



THE THOMASVILLE TOWNIE

WWW.YOURTOWNIE.COM



FREE

JULY 17 - AUGUST 6



FREE

JULY 17 - AUGUST 6

A VICTORIA PLACE TO CALL HOME

In the seventies and eighties, I grew up on the east 300 block of Walcott Street. I used to walk down Dawson Street to get to town, a road still canopied by trees, and graced with the Lapham-Patterson and other Victorian houses with wide porches and families in their yards. I knew people who lived in most of those homes: the Wrights, Riches, Daniels, Hayes and Hicks. I remember the smell of fresh cut grass on Saturday afternoons, the chatter of neighbors and days spent shelling peas or shucking corn on front porches. Dairy Queen was on Carol Hill and a neighborhood grocery store was two blocks away on the corner of Broad and Walcott.

Small towns and cities have become urbanized, en masse, since those days, with the birth of endless suburban gated communities and shopping Supercenters. The convenience store was born and most mom and

pop stores were plowed over along with trees and green spaces. Now, it seems, nothing is walkable. The planning that spurred this was based on zoning laws that moved industry and commerce away from residential areas.

Urban planning is still evolving {maybe even ‘de’-volving} though, as ideas of living convenience, transportation and sustainability are changing. I spoke with City Planner Brian Herrmann recently about changes to the Victoria Place neighborhood and how a new code is helping facilitate change.

Imagine an early downtown Thomasville or even Boston, Georgia. Within a block or two, there could be a variety of restaurants, clothing and grocery stores, all based on the need for proximity as well as for parks and green spaces.

Herrmann says, “Designing communities is more than just mapping where the residential, commercial and industrial parcels belong, which is typical conventional zoning [...] Good design involves greater attention to streetscapes, sidewalks, lighting, parking, the form of the structures in an area and more.”

The Victoria Place development will include small businesses, professional services, such as doctors and childcare, an elementary school and public buildings, historic rehabbed homes preserved by Thomasville Landmarks and renovation specialists Paul and Cathy Taber, new homes historically inspired, access to the multi-use trail system, as well as walking access to Thomasville’s downtown restaurants, stores and churches, and the creative district in the Bottoms area.

A top priority is preserving the rich history in existing structures. “The Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) is a natural partner,” says Herrmann, “with this kind of vision and planning. The City and the HPC, identify and consider the relationship of building facades and the environment and historic fabric of a community.”

The new “Form Code” is based on the needs of a community and adhering to an aesthetic principle based on existing historical references. People want to live in beautiful aesthetically pleasing places. We can’t wait to see what the future holds.

For more information visit www.livevictoriapark.com.

- Clay B.