

MEAG POWER

# Current

# COMMUNITIES

## Grantville, Georgia

Casey Houston – Mayor  
Weyman Jenkins – City Manager  
770-583-2289



# GRANTVILLE

## BUILDS IT SO THEY WILL COME

*Economic activity  
is making its way  
south to Grantville*

Grantville is putting out the welcome mat for businesses and industrial/commercial enterprises looking for a great place to thrive. In the works now are two large development projects with desirable building space and good transportation access. There is no doubt that the economic activity taking hold in recent years in Newnan, the Coweta powerhouse to the north, is making its way south to Grantville.

City Manager Weyman Jenkins is convinced that “the next 24 months will have a huge economic impact on Grantville.”

The city’s Grove Park development, near exit 35 on Interstate 85, will be a mixed-use office/commercial complex on 195 acres and when completed could mean 300-plus jobs for Grantville and Coweta citizens. A second project, Grantville Industrial Park, is a private sector, \$100 million development of 510 acres with an estimated 5.5 million square feet of business space. “The tax revenues we are anticipating from these developments will be a huge boost to the operations of the city and the quality of life for our citizens,” says Jenkins.



# Fast FACTS GRANTVILLE

**POPULATION:** 2,550

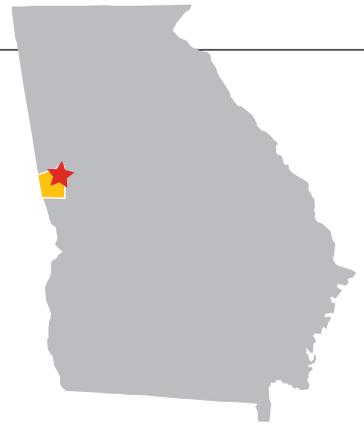
**COUNTY:** Coweta – Population 115,291

**UTILITIES:** Electric, natural gas, water and sewer, solid waste

**TRANSPORTATION:** Grantville is a great access point for businesses, residents and visitors onto Interstate-85 South.

**DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS:**

- Grantville's Hidden Treasures – eclectic thrift store
- Grantville Tax & Accounting – business and personal tax services
- Heavenly Tans – tanning salon
- Nick's Pizzeria – casual Mediterranean dining
- Reuse the Past – architectural salvage and antiques
- Shaye's House of Beauty – beauty salon
- Regeneia's Hair & Tanning – beauty salon



*“We have lots of possibilities in front of us.”*

Casey Houston  
Mayor

- **A New Recreation Complex** is underway that will significantly expand the city's smaller recreation area and include four ball fields as well as more open park space and walking trails. The site will also be the home of a new library.
- **Grantville Commons'** preliminary plans are on the drawing board. This 14- to 39-acre shopping plaza is slotted to include a major grocery chain as well as other retail stores.
- **The Grantville Days Crosstie Festival** blends country fun, entertainment and good food. The two-day affair is usually held in late September and features an opening parade, community performers, bands, DJs, a street dance and more. It's everything a down-home, enjoy-the-fun event should be.

# INDIVIDUALS Make A DIFFERENCE

*Grantville may be a small city, just 5.2 square miles to be exact, but it is a big attraction for people who love small town living and the availability of land at the edge of the expansive metropolitan area of Atlanta.*

Life in Grantville is still enjoyed at a charming, slow pace and, like most small communities, its heart is really a story of its wonderful citizens.

The town got its beginnings with the railroad in 1852. In fact, the townspeople then were so sure the railroad would bring them prosperity, they renamed their town from Calico Corners to Grantville for the railroad's engineer, Grant.

The early successful patriarchs were Thomas Zellars, J.W. Colley and N.O. Banks, entrepreneurs, cotton merchants and farmers. Their endeavors in Grantville would leave a strong legacy of entrepreneurship that one can see today in the town's local leaders — leaders like Casey Houston who, in 2007, became Grantville's first female mayor.

Today, Mayor Houston along with dedicated city activists is tackling a significant community initiative, a 30-acre recreation complex. Grantville, working with the county, has embarked on building facilities that include four new softball fields, a skateboard park and a walking trail. Adjacent to the complex will be a new library slated for opening in 2009.

## Locals Take the Lead

Most projects in Grantville harness the energy of a multitude of volunteers. Stretched city resources usually get matched by citizens who stretch their involvement. The restoration of the city auditorium is a case in point.

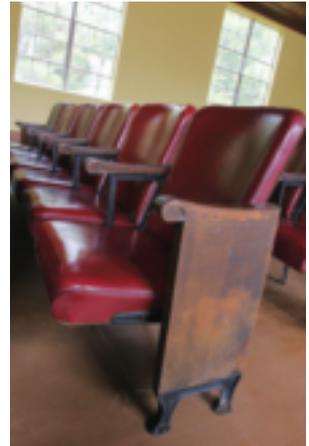
Eight years ago residents rallied to save the 1927 school auditorium. Fundraising campaigns from alumnae and history buffs have kept

disrepair at bay. The project remains the recipient of town wide benefit events and is a priority of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Individual activists, like Kim Sasso and Scott Palmer, single-handedly take on community projects. Kim is webmaster for a website, *G.net news*, designed to be a clearinghouse for Grantville happenings and a means to share and encourage ideas and successes among its residents. She spearheads citywide events, writes articles for local publications about her hometown, and shares duties at her husband's local restaurant, Nick's Pizzeria.

Local artist Scott Palmer shares his artistic gift with his town. He channeled his talents to blanket the walls of the children's library with a rainforest. The children not only enjoy the tropical environment as a backdrop while they read, but also love to look for the five hidden Mona Lisas drawn into the artscape.

Kim Sasso's website quotes the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." This sentiment resonates with all those who claim Grantville as home.



New upholstery restored the seating inside the Sara O'Kelly Auditorium.



Courtesy of The (Newman) Times-Herald

Bonnie Castle was built in 1896 as the home of banker J.W. Colley and his wife, Itura "Love" Moreland Colley. The house has been a landmark from the day it was finished.



This early 1900s fire hose reel is at home in the antebellum Grantville freight depot.

## More About **HOMETOWN** **GRANTVILLE**

The city of Grantville is in historic Coweta County which bears the name of the Coweta Indians, a Creek tribe headed by William McIntosh, Jr., the half-Scott, half-Creek who relinquished lands to the Federal government in the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs.

In 1944, the destroyer USS Zellars was launched and named for the Grantville hero, Thomas Zellars. Zellars opened a flood valve when an explosion took place aboard the USS Mississippi in 1924, during a practice drill in California. Zellars was one of 48 killed in the explosion, but his actions saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Moviemakers used the row of Grantville downtown storefronts as a backdrop for "The War," a 1994 film that starred Kevin Costner. In addition, Toby Keith's movie "Broken Bridges" incorporated scenes from downtown Grantville and used the home of Robert Jenkins, son of City Manager Weyman Jenkins. This home, at 74 West Broad Street, has been occupied by the Jenkins family since 1917.

The Historic Preservation Commission hosts an annual Tour of Homes as a fundraiser for preservation projects.

**GRANTVILLE IS A STATE-CERTIFIED  
"ENTREPRENEUR-FRIENDLY" COMMUNITY.**

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