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[Housing Forum](#) **[1]**

On 01 Nov, 2023



Wednesday, October 25th, Toombs County welcomed representatives from MicroLife Institute (ML) and Georgia Conservancy (GC) at the much anticipated Housing Forum. The purpose of the forum was to learn results from a year-long study performed by both ML and GC, hear proposed

suggestions on how Toombs County can move forward coming out of our housing crisis, and to hear from a panel of stakeholders in the county. The panel consisted of Jason Hall, City Manager/Lyons, Nick Overstreet, City Manager/Vidalia, Greg McKenzie, Jr., builder and realtor, David Sikes, Chairman/Toombs County Commission, and Matt Hasbrouck, Chief Executive Officer/Memorial Health Meadows Hospital.

Almost 90 community members attended the forum which, among others, included investors, developers, realtors, and bankers. The 2-hour long session highlighted study results that focused on reviewing existing and proposed zoning laws, comparing comprehensive plans with zoning laws, conducting a walking housing assessment of Lyons and Vidalia, interviews with local community and industry leaders, and a public poll. Conceptual designs for several lots in both Vidalia and Lyons were created by MicroLife Institute and revealed at the forum which brought much interest and discussion. A final report will be available to the public in January 2024 and can be used as an invaluable tool by anyone interested in investing and/or developing property for housing in Toombs. Further information regarding next steps will be forthcoming.

The 2023 Housing Study was a joint effort of Toombs County Development Authority, Greater Vidalia® Chamber, Cities of Vidalia and Lyons, and Toombs County. A link to a video regarding the forum can be found [here](#) [2] and link to the presentation can be found here.

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