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Oakwood Planning Director Announces Retirement

Larry Sparks played key role in city's growth, Oakwood 2030

OAKWOOD, Ga. (April 27, 2011) – Larry Sparks, the City of Oakwood's planning director for the past six years, today announced his retirement from his current position and a lifetime of public service.

Effective at the end of May, the retirement comes at a significant point in the City's recent history of planning and growth as part of the Oakwood 2030 master plan, in which Sparks played a key role, according to Oakwood Mayor Lamar Scroggs.

"Larry Sparks provided so much of the insight and vision behind Oakwood 2030. His hard work and dedication have truly set the table for a bright and promising future in our community," Scroggs said.

Oakwood City Manager Stan Brown hired Sparks in 2005, when he was serving as the planning director for the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Commission.

"Through his position at the Georgia Mountains RDC, Larry had a positive impact on Oakwood long before he joined our staff," Brown said. "Oakwood, as well as this entire region, has benefited from his knowledge and expertise."

During his tenure in Oakwood, Sparks was involved in the City's comprehensive planning effort, Oakwood 2030, and a significant downtown streetscape project that he helped bring about through a state transportation grant. He also is credited for building a widely respected planning and development department in Oakwood, including the development of a full-time code enforcement division.

"He leaves a void that will be difficult to replace," Brown said. "Larry has been a friend to me personally, and he has been a great friend to the entire City of Oakwood."

Sparks, 59, said he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, friends, and church.

“I would like to say that my six years here in Oakwood have been the most satisfying of my career. I will cherish my memories of Oakwood,” Sparks said.

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