



MyBaseGuide

MILITARY RELOCATION

Welcome to Augusta-Richmond and Columbia Counties

Home of Fort Gordon





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Dr. Billy P. Lynn and the staff of Savannah River Plastic surgery would like to thank the men and women of our community who have been so willing to serve our nation.

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- Washer/Dryer Connections
- Large Walk in Closets
- Large Farmhouse Style Sinks
- Extra Storage Space
- French Doors
- Custom Cabinetry
- Designer Bathrooms
- Black Stainless Appliances
- Corporate Suites Available
- Flat and Townhomes Styles Available

AMENITIES

- Cabana Style Pool with Sundeck
- New Resort Style Clubhouse with Free WIFI
- Play Park
- 24 Hour Well Equipped Fitness Center
- Laundry Care Center
- Pet Friendly
- Nature Walk
- On-site 24/7 Maintenance
- On-site Management



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www.marcoa.com

Supporting Those Who Serve



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. JESUS GUERRERO

Our Military

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

FORT GORDON IS JUST a few miles southwest of the city of Augusta, Georgia, in Augusta-Richmond County. The post's Gate 2 is only a few hundred yards from Columbia County. Fort Gordon is 122 miles from the historic streets of Savannah; 138 miles from the charm of Charleston, South Carolina; 139 miles from Atlanta; and 211 miles from the beaches, entertainment and golf courses of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Situated on approximately 56,500 acres, Fort Gordon is a large, multi-mission, multiservice military installation providing services and support across a wide spectrum of training, operational and soldier sustainment needs. The installation supports Army and Department of Defense organizations and activities performing regional and worldwide missions, including communications training and operations, military intelligence, cyber operations, medical and dental care, force integration and mobilization.

Fort Gordon is home of the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and is host to a multiservice community of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine

Corps and multinational forces. It has become a center for joint forces activities, training and operations.

Population

The Fort Gordon population includes an on-post population of more than 26,000 military, family members and civilians, with an off-post population of nearly 78,000 military and civilian family members and retirees.

Economic Impact

Fort Gordon expends more than \$2 billion annually in the Central Savannah River Area from an annual budget of \$818 million.

HISTORY

Camp Gordon, named for Confederate Lt. Gen. John Brown Gordon, was activated for infantry and armor training during World War II. During the war, its 55,000 acres served as a divisional training base for the 4th and 26th infantry divisions and the 10th Armored Division that fought in Europe in Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army.

After World War II, more than 85,000 officers and enlisted personnel were discharged from Camp Gordon's Army Personnel Center. Other facilities included a U.S. disciplinary barracks and, beginning in 1943, a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian World War II captives.

Camp Gordon, almost deserted after June 1948, came to life in September 1948 with the establishment of the Signal Corps Training Center. The post's training mission grew with the addition of the Military Police School in September 1948 and the activation of the Engineer Aviation Unit Training Center in January 1949 (the latter remained at Camp Gordon for only one year).

The Korean conflict again placed Camp Gordon center stage in preparing soldiers for combat. In addition to communications personnel at the Signal Training Center's Signal Corps Replacement Training Center and Signal Unit Training Group, military police trained for combat assignments while the 51st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade formed three detachments before moving to Camp Stewart,

Georgia. In 1950, the installation became the site for military government training for the Army. Also during the decade, Camp Gordon was home to the only Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory in the continental United States as well as a rehabilitation training center and a U.S. disciplinary barracks. In 1953, the Basic Replacement Training Center and the Advanced Leader's School provided basic training and advanced leadership training (both were inactivated in 1955). The Civil Affairs School arrived in 1955 as part of the Civil Affairs and Military Government School. Camp Gordon, becoming a permanent Army installation March 21, 1956, was redesignated Fort Gordon. The U.S. Army Training Center (Basic) was activated here in 1957.

During the Vietnam War, infantry, military police and signal soldiers trained at Fort Gordon. While Signal Corps training continued to expand throughout the 1960s, other activities ceased through postwar deactivations and the Military Police School's move to Fort McClellan, Alabama. In June 1962, all activities of the Signal Corps Training Center were reorganized under the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal School. Designating the installation the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, the Army consolidated all communications training at Fort Gordon on Oct. 1, 1974. The arrival of the Army's Computer Science School was only part of the impetus for the fort's tremendous growth during the 1980s. The following decade found its Mobilization Command deploying numerous troops to southwest Asia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991).

Today, Fort Gordon is home of the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and figures prominently in post-Cold War national defense.

ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. ARMY CYBER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The Cyber Center of Excellence is the U.S. Army's force modernization proponent for cyberspace operations, signal/communications networks and information services, and electronic warfare. It is responsible for developing related doctrine, organizational, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facility solutions. A major aspect of the center's mission is the training, education and development of world-class, highly skilled signal, cyber and electronic warfare professionals supporting operations at the strategic, operational and tactical level. Today's broad and rapidly changing global operational environment means the DOD and the nation are required to function within an increasingly

competitive, congested and contested cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum. Ultimately, the center must enable the commanders and leaders to seize, retain and exploit freedom of action in both the land and cyberspace domains, while simultaneously denying and degrading the adversary use of the same.

7TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)

The 7th Signal Command was activated at Fort Gordon in July 2008. The command is responsible for the integration, security and defense of the Army LandWarNet within the continental U.S. The command is designed to extend LandWarNet capabilities to generating and operating forces in support of CONUS-based information-enabled expeditionary operations.

15TH REGIMENTAL SIGNAL BRIGADE

Training is the primary mission of the 15th Regimental Signal Brigade. The mission is as diverse as the personnel who train therein and the equipment that they learn to install, operate and maintain. The brigade conducts world-class training to produce expeditionary signal and ordnance warriors with full-spectrum

competencies who live the Soldier's Creed. It provides tough and realistic training in a contemporary operating environment that focuses on tactical and technical skills, knowledge and abilities.

35TH SIGNAL BRIGADE

The 35th Signal Brigade is a subordinate element of the XVIII Airborne Corps. The brigade rapidly deploys worldwide to provide and protect expeditionary C4 systems and networks for the Army service component commanders and combatant commanders, as well as joint task force and coalition headquarters, to enable joint and combined battle command across the full spectrum of network-centric operations and warfare.

359TH SIGNAL BRIGADE

The 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade exercises command and control over Army Reserve soldiers in six states. The brigade has a distinguished history dating to 1944 when it served admirably in Brazil and was decorated with the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award for its accomplishments.

FORT GORDON ONLINE

Official site: www.gordon.army.mil

Family and MWR: <https://gordon.armymwr.com>

DIGITAL GUIDE



www.mybaseguide.com/army/7/fort_gordon



Mobile App
www.mbgapp.com

Download the free MyBaseGuide app to your mobile device and find more information about local health care, education, housing and recreational activities on Fort Gordon.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook
www.fb.com/ftgordonga

People around the world increasingly stay connected through social media, whether it be with a deployed service member, with friends and families in locations around the world or with the bases where you have been stationed or expect to transfer.

Here are some safety tips for using social media:

1. Never post confidential personal information such as your date of birth, address, Social Security number, or bank and credit card account numbers. Never provide this type of information when signing up for a social networking site. Most sites



Twitter
<https://twitter.com/FGPAO>

do not require it, and you should be wary of those that do.

2. Don't invite people whom you do not know to be your "friend." You do not want strangers to know details about you or your family.
3. Never share operational information, such as upcoming ports of call and military exercises. Such information can compromise operational security and the safety of our service members.

The Public Affairs Office can provide guidance on the type of information not to be shared in a public forum such as a social network or blog.





116TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE

The 116th Military Intelligence Brigade conducts 24/7 tasking, collection, processing, exploitation, dissemination and feedback operations of multiple organic and joint intelligence aerial-intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions collected in overseas contingency areas of operation.

513TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade's mission is to conduct intelligence in support of U.S. Army Central full-spectrum operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to defeat adversaries, promote regional stability, support allies and protect U.S. national interests.

706TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GROUP

The 706th Military Intelligence Group conducts continuous full-spectrum signals intelligence and computer network operations at National Security Agency/Central Security Service – Georgia to gain information dominance in support of national, combined, joint and Army decision-makers and to shape future Army intelligence capabilities.

480TH INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE GROUP

The Air Force's 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group conducts real-time tactical and national intelligence collection, exploitation, analysis and reporting operations. The group provides cryptologic products and services to warfighters and decision-makers

operating in, or concerned with, the U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Special Operations Command areas of responsibility. The group also conducts Air Force National Tactical Integration and Tactics Analysis Studies Element missions for the 609th Air and Space Operations Center. The group is the Air Force component of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service – Georgia.

NAVY INFORMATION OPERATIONS COMMAND, GEORGIA

Navy Information Operations Command, Georgia was originally commissioned as Naval Security Group Activity, Fort Gordon. This organization was commissioned Nov. 1, 1995, at Fort Gordon to perform Naval Security Group-related functions. Specifically, it provided operational cryptologic personnel to support the Fort Gordon Regional Security Operations Center. In summer 2005, the security operations center was renamed the National Security Agency/Central Security Service — Georgia. National Security Agency/Central Security Service — Georgia serves as a joint service facility established by the director of the National Security Agency to conduct continuous security operations in support of national and warfighter intelligence requirements.

ARRIVAL

See the Getting To & Around Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties chapter on Page 14 for information about local airports, train service and public transportation. The closest commercial flights land at Augusta Regional Airport, about 10 miles from the post. Transportation is

not provided to Fort Gordon, unless you are an Advanced Individual Training soldier. AIT soldiers may call the 15th Signal Brigade staff duty at 706-791-8314 and request pickup.

SPONSORSHIP

Contact your sponsor with your estimated arrival time and flight information if applicable before your arrival at Fort Gordon.

Sponsorship is vital to the relocation process. Don't PCS without talking to your sponsor before departing for Fort Gordon. Your sponsor will answer any questions you have about the base and the local area, make lodging or dorm arrangements and meet you upon arrival. Your sponsor will be there to help you and your family until you are settled into your new community.

If you have not been in touch with a sponsor and your departure is nearing, visit <https://gordon.armymwr.com/relocation/sponsorship> for service-specific information on obtaining a sponsor.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Cellphone use by the driver of a moving motor vehicle is prohibited on all Department of Defense installations unless the cellphone is used with a hands-free device.

From Augusta Regional Airport

Exit from the airport's main entrance and take Tobacco Road. Tobacco Road will lead you directly into the post via Gate 5. After entering the gate, follow Avenue of the States, which will become Rice Road. At the intersection with Chamberlain Avenue, Darling Hall, a three-story brick building with a red roof, will be on the right. Darling Hall is the Soldier Service Center, and likely your first stop at Fort Gordon.

From Interstate 20

From Interstate 20, take Exit 194 to Belair Road and Dyess Parkway. Follow the Dyess Parkway and Fort Gordon signs. Dyess Parkway will bring you directly into the post through Gate 1. Follow the road, which is Chamberlain Avenue, past the guard house. On the left, you will see Darling Hall.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Reporting in to Fort Gordon

www.fortgordon.com/programs/community/acs/relocation/report

Check-in locations and procedures vary for incoming personnel based on their military branch and unit. For more information on where to report upon arrival, visit Fort Gordon's MWR website.

TEMPORARY LODGING

Griffith Hall

250 Chamberlain Ave. 706-790-3676

Ring Hall

36700 O' Club Drive..... 706-790-3676

Stinson Hall

37302 Avenue of the States 706-790-3676
www.ihg.com/armyhotels

There are three on-post hotels for your travel needs. Families who are being assigned to Fort Gordon can choose to stay at the Holiday Inn Express Griffith Hall, IHG Army Hotels Ring Hall or IHG Army Hotels Stinson Hall. For all three hotels, check-in time is 4 p.m. and checkout time is 11 a.m. If you are traveling with pets, Stinson Hall is the only pet-friendly hotel on post. For more information on hotel amenities, room rates, booking and check-in procedures, visit the IHG Army Hotels website.

GETTING SETTLED HEALTH CARE

Eisenhower Army Medical Center

300 E. Hospital Road

General Information..... 706-787-5811
 Appointments..... 706-787-7300
 Pharmacy..... 706-787-8033
<https://eisenhower.amedd.army.mil>

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center provides health care services to military members and their families at Fort Gordon, as well as retirees and veterans of the armed forces. The center provides a wealth of medical services, including behavioral health care, cardiology, dentistry, emergency care, flight medicine, general surgery, intensive care, OB-GYN care, physical therapy, primary care, radiology and more.

Family members of active-duty personnel are encouraged to use the TRICARE Dental Program. Program information is available by visiting www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental/TDP.

HOUSING

Housing Services Office

Building 33720..... 706-791-5116/9658
<https://home.army.mil/gordon/index.php/my-fort/all-services/housing-services-office>

The Fort Gordon Housing Services Office is ready to help you transition to your new home and community. Use its resources to become familiar with available housing options and support services. When you arrive at Fort Gordon, visit the HSO for valuable information, counseling and guidance before signing any lease or sales contract for housing.

Unaccompanied Housing

Building 33720..... 706-791-9701/6559
<https://home.army.mil/gordon/index.php/my-fort/all-services/housing-services-office>

Unaccompanied housing is provided for unaccompanied soldiers in the ranks of E-1 to E-5.

The post has 1+1 and 2+2 barracks quarters. Visit the Housing Services Office for more information on unaccompanied housing.

Fort Gordon Family Homes

155 3rd Ave. 706-772-7041
www.FortGordonFamilyHomes.com

Living at Fort Gordon Family Homes affords a wealth of benefits that are hard to match beyond the gates. The moment you tour the community, you'll discover the built-in family atmosphere where you'll be surrounded by support from military members and families alike. Many of the people hired to serve you are themselves former military members who have a unique understanding of your housing and lifestyle needs. All you need to do is choose from spacious, contemporary, move-in ready two, three and four bedroom homes, which offer features such as central heating and air conditioning, and energy efficient appliances. Don't worry; the community is pet friendly and welcomes your family pets!

The exclusive amenities and commitment to customer service set Fort Gordon Family Homes apart, and you can count on on-site maintenance and management teams to resolve emergencies 24/7. And in times of natural disaster, the entire team will work together nonstop to return your lives and homes back to normal as soon as possible.

You're invited to take part in the award-winning LifeWorks resident program, which provides residents of all ages with a wide variety of fun and educational activities and events at no cost. Most utilities are included and you won't experience any wait at the gate either. Because you're living close to work, you'll have more time at home, too, whether to relax or spend more time with family.

Your new home is waiting! Call the management office at 706-772-7041 or visit the website at www.FortGordonFamilyHomes.com to find your perfect place!

MAIL

Post Office

411 36th St. 706-790-3651

The full-service post office on Fort Gordon provides window service six days a week, and the lockbox lobby is always open. To receive mail for general delivery, use the following address:

Your Name
 Post Office, General Delivery
 Fort Gordon, GA 30905

The post office will hold mail for 15 days if incoming from CONUS, 45 days if incoming from OCONUS.

PETS

Building 500..... 706-787-7375/3815
<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/organization/Pages/VtfDetails.aspx?VtfID=47&loc=GA>

DOCUMENTS TO CARRY FOR INPROCESSING

- Several copies of your orders.
- Certified copies of birth certificates, adoption papers, naturalization papers, marriage license, divorce papers, etc.
- Copy of advanced pay or allowance paperwork.
- All moving paperwork including TMO information, self-move paperwork and all receipts associated with moving.
- Employment records or resumes of civilian family members.
- Medical and dental records of your entire family from your previous duty station.
- Immunization records for all children, active-duty members and pets.
- School records and transcripts for students.
- Copies of all insurance policies.
- Copies of all occupational licenses and certifications.
- Purchase agreements for vehicles, showing state sales tax paid.
- Vehicle registrations and titles.
- Household goods inventory.
- Letters of credit from utility companies.
- Copies of federal income tax forms.
- Copies of recent leave and earnings statements.

Personnel residing on Fort Gordon must have pets registered with the post veterinary facility within 10 days of signing for government housing or obtaining a pet. Microchipping and current vaccinations are mandatory for pets that reside on post. For more information on Fort Gordon Family Homes' pet policy, visit www.FortGordonFamilyHomes.com. Personnel living off post must have pets licensed by the respective city where they reside. There are no quarantines for the state of Georgia.

Fort Gordon Veterinary Services offers limited routine care to privately owned animals. Due to limited manpower and resources, most veterinary emergencies are best served through a civilian facility; see the Military Buyer's Guide tab to connect with local veterinarians.

RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE

Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel

Building 25603..... 706-791-2056

Bicentennial Chapel

Building 28414..... 706-791-3959

Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

Third floor 706-787-6667





Good Shepherd Chapel

Building 29608..... 706-791-4308
www.fb.com/FortGordonChaplain

The Center Chaplain's Office provides pastoral care and unit-based religious support to the Fort Gordon community. There are four chapels on post, with services for a variety of faiths. Other programs include men's, women's and youth groups, religious education, Bible studies and counseling. If you are seeking spiritual support for any denomination or faith group, the chaplain's office can help.

SERVING YOU DINING

Alternate Escapes Cafe

Building 25722..... 706-791-0785

Bogey's Grill

Building 537 (at the Golf Club) .. 706-791-2433

Domino's Pizza

Building 25722..... 706-863-6211

Gordon's Conference & Catering

Building 18402..... 706-791-2205

Heroes Sports Bar

Building 33200
 (at the Bowling Center)..... 706-791-8716

Huddle House

35304 Avenue of the States Drive
 706-798-3722

Jackpot Cafe

Building 15500..... 706-793-0003

Kegler's Cafe

Building 33200
 (at the Bowling Center)..... 706-771-6907

Lift-A-Latte

Building 29607
 (at Gordon Fitness Center)..... 706-791-2647

Me Me's & Bo Bo's Express

Chinese Restaurant

Building 36200..... 706-792-9774

MWR Cafe

Building 33720..... 706-791-1330

Towers Cafe

Building 29808..... 706-791-5849

For hours of operation, menus and special event information, visit <https://gordon.armymwr.com/categories/social-and-dining>.

EDUCATION

Army Continuing Education Services

Building 21606..... 706-791-2000
<https://home.army.mil/gordon/index.php/aces>

Education services and programs are available at the education center and Multi-Use Learning Facility. Active-duty military, reserve-component military, retirees, Department of the Army civilians and their adult family members may receive counseling, information about financial aid and local programs, testing services and enrollment in selected programs. There are also on-site college representatives from Georgia Military College, Troy University and Webster University.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Army Community Service

Building 33720..... 706-791-3579
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/acs>

Army Community Service is a worldwide program designed to provide both active-duty and retired military families with a centrally located and unit-based responsive source of information and assistance in solving problems. The program functions as an expansive social service network for the military community. At Fort Gordon, Army Community Service is in Darling Hall.

Programs include Army Emergency Relief; the Army Family Action Plan; Army Family Team

Building; the Army Volunteer Corps; domestic abuse assistance; Employment Readiness; the Exceptional Family Member Program; Family Advocacy; Financial Readiness; mobilization and deployment services; the New Parent Support Program; Relocation Readiness; and Survivor Outreach Services. For detailed program information, visit Fort Gordon's MWR website.

Child Development Centers

East CDC

Building 290..... 706-791-8707

Main CDC

Building 45300..... 706-791-2701

West CDC

Building 18407..... 706-791-0718

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/cys>

The child development centers offer weekly care for children 6 weeks to 6 years old, and hourly care is available for children as old as 12 on a space-available basis with reservations. The centers provide safe, nurturing environments that promote the social, emotional, physical, creative and cognitive growth development of youngsters. All programs are staffed with trained program assistants and education technicians.

Children of active-duty military personnel, appropriated or non-appropriated fund personnel, Reservists on active duty, DOD contractors and DOD civilian personnel are eligible. To use any Child, Youth and School Services program, applicants must register with Parent Outreach Services, in Building 44401. Registration requires proof of eligibility; the child's immunization records; the child's Social Security card; the child's birth certificate, passport or DOD dependent ID card; leave and earnings statements or pay vouchers for both parents; emergency contact info; DOD Form 2652, the application for DOD child care fees; USDA CACFP enrollment form; and DA Form 7625-1, the special needs form.

For more information, contact Parent Outreach Services at 706-791-4455 or visit <https://gordon.armymwr.com/parent-outreach-services>.

Exceptional Family Member Program

Building 35200 706-791-3579
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/efmp>

This program provides special-needs families with information and referral services.

Family Child Care

Building 44401..... 706-791-4440
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/fcc>

Family Child Care provides an alternative to child development center care for families that need evening care, weekend care, care for children with special needs, infants and school-age

children, as well as care during swing and mid-night shifts.

The program also offers an opportunity for spouses to contribute to the family income while caring for their own children.

FCC providers are well trained, they and their family members undergo a thorough background check and their homes are periodically inspected by the Signal Branch Safety Office, Fire Prevention and Preventative Medicine.

School Liaison

Building 44401..... 706-791-7270
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/ss>

The school liaison office is the connection between Fort Gordon families and private and public schools. The office provides support to service members during all stages of transition and deployment to ensure children receive every opportunity for quality education.

Youth Services

School-Age Services

Building 45410..... 706-791-7575

Teen Center

Building 41503..... 706-791-6500
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/categories/cys-services>

School-Age Services offers before- and after-school activities for kids in grades 1 through 5. Activities include mentoring and homework help, sports and fitness options, life skills and leadership opportunities, 4-H clubs, art and other recreational pursuits.

The Youth Services program and the new Teen Center are for kids in grades 6 through 12. Youth Services is an affiliate of 4-H and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It offers a wide variety of activities and clubs that focus on character and leadership development, community service, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation.

Hours and fees for these programs vary. Transportation to and from various off-post schools is available. See the website for more information.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

PenFed Credit Union

36305 Avenue of the States 800-247-5626
www.penfed.org

Wells Fargo

Building 36300..... 706-771-5960
www.wellsfargo.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Assistance

Building 35202..... 706-791-7812/7813
<https://home.army.mil/gordon/index.php/my-fort/all-services/osja>

Notary and power of attorney services are available on a walk-in basis during normal operating hours. Individual legal assistance is provided by appointment only. Available services include legal assistance in family law, estate planning, property, military issues, taxes and more.

LIBRARY

Building 33500..... 706-791-7323
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/woodworth-library>

The Fort Gordon Woodworth Library's collection consists of print and electronic resources. Free proctoring and notary services are also available. Library programs include family games and movies, preschool story hour, a garden club and more. To search the library's online catalog, visit the library's website.

RECREATION

For information about the recreational programs at Fort Gordon, visit the Fort Gordon MWR website at <https://gordon.armymwr.com>.

Aladdin Travel

Building 36200..... 706-771-0089
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/aladdin-travel>

Aladdin Travel is Fort Gordon's Information, Tickets and Registration program. It is a full-service travel agency offering airline tickets, cruises, attraction tickets and more. Find information and get military discount tickets for area attractions, including Six Flags Over Georgia, Riverbanks Zoo, Carowinds and more.

Alternate Escapes Recreation Center

Building 25722..... 706-791-0785
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/alternate-escapes>

The center features free Wi-Fi, TVs, pool and pingpong tables, the Game Link Lounge, arcade games and more. If you're hungry, grab a bite to eat at the cafe or Domino's pizza.

Aquatics

Indoor Pool

Building 21608..... 706-791-3034

Outdoor Pool and Spray Park

Building 36707..... 706-791-8053
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/categories/sports-and-fitness>

The indoor pool is a fitness and learning pool. The heated facility has seven 50-meter lanes and two diving boards. The Outdoor Pool and Spray Park has a big pool and a kiddie pool, each with a beachfront entry. Other features include tumble buckets, a toddler slide, a three-story slide, two diving boards and a covered patio for eating. Hours are seasonal for the outdoor facility.

Bingo Palace

Building 15500..... 706-793-0003
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/bingo-palace>

Play for cash prizes with paper or electronic versions of bingo. Afterward, grab a bite to eat at the Jackpot Cafe.

Community Garden

Brainard Avenue and 44th Street
..... 706-791-9483
<https://gordon.armymwr.com/community-garden>

Fort Gordon's community garden is chemical-free and bird-, bee- and kid-friendly. The garden serves as a teaching garden for Fort Gordon Child, Youth and School Services programs, has support programming for all new gardeners and is a great place to share garden advice for every level of gardening experience. For more



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY PFC CHRISTOPHER BRECHT

information on the garden club, workshops, plot registration and fees, visit the garden's website.

Fitness Centers

Cyber Fitness Center

Building 25713..... 706-791-7370

Gordon Fitness Center

Building 29607..... 706-791-2369

Nelson Fitness Center

Building 21713..... 706-791-6872

Victory Fitness Center

Building 25510..... 706-791-2864

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/categories/sports-and-fitness>

Cyber Fitness Center offers a weight room, cardiovascular equipment, a basketball court, a volleyball court, an equipment issue room, a sauna and racquetball courts.

Gordon Fitness Center has a racquetball court, a free weights and strength room, cardiovascular equipment, a sauna, an aerobics room, a Nautilus room, a spinning room, tanning beds and massage therapy rooms. Gordon also offers concessions for energy food and drinks, as well as group fitness instruction and personal fitness trainers.

Nelson Fitness Center has a weight room, cardiovascular equipment, a basketball court, a volleyball court, an equipment issue room, a sauna and racquetball courts.

Victory Fitness Center has a strength room, a cardiovascular room, a weight room, a racquetball court, a sauna and an equipment issue room. The basketball and volleyball floor has been converted to house equipment to conduct Functional Fitness and Combative Instruction.

Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre

Building 32100..... 706-793-8552

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/dinner-theatre>

The Fort Gordon Entertainment Program offers a full season of theatrical and musical events. The professionally staffed community theater showcases musicals, comedies, mysteries and special attractions with a delicious buffet dinner. The program also offers outdoor concerts, talent shows, festivals and more.

Fort Gordon Disc Golf Course

Wainwright Circle 706-791-6433

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/disc-golf>

Disc golf is played like traditional golf, but with a flying disc instead of balls and clubs. Fort Gordon's new disc golf course is fun for all ages.

Gordon Car Care Auto Skills Center

Building 29300..... 706-791-2390

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/gordon-car-care>



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY PFC CHRISTOPHER BRECHT

Gordon Car Care offers full-service repairs and do-it-yourself bay rentals. A storage facility, storage lots for vehicles and a vehicle resale lot are also available.

Gordon Lakes Golf Club

Building 537..... 706-791-2433

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/gordon-lakes>

This 27-hole, par-72 course features play around a 20-acre lake as well as bunkers and cutouts in Georgia pines and other native trees. The club has an active tournament program, a restaurant and a pro shop.

Gordon Lanes Bowling Center

Building 33200..... 706-791-3446

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/gordon-lanes>

Strike up some family fun at the bowling center. Gordon Lanes features 24 bowling lanes, a snack bar, a pro shop and a sports bar with pool tables, video games, volleyball courts and sports TV. Call for lane availability.

Hilltop Riding Stable

Building 508..... 706-791-4864

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/hilltop>

Hilltop Riding Stable offers more than 250 acres of trails for horseback riding. Programs include horse camps, organized trail rides, education sessions and Fort Gordon's Saddle Club. Lessons are also available. Hours vary by season; see the stable's website for current hours.

MWR Sports

Building 24501..... 706-791-1142

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/mwr-sports>

MWR Sports offers a number of intramural and varsity sports programs for military members, their families, retirees, civilian employees and contractors at Fort Gordon. Sports include basketball, flag football, rugby, softball, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee and volleyball. Fun runs,

aerobics training classes, strength training and other programs are also available.

Sports equipment rentals are available Monday through Friday. Call 706-791-7857 or visit <https://gordon.armymwr.com/mwr-sports/sports-equipment> for more information.

Outdoor Recreation

Building 00445..... 706-791-5078

<https://gordon.armymwr.com/outdoor-rec>

The Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex is home to the Fort Gordon Outdoor Recreation program. Outdoor Recreation offers an array of services and equipment rentals, including hunting and fishing licenses, bicycles, fishing boats, archery equipment and firearms for target practice. Outdoor Recreation is also the place to make reservations for the Leitner Lake Recreation Complex, which has RV and primitive camping sites.

SHOPPING

Commissary

Building 37200..... 762-333-7610

www.commissaries.com

Save an average of 30 percent of your hard-earned dollars when shopping for groceries at the commissary. In-store amenities and specialties include a bakery, custom photo cakes, a deli, fresh sandwiches to go, party cakes, plants, rotisserie chicken and sushi.

Main Exchange

Building 38200..... 706-793-7171/7172

www.shopmyexchange.com

The Fort Gordon Exchange wants to be your first choice for shopping. It offers a price-match program that guarantees the lowest prices in town. Hours for services outside the main exchange vary, so call or visit the website for detailed information.



Welcome

to Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

WELCOME TO GEORGIA! KNOWN as the Classic South, Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties are in eastern Georgia near the Georgia-South Carolina state line.

Augusta-Richmond County is a consolidated city-county with a population of more than 196,000 and is home to Fort Gordon. Columbia County has approximately 154,000 residents. The legal county seat is Appling, but the location of Columbia County's government and courts is Evans.

These counties, and others nearby, offer many historical and cultural attractions, plus modern amenities. Outdoor activities abound, including fishing, golfing, horseback riding and camping.

There are also shopping, dining and nightlife opportunities for residents to explore. Annual events, festivals and museums celebrate everything from the area's Native Americans to a major golf tournament to comedy duo Laurel and Hardy.

HISTORY

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties were both created in the 1700s. Richmond

County was established in 1777, Augusta was established in 1736 and Augusta-Richmond became a city-county consolidation in 1996. Richmond County was named for Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond, a British politician and office-holder sympathetic to the cause of the American colonies. Augusta was named in honor of Princess Augusta, wife of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Columbia County, named for Christopher Columbus, was first created Dec. 10, 1790. Over the next century or so, land was exchanged between neighboring counties, including Richmond, McDuffie and Warren, to form what we now know as Columbia County's boundaries.

Augusta-Richmond County

Augusta was laid out on the flat slopes of the Savannah River, just east of the sand hills that would come to be known as Summerville. In 1739, construction began on a road to connect Augusta to Savannah. This made it possible for people to reach Augusta by horse, rather than by boat, and more people began to migrate inland to

Augusta. While slavery was originally banned in the colony by James Oglethorpe, it soon became an integral part of Georgia's history. Under Georgia's new constitution, a new political structure was laid out in 1777; Augusta's parish government was replaced by a county government, Richmond County.

During the American Revolution, Savannah fell to the British. This left Augusta as the new state capital and a new prime target of the British. By Jan. 31, 1779, Augusta was captured by Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell. But Campbell soon withdrew, as American troops were gathering on the opposite shore of the Savannah River. Augusta again became the state capital, but not for long. Augusta fell into British hands once more before the end of the war.

From then until the American Civil War, with the establishment of the Augusta Canal, Augusta became a leader in the production of textiles, gunpowder and paper. The Georgia Railroad was built by local contractors Fannin, Grant & Co in 1845, giving Augusta a rail link to Atlanta. The railroad connected to the Tennessee River at

Chattanooga, Tennessee, thus providing access from inland Georgia to the Mississippi River. The cost-savings of this link from the middle of the country to the Atlantic Ocean via the Savannah River increased trade considerably.

Originally, Augustans welcomed the idea of the Civil War. Over 2,000 Augustans went away to fight in the war, but war did not set into the minds of Augustans until the summer of 1863. It was in that year that thousands of refugees from areas threatened by invasion came crowding into Augusta, leading to shortages in housing and provisions. Next came the threatening nearness of Gen. William Sherman's advancing army, causing panic in the streets of the once-quiet town. However, the city was never burned to the ground. After the war, Augusta and Georgia were both under martial law during the period known as Reconstruction. During this time, civil rights of African-Americans were expanded. Following the end of Reconstruction, the white majority population of Georgia and other Southern U.S. states enacted Jim Crow laws to limit the rights of African-Americans. These restrictions would not be lifted until the civil rights movement of the mid-20th century.

Unlike most Southern cities, postbellum life for Augusta was prosperous. By the beginning of the 20th century, Augusta had become one of the largest inland cotton markets in the world. A new military cantonment, named Camp Hancock, opened nearby during World War I.

Prior to World War II, the U.S. Army constructed a new fort in Richmond County, Camp Gordon, which was finished a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Many new soldiers were brought to this camp to train to go off to war. Within the few months after WWII,

many of the GIs at Camp Gordon had been sent back home, and the importance of the Army in the community seemed to almost come to an end.

In 1948, new life came to the city when the U.S. Army moved the Signal Training Center and Military Police School to Camp Gordon. Later, in November 1948, the Clarks Hill Reservoir was created by a newly constructed dam, which provided the city with a supply of hydroelectric power. In 1950, plans were announced to build the Savannah River Plant nearby, which would boost the city's population about 50,000. Augusta moved into the second half of the 20th century on the threshold of becoming an urban industrial center in the South.

Beginning in the late 1970s, businesses started leaving downtown Augusta for both Regency Mall and Augusta Mall. That started a trend of urban abandonment and decay. To counter this trend, city politicians and business leaders promoted revitalizing Augusta's hidden riverfront (obscured by a levee) into Riverwalk Augusta, with parks, an amphitheater, hotels, museums and art galleries. The first segment of Riverwalk Augusta was opened in the late 1980s and later expanded in the early 1990s. However, the renaissance of the riverfront did not appear to be spilling over into Augusta's main street, Broad Street, as more businesses were leaving and more storefronts boarded up.

In 1995, citizens of the city of Augusta and Richmond County voted to merge governments. Citizens of Hephzibah, Georgia, and Blythe, Georgia, decided to remain separate. The consolidation took effect Jan. 1, 1996, with the city of Augusta surrendering its city charter and merging operations with Richmond County.

Today, the city-county consolidation of Augusta-Richmond County has a population of nearly 197,000.

Columbia County

Columbia County, the 12th county formed in Georgia, was created by an act of the Legislature of Georgia on Dec. 10, 1790, from Richmond County. During the Colonial era, settlement of what would become Columbia County occurred primarily due to colonists settling at the second city in Georgia, Augusta, located on the fall line.

Two small battles occurred in what would become Columbia County during the Revolutionary War between Patriot Militia and Tories; the area was then primarily frontier, and loyalties were badly divided. Just before and immediately after the Revolution, numerous Virginians and North Carolinians migrated to the frontier of Georgia above Augusta, including the area around Brownsborough. After the Revolution, residents disagreed as to whether Augusta or Brownsborough should be the county seat of Richmond County. At the insistence of William Few, the county was partitioned. The new county formed from Richmond was named Columbia; this did not end the controversy about the location of the county seat. The citizens of Columbia County turned to arguing among themselves. Supporters built one courthouse in Brownsborough, and those of Cobbham built another. The courthouse at Cobbham was used; and Brownsborough in short order ceased to exist. In 1793, part of the county was taken, combined with part of Wilkes County, and formed into Warren County.

Around 1799, William Appling deeded a tract of land to the county to build a courthouse. It was near Kiokee Creek and a Baptist Church which Daniel Marshall had founded in 1772. A courthouse was constructed and served the county until around 1808. The small town that existed around the church and courthouse came to be known as Columbia Courthouse. In 1816, Columbia Courthouse was chartered as the Town of Appling, named for the Appling family who had donated the land to the county, and for Col. John Appling, a local resident who died in a campaign against the Seminole Indians.

Appling was the political, educational, social and religious center of the county. During the Georgia Gold Rush of the 1820s, some successful prospecting and mining occurred in Columbia County. The 1830s were a period of major infrastructure projects and the coming of the railroad. When the Georgia Railroad was established, the judges determined that having trains passing near Appling would disturb their proceedings; they insisted that the railway line that was built



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Chamber of Commerce

Use the chambers' online membership directories to connect with local businesses as you settle into your new community.

Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce

One 10th St., Suite 120
Augusta, GA 30901 706-821-1300
www.augustametrochamber.com

Columbia County Chamber of Commerce

1000 Business Blvd.
Evans, GA 30809 706-651-0018
www.columbiacountychamber.com

Thomson-McDuffie Chamber of Commerce

149 Main St.
Thomson, GA 30824 706-597-1000
www.thomsonmcduffiechamber.com

in the county from Atlanta to Augusta pass well below Appling. Construction of the Augusta Canal in the 1830s required Columbia County's cooperation, as the beginning of the canal and the locks were within the county.

The railroad brought increased trade and population to the area. In 1870, the part of Columbia County which included Thomson, Dearing and Wrightsboro, the 12,000-acre settlement established in 1768 by Colonial Gov. James Wright as a settlement for displaced Quakers from North Carolina, was combined with parts of Warren County to form McDuffie County — named after South Carolina's U.S. Sen. George McDuffie. Thomson became the county seat of the newly formed county.

The 20th century brought many changes to the county, with new technologies and modernization. In 1917, Harlem was badly damaged by fire. Bringing electricity to the county began. Men from Columbia County answered the call of duty and served in both World War I and World War II. Prior to WWII, the county was still primarily agricultural; it had escaped the boll weevil infestation that destroyed cotton crops in Mississippi and other parts of the South. The U.S. Army built Camp (later Fort) Gordon, taking over a large portion of Richmond County and parts of Columbia, McDuffie and Jefferson counties. The Army kept the fort after WWII, creating a new population and economic center for the county. During the 1950s, the Clark Hill Dam was constructed, submerging considerable land in northern Columbia County under the new reservoir. It prompted new residential development around the lake.

Between 1950 and 1990, the population increased dramatically. Agriculture declined, as farmland was redeveloped as suburban housing and community centers for people employed in Augusta. Numerous personnel stationed at Fort Gordon eventually settled in Columbia County. During the 1960s, the schools were integrated largely without incident under the leadership of Superintendent John Pierce Blanchard. The unincorporated communities of Martinez (formerly Lulaville, named after a Cuban doctor) and Evans (possibly named after Confederate Gen. Clement A. Evans) became the population centers of the county, since they were located nearest to Augusta.

During the 1980s and 1990s and demographic shifts, Evans gradually became the de facto county seat, as the Columbia County Government Center and the Government Complex Addition were built there to serve the growing population in the county's eastern areas. Court functions remained in Appling since Georgia state law required that superior court sessions must be held at the county seat and courthouse of each county at least twice a year. In 1998, the legislature changed the law to allow counties with unincorporated county seats to hold court sessions at annexes or satellite courthouses. With the 1993 passage of legislation requiring incorporated cities to provide at least three municipal services, Appling was not able to maintain its status as an incorporated city. Appling was one of 187 inactive cities in Georgia that lost its charter on June 1, 1995. Today, it is nearly a dead town although Appling retains its status as de jure county seat; all governmental functions are carried out in Evans. As of the 2018 Census, the population in Columbia County was more than 154,000 with more than half of its residents living in Evans and Martinez.

SAFETY

Every second counts in a disaster so planning and preparation can be lifesavers.

Ready Georgia is a statewide campaign supported by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security department aimed at motivating Georgians to take action to prepare for a disaster. GEMA/HS coordinates the state's preparedness, response and recovery efforts to disasters. The program's website offers online access to tools that will help you plan and be prepared for a disaster, and its mobile app lets you put preparedness tools in the palm of your hand. Visit www.ready.gov/georgia to take advantage of these valuable local resources.

Another great resource for natural disaster and severe weather information is the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/disasters. Here you can find information on how to prepare for various weather emergencies.

Augusta-Richmond County

Emergency Management..... 706-821-1155
www.augustaga.gov/462Emergency-Management

The Augusta-Richmond County Emergency Management Agency provides a comprehensive and aggressive emergency preparedness, response and recovery program for the county to save lives, protect property and reduce the effects of disasters. The Augusta-Richmond County Emergency Management serves a population of 200,000 covering 324 square miles. Visit the department's website for the county's natural disasters and terrorism guides and other disaster preparedness information.

Columbia County

Emergency Management..... 706-868-3303
www.columbiacountyga.gov/county/emergency-services/emergency-management-agency

The Columbia County Emergency Services Division is responsible for planning and coordinating actions for disaster preparation, response and recovery. The division oversees the Emergency Management Agency. The department's primary responsibilities are to develop and maintain emergency plans, conduct disaster training exercises for all agencies, provide emergency public information, provide awareness and education programs, coordinate area emergency service agencies, and coordinate community warning systems. Visit the office's website for the county's family disaster preparedness plan and other disaster preparedness information.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties experience a humid subtropical climate with short, mild winters; very hot, humid summers; and a wide temperature variation throughout much of the year. On average, there are more than 200 sunny days a year, though many of them are uncomfortably humid. The monthly daily average temperature ranges from 45 degrees in January to 82 degrees in July. Annually, there are 53 nights with the low reaching the freezing mark, 82 days reaching or exceeding 90 degrees and six days reaching 100 degrees. Snowfall is not nearly as common as in Atlanta, due largely to the area's elevation, with downtown Augusta being about 900 feet lower than downtown Atlanta. Freezing rain is also a threat in wintertime.



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Getting To & Around

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

COZIED UP TO THE South Carolina border on the eastern edges, Georgia's Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties easily link the Augusta metropolitan region with other parts of the states and the rest of the nation. Most people traveling in the area choose to drive, enjoying the scenic roads throughout the Middle Savannah River sub-basin.

For those flying, there are several airports within 200 or so miles with numerous air carriers. Two airports are within Georgia, and one is nearby in South Carolina.

Both counties and surrounding areas have public transportation.

AIRPORTS

Augusta Regional Airport

Bush Field (AGS)
1501 Aviation Way
Augusta, GA 30906 706-798-3236
www.flyags.com

Augusta Regional Airport, about 10 miles east of Fort Gordon, has been serving the Central Savannah River Area for more than 60 years. Competitively priced, daily flights to Atlanta and Charlotte, North

Carolina, are offered out of Augusta through Delta Air Lines and American Airlines.

Amenities include free shuttle service from long-term parking to the terminal, free baggage carts, rental car companies, ATMs on site and free Wi-Fi service. Visit the website for information about schedules.

Columbia Metropolitan Airport

3250 Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170 803-822-5000
<https://columbiaairport.com>

Columbia Metropolitan Airport is about 80 miles east of Fort Gordon and has four carriers: American Eagle, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and Via Airlines. Ground transportation includes rental car services and taxi and shuttle services. Visit the website for information about schedules, baggage services and more.

Hartsfield-Jackson

Atlanta International Airport

6000 N. Terminal Parkway, Suite 4000
Atlanta, GA 30320 800-897-1910
www.atl.com

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is 20 minutes south of downtown Atlanta and two hours west of Fort Gordon. It is the world's busiest airport, serving more than 100 million passengers annually. A dozen major and national airlines provide domestic and international service, with an average of almost 2,500 arrivals and departures daily.

The airport's rental car center offers 13 rental car agencies. Hotel shuttle service is available at the Ground Transportation Center, at the west end of the domestic terminals building. Greyhound Flightlink, at the lower level of Terminal North, can provide transportation to selected cities from the airport. A number of local and regional shared-ride shuttles also depart from the airport, from the Ground Transportation Center, between the domestic north and south terminals.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Augusta Public Transit

1535 Fenwick St.
Augusta, GA 30904 706-821-1721
www.augustaga.gov/2770/Transit

The Augusta Public Transit system provides extensive public transportation services throughout Augusta-Richmond County. These include nine bus routes, access to Americans with Disabilities Act service (paratransit) and the Richmond Rural Transit service. APT employees travel over 2,313 miles each weekday to provide safe, courteous, reliable and efficient transit service to more than 3,000 daily customers. Seniors, students, disabled patrons and nonprofit organizations are eligible for discounted fares.

For more information on fares and the system's Monday through Saturday service area, visit APT's website.

Richmond County Transit

1535 Fenwick St.

Augusta, GA 30904 706-821-1721
<http://ga-augusta.civicplus.com/250/>

Richmond-County-Transit

The Richmond County Transit fleet consists of one 17-passenger van (which is wheelchair-accessible), three 14-passenger vans and one 11-passenger van with lift (wheelchair-accessible). Unlike traditional public transportation, the service is a door-to-destination operation. Reservations must be scheduled by calling 706-821-1497 before 2 p.m. the day prior to appointment date. Appointments may be called-in up to a week in advance. Vans are in service Monday through Friday.

For more information on fees and scheduling, visit the Richmond County Transit's web page.

Columbia County Transit

650-B Ronald Reagan Drive

Evans, GA 30809 706-556-0807
www.columbiacountyga.gov/community/public-transit

Columbia County Transit provides safe, clean affordable transportation within Columbia and Augusta-Richmond counties, Monday through Friday, with the earliest drop off time at 10 a.m. and the latest pick-up time at 3:30 p.m. Unlike traditional public transportation, this is a curb-to-curb service. Appointments must be booked a minimum of one business day in advance (Friday for the following Monday).

For more information on fares, regulations and scheduling, visit the Columbia County Transit's web page.

McDuffie County Rural Transportation

180 Sweetwater Park Drive

Thomson, GA 30824 706-595-6683
www.thomson-mcduffie.com

The McDuffie County Rural Transportation System operates five vehicles, three with wheelchair lifts, and serves all McDuffie County residents for local appointments Monday through Friday. To arrange for transportation, contact

the office at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment.

For more information on fares, regulations and scheduling, visit the website.

Groome Transportation 706-860-4900
www.groometransportation.com

Groome Transportation provides shuttle service in multiple locations in Georgia, including Augusta and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. For more information on pickup and departure locations, fares and online ticketing, visit the website.

DRIVING AND COMMUTING

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties are traversed by a U.S. Interstate and various state routes.

Within Augusta-Richmond County, Interstate 20 stretches east-west across the northern edge of Augusta, with the Interstate 520 loop circling the metropolitan region and providing access to the city and to arteries extending away from Augusta's center. Major U.S. highways intersect Augusta, including U.S. Route 78, Route 25, Route 56 and Route 1, which runs next to Fort Gordon. To the north in Columbia County, U.S. Route 221 and State Route 28 provide major north-south access, while State Route 232 and State Route 104 feed into the Augusta metropolitan area on the county's southern edge.

In addition to the U.S. highways, numerous state routes in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties join the two to each other and to neighboring South Carolina. State Route 383 runs north and south, connecting Fort Gordon with Evans.

The Georgia Department of Transportation offers commuter options at www.gacommuteroptions.com.

The GDOT provides free, real-time traffic information. Registered users can also create a personalized profile to receive phone, text or email updates about incidents on their specified routes at www.511ga.org or by dialing 511.

Georgia Department of Driver Services

2206 Eastview Parkway

Conyers, GA 30013 770-918-5822
www.dds.ga.gov

The Georgia Department of Driver Services issues driver's licenses, identification cards and vehicle registrations and provides other driving-related services. Find many of the required forms and general information at its website.

Driver's Licenses

Military personnel and their spouses who are stationed in Georgia from elsewhere may continue to drive with a valid driver's license from their home state, but in general, all Georgia residents who want to drive must apply for a driver's

license within 60 days of moving to Georgia (or within 30 days of becoming a resident).

If you hold a valid out-of-state driver's license or an out-of-state license expired less than two years, you may exchange it for a Georgia license. You must be at least 18 years of age, surrender the out-of-state license and pass the vision exam (you are exempt from the written and road tests).

The state spells out what is required for licensing and insurance under various scenarios in its Georgia Drivers Manual, which can be downloaded at www.eregulations.com/georgia/driver.

Vehicle Registration

As a nonresident military stationed in Georgia, you are not required to register your vehicle in the state of Georgia as long as your vehicle visibly displays valid license plates from your home state. If you choose to register your vehicle in Georgia, you must comply with all requirements of vehicle registration. Applications associated with driving and vehicle registration are available online at <http://dor.georgia.gov/vehicle-registration>.

Military members and veterans may be entitled to certain DMV exemptions and allowances. For more information on military and veteran exceptions and requirements, visit the website.

Distractions Driving

The state of Georgia prohibits all drivers from using handheld wireless telephones while operating a motor vehicle. The law requires drivers to use hands-free technology when using electronic devices while driving. Georgia prohibits texting while driving for all drivers.

Georgia Department of Transportation

www.dot.ga.gov

Visit the Georgia Department of Transportation website for real-time traffic info, maps, details on road closures and travel advisories, live traffic cameras and more.



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ARMED SERVICES YMCA

Making Military Life Easier.

Augusta South Family YMCA/Armed Services YMCA

We recognize that military spouses, partners and families need a place to be healthy, find support and belong. Warriors to Wellness Program is a program designed to support military personnel and their families; to help make life easier by offering reduced cost or free programs and services. The Y appreciates the commitment, service and sacrifice made by our service members and their families. We fully support our military and invite you and your family to be part of our Y, where you can be mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually strong.



MISSION:

To serve individuals and families in the CSRA through programs designed to build healthy spirit, mind and body, reflecting the values of the Judeo-Christian tradition while maintaining respect for all people.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

- Drop and Shop
- Parent's Night Out (*free*)
at Augusta South Location only
- Freedom Fridays (*free*)
at Augusta South Location only

REDUCED COST FOR ALL PROGRAMS

- Fall, Winter and Summer Camps, youth sports, membership

WAIVED JOINER'S FEE

FORT GORDON BOSS SUPPORT

The Y is proud to offer free membership opportunities for any **deployed** service member's (**on active duty orders**) family members who are deployed for a minimum of 6 months. Open to all branches of service.

- Membership is good for 6 months, can be renewed for an additional 6 months if the service member is still deployed
- Must present a copy of orders
- Must present a military ID card (active duty, National Guard/Reserves)
- Offer valid through March 2018

As a member of the Y, you and your family can spend quality time together and enjoy fun activities in a warm, supportive environment. It's also a great place to meet other military families who can relate to your unique situation.



ARMED SERVICES YMCA

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

The Armed Services Augusta South Family YMCA/Armed Services YMCA has made military life easier by offering free and low-cost programs for service members and their families.

Joiner's fee waived. Join Augusta South Family YMCA/Armed Services YMCA and see how our service can serve you.



www.thefamilyy.org

FAMILY YMCA'S IN THE CSRA

Aiken County Family YMCA

621 Trolley Line Road
Graniteville SC 29829
803.349.8080

Steiner Branch Family YMCA

218 Partnership Drive
Grovetown GA 30813
706.922.6711

Camp Lakeside

1238 Dogwood Lane
Lincolnton GA 30817

Marshall Family YMCA

1202 Town Park Lane
Evans GA 30809
706.364.3269

Thomson Family YMCA

521 Hill Street
Thomson, GA 30824
706.595.5615

Augusta South Family YMCA

2215 Tobacco Road
Augusta GA 30906
706.922.9650

North Jefferson Family YMCA

3001 GA Hwy 17 North
Wrens GA 30833
706.547.2653

Wilson Family YMCA

3570 Wheeler Road
Augusta GA 30909
706.922.9511

Downtown Family YMCA

945 Broad Street
Augusta GA 30901
706.922.6190

North Augusta Family YMCA

401 W Martintown Road
North Augusta SC 29841
803.278.0882

Barnwell County Family YMCA

660 Joey Zorn Boulevard
Barnwell SC 29813
803.450.4151

Child Development Center

1425 Walton Way
Augusta GA 30901
706.922.9670

With one parent away from the household, the remaining caregiver can become overwhelmed by the added responsibilities. To support the families of the deployed service members, the Armed Services Y has a program where the family is eligible for a FREE membership for the duration of the deployment (must meet certain requirements). Program is open to Active Duty and Reserve/National Guard Service members who are deployed for a minimum of 6 months. A copy of deployment orders and military ID card must be presented when applying for membership.



Augusta South Family YMCA/ Armed Services YMCA

2215 Tobacco Rd., Augusta GA 30906
706-922-9650



Housing & Real Estate

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

LIVING AT FORT GORDON Family Homes affords a wealth of benefits that are hard to match beyond the gates. The moment you tour the community, you'll discover the built-in family atmosphere where you'll be surrounded by support from military members and families alike. Many of the people hired to serve you are themselves former military members who have a unique understanding of your housing and lifestyle needs. All you need to do is choose from spacious, contemporary, move-in ready two, three and four bedroom homes, which offer features such as central heating and air conditioning, and energy efficient appliances. Don't worry; the community is pet friendly and welcomes your family pets!

The exclusive amenities and commitment to customer service set Fort Gordon Family Homes apart, and you can count on on-site maintenance and management teams to resolve emergencies 24/7. And in times of natural disaster, the entire team will work together non-stop to return your lives and homes back to normal as soon as possible.

You're invited to take part in the award-winning LifeWorks resident program, which provides residents of all ages with a wide variety of fun and educational activities and events at no cost. Most utilities are included and you won't experience any wait at the gate either. Because you're living close to work, you'll have more time at home, too, whether to relax or spend more time with family.

Your new home is waiting! Call the management office at 706-772-7041 or visit www.FortGordonFamilyHomes.com to find your perfect place!

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A cost of living nearly 15 percent below the national average makes Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties an appealing place to live. In 2018, an estimated 196,939 people called Augusta-Richmond County home, while 154,291 resided in Columbia County, the U.S. Census Bureau says. Population density in Augusta-Richmond County was 648 people per square

mile and 428 in Columbia County in 2010, the Census found.

Fort Gordon, in Augusta-Richmond County, is more than 26,000 people strong, and approximately 15 percent of personnel live off base in surrounding communities, according to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Housing Market Analysis in 2017. Additionally, nearly 19,000 veterans live in Augusta-Richmond County and about 17,000 are in Columbia County.

AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY

Augusta-Richmond County, a county that hugs the Georgia-South Carolina state lines, is over 302 square miles on the east side of Georgia. Augusta is about halfway up the Savannah River on the fall line, which creates a number of small falls on the river. The city marks the end of a navigable waterway for the river and the entry to the Georgia Piedmont area.

Augusta-Richmond County is linked to Atlanta to the west and Columbia, South Carolina, to the east by Interstate 20. Interstate

520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) runs from I-20 Exit 196 through Augusta's western and southern suburban areas, eventually crossing the Savannah River to South Carolina where it becomes the Palmetto Parkway.

For more information, check out the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce website at www.augustametrochamber.com.

Communities in Augusta-Richmond County near Fort Gordon include Augusta.

Augusta

www.augustaga.gov

Augusta is the city in the Augusta-Richmond city-county consolidation. It sits 150 miles east of Atlanta between Fort Gordon on the west and Columbia, South Carolina, on the east. The city's 302.47 square miles are home to nearly 197,000 residents. Augusta is the principal city of the Augusta-Richmond County Metropolitan Statistical Area, which as of 2018 had an estimated population of 604,167 making it the second-most-populous metro area in the state after Atlanta.

The city emerged after the turn of the 19th century as a winter escape for northerners. Resorts and country clubs, including the heralded Augusta National Country Club, opened at that time. During most of the year, Augusta is a tranquil, mid-sized Southern city with varied small industry and commercial activity. In April, the Masters Tournament brings worldwide attention and crowds. People with nicer homes rent them to visiting dignitaries and executives.

Aside from golf, the city offers history and architectural interest and even a minor-league

baseball team. Cost of living is low for the state and reasonable for this type of town. Downtown is plain with a few historic buildings, but a recent revitalization effort brought some riverfront arts and entertainment amenities and a monthly festival. The area is overall quiet, and additional entertainment and cultural amenities and air service are available in Columbia and Atlanta.

Augusta is along the Savannah River between the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain. The city is in a narrow river plain with wooded rolling hills up to 200 feet on all sides. Lowland is swampy especially to the southeast. Summers are hot and humid with thundershowers; strong storms can occur especially in spring. Because the Appalachian Mountains shield the city from extreme cold and storms from the northwest, winters are mild with rare measurable snow.

Homes in the area range from well-established neighborhoods to brand-new housing developments. Median rent is \$851, and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,117. Mean travel time to work for those living in Augusta is 21 minutes.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

As of 2018, the population of Columbia County was 154,291. The legal county seat is Appling, but the location of Columbia County's government and courts is Evans.

Columbia County is included in the Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC Metropolitan Statistical Area, and is currently one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States. As a result of healthy building activity, the county's housing stock is comparatively new. Over half of all housing in the county has been built since 1990.

For more information, go to www.columbiacountyga.gov/home, or call 311 inside the county.

Communities in Columbia County include Evans, Grovetown and Martinez.

Evans

www.exploregeorgia.org/city/evans

Evans is a census-designated place (CDP) in eastern Columbia County, bordered to the northeast by the Savannah River, which forms the South Carolina state line. To the southeast is the CDP of Martinez. It is a suburb of Augusta and part of the Augusta metropolitan area. The population was 29,011 at the 2010 census, up from 17,727 a decade prior. The median household income in Evans is significantly higher than that of the county itself, with residents there earning \$103,122 compared with \$76,938. With higher pay comes a higher cost of living. Median rent in Evans is \$1,448, and selected monthly

owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,739. Mean travel time to work 29 minutes.

Evans, possibly named after Confederate Gen. Clement A. Evans, is the de facto county seat of Columbia County, although Appling still holds the de jure designation. The Columbia County Government Center, the Government Complex Addition and the Columbia County Courthouse Annex are all in Evans.

Since the 1990s, there have been discussions by county officials to incorporate the county into a city. In 2005, talks of incorporating Columbia County into a city resurfaced when the Georgia state legislature abolished a 3-mile buffer zone between cities. However, it was referred to as consolidation, since counties in Georgia alone cannot incorporate but can rather consolidate with an existing municipality within the county. The initiative drew strong opposition from officials in Harlem and Grovetown, the county's only municipalities, citing that it would keep their cities from growing. The idea of incorporation is back in hibernation for now.

Grovetown

www.cityofgrovetown.com

Grovetown is 15 miles east of Augusta on U.S. Highway 278 and borders Fort Gordon on the east. Grovetown has four welcome signs in its 4.82 square miles. They each say something different: "Come Grow With Us," "Home of Teri Gibbs," "A Friendly Little City" and "A Community that Cares."

From the building of the Georgia Railroad, which passes through town, until at least the 1860s, the community was known as Belair. The city was chartered by the Georgia Legislature and officially incorporated in 1881. The name purportedly came from the old Grove Baptist Church that was founded in 1808.

With the construction of Camp Gordon (now Fort Gordon) in 1942, Grovetown experienced rapid growth; it was no longer a small agricultural town. Many military families looked to Grovetown for housing. Gradually more retired military saw the benefits of living in the small town and population began to grow and stabilize. The population reached about 14,500 in 2018, compared with 3,596 in 1990, with nearly 1,900 veterans residing there.

A variety of stores, dining establishments, schools and churches add to the town's culture. Services include recreational facilities, a public safety department, two fire stations, water and sewer services, a senior center and museum.

Median rent is \$1,164, and selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,234. Mean travel time to work for those living in Grovetown is 23 minutes.



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Martinez

www.exploregeorgia.org/city/martinez

Martinez is bordered to the southeast by the city of Augusta. To the north and northwest is Evans. Interstate 20 forms the short southern boundary of Martinez. The city is 14.51 square miles with a population of nearly 36,000.

Martinez is home to the start of the Augusta Canal. Built in 1845, the headgates harnessed the power of the Savannah River, providing water and transportation to the city. The dam also powered many factories that sprung up along the canal.

The city's founder was Jose Martinez y Saldivar, a wealthy man from Cuba. He bought a plantation in Columbia County and named it El Cordero Ranch (The Lamb Ranch). In the early 1890s, when Charleston and Western Railroad came through part of Columbia County en route to Spartanburg, South Carolina, a depot was established on the Martinez plantation. But it wasn't called Martinez.

Delores, the youngest Martinez's four daughters, was nicknamed Lula. And her father named the train stop Lulaville. Decades later, the post office refused to accept the name because there was another Lulaville in south Georgia.

So, the name was changed to Martinez. Although named for a Latino, this town is pronounced Martin-EZ rather than in the traditional Spanish way.

In 2013, Martinez was named the eighth-best city to raise a family in Georgia by NerdWallet.com. Selected monthly owner costs of housing units with a mortgage are \$1,315, and median rent is \$1,032. Renters make up about 25 percent of those living in Martinez. Mean travel time to work is 23.4 minutes.

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

Relocating to a new home can be one of the most stressful situations in life. Whether moving

across town or the nation, preparation and organization make all the difference.

For military moves, visit www.move.mil for information about moving resources and to learn about the allowances and responsibilities of a military-sponsored move.

Regardless of which method you choose, the first step should be to inventory your personal belongings. The list, with photographs of any valuables, will be important for both insurance purposes and to help keep you organized during transit.

Plan for one full day to pack each room — though the kitchen and garage may take longer. Make a rough estimate of your packing schedule and then add 50 percent more time. It always takes longer than predicted to pack. Toss or donate unused items to lighten your load. Visit www.goodwill.org, www.salvationarmyusa.org or www.clothingdonations.org for locations near you or to arrange a pickup.

BUYING VERSUS RENTING

The decision to buy or rent is the most important step in your relocation process. Purchasing a home entails a long-term financial and emotional commitment with various pluses and minuses. Advantages include the possibility of building equity and the freedom to design and decorate your property or landscape. And don't forget the tax benefits. Disadvantages include upkeep, property taxes and fluctuating property values.

Renting, on the other hand, makes moving easier and someone else maintains the property. Amenities such as laundry rooms, exercise rooms, swimming pools and tennis courts vary from one rental complex to another. The main disadvantage is a loss of control over the residence. Some complexes, for example, restrict or prohibit pets and personal touches such as painting.

To determine your best choice, account for all of your needs, review your financial situation and research your options thoroughly.

FINDING AN APARTMENT

Be prepared when you meet with the leasing agent, property manager or owner. You will also need to provide information and verification about your job, your income and your past rental history.

Use a written checklist with the landlord to document the condition of the rental before you move in, and keep a copy of the completed checklist to use when you move out.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs maintains a website — www.GeorgiaHousingSearch.org — that can be helpful for those trying to locate housing, or you can call them at 877-427-8844. Download the Georgia Landlord Tenant Handbook at www.dca.ga.gov/node/1915/documents/11.

BUYING A HOME

Buying a home is a complex process and, as the recent housing crisis demonstrated, requires a thorough education on the part of the buyer. First, fully understand your financial position — credit score, available savings, monthly income and expenditures. Subtracting your expenditures from your income, for instance, will yield the amount you can afford for housing.

The Georgia Association of Realtors is a central source of local real estate information and services. Visit <https://www.garealtor.com> to find expertise and professional services for those interested in purchasing a new home.

State Programs

Georgia provides housing programs and incentives to help residents with home ownership. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/states and select "Georgia" from the list. In addition, HomeSafe Georgia (www.homesafegeorgia.com) can provide temporary mortgage assistance for homeowners who are unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own.

County Programs

Augusta-Richmond County's Homeownership Assistance Program provides down payment or closing costs assistance to help residents with home ownership. For more information, visit www.augustaga.gov/882/Home-Ownership.

Central Savannah River Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc. offers foreclosure prevention services for Columbia County residents. Find more information from various companies, federal government agencies, nonprofits, etc. at www.needhelp-payingbills.com/html/help_with_mortgage.html.



Employment & Economy

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

ALTHOUGH THE TRADE AND service sectors supply the majority of jobs in Georgia, manufacturing and agriculture remain important to the state's economy. Cotton, once Georgia's most valuable crop, has declined in importance; in the 1990s, it was rivaled by peanuts, tobacco and corn. The manufacture of textiles and textile products has long been Georgia's leading industry, centering mainly on Columbus, Augusta, Macon and Rome. Other major manufactures include transportation equipment, foods, paper products and chemicals. Although the state is rich in minerals, mining is not as important as manufacturing and agriculture. Many of those industries are present in Augusta-Richmond counties.

Augusta-Richmond County is a regional center of medicine, biotechnology and cyber security. Augusta University, one of the four public research universities in the University System of Georgia, employs over 7,000 people. Along with University Hospital, the Medical District of Augusta employs over 25,000 people and has an economic impact of over \$1.8 billion.

The city's three largest employers are Augusta University, Richmond County School System and the combined facilities at Fort Gordon. Despite layoffs from several companies during the U.S. economic recession and a relatively high state unemployment rate, the Augusta community has experienced a decrease in bankruptcy filings and saw a marked decrease in the unemployment rate from June 2009 to August 2017. However, these unemployment numbers are misleading as spring brings lower unemployment rates due to the Masters Golf Tournament. Unemployment fell from 10.1 percent in June 2009 to 3.2 percent in December 2019.

Columbia County offers a powerful set of world-class advantages in location, labor and access to leading assets in energy, technology, healthcare and defense. Those include nearby Fort Gordon, home of the U.S. Army Cyber Command; the Savannah River Site; Plant Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant; and a health care hub including Augusta University, Georgia's newest research university. Companies such as

John Deere, GIW Industries and Janus Research Group continue to grow in Columbia County.

In the nation's 35th fastest growing county, incomes are nearly 22 percent higher than the national average, and personal satisfaction is flourishing. In Columbia County, there are great schools, expanding retail and responsive leadership in a beautiful Georgia setting.

The median age in Augusta-Richmond County is about 33 years old and 36 years old in Columbia County, meaning the workforce skews younger. Median household income in Augusta-Richmond County is \$40,545 and \$76,938 in Columbia County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Fort Gordon

The area's largest employer, Fort Gordon expends more than \$2 billion annually in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) from an annual budget of \$818 million, while providing human resources that strengthen the area's quality of life and the effectiveness of its workforce. Expected to rise by 1,200 with the completion of Cyber Center of Excellence, the Fort Gordon population currently includes an

on-post population of more than 26,000 military, family members and civilians, with an off-post population of nearly 78,000 military and civilian family members and retirees.

One of the nation's top cyber technology centers, and the single point of contact for external organizations regarding cyberspace and information operations, Fort Gordon offers prime opportunity for private and governmental contractors and for technology and information companies across a wide spectrum. For more information about the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence, visit <http://cybercoe.army.mil>.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

National Resources

At the national level, websites such as www.linkedin.com, www.monster.com, www.careerbuilder.com and www.indeed.com have extensive search capabilities as well as resume tips, forum support and professional networking options.

The National Military Spouse Network, a networking, mentoring and professional development organization, has a wealth of career information at its website, www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org. The group aims to help military spouses build a meaningful, sustained career path and offers a library of articles that touch on topics like entrepreneurship, resume tips, self-promotion and more as well as a membership-only discussion forum. The organization also features companies that are military spouse-owned or military spouse-friendly on its Homefront Business Listings page.

Local Resources

Georgia Department of Workforce Services

Augusta Career Center
601 Greene St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-721-3131

Augusta Technical College

3200 Augusta Tech Drive
Augusta, GA 30906 706-771-4000

South Augusta One-Stop

3120 Peach Orchard Road
Augusta, GA 30906 706-790-8500
www.georgia.org/competitive-advantages/workforce-education

Georgia Department of Economic Development's Workforce Division was created in August 2006 to administer the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds and ultimately improve the quality of job training and marketability of Georgia's workforce for the economic growth of the state. The website serves as a one-stop integrated employment and training service. Job hunters can get help in job preparation and exploring careers, labor market

information and information about unemployment insurance. In 2012, the governor launched a statewide workforce initiative aimed at aiding Georgia's veterans.

State of Georgia

<http://georgia.gov/popular-topic/finding-job>
<http://team.georgia.gov/careers>
<http://employgeorgia.com>

Employment opportunities with the state of Georgia are posted online. Search by category, department or location then apply online. The Georgia Department of Labor and the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Workforce Division can help with creating resumes, getting job training and receiving professional development.

Augusta-Richmond County

Human Resources Office
535 Telfair St., Suite 400
Augusta, GA 30901 706-821-2303
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/augustaga

Augusta-Richmond County is among the top 10 employers in the county. Jobs are posted online with benefits information, and applications are available for download with submission instructions. Call the employee hotline at 706-842-3000.

Columbia County

Human Resources
630 Ronald Reagan Drive
Evans, GA 30809 706-868-3300
www.columbiacountyga.gov/county/jobs

Columbia County does not accept applications online, but jobs are posted on its website, and applications are available for download with submission instructions. Call the job line at 706-312-9675.

JOB-SEEKER TIPS

Always keep your resume up-to-date and have several versions that target specific industries and highlight your skills that fit their job descriptions.

Compile several reference lists with a good variety of people and former business associates. Be sure to first ask each if you can use them as references.

Compose a comprehensive, catchy and succinct cover letter of no more than a page (this is no place to ramble). It will introduce you and your desire to work for the company. Know what the company does, and highlight skills, work experience and education that apply to the position.

Maintain a positive, professional and broad-based presence on social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn; almost all employers search social media sites to vet job. Also be aware that images and comments posted spur-of-the-moment can be searched out forever and come back to haunt you.

Be prepared for an interview at any time. When you submit your application, a supervisor may want to talk immediately, or the phone may ring with a call from a hiring director. Compose — and rehearse — your one-minute self-promotional speech on who you are, an achievement or two and your strengths. It's not vanity to make a good first impression. If a supervisor wants to know why she should hire you, be ready.

Always follow up with thank-you letters and calls. Even today, a letter, as well as the quick-response email, will separate you from a surprising number of the other applicants — to your advantage — and keep your name fresh in the interviewer's mind. Be aware that due to the usually huge numbers of applicants, most companies are able to follow up only with candidates in whom they are interested. Don't take it personally if you are not notified that you did not get the job.

CIVILIAN OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Jobs

Visit www.usajobs.gov to search for Department of Defense jobs at Fort Gordon. For information about jobs posted through the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, call Fort Gordon's job information phone number at 706-791-6382 or visit <https://home.army.mil/gordon/index.php/my-fort/all-services/civilian-personnel-advisory-center>.

NAF Jobs

For information about service jobs, including openings in lodging, recreation areas and more (non-appropriated fund positions), call Fort Gordon's NAF hotline at 706-791-6721.

Exchange Jobs

For base exchange jobs, visit the AAFES career page at <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/applymyexchange>.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Georgia Small Business Development Center

The Georgia Small Business Development Center offers small business resources and workshops for those looking to start a business. Visit www.sba.gov. Or visit the Georgia Small Business Development Center location at The University of Georgia in Savannah at 111 E. Liberty St., Suite 200, Savannah, GA 31401.

Small Business Resources

www.usa.gov/business

Learn the steps to start and grow a small business at USA.gov's Small Business website. The platform features hand-picked government websites helpful to small business owners. Learn about business taxes and incentives, financing a business, importing and exporting, federal government contracting, state business resources and more.



Health Care

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

THERE ARE MANY HEALTH care services in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties for military, civilians and veterans. Visit www.healthcare.gov for information on open enrollment for health care coverage under the national Affordable Care Act. The state of Georgia currently does not have a state-run health exchange, where you can get quotes directly. Instead, the federal health exchange will direct you to a number of approved insurance brokers and exchanges. Some of these are privately owned; others will direct you to publicly held, for-profit companies. Visit www.healthcare.gov for information on open enrollment for health care coverage under the national Affordable Care Act.

See the Military Buyer's Guide to connect with local hospitals and medical centers, health care centers and health care providers.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CLINICS AND RESOURCES

A community health center or clinic is customarily the place to go for those who have

no health insurance or have limited income or ability to pay medical fees. Such clinics accept most insurance and provide affordable, comprehensive health care by well-trained, professional staff. They also serve those who are uninsured and underinsured, and most are open to making sliding scale payment arrangements based on income and family size.

For a full list of community health centers in Georgia, visit the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care website at <http://gapchc.org> and select "Locations."

DENTAL CARE

The Georgia Dental Association website, www.gadental.org, is a useful place to start in finding a dentist with its roster lists. Select "Public Resources" then "Find a Dentist" from the home page and then search by address, name or specialty to find or verify a dentist, hygienist or dental assistant. You can also seek referrals from people you know who've had dental care in the area.

The Oral Health Program of the Georgia Department of Public Health can give you tips for oral health and low-cost dental care. Visit its web page at <https://dph.georgia.gov/oral-health-program>.

FINDING A LOCAL DOCTOR

Before you arrive at your new assignment, you can check the Georgia Composite Medical Board's online directory search at <http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/look-licensee>. Click on "Search for a licensee now" then look for providers by name, location and specialty. This should give you a preview of the local medical practitioners as well as where you might need to go for specialized care.

Personal referrals from friends or other medical personnel can add to your options.

You can check a doctor's certification at the American Board of Medical Specialties at www.abms.org. To see if anyone has registered a complaint or taken disciplinary action against the doctor, visit Georgia Composite Medical Board

website at <http://medicalboard.georgia.gov> or call 404-656-3913.

Treat finding a doctor as seriously as looking for a new job or a new home. You want to be comfortable with the person who will see you while you are most vulnerable.

FOR VETERANS

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties are served within Veterans Integrated Service Network 7 — the VA Southeast Network, with the nearest major medical centers in Augusta, both about 11 miles from Fort Gordon. VISN 7 serves the fourth-largest veteran population in the U.S., encompasses an area containing VA medical centers and outpatient clinics in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. The closest community outpatient clinic is in Aiken, South Carolina.

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center

950 15th St. (Downtown)
1 Freedom Way (Uptown)
Augusta, GA 30904 706-733-0188
www.augusta.va.gov

The Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center is a two-division Medical Center that provides tertiary care in medicine, surgery, neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine and spinal cord injury. The Downtown division is authorized for 156 beds (58 medicine, 27 surgery and 71 spinal cord injury). The Uptown division, only three miles away, is authorized for 82 beds (57 psychiatry, 15 blind rehabilitation and 10 medical rehabilitation). In addition, a 132-bed Restorative/Nursing Home Care Unit and 60-bed domiciliary are at the Uptown Division.

The facility employs about 2,500 people from around the region and sees about 46,000 veterans each fiscal year. The center's many programs and services include an active-duty rehab unit, audiology, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, home-based primary care, homeless chronically mentally ill care, hospice, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, neurology, open heart surgery, respiratory therapy, sleep laboratory program, spinal cord injury center, stroke rehabilitation, women's health and more.

The following is a list of clinics and the vet center near Augusta. For a full list of clinics and other facilities, go to www.va.gov/directory/guide/region.asp?ID=1007.

Aiken Community-based Outpatient Clinic

951 Millbrook Ave.
Aiken, SC 29803 803-643-9016

Athens Community-based Outpatient Clinic

9249 Highway 29 N
Athens, GA 30601 706-227-4534

Statesboro Telehealth Clinic

658 Northside Drive E, Suite B
Statesboro, GA 30458 912-871-8719

Augusta Veterans Center

2050 Walton Way, Suite 100
Augusta, GA 30904 706-729-5762

Georgia Department of Veterans Service

Floyd Veterans Memorial Building, Suite E-970
Atlanta, GA 30334 404-656-2300
VA Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255
<http://veterans.georgia.gov>

The Department of Veterans Affairs improves the quality of life for Georgia's veterans,

military and their families by increasing awareness and access to appropriate federal, state and local resources.

To help navigate the maze of VA benefits and programs, there are several regional benefit offices. Veterans can find assistance at the following office closest to Fort Gordon:

Atlanta Regional Office

1700 Clairmont Road
Decatur, GA 30033 800-827-1000

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS

Because emergencies can happen without warning, it is prudent to know where to go when they happen. Saving minutes in a crisis can mean saving a life. Knowing what services are available, and where, can make all the difference. Visit the following websites for more information on local hospital and medical center services.

Augusta University Medical Center

1120 15th St.
Augusta, GA 30912 706-721-2273
www.augustahealth.org

Children's Hospital of Georgia

1446 Harper St.
Augusta, GA 30912 706-721-5437
www.augustahealth.org/childrens-hospital-of-georgia/
childrens-hospital-of-georgia-home

Doctors Hospital of Augusta

3651 Wheeler Road
Augusta, GA 30909 706-651-3232
<http://doctors-hospital.net>

Select Specialty Hospital

1537 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30904 706-731-1200
<http://augusta.selectspecialtyhospitals.com>

Trinity Hospital of Georgia

2260 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30904 706-481-7000
www.trinityofaugusta.com

University Hospital

1350 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30901 706-722-9011
www.universityhealth.org

University Hospital McDuffie

2460 Washington Road
Thomson, GA 30824 706-595-1411
www.universityhealth.org

University Hospital Summerville

2260 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30904 706-481-7000
www.universityhealth.org





Family Resources

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

PICKING UP FROM ONE place and moving to another is always a hassle, especially when kids and pets are involved. Knowing whom to call or where to find information can help make the transition easier.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

The Red Cross helps members of the military, veterans and their families prepare for, cope with, and respond to, the challenges of military service.

The American Red Cross offers confidential services to all members of the military, veterans, and their families by connecting them with local, state and national resources through the network of chapters in communities across the United States and offices on military installations worldwide.

Local Red Cross offices develop and maintain relationships with key community partners. Military families rely on the Red Cross to help them identify their needs and connect them to the most appropriate Red Cross and community resources. This key Red Cross service includes

responding to emergency needs for food, clothing, and shelter, referrals to counseling services (e.g., financial, legal, mental health), respite care for caregivers, and other resources that meet the unique needs of local military members, veterans and their families.

The American Red Cross Emergency Communications Center is available to help 24/7. Call 877-272-7337 or submit an online request at <https://saf.redcross.org/css>.

Armed Services YMCA

www.asymca.org

The ASYMCA is made up of 13 branches and about 20 affiliate locations at local Y's and on some DOD facilities across the U.S.

It makes military life easier by providing programs and services to the young men and women of all five armed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

ASYMCA programs, services and events are designed to help the family come together, stay together and have the ability to adjust, bounce back and thrive wherever the services send them

— with a particular focus on junior-enlisted men and women, the individuals on the front lines of defending our nation. Programs are offered at low cost and require no dues or membership fees.

Signature programs include: Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala, Art and Essay Contest, Military Family Month, Operation Hero, Operation Holiday Joy, Operation Kid Comfort, Operation Outdoors, Operation Ride Home, Parent and Me, Teddy's Child Watch and YMCA/DOD Military Outreach Initiative.

Find ASYMCA locations by visiting www.asymca.org/locations.

Child Care Aware

www.childcareaware.org

Improving access to affordable, quality child care is one of Child Care Aware of America's top goals. Search the site's "State by State Resources for Families" to connect with national organizations and associations that provide information for families regarding child development, parenting, and child care concerns and questions.

The site has information on the different types of child care and how to choose the right child care for your family. Financial resources include a child care budgeting calculator and information on federal and state fee assistance. There's also a special section for military and DOD families with links to military child care fee assistance. To speak with a specialist about military and DOD child care programs, call 800-424-2246, option 6.

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Region 7 – Columbia County DFCS

6358 Columbia Road

Appling, GA 30802..... 706-678-6249

Region 7 – Augusta-Richmond County DFCS

3310 Old Louisville Road

Augusta, GA 30906 706-721-300

<http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov>

The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services investigates reports of child abuse; finds foster and adoptive homes for abused and neglected children; issues SNAP, Medicaid, TANF and child care assistance to low-income families; helps out-of-work parents get back on their feet; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help families in need.

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

Military OneSource is your central hub and go-to-place for the military community. Get to know your benefits and prepare for the big stuff — deployments, reintegration, moves, parenthood, retirement and more. Browse by topic or search for that strangely specific question you want to know the answers to. No matter where military life takes you, with Military OneSource you will always be in the loop.

Operation Homefront

www.operationhomefront.org

Operation Homefront assists military families during difficult financial times by providing food assistance, auto and home repair, vision care, travel and transportation, moving assistance, essential home items, and rent-free transitional housing for wounded veterans and their families.

Helping military families gain long-term stability is a specific concern for Operation Homefront. Homes on the Homefront awards mortgage-free homes, impacting veteran families for generations to come. The caregivers for wounded warriors also need help and that is why Hearts of Valor was formed.

Operation Homefront's annual gala recognizes extraordinary military kids. The organization also hosts multiple Homefront Celebrations,

Star-Spangled Baby Showers, Back-to-School Brigades and Holiday Meals for Military events each year to show appreciation to military spouses.

Visit Operation Homefront online for more information.

United Service Organization

www.uso.org

Since 1941, the USO has kept our military men and women connected to their families, home and country no matter where they are or under what conditions they serve. Programs for military families include Couples Seminars: Stronger Families, Comfort Crew for Military Kids, Operation That's My Dress, United Through Reading, Baby Showers: USO and What to Expect Present Special Delivery and The Sesame Street/USO Experience.

The USO also provides transition services to support Americans' return to civilian life after completing their military service. For more information, go to www.uso.org/programs/uso-pathfinder.

Visit the USO's website to find a location near you.

PETS

Moves are stressful for everyone — including the family pet. Pets can sense stress and a change in routine can be difficult for them. If possible, keep your pets in a quiet, secure area while movers pack up or unload your belongings. Movers will have your door open while they move boxes and furniture, and a pet may slip out the door undetected. Make sure you keep a collar with an ID tag on your pet at all times. Ensure the tag has your current phone number on it. It is also a good idea to microchip your pets. Remember to keep the microchip's contact information up to date. If your pet escapes during any part of your move, you want the animal shelter that scans the chip to be able to contact you.

Your pet may face many outside dangers in Georgia, such as alligators, armadillos, bats, bears, beavers, coyotes, rats, raccoons, foxes and more. Keep your dog on a short leash in wooded areas, especially if it starts sniffing or pawing the ground. Avoid allowing your dog to walk around or swim in unknown waters. The area also is home to parasites, including fleas, ticks and ear mites. Outdoor pets can bring these pests into the home, posing a risk to humans since they can transmit disease through their bites. Limiting and supervising your pet's outdoor activities can help it avoid these dangers.

Animal Services

Georgia Department of Natural Resources –

Wildlife Resources Division

Ranger Hotline 800-241-4113

Nongame & Endangered

Wildlife Program 478-994-1438
www.georgiawildlife.org

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is composed of six divisions which carry out DNR's mission to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural resources. As one of six divisions within DNR, the Wildlife Resources Division is charged with conserving, enhancing and promoting Georgia's wildlife resources, including game and nongame animals, fish and protected plants. The website includes information about handling nuisance wildlife.

Columbia County Animal Services

1940 William Few Parkway

Grovetown, GA 30813 706-541-4077

www.columbiacountyga.gov/community/animals

Columbia County Animal Services is responsible for all animal service operations, including nuisance complaints, animal cruelty investigations, animal attacks, handling of rabid animals, dead animals, an animal adoption program and taking care of animals at the Columbia County shelter. For more information on the county's animal shelter and pet adoption, visit the Columbia County Animal Services' website.

Augusta Animal Services

4164 Mack Lane

Augusta, GA 30906 706-790-6836

www.augustaga.gov/586/Animal-Services

Augusta Animal Services provides care for pets at its adoption facility. Other services include enforcement of animal ordinances and laws, humane euthanizing of sick animals, pet ownership education, and impound, stray and nuisance animals.

Pets for Patriots

<https://petsforpatriots.org>

Pets for Patriots' vision is to end animal homelessness in the United States while giving our military veterans and their families the greatest "thank you" of all: the extraordinary love of a companion pet. It makes this happen through its nationwide shelter and veterinary networks, military and veteran organizations, and a public that values the lives of both the vulnerable and heroic among us.

To learn more about adopting a pet, visit <https://petsforpatriots.org/adopt-a-pet/how-it-works>.

Veterinary Services

Veterinary services in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties are plentiful; see the Military Buyer's Guide to connect with local providers.



Education & Academics

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOLS and educational opportunities for each family member is an important part of any move. This chapter outlines Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties' public schools system, private schools, charter schools and home schooling criteria, as well as local libraries and higher education institutions. To be enrolled in a Georgia school, a child must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 1 of the school year. Those wishing to register their child in school should bring the following to the school office: a birth certificate or other proof of the child's age, and the child's previous school records and immunization records. For more details on Georgia's minimum vaccine requirements for students in grades K-12, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at www.gadoe.org. Check with the school for additional requirements.

In 2010, Georgia, along with the majority of other states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Department of Defense Education Activity, adopted

Common Core State Standards that provide a consistent set of educational expectations for students regardless of ZIP code. When a family moves, a student's education is often disrupted because the student may be forced to repeat material or learn at a different level at the new school. With common standards across states, this disruption will be reduced — of particular interest to military families. At present, national Common Core State Standards exist only for English language arts and mathematics though Georgia has state standards across the full curriculum. For more information, visit www.corestandards.org.

Choosing a School

Choosing the right school is very important, so be sure to research each one before deciding. Contact the school by phone or by visiting its website, which is a valuable source to learn about a school district's statistics and curriculum. Talk to people in the area, especially friends and colleagues who already live there.

If the school shows promise, schedule a visit and bring a list of written questions about

student-teacher ratios, computer availability, extracurricular activities, sports programs, music programs, gifted programs and grading standards.

Discuss the potential school with your child: what they liked and what they didn't like. Your family's ability to readily adapt to a move and to find happiness in your new home may depend, in part, on how happy your children are in their new school.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are tuition-free, serve all students and have open enrollment. For more information or a list of charter schools in Georgia, visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Charter-Schools.

HOME SCHOOLING

For an introduction to home schooling in Georgia, visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/

Home-Schools.aspx. Here you will find information on home-school rules and regulations.

Georgia Home Education Alliance

P.O. Box 229

Snellville, GA 300784 770-461-3657
www.ghea.org

The Georgia Home Education Association website has a number of resources for families who wish to home-school in Georgia.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

To search for local private schools in Georgia, visit the National Center for Education Statistics website and use the private school search tool at www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch. Users may search by location, religious affiliation, school type and more.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richmond County School System

864 Broad St.

Augusta, GA 30901 706-826-1000
www.rcboe.org

The Richmond County School System has 30 elementary schools, 11 middle schools and eight high schools, as well as five specialty schools and four magnet schools highlighting science and engineering, fine arts and technical careers. The district has an enrollment of more than 32,000 students. Several RCSS schools are on the National Register of Historic places. Although steeped in history, the district strives to move education forward and to provide students with opportunities to succeed.

Columbia County School District

4781 Hereford Farm Road

Evans, GA 30809 706-541-0650
www.ccboe.net

Columbia County School District has 18 elementary schools, eight middle schools, five high schools and one alternative school. The district has an enrollment of more than 27,000 with nearly 4,500 students from military families.

McDuffie County School District

716 N. Lee St.

Thomson, GA 30824 706-986-4000
www.mcduffie.k12.ga.us

McDuffie County School District has four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and an achievement center. The district has an enrollment of about 4,300.

UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties and the surrounding area offer plenty of opportunity for continuing education. Fort Gordon Education & Services in Building 35200 provides education

and counseling services to active-duty military, Reserve component military, retirees, Department of the Army civilians and their adult family members. The office also offers counseling, information about financial aid and local programs, and enrollment in selected programs.

Use the following contact information to start your search for the school that is right for you.

Augusta Technical College

200 Augusta Tech Drive

Augusta, GA 30906 706-771-4000
www.augustatech.edu

Augusta University

1120 15th St.

Augusta, GA 30912 706-721-0211
www.augusta.edu

East Georgia State College –

Augusta Campus

2500 Walton Way

Augusta, GA 30904 478-289-2000
www.ega.edu/augusta

Georgia Military College

115 Davis Road

Martinez, GA 30907 706-993-1123
www.gmc.edu

Georgia Military College – Fort Gordon

271 Heritage Park Lane, Building 35200

Fort Gordon, GA 30905 706-993-1112
www.gmc.edu

Paine College

1235 Fifteenth St.

Augusta, GA 30901 706-821-8200
www.paine.edu

Troy University

2743 Perimeter Parkway, Buildings 100 & 200

Augusta, GA 30905 706-210-3800
www.troy.edu/about-us/troy-support-centers/augusta.html

Webster University

271 Heritage Park Lane, Building 35200

Fort Gordon, GA 30905 706-798-3955
www.webster.edu

LIBRARIES

Public libraries in and around Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties offer learning, recreation, distance education, internet connections and other resources for users — all for free. In addition, school libraries that support the curriculum and offer internet access and other resources are in most public and private schools, and academic and special libraries are found in colleges and universities. The Georgia Public Library Service, www.georgialibraries.org/gpls, supports libraries in the state with resources, interlibrary loan and other assistance.

Residents can enjoy several academic and public libraries in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the branches' websites. For a full list of libraries in Georgia, visit the Georgia Public Library Service website. The following public library branches are near Fort Gordon.

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library

<http://arcpls.org/locations/main-hq>

The Augusta-Richmond County Public Library system has six locations throughout the county. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the branches' websites.

The Columbia County Library

<https://gchrl.org/branches/columbia-county-library>

The Columbia County Library is part of the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System that also has branches in Burke County, Lincoln County and Warren County. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the website.

Thomas McDuffie County Library

<http://btrl.net/public-library-georgia-branch-thomson-mcduffie.php>

The Thomas McDuffie County Library is part of the Bartram Trail Regional Library System that also has branches in Wilkes County and Taliaferro County. Get information about services, hours and events by visiting the website.

EDUCATION LINKS

Find resources to help your student achieve academic success at these websites:

Georgia Department of Education:
www.gadoe.org

Georgia PTA:
www.georgiapta.org

Reading is Fundamental:
www.rif.org

U.S. Department of Education:
www2.ed.gov/parents

Military Child Education Coalition: Ensures quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. Visit www.militarychild.org for information on programs and resources.

Tutor.com: Eligible students and service members in U.S. military families around the world can work one-to-one with an expert tutor online 24/7. Get free help with homework, studying, test prep and proofreading in more than 40 subjects. Visit <http://military.tutor.com>.



Living

in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties

THERE IS PLENTY TO do in Georgia. Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties boast a variety of entertaining activities — music, sports, theater, museums, parks and shopping. Relax in the 800-foot lazy river at Splash in the Boro, for instance, tee off at the world-famous Augusta National Golf Club or watch the pros during the Masters Tournament. Don't miss the Georgia-Carolina State Fair in Augusta or the chance to experience Dragon Con in September. And be sure to check out the Laurel and Hardy Museum.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Residents of Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties have dozens of annual events, festivals and community gatherings at their fingertips.

Blind Willie McTell Blues Festival

<http://blindwillie.com>

This annual music festival celebrates influential bluesman Blind Willie McTell, who was born in Thomson. The festival is recognized as being one of the best, one-day, cultural events in

the Southeast, and the lineups of musicians read like a who's who in blues, roots and Americana masters.

Dragon Con

www.dragoncon.org

Dragon Con is a four-day event comprising approximately 3,500 hours of panels, seminars, demonstrations and workshops, with over 30 specialized programming tracks for fans of science fiction, fantasy, comic books and other elements of fan culture. Since the late 1980s, tens of thousands have flocked to Atlanta for Labor Day weekend to participate in Dragon Con. Attendance has exploded, and each year the convention gets bigger and better — a record 85,000 attendees were estimated in 2019.

Freedom Fireworks Extravaganza

22B West Square

Washington, GA 30673.....706-678-5111

www.washingtonwilkes.org/annual-events

Named among USA TODAY's "Top 10 Small Town Celebrations in America" Washington's

Freedom Fireworks Extravaganza is held July 3 with live music, a 90-foot zip line, bounce house, spider jump, food court and watermelon eating contest.

Georgia-Carolina State Fair

www.georgiacarolinastatefair.com

The Georgia-Carolina State Fair, held in October, has thrilled and entertained people for nearly 100 years at the fairgrounds in Augusta. The fair features free concerts, livestock shows, boxing and America's only "railroad carnival" that provides fair goers with numerous spectacular thrill rides, as well as great family rides.

Hephzibah Founders' Day

www.facebook.com/hephzibahfestival

Celebrate Hephzibah's birthday! The community, once called Brothersville, officially became the town of Hephzibah on Oct. 24, 1870. Bring the family for a fun day of crafts and inflatables, music and more and help celebrate the town's birthday. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the free musical entertainment.

The Masters Tournament

www.masters.com/en_US/index.html

The annual Masters Tournament, also known as The Masters, is one of the four major championships in professional golf. The Masters is scheduled for the first full week of April, and it is the first of the majors to be played each year. Unlike the other major championships, the Masters is held each year at the same location, Augusta National Golf Club, a private golf club in Augusta. Since 1949, a green jacket has been awarded to the champion, who must return it to the clubhouse one year after his victory, although it remains his personal property and is stored with other champions' jackets in a specially designated cloakroom.

Revolutionary Days

www.washingtonwilkes.org/annual-events

On the second weekend of February each year, patriotic and historical organizations from throughout the nation join with descendants of participants and the public, to celebrate the anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kettle Creek — the only Revolutionary Battle won in Georgia.

ARTS

Artistic opportunities from theater to music to dance and more are no strangers to Augusta-Richmond and Columbia county residents.

Augusta Choral Society

1301 Greene St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-826-4713
www.augustacs.org

The Augusta Choral Society is an auditioned volunteer community chorus in Augusta. The chorus is made up of singers ranging in age from teenagers to senior citizens. The society performs four concerts each season with professional orchestral accompaniment.

Augusta Ballet

1301 Greene St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-261-0555
www.augustaballet.org

Augusta Ballet's mission is to foster a culture of dance appreciation and support across a diverse audience of all ages in the Augusta community. Augusta Ballet does this by presenting high-quality classical and contemporary ballet performances, offering free (or low-cost) educational opportunities to local youth and offering unique events aimed at cultivating the next generation of ballet and dance audiences.

Imperial Theatre

749 Broad St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-722-8293
www.imperialtheatre.com

The Wells was built by Jake Wells for presenting vaudeville and photoplays to the community. The theater opened on Feb. 18, 1918. After the acquisition of several other local theaters by Lynch Enterprises, the Wells Theatre was changed to the Imperial Theatre. Throughout the early 1900s, the theater continued to provide the city of Augusta and the surrounding area with great entertainment. Although it is a certainty that a large number of celebrities of the day must have graced the stage of the theater, only a few are documented in the archives. Among the earliest recorded appearances was the visit of Charlie Chaplin, who appeared at the theater April 18, 1918, selling Liberty war bonds. Today, the historic Imperial Theatre serves as downtown Augusta's home for the performing arts. Audiences can see ballet, Broadway plays and musicals, concerts, artists and more on the Imperial stage.

Symphony Orchestra Augusta

1301 Greene St., Suite 200
Augusta, GA 30903 706-826-4705
<http://soaugusta.org>

Continuing to focus on excellence in live music performance, Symphony Orchestra Augusta shares its love through a variety of concert series: Pops! at the Bell offers fan favorites from icons such as Olivia Newton John to the music of country favorites like Wynonna Judd and Leann Rimes. SOA's chamber series features ensembles and guest artists from around the world in an intimate setting. During the symphony series, patrons are provided impressive evenings filled with the sound of the full orchestra sharing familiar classics and thrilling contemporary works.

Westobou Festival

1129 Broad St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-755-2878
<http://westoboufestival.com>

Ambitious and innovative, Westobou is an ever-evolving multiarts festival dedicated to enriching the cultural fabric, economic sustainability and social vitality of the region. Over the course of five fantastic days every autumn, the festival transforms downtown Augusta into a vibrant, creative playground where friends, family, neighbors and visitors connect and celebrate infinite creative possibilities. The five-day gathering's performances, exhibitions and screenings represent the best in music, dance, film, spoken word and visual arts — the world stage comes to Augusta.

MUSEUMS

Learn about Georgia's history and cultural contributions by visiting any one of the many local museums.

Augusta Arsenal at Georgia Regents University

2500 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30904 706-737-1709
www.augustamuseum.org/Augusta-Arsenal

The Augusta Arsenal was originally constructed circa 1815 near the Savannah River just above the city of Augusta. Not long after the arsenal was occupied in 1819, nearly all the members of the garrison died in a fever epidemic. Due to this event, the government decided to relocate the facility to a healthier environment. In November 1826, a tract of approximately 70 acres was purchased for this purpose. During 1827 and 1828, the Augusta Arsenal buildings were dismantled and reconstructed. All of these structures survive as administrative facilities for Georgia Regents University. The arsenal is open for self-guided tours during daylight hours. Call 706-737-1709 for more information.

Augusta Museum of History

560 Reynolds St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-722-8454
www.augustamuseum.org

Visit the region's home for history. Featured are a number of permanent exhibitions, including the award-winning Augusta's Story,



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SFC. JUSTIN W. STAFFORD

a 12,000-year journey through local history; a restored 1917 steam locomotive; “The Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown,” “Celebrating a Grand Tradition: the Sport of Golf”; and “Can-teens to Combat Boots.”

Imagination Station

965 Hickman Road
Augusta, GA 30904 706-726-3506
www.imagineaugusta.org

The Imagination Station is a member-run children’s museum featuring interactive educational exhibits and occasional programming. The exhibit space includes Sensorimotor Corner, the Fixer Upper, Science Corner, the Preliteracy Room and the Art Studio. Imagination Station focuses on providing quality educational exhibits for children up to age 6.

Laurel and Hardy Museum of Georgia

250 N. Louisville St.
Harlem, GA 30814..... 706-556-0401
<https://harlemmuseumandwelcomecenter.com>

Dedicated to one of the world’s greatest comedy duos, Laurel and Hardy, the museum contains artifacts, memorabilia and a theater room to watch any of the 106 movies they made together. The display items have been donated by fans from around the world, and each year thousands come to Harlem to pay homage to “The Boys.” Harlem is the birthplace of Oliver Hardy, half of the world-famous duo. Admission is free, and patrons are encouraged to stay and watch a movie or two.

Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

1116 Phillips St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-724-3576
www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum is the only museum of African-American history in the Central Savannah River Area (Augusta and its surrounding areas). The museum, which opened in 1991, is in a house that was the former home of Lucy Craft Laney. Laney dedicated her life to providing educational opportunities for black youth in the Augusta area. She started the first kindergarten for black children in Augusta and founded the Lamar School of Nursing for black women.

GO, TEAM, GO!

You may carry your sports team loyalties with you, no matter where you go, but you can root, root, root for the local favorites too. Check out www.Govv.com for discounted sports and race tickets for current and former military members.

Morris Museum of Art

1 Tenth St.
Augusta, GA 30901 706-724-7501
www.themorris.org

Spend the afternoon uncovering the stories within each gallery at the Morris Museum of Art. As the first museum dedicated to the art and artists of the South, the Morris has plenty of secrets and stories to reveal. With a full calendar of events ranging from art workshops and artist receptions to trunk shows and film screenings, there are also plenty of ways to do more than just look at the art. But if you prefer to just look, make sure you stop by the museum on Sunday for a free guided tour.

Robert Toombs House

216 E. Robert Toombs Ave.
Washington, GA 30673 706-678-2226
<https://gastateparks.org/RobertToombsHouse>

Preserving the home of one of Georgia’s most notorious residents — planter, lawyer, state legislator, U.S. Congressman and Senator, Confederate Secretary of State and brigadier general in the Army of Northern Virginia — facilities at this historic site include a museum, guided and self-guided tours, a picnic area and bus parking. Leashed pets are allowed on historic site trails but not in the buildings.

Washington Historical Museum

308 E. Robert Toombs Ave.
Washington, GA 30673 706-678-2105
www.historicwashingtonga.com/washington-historical-museum

Home to a collection of objects that tell Piedmont, Georgia’s story, and located in an 1835 home inside the city’s historic district, the Washington Historical Museum serves as the city’s material culture archive with more than 200 years of history. Check the website for information about tours and special events.

PARKS

Check your community’s parks and recreation listings to see more of what your local area has to offer.

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

1450 Greene St., Suite 400
Augusta, GA 30901 706-823-0440
<http://augustacanal.com>

Enjoy the Augusta Canal on foot, by bicycle, canoe or kayak. Fish from the banks, watch for wildlife or relax on a guided tour aboard a replica canal cargo boat. Hikers, cyclists and runners regularly head for the Augusta Canal’s wide, level towpath, once used by mules to pull canal boats to the canal headgates. Additional

trails into wooded and urban areas add variety to the outdoor experience.

Hamburg State Park

6071 Hamburg State Park Road
Mitchell, GA 30820 478-552-2393
<http://georgiastateparks.org/hamburg>

With modern-day facilities amidst reminders of days gone by, Hamburg State Park offers a wonderful mix of history and outdoor recreation. A campground offers shaded sites along the edge of quiet Hamburg Lake fed by the Little Ogeechee River. Anglers can enjoy fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bream, as well as boat ramps and a fishing pier. Wildlife enthusiasts should look for turtles, alligators, raccoons, deer, birds and other animals that live within the park. The restored 1921 water-powered gristmill is still operational and used to grind corn during events. The park’s museum is also open during events, displaying old agricultural tools used in rural Georgia.

Mistletoe State Park

3725 Mistletoe Road
Appling, GA 30802..... 706-541-0321
www.gastateparks.org/Mistletoe

Located on 71,100-acre Clarks Hill Lake near Augusta, this park is known as one of the finest bass fishing spots in the nation. Boat ramps provide easy access to one of the Southeast’s largest lakes. During the summer, guests can cool off at the sandy beach or on miles of shaded nature trails. Many programs are hosted throughout the year, such as astronomy programs, concerts and nature walks. Mistletoe State Park has 10 fully equipped cottages on the lake, five of which are log cabins. The campground is situated on a peninsula, offering spectacular views of both sunset and sunrise over the open water. A four-bed tent cabin with electricity and water faces the lake. Overnight guests may rent canoes to explore the large lake.

SHOPPING

From malls and major department stores to unique boutiques and souvenir shops, there’s something for every taste and budget.

Augusta Mall

3450 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30909 706-731-8850
www.augustamall.com

Augusta Mall is an upscale two-level super-regional shopping mall with four department stores and nearly 100 clothing, electronics, health and beauty, home and shoe stores. Featuring more than 15 specialty stores and over a dozen eateries, the mall also offers a military discount at select stores. Visit the website for details.

Surrey Center

471 Highland Ave.

Augusta, GA 30904 706-722-5561

<http://surreycenter.com>

Surrey Center's boutique shops carry the latest trends in accessories and apparel at a dozen shops. There are a number of services of specialty items like a beauty salon and butcher shop. Find food for any taste at one of the 10 locally owned restaurants.

The Augusta Market on the River

15 Eighth St.

Augusta, GA 30901 706-627-0128

www.theaugustamarket.com

Shop for local fruits, veggies, honey, baked goods and coffee along with locally made art, home decor, accessories and more at the Eighth Street Plaza. During summer months, kids can play in the fountain. The market is open seasonally; check the website for dates of operation and hours.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Whether you are looking to take in a game or cool off with a trip down a waterslide, you will find what you are after in Augusta-Richmond and Columbia counties.

Augusta GreenJackets

78 Milledge Road

Augusta, GA 30904 706-922-9467

www.milb.com/augusta

Augusta's minor league baseball team, the Augusta GreenJackets, plays at Lake Olmstead Stadium from April through September. The team has been a Class A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants since 2005 and plays in the South Atlantic League. The team is named in

honor of The Masters golf tournament where the winner receives a green jacket.

Bear Hollow Zoo and Memorial Park

293 Gran Ellen Drive

Athens, GA 30606 706-613-3580

www.athensclarkecounty.com/bearhollow

Located in Memorial Park's hardwood forest, natural habitat exhibits of nonreleasable native wildlife are used to teach about wildlife and the environment. Resident animals include three black bears, including siblings Athena and Yonah, bobcats, white-tailed deer, river otters, owls, a bald eagle and more than 120 species of wild, free-living animals.

Durhamtown Off-Road Resort

2350 Randolph Church Road

Union Point, GA 30669 706-622-4108

www.durhamtown.com

This old-style resort boasts a sporting clay course, fishing, paintball, ATV riding, archery range, pistol and rifle range, cabins, camping and a pavilion for cookouts. Durhamtown offers 14 tracks and 150 miles of one-way trails and riding suitable for all types and skill levels of riders. It offers more than 6,000 continuous acres along the North Fork of the Little River, teeming with wildlife. The plantation has an abundant population of turkey and wild hog, miles of ATV and dirt bike trails, and racing courses.

Golf

Georgia has more than 150 golf courses, clubs and schools as well as the Masters Tournament played each year at Augusta National Golf Club. A variety of public and country club courses are available in the area, including the 18-hole Forest Hills Golf Club, an award-winning course where greats like Phil Mickelson and Davis Love III have played, and Goshen Plantation Golf



U.S. ARMY RESERVE PHOTO BY PFC. KAYNA A. THOMPSON

Club, one of the best public courses in the state. For a full list of courses in Georgia, visit www.golfink.com/golf-courses/state.aspx?state=GA.

PDGA International Disc Golf Center

3828 Dogwood Lane

Appling, GA 30802 706-261-6342

www.pdga.com/idgc

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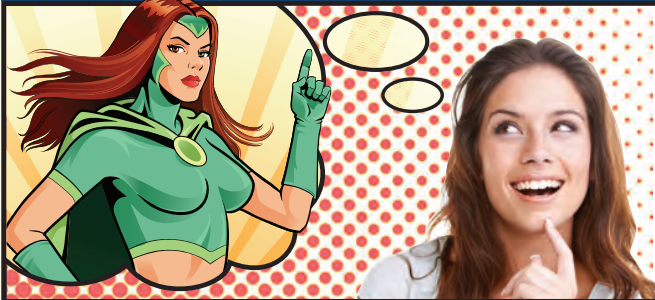
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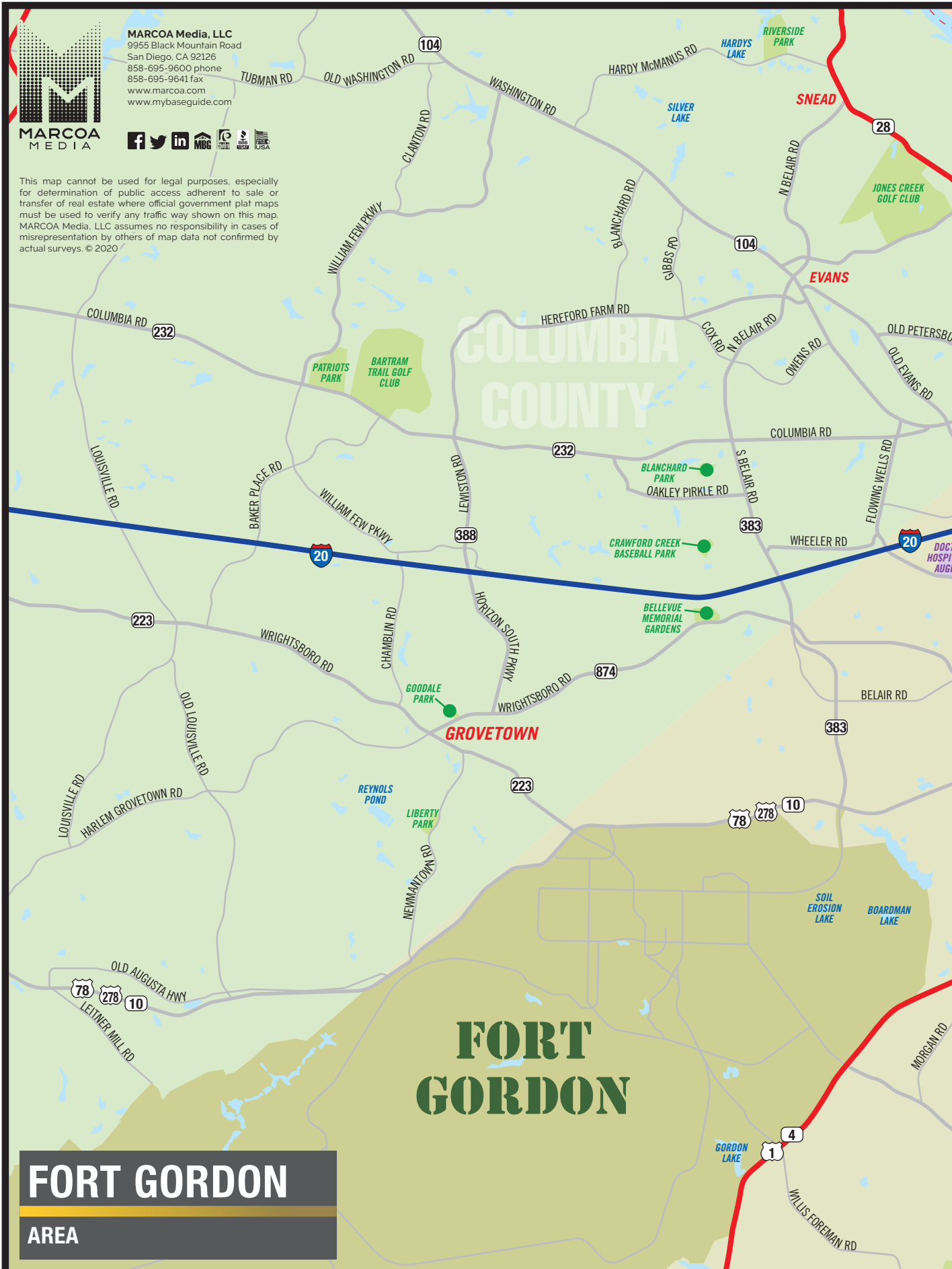




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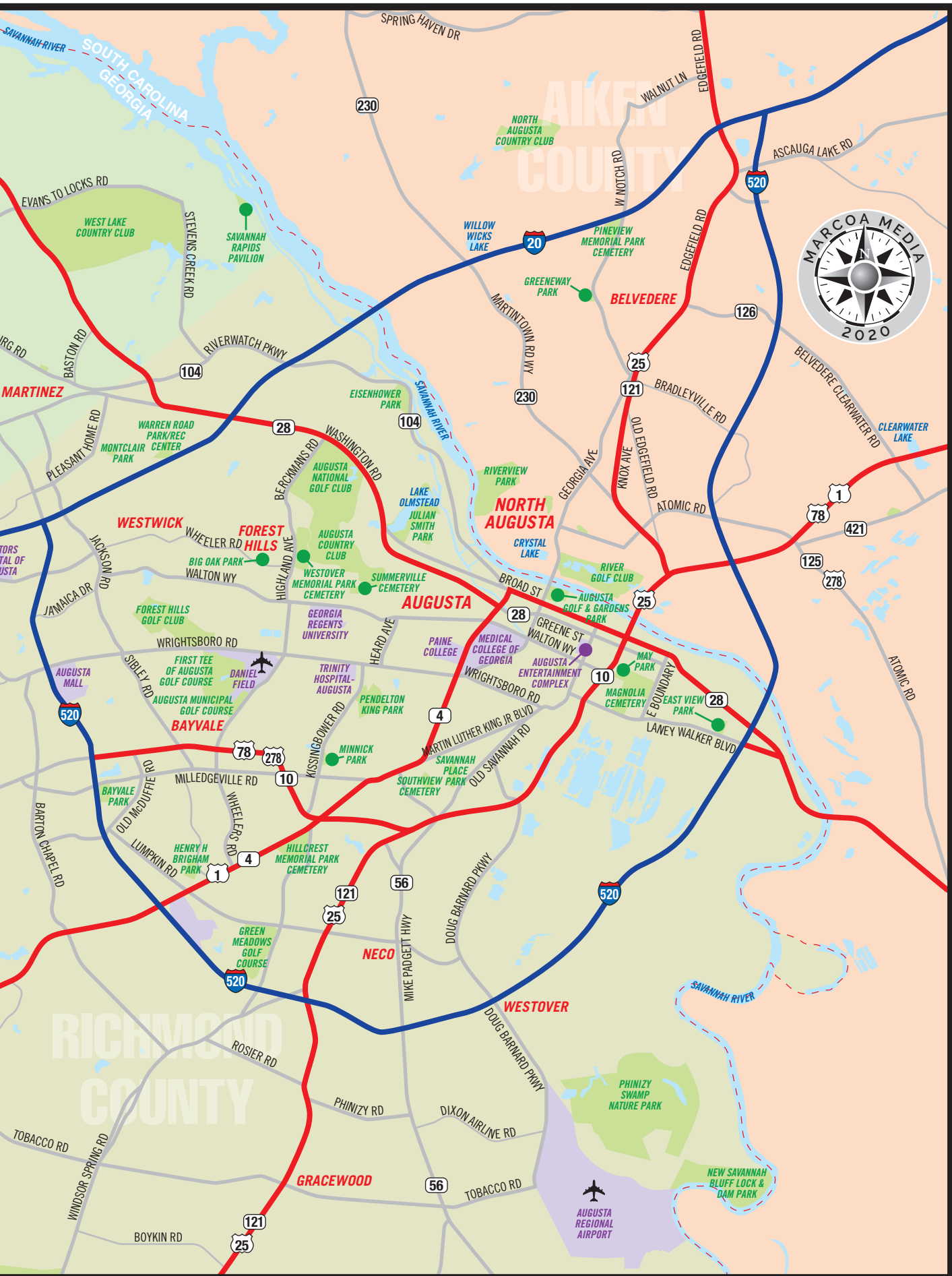


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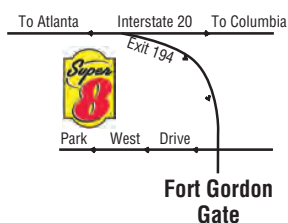


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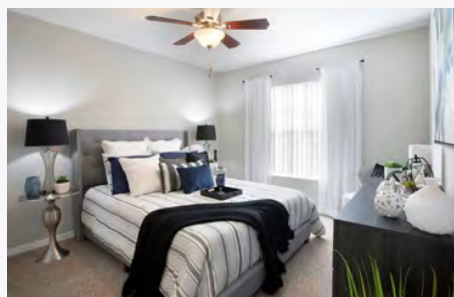
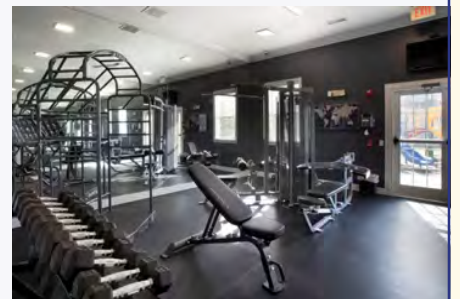


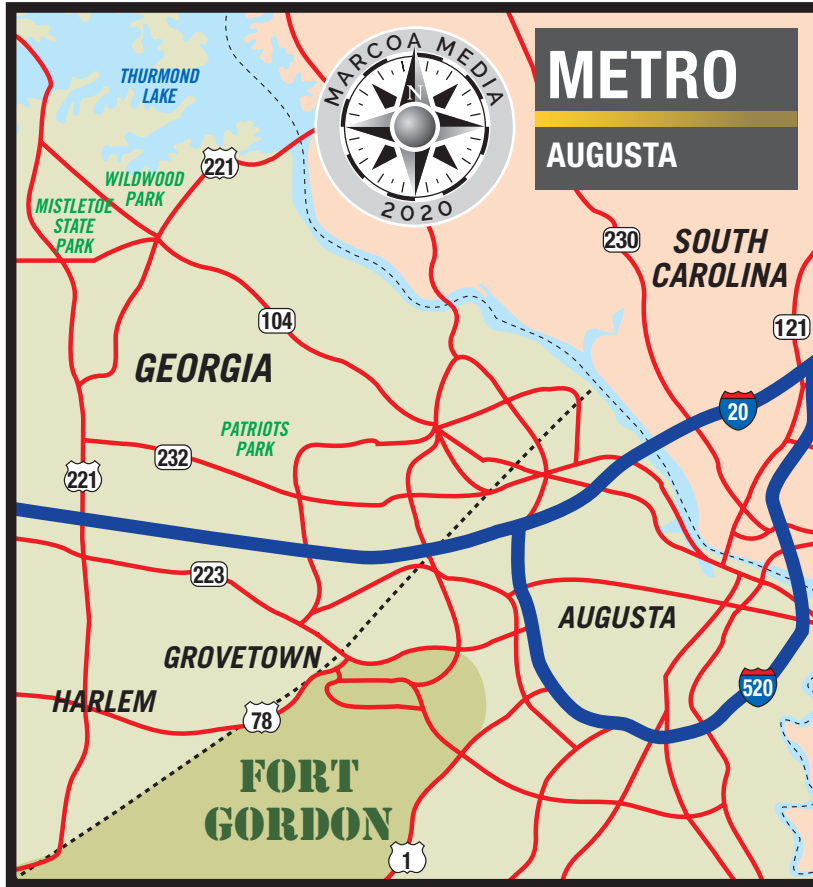


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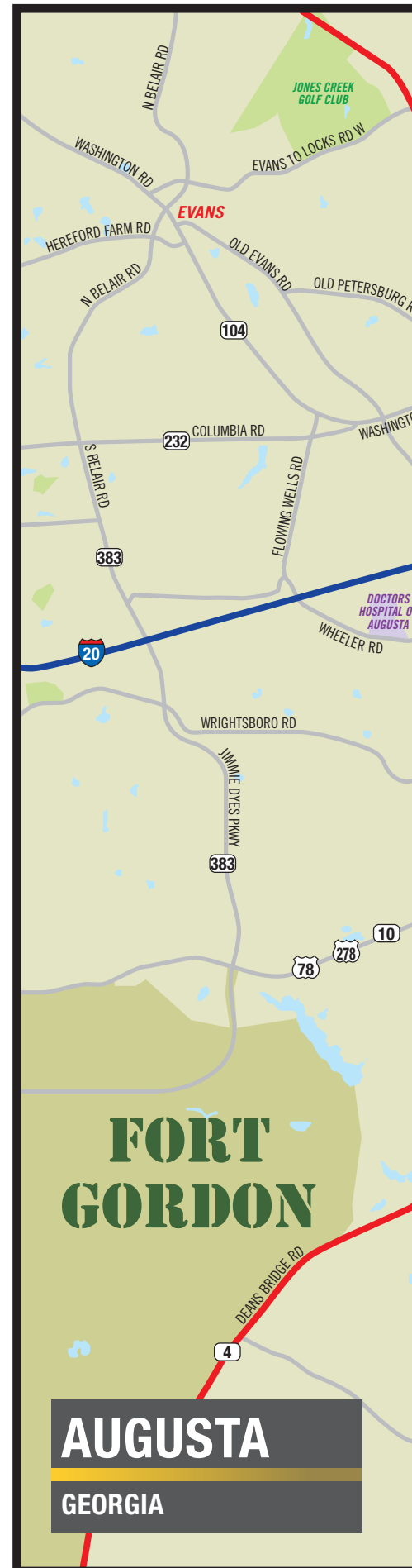


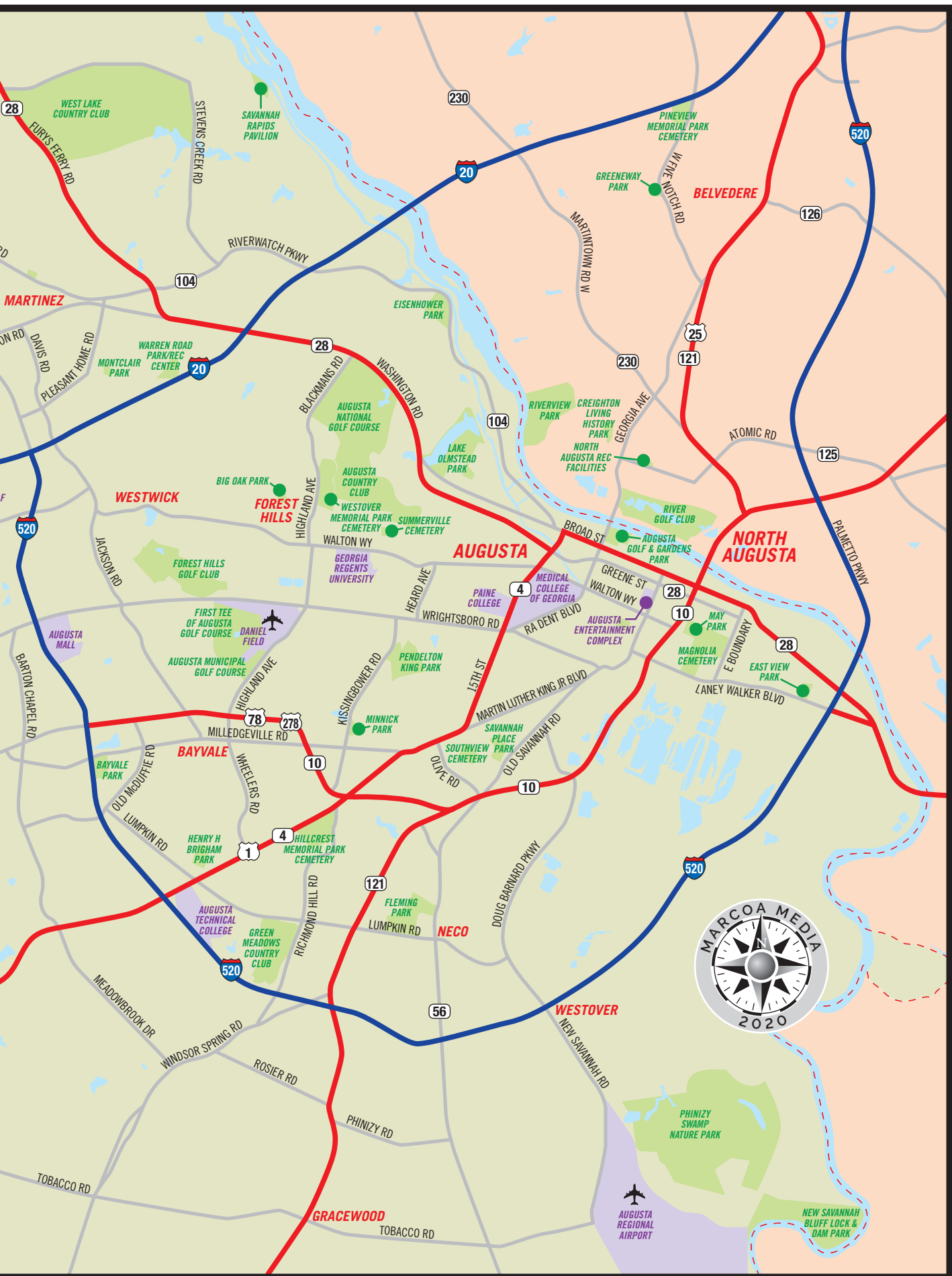


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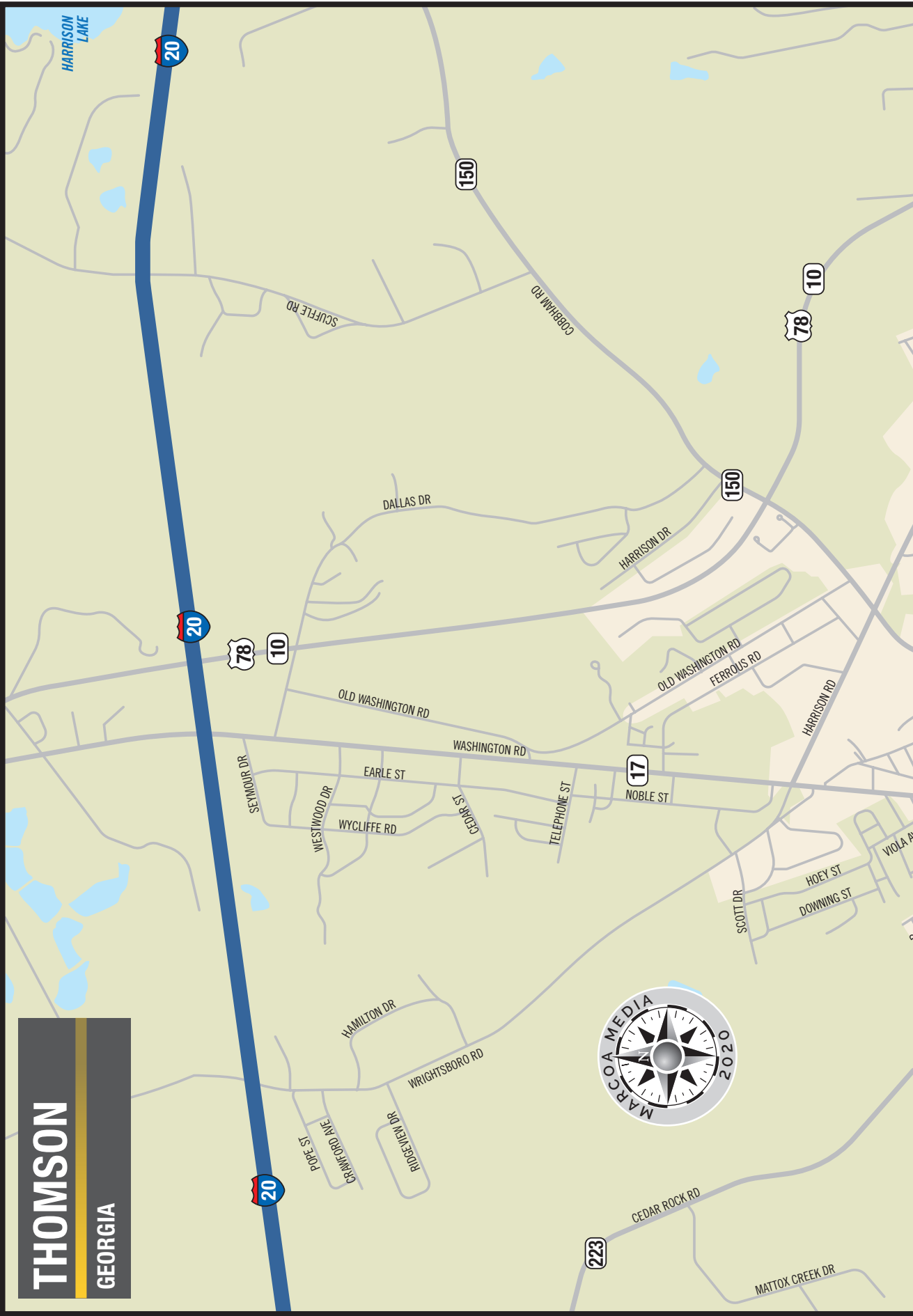
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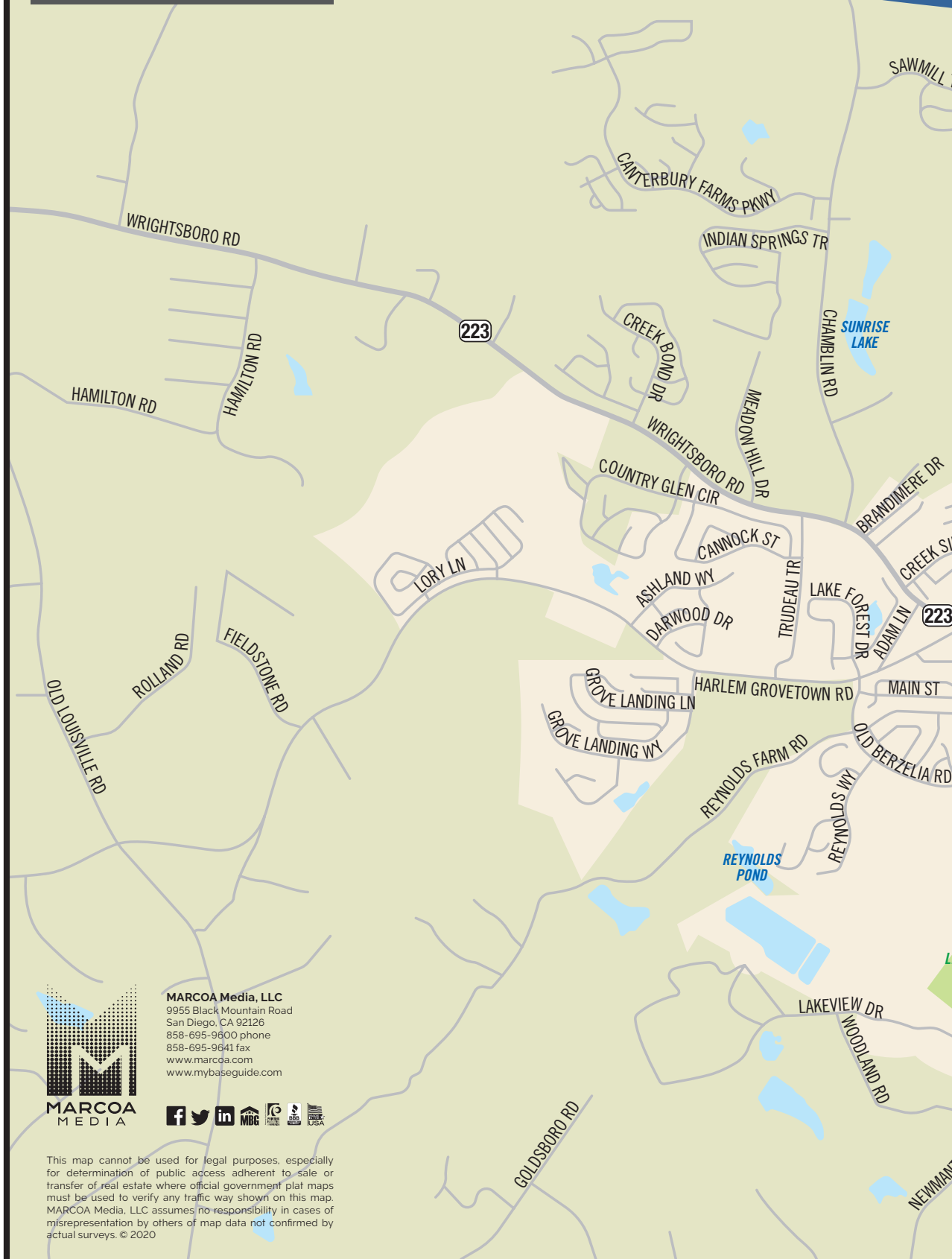
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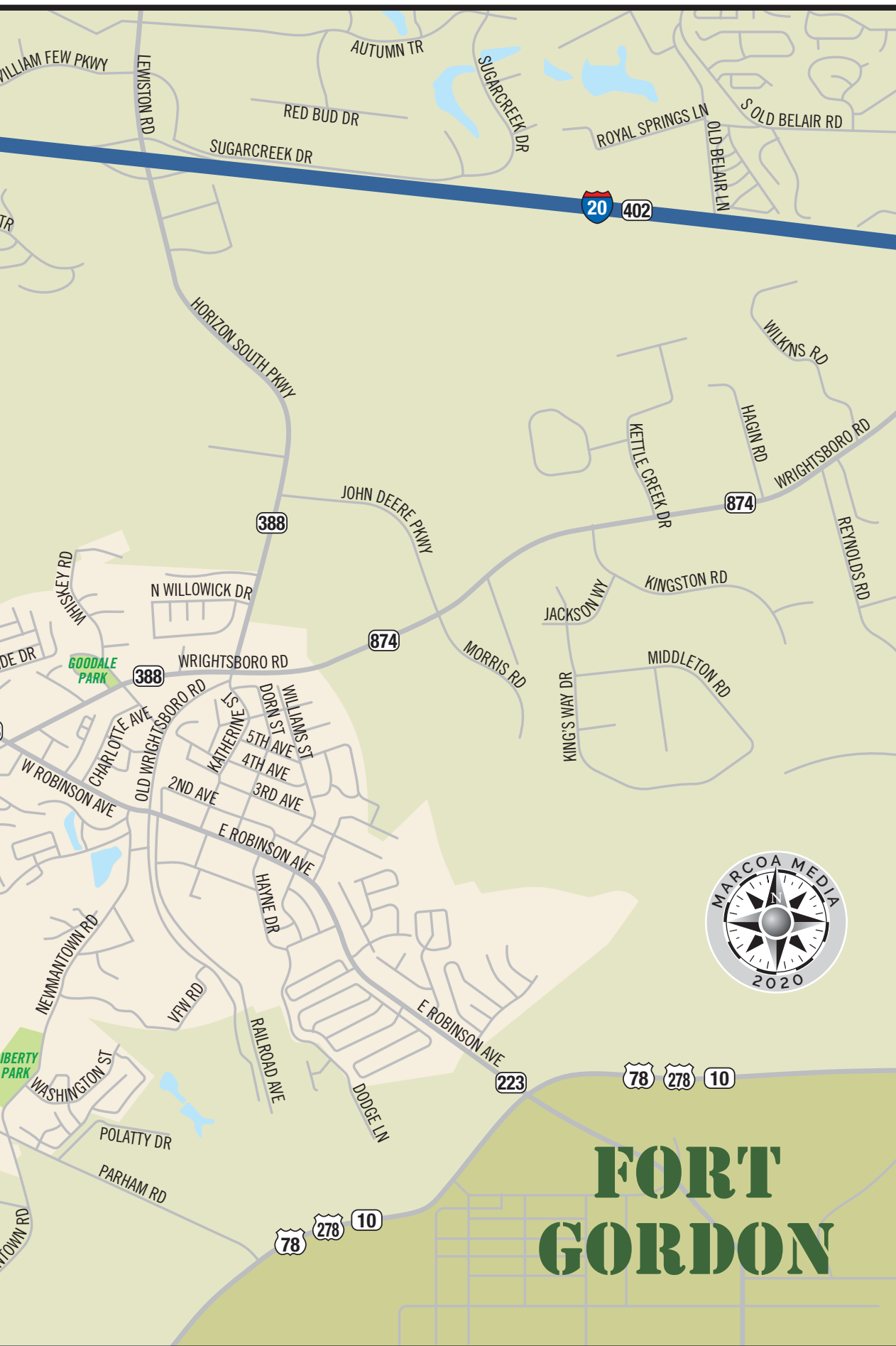
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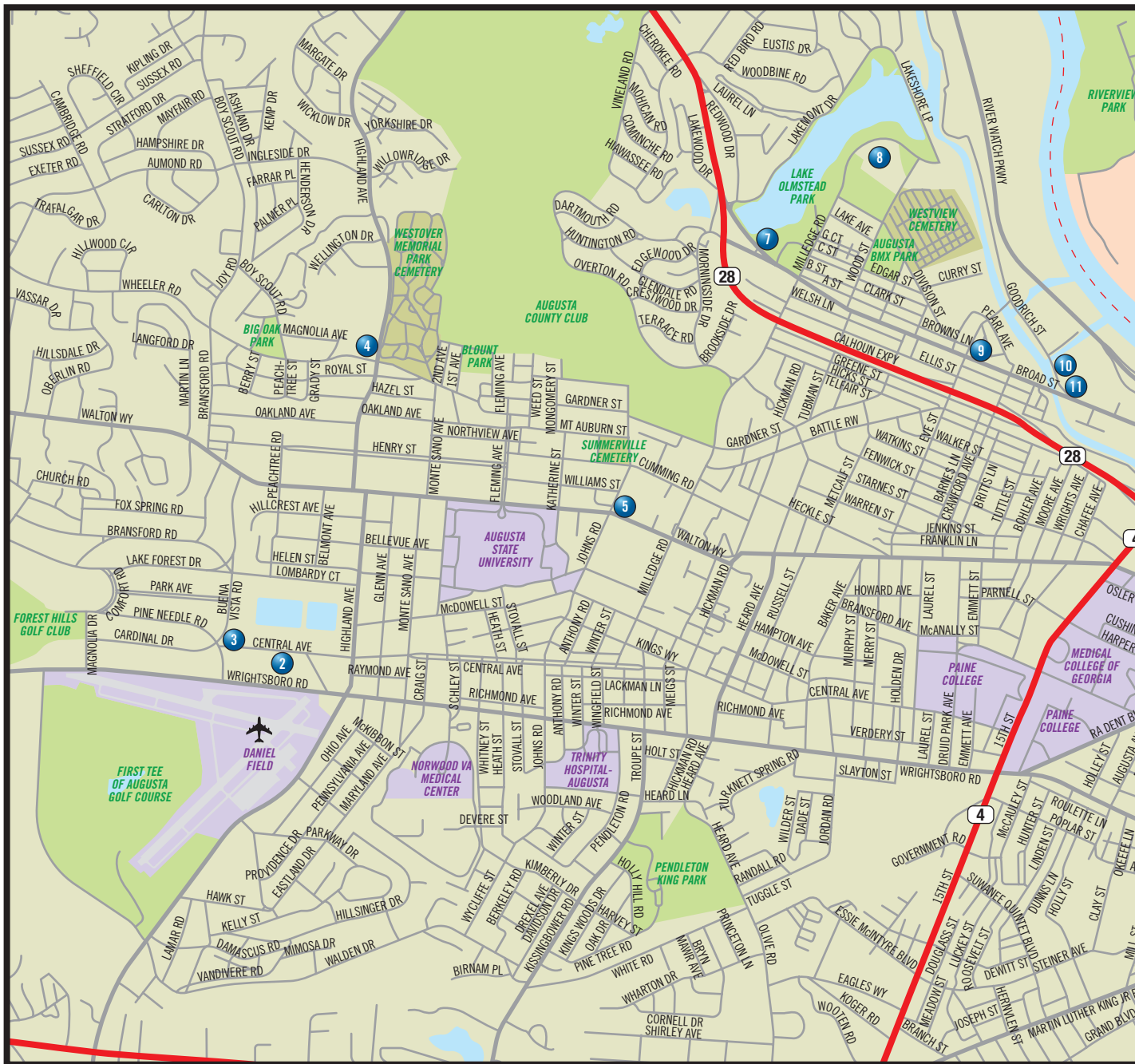


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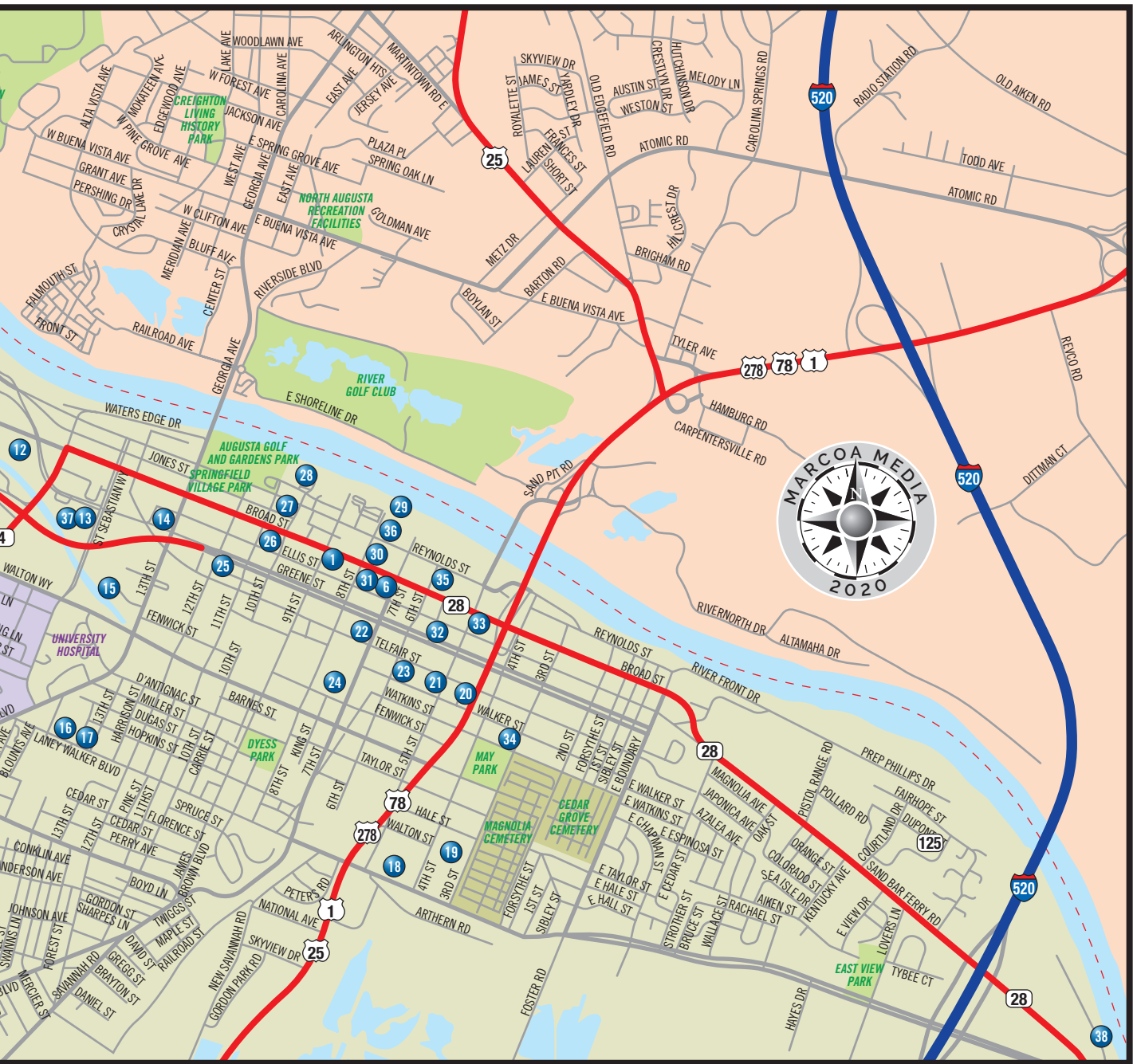
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LOCATION	POINT OF INTEREST	LOCATION	POINT OF INTEREST	LOCATION
1	Sacred Heart Cultural Center	14	Historic Augusta	27
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3	Lucy Craft Laney High School	16	Augusta Riverwalk	29
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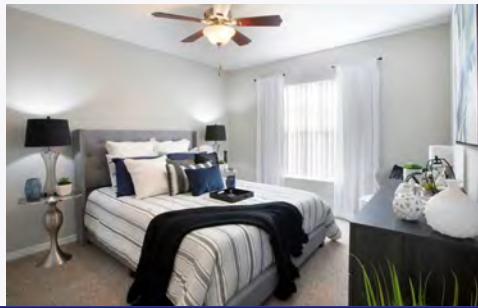
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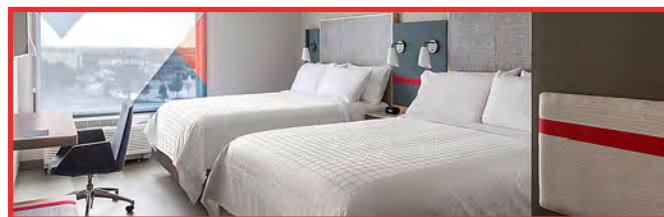
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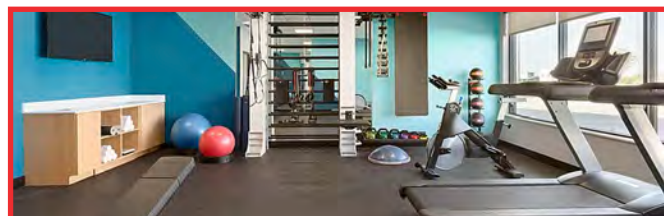
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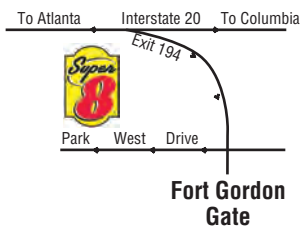


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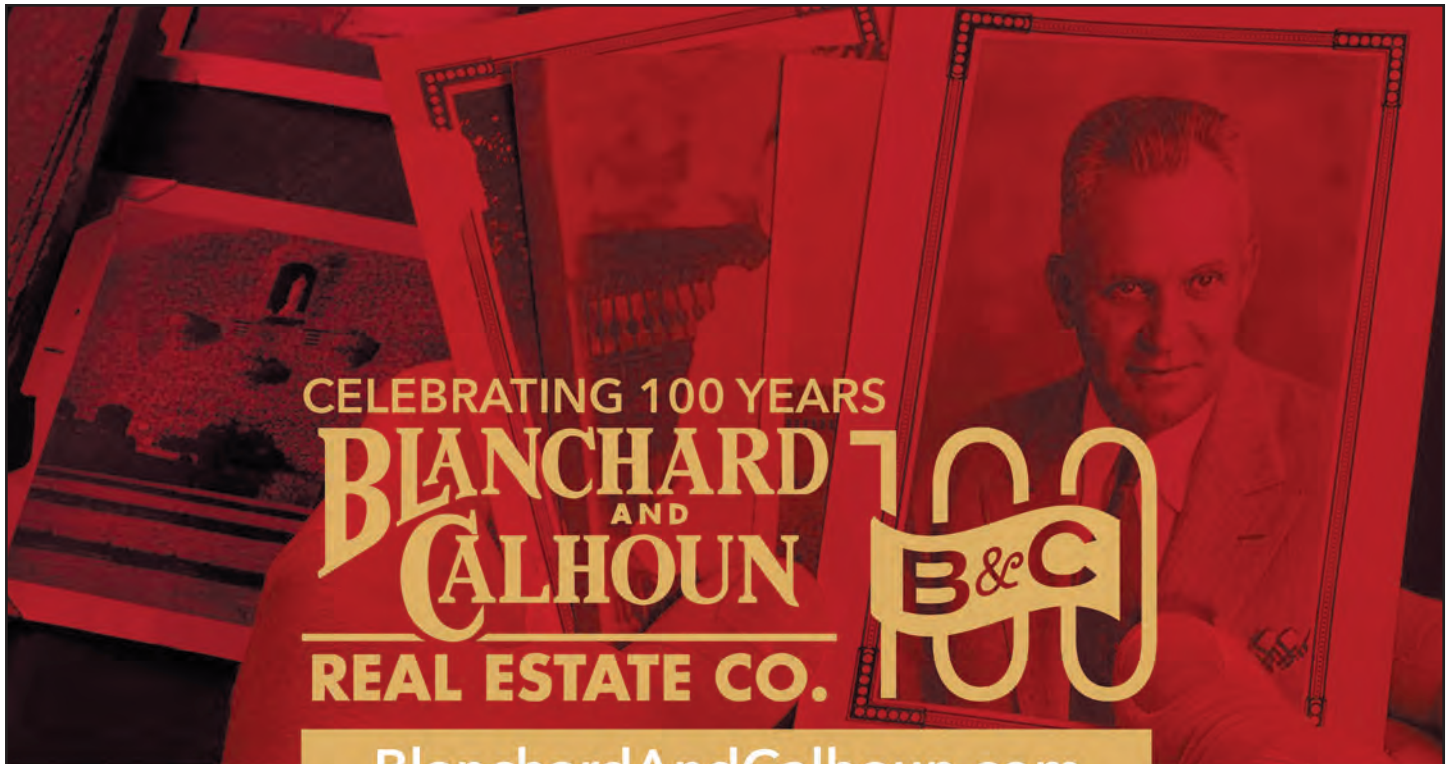
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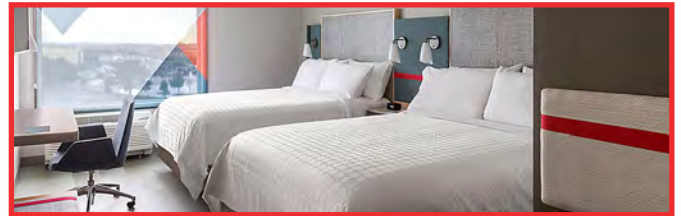
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