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GEORGIA

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 29, 2019**

## **City of LaGrange Crews Continue Improvements to Bell Line Community Following Neighborhood Meeting**

*LaGrange, Ga. May 29, 2019* – The City of LaGrange continues to collaborate with Bell Line community members to make improvements to the neighborhood.

City crews recently demolished the concession stand at Jones Street Park and removed fencing.



Former City Councilwoman & Bell Line Resident Norma Tucker talks to LPD Chief Lou Dekmar and Lt. Dale Strickland as the Jones Street Park concession stand is demolished

“The city is very focused on rehabilitating our parks and bringing them back to life. At Jones Street Park, we plan on creating a walking, removing some fencing and improving our basketball courts,” said City Manager Meg Kelsey. “We are really excited about working with the

Bell Line community. They are an active neighborhood and we are grateful for the efforts they are putting forth.”



Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting in March 2019

In March, the Mayor, City Council and city staff held a Neighborhood Town Hall meeting with the community to hear concerns.

“We started with the Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> and we had citizens from all over LaGrange come out. We had a follow up meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> with about twelve Bell Line community members who came out and spoke up about what they want to see,” said former City Councilwoman and Bell Line Resident Norma Tucker. “In the past, the view that was obstructed by the concession stand allowed for different crimes to happen at the pavilion because people could do whatever and be out of view. We feel that having this building demolished is the start of renovations and upgrades in our Bell Line neighborhood.”



City Manager Meg Kelsey assists in the demolition

“From a public safety standpoint the research about public safety and parks and crime shows that the more use a park gets and the more activity in the area by folks engaged in recreation the more likely you are going to drive crime down,” said LPD Chief Lou Dekmar. “Not only does this take care of the recreational requirements and the interests of the community but it also creates a public safety deterrent for crime and disorder.”

Since the initial meeting the City of LaGrange has made the following improvements to the community:

- LaGrange Police installed cameras in the area surrounding Troup Street
- LPD has conducted a site survey for cameras to be placed in the Jones Park area.
- LPD conducted a traffic study to analyze the traffic data to determine the feasibility of speed bumps.
- LPD conducted a security survey and made recommendations on increased lighting in the area.
- In response to that recommendation, city staff installed three new utility poles in the neighborhood and changed existing lights to LED lights for more efficient lighting

If you are interested in being a part of the neighborhood partnership in this community, please contact LPD Sgt. Marshall McCoy at [mmccoy@lagrangega.org](mailto:mmccoy@lagrangega.org).

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