

Amphitheater headed to Wolf Creek

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At its April 2 meeting, the Fulton County Commission approved a \$6.1 million contract to The Lions Group, Inc. for the construction of a 5,000 seat amphitheater at Wolf Creek Park in unincorporated south Fulton, according to a news release.

The upcoming development was spearheaded by Commission Vice Chairman William 'Bill' Edwards, District 7. Edwards began offering the Wolf Creek Music Fest a few years ago as he felt the growing area needed an arts scene comparable to its growth.

"I thought, 'What do people do in the summer?'" he said. "And I realized they had nothing to do, so I thought if we brought in entertainment they would come."

Edwards' instinct was right, and he said he has seen as many as 20,000 people occupy the open field at Wolf Creek to see the many performances that have been held-such as the O'Jays and The Whispers.

It occurred to him a while back this area could use an amphitheater and put out a survey to area residents asking if they would pay to come to the venue, and how much. Since the county already owned the land, it was a matter of finding a developer to construct the venue.

The amphitheater will be located at 3025 Merk Road, off Camp Creek Parkway and will be located on a six-acre site in front of the Wolf Creek Public Safety Training Center. Edwards said the tentative completion date will be the first quarter of 2009 and a groundbreaking ceremony should be expected soon.

The amphitheater will provide a partial roof and an additional 1,000 seats in the lawn area. The venue will offer a myriad of dining options for patrons as well as parking.

"When you look at the quality of life, things that bring arts to a community-the amphitheater only enhances that," he said. Edwards expects this new venue to be comparable to Chastain;

something for mature adults and families.

"We want to have something for families to go to," he said. "We don't want any cursing or saggy pants."

Edwards also hopes this will be a catalyst for people to take advantage of nearby retail businesses.

"When people come, hopefully they will stop in our retail establishments and shop at Camp Creek or maybe have dinner before they go to the venue," said Edwards. "So we're welcoming everyone to have a good time and spend money in south Fulton."

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