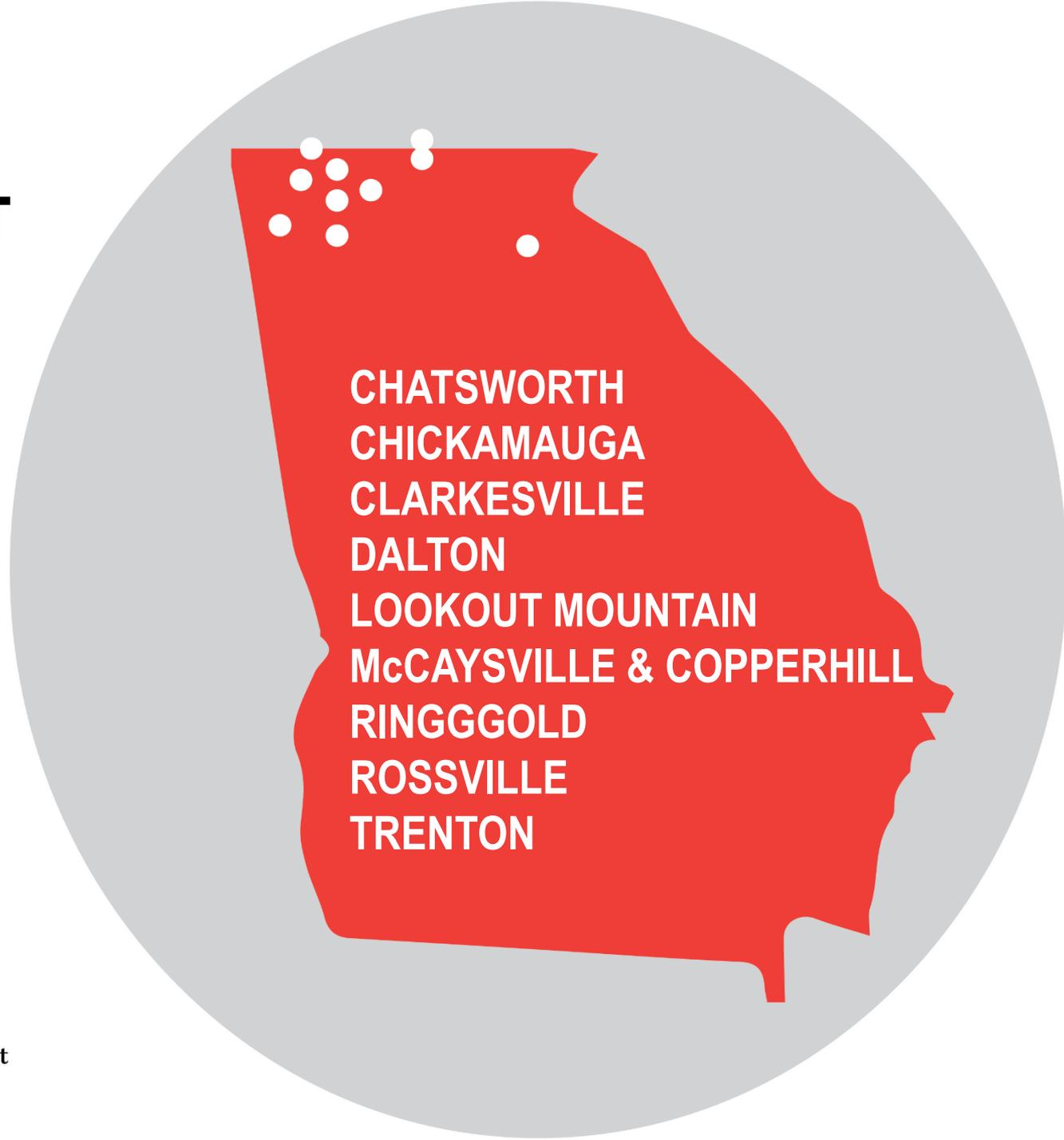


AMERICUS
BAINBRIDGE
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CAIRO
CEDARTOWN
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CORDELE
DALTON
GAINESVILLE
JEFFERSON
JESUP
RINGGOLD
ST. MARYS
STOCKBRIDGE
VILLA RICA



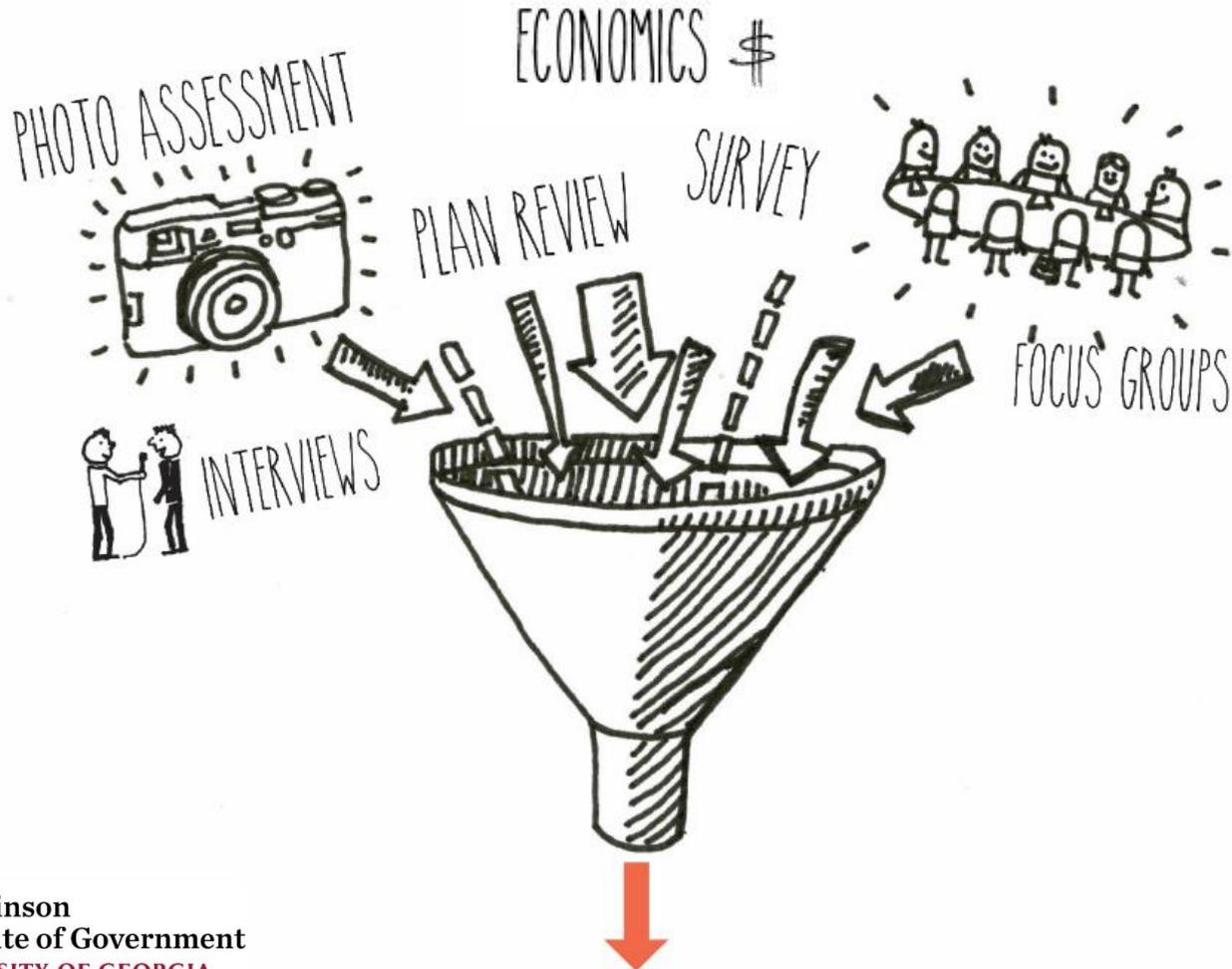
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NORTHWEST GEORGIA

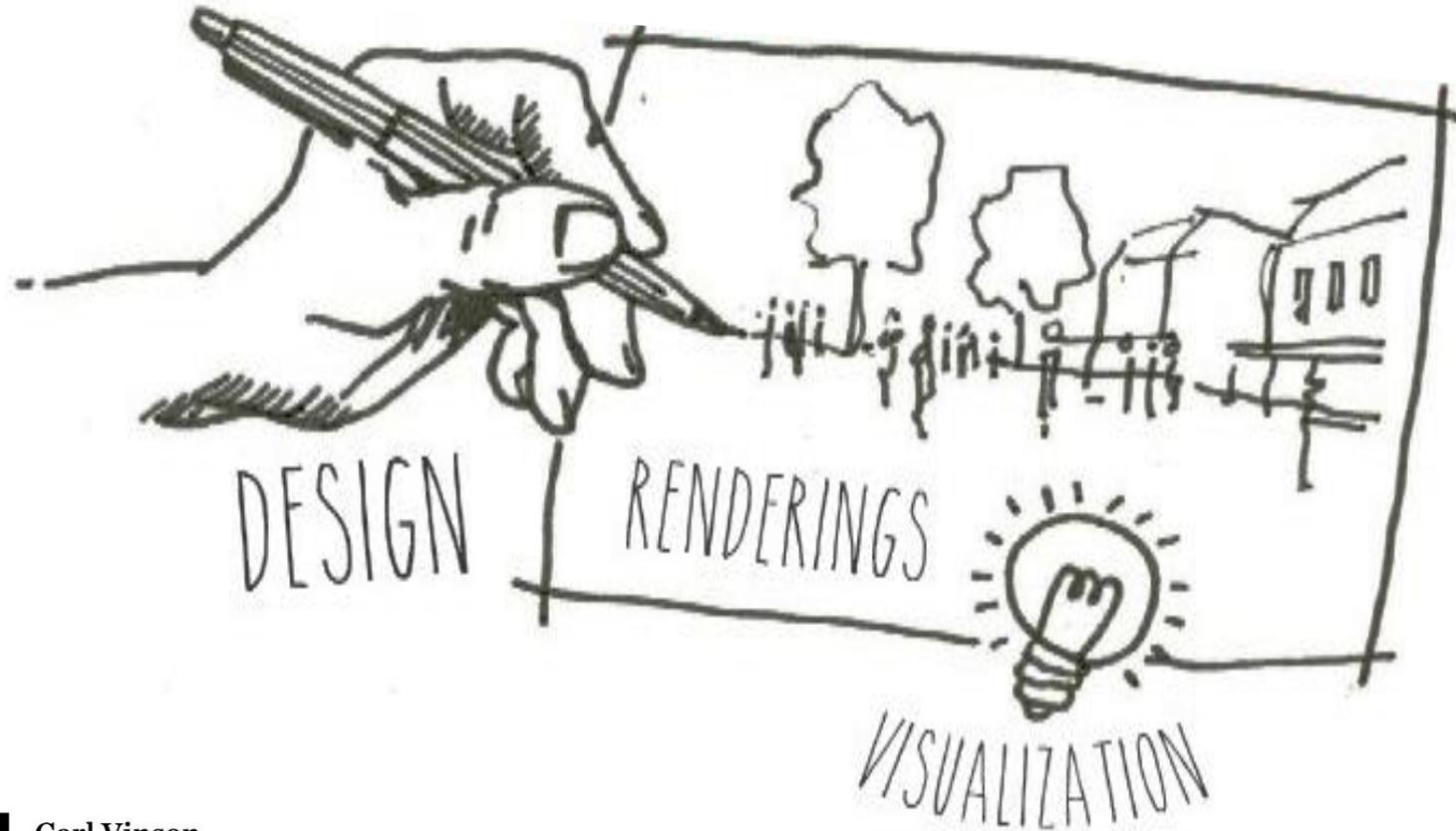


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STEP 1: WHERE ARE WE NOW?



STEP 2: WHERE ARE WE GOING?



Step 3: How Do We Get There?





Where We Were



BEFORE FIRE





The Northeast Georgian/2014

AFTER FIRE





Where We Needed To Go

Hey Clarkesville!

We'd like to hear from *you*.



201 North Millidge Ave
Athens, GA 30602-5482
706.542.2736
706.542.9301 (fax)

Clarkesville has partnered with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the Georgia Municipal Association to help grow the economic development capacity and improve the look of the downtown area. We need to hear from you so we can make downtown Clarkesville an exciting place to live, visit, shop, dine, and, of course, invest.

Please take a few minutes and complete the survey or go online:
<https://survey.cviog.uga.edu/clarkesville.html>



The Northeast Georgian

georgian Wednesday, August 27, 2014

Residents, others, speak out on future of Clarkesville at town hall meeting Aug. 25

By KIMBERLY BROWN

Clarkesville residents and others have had the opportunity to speak out about what they want for the future of Clarkesville. On Monday, about 50 people attended a town hall meeting led by Danny Bivins and Langford Holbrook of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia.

In July, the city hired a complete a master plan for the entire downtown area, with first priority given to rebuilding the area lost in a March 5 fire. The Aug. 25 meeting was another step in gathering information for that master plan. People have also been given the opportunity to participate in focus groups, interviews and a survey so the Carl Vinson Institute could gather information "from as many people as we can" regarding the master plan, Bivins said.

Bivins said they had received about 600 survey responses, and the survey is still available online at clarkesvillega.com.

"Clarkesville is already doing great things," he said. "You have an amazing town, an amazing downtown. That doesn't mean it can't be improved, but I want to make sure you understand I appreciate what you have."

do you want the future of Clarkesville to be?"

After the groups brainstormed their own responses and discussion, Bivins presented a list of 10 issues for the city, interviews and surveys.

As ranked by the group, No. 1 on the list of priorities was to replace the fire damaged buildings and businesses.

Second on the list was the need for downtown lodging, and tying for third was completing the streetscape and having



Kimberly Brown/SAL
25 Clarkesville town hall meeting. Led by representatives from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, an ongoing effort to develop Clarkesville's master plan.

"ITS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY, THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION THAT REVIEWS EVERYTHING WE DO."

- BILL GRESHAM, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Clarkesville begins focus groups

By KIMBERLY BROWN

The city of Clarkesville has begun seeking input from residents and those who visit the city, to determine what the future of Clarkesville's downtown might hold.

Last month, the city contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia to work on a

county government and the chamber of commerce; and Clarkesville's Main Street.

Focus group participation is "invitation only," Horton said, but everyone, even residents outside the city and county, are invited to fill out a survey, which can be found at clarkesvillega.com. Horton said her "personal goal" is to get at least 500 responses to the survey. In addition, one-

"THE MORE PEOPLE WE TALK TO, THE BETTER CHANCE WE'RE GOING TO GET IT RIGHT."

- DANNY BIVINS, CARL VINSON INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

include separate sessions for downtown property owners; downtown residents; city employees; the business association; the council and downtown development authority; real estate professionals; the financial and banking sectors; churches,

In addition to clarkesvillega.com, surveys can be picked up and returned to city hall. A town hall meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, to review the results of the public input.

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Clarkesville conducts focus groups, interviews

By KIMBERLY BROWN

Why do you think Clarkesville is unique? What is your favorite thing about the town? What do you think "works" and what doesn't work for residents and visitors coming to the downtown area?

"These questions and more are being asked of residents, business owners and visitors during a series of focus group meetings and interviews this week. The purpose is to gather information for the new master plan, being developed by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The master plan will focus first on rebuilding the area of the square which burned on March 5, but it will include all of the downtown area.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Danny Bivins of the Carl Vinson Institute, Kathy Papa of the Department of Community Affairs, and

you have amenities, that, for a town your size, no one else does."

In addition to the eight focus groups, Bivins' work will include 10 scheduled interviews.

But if you weren't invited to a focus group or interview, your input is still wanted, via a survey which can be completed online at clarkesvillega.com or a paper copy may be picked up and returned to city hall.

On Aug. 25, there will be a town hall meeting at Clarkesville City Hall where wireless laptops, where additional information will be gathered.

"The entire process of developing a master plan has been accelerated, because the burned buildings on the square need to be addressed quickly, Bivins and Clarkesville City Manager Barbara Kesler said.

"What we're expecting is a master plan for downtown

Clarkesville Main Street board to tackle short-term projects

By KIMBERLY BROWN

As planning continues on rebuilding parts of the Clarkesville Square, which burned March 5, and making improvements to the rest of downtown, residents and visitors will soon see progress in several areas.

This week, the Clarkesville Main Street board committees heard presentations by Danny Bivins of the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia. As a result, signage in the city of Clarkesville will soon be improved, as well as the bathrooms in Sam Pitts Park, through Main Street design committee efforts.

tion to look at the whole city, for more than just next year, but for the next 10 or 20 years," he said.

Bivins told the Main Street design committee Wednesday that he has looked at demographics, worked with a steering committee that did a "visual preference assessment to let us know what looks good and what doesn't look good," conducted 13 focus groups, one-on-one interviews and surveys.

Bivins said he received more than 600 survey responses, which, for a town of about 1,700, is "the highest survey response rate I've ever seen."

"...THE WHOLE MASTER PLAN IS PUBLICLY-DRIVEN."

- MARY BETH HORTON, MAIN STREET MANAGER

See Projects, Page 5A

burned buildings is obviously the No. 1 priority, he said, but other projects also came out of the focus groups. Those include the need for downtown lodging, finishing the streetscape, improving way-finding signs, more downtown businesses, infrastructure improvements, parking, handling the old courthouse, park and recreational improvements, and more downtown housing.

Bivins told committee members they should

town area to reduce the signage. "Too much signage, they actually get in the way," he said.

Johnston, already a project manager for the park area, said the committee will look at the

Clarkesville residents hear master plan

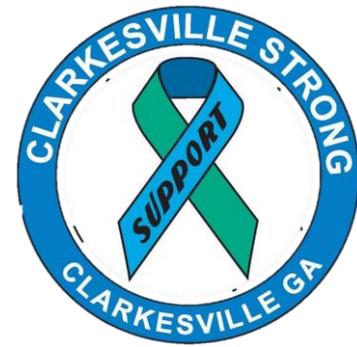
By KIMBERLY BROWN

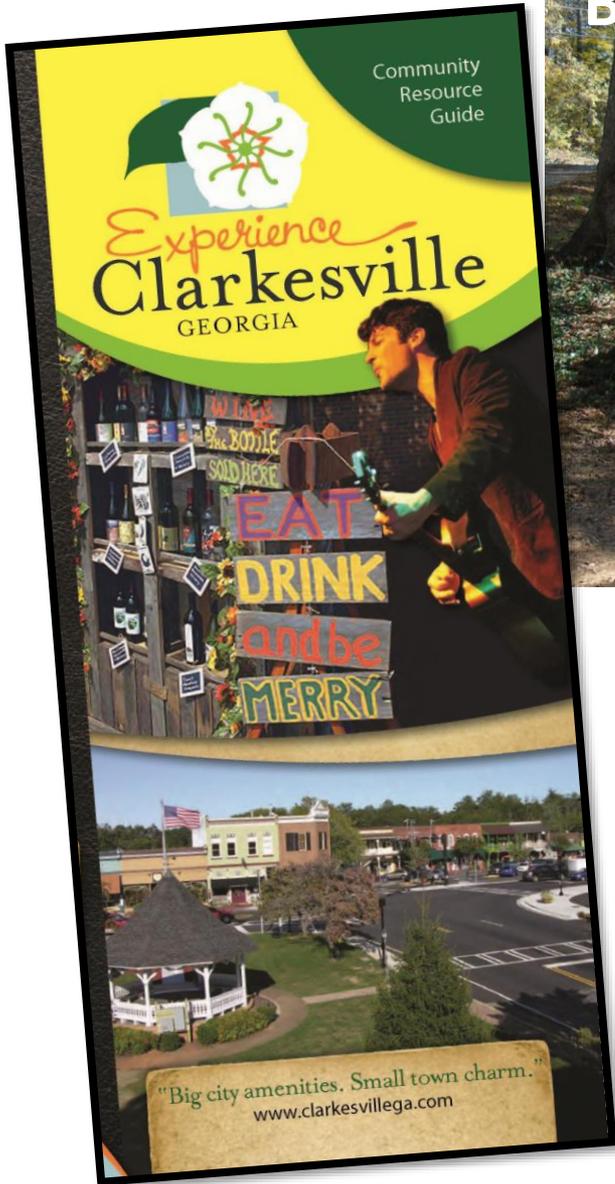
Clarkesville residents are interested in what happens to their downtown. As proven Feb. 2, when almost 100 residents attended the Clarkesville City Council meeting to hear a presentation from the Clarkesville Main Street Master Plan Committee.

About six months ago, the city contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to create a master plan. The plan will address the only buildings burned during the March 5, 2014 fire, but much of the rest of downtown. As part of the master planning process, Main Street manager

"WHAT WE'RE EXPECTING IS A MASTER PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN, BUT WHAT WE'RE IMMEDIATELY EXPECTING IS A PLAN FOR THE FIRE-AFFECTED AREA SPECIFICALLY."

- BARBARA KESLER, CITY MANAGER





Clarkesville Visitor's Guide

BEFORE



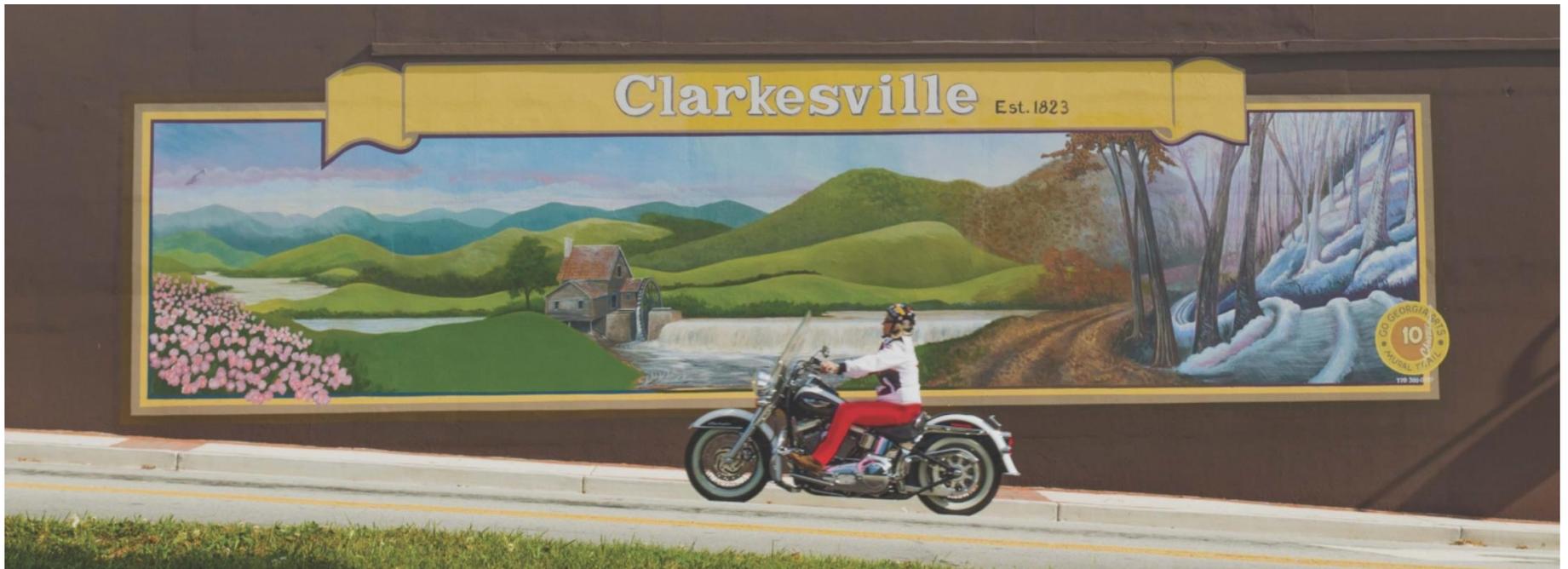
RESTROOMS IN CITY PARK



AFTER

Soque River Viewing Deck & Interpretive Signage





Old Garment Factory



Parking Lot

**FRIDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**
*3rd
fridays*

Clarkesville Main Street presents
Cruise-In Downtown Clarkesville
& **Music on Main**



**MOVIES
ON
MAIN**





How We Got There



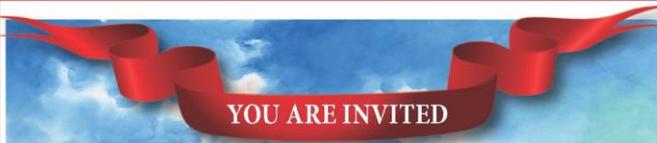
 CITY OF CLARKESVILLE
WASHINGTON STREET RETAIL


BLAKE RAINWATER
& ASSOCIATES


CROFT







YOU ARE INVITED



THE CITY OF CLARKESVILLE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

**RIBBON CUTTING &
DEDICATION CEREMONIES**

Thursday, April 6, 2017
5:30PM
East Clarkeville Square

Celebrate the completion of the downtown
Clarkeville rebuild and the unveiling of the
new Clarkeville plaza

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



Rahab's
Global Marketplace

Georgia

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

WINTER 2017

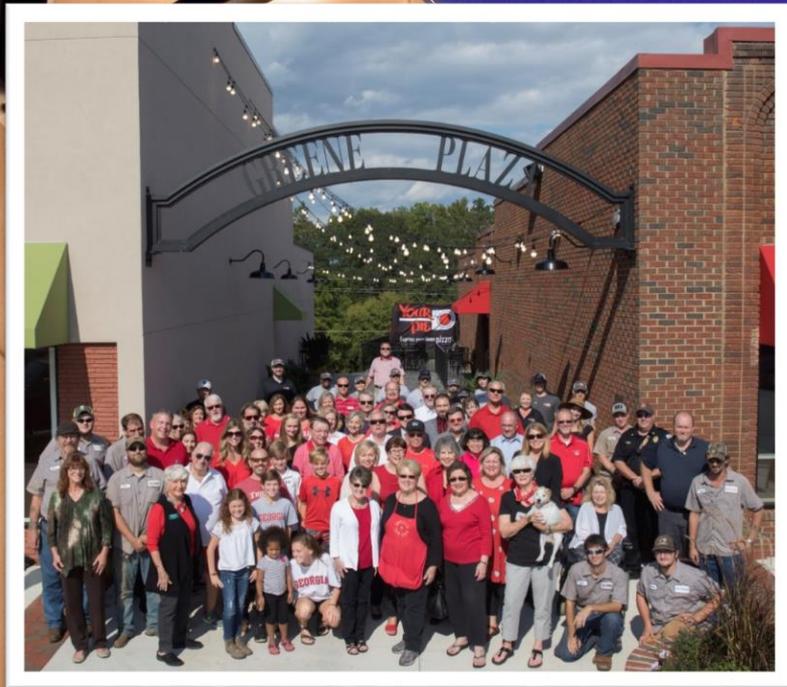
RENAISSANCE TOWN

In 2014, fire destroyed part of downtown Clarksville. UGA helped residents rebuild it.

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