Urban planning is still evolving 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The new “Form Code” is based on the needs of a community and adhering to an aesthetic principle based on existing historical references.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.