

MAYOR
Lamar Scroggs

CITY COUNCIL

Sam Evans
Gary Anderson
Martha Collins
Ron McFarland
Montie Robinson, Sr.



CITY MANAGER
Stan Brown

ASST. CITY MANAGER
Patti Doss-Luna

CITY CLERK
Tangee Puckett

PRESS RELEASE:

For more information:
Jeff Butler
Morton Vardeman & Carlson
770-536-8921
john@vardeman.com

Stan Brown, City Manager
City of Oakwood
770-534-2365
sbrown@cityfoakwood.net

Oakwood's Longtime Assistant City Manager to Retire
Patti Doss-Luna has served City for nearly 30 years

OAKWOOD, Ga. (May 6, 2011) – For three decades, Patti Doss-Luna has been the friendly face of Oakwood and City Hall – and a stable, familiar cornerstone in an ever-changing hometown that has literally grown up around her. Now she is making her own change.

Doss-Luna, Oakwood's longtime Assistant City Manager, today announced she is retiring, effective June 30. Initially hired as the City Clerk, she has served Oakwood as a City employee for 25 years.

"My time in Oakwood has enriched my life, and along the way I hope I've helped others as well," said Doss-Luna. "I've always felt that I was called to be here. This is where the Lord wanted me, and I've tried my best to live up to that responsibility."

A fixture at Oakwood City Hall, Doss-Luna has been one of the most visible Oakwood officials dealing with citizens and business owners in virtually every aspect of local government ranging from property taxes and business licenses to oversight of the City's local cemetery.

The 51-year-old South Hall native began her government career at Oakwood in 1985 after her daughter was born, working for then-City Manager Jimmy McCauley, who hired her as City

Clerk. She left the position in 1992, but returned a year later with a new title as Assistant City Manager, which she held through the tenure of two City Managers – McCauley and Stan Brown, Oakwood’s current City Manager.

“This has never been just a job to Patti,” said Brown, who has worked with her since 2004.

“She’s made it her life and her mission, which has been key to our City’s success. Patti truly has a love for this community. She has been the ultimate ‘servant leader’ and the face of Oakwood.”

Working with the citizens of Oakwood has always been the favorite part of her job, Doss-Luna said.

“Whenever someone walked into City Hall, I’ve taken the approach that it is an opportunity to change their mind about any misconceptions they may have about local government – and Oakwood in particular,” she said. “I’ve always believed in delivering good customer service and making our citizens feel good about living and working here.”

During her service with the City, she has helped steer the South Hall town from a population of 700 to 4,000 residents today, while witnessing the number of businesses increase from 30 in the early mid 1980s to more than 350 today. She personally has overseen nearly 300 property annexations as Oakwood has transformed from a sleepy little town into a thriving commercial center.

“She is very proactive with any assignment,” Brown said. “She covers all the details and then executes with precision. And we’ve never worked as a manager and assistant manager; we’re a management team.”

Her spirit of teamwork was displayed most prominently in recent years when Doss-Luna filled in as City Manager three different times in order to allow Brown to fulfill his military obligations overseas as a U.S. Air Force reservist.

“Patti will be sorely missed around City Hall and by the citizens of Oakwood,” said longtime Oakwood Mayor Lamar Scroggs. “Her contributions to Oakwood are innumerable. Patti has epitomized what government service truly is supposed to be. She has worked tirelessly for the citizens of Oakwood, and there is no question of her important role here during my time as mayor.”

When Doss-Luna started her government career, Oakwood’s bustling Mundy Mill Road was merely a country two-lane. Back then, she would personally hand-type every tax bill and recruit her family to help stuff the envelopes for mailing. Those days are quite a departure from more recent years, when she oversaw some of the area’s largest annexation projects, expansion of the City’s prosperous commercial-industrial base, and assisted in the development of the ambitious Oakwood 2030 master plan.

Through the years, however, Doss-Luna said the one constant has been the vision of the City’s leadership.

“The mayor, Council and City staff have always wanted more for the City while maintaining a sense of community,” she said. “The vision of Oakwood 2030 was in their heads long before we unveiled it.”

Doss-Luna always looked at government service as a collaborative effort, giving credit and thanks not only to her Oakwood City colleagues but to the staffs of Hall County, Gainesville and other local governments with whom she has partnered over her career.

“When I first started in Oakwood, I was given five phone numbers to call if I needed help with a project or ever had a question,” she said. “Now that contact file in my computer is over 2,000 names.”

“I have been so blessed by all the people I’ve worked for and with, and I will especially be forever indebted to Jimmy and Stan. They believed in me and gave me opportunities to grow. Both were great City Managers to work for.”

Doss-Luna says she has no immediate plans after retirement but looks forward to spending more time with her husband and family while contemplating her next phase in life.

“Whatever this next stage brings, I look at each new day as a chance to positively impact people,” she said.