



POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018



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# YEAR IN REVIEW

## A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS IN 2018



The grand opening of City Springs in 2018 marked an important milestone for our City and served as a catalyst for the renaissance we see in the heart of Sandy Springs. Desiring to create a town center reflective of the community, our City took its first steps in 2008 with the purchase of the property at Mt. Vernon, Johnson Ferry, Sandy Springs Circle, and Roswell Road. The community worked together over the course of 2012 to

develop a plan, with the City Council approving the City Center Master Plan in December of that year. In January 2013, we began the process of creating the vision and design for the property. The 14-acre mixed-use development contains civic offices, retail, residential, performing arts center, conference center, and a park. More importantly, the spaces create a “sense of place” where residents and visitors come together to meet, do business, and be entertained.

Our new City Hall opened in May, as hundreds of residents gathered to help the Mayor and Council, both past and present members, officially cut the ribbon for the facility. The move itself was virtually seamless for the community. Doors closed at the old City Hall on Friday afternoon and opened at 1 Galambos Way on Monday morning, with no loss of service for our residents.

The Performing Arts Center officially opened in August, featuring a series of

performances designed to showcase the flexibility of the various rooms within the facility and the diversity of interests of our community, with many sold-out performances. Since opening week, we have enjoyed ongoing activity within the performing spaces, and conference level and on the City Green. City Springs has truly become a gathering location for our city.

City Springs is the direct result of the vision described in the City Center Master Plan. As we complete the initial phase of the plan and prepare to move into the subsequent stages, we consistently work to further the community vision and goals for the district. We continue to implement high-quality infrastructure improvements within the district, such as the opening of Denmark Drive and the Boylston Connector Street, Marsh Creek Rain Park, intersection improvements, adaptive traffic management technology, and numerous streetscape and sidewalk projects. We

continue to evaluate and plan options for further redevelopment and beautification within the district.

Through partnerships with Visit Sandy Springs, the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, we have the opportunity to establish the City Springs district as a location rich in arts, education, and cultural amenities. I am especially excited about the potential for the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to locate a Holocaust memorial within our city, alongside the Anne Frank in the World Exhibit. The Exhibit held special meaning for our founding mayor, Eva Galambos, as her husband, Dr. John Galambos, was a Holocaust survivor. Mayor Galambos worked tirelessly to locate the Exhibit in our community, and we are privileged to further her vision through partnership opportunities with the Commission.

While our move to City Springs was a major initiative this year, we remained focus on each of the priorities adopted by the City Council.

In the area of Public Safety, we continue to implement innovative strategies to decrease the number of false alarm calls going into our 9-1-1 center. Alarm calls are administratively diverted to the City’s 24-hour, non-emergency call center to verify that callers have met existing requirements of state law before they are directed to the 9-1-1 center. Beginning in June 2019, the Alarm Ordinance will require that all alarm

monitoring companies provide verification using audio, visual or in-person means before calling 9-1-1.

Transportation improvements continue to dominate our efforts, from bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to a wide array of improvements on local streets. Throughout the year, many of our projects funded through the Transportation Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLIST) began the concept and design process. A concept for long-awaited safety and efficiency improvements at Mt. Vernon, Johnson Ferry, and Roswell Road was approved, with the design now underway. In addition, we continue to work with the Georgia Department of Transportation as it constructs the Transform 285/400 program. The replacement of the bridge at Mt. Vernon reached a midway point at the end of 2018. Maneuvering our roadways will be challenging in the coming years as these improvements are constructed, but the result will provide for better traffic efficiencies throughout the city.

North End Revitalization was added as a priority by the City Council during its annual Retreat. A Task Force was created and asked to aim high and be bold in coming back to the City with recommendations on revitalizing economic development at the northern end of our city. Following the appointment of its members, the Task Force rolled up its sleeves and went to work. The Task Force took a strategic approach to evaluate North End needs and opportu-

nities, hosting public meetings during the process to gain insight and feedback from the community. Plan recommendations will be presented at the 2019 City Council Retreat.

Our efforts on mobility, economic development, public safety and cultural enrichment all speak to the City’s focus on quality of life for our residents. A thriving community is one rich in amenities desired by the citizenry, from activities and parks to maintenance of the infrastructure to support the City’s needs. A successful city is also one which is fiscally responsible. This year, our Year in Review includes a summary of the City’s finances, providing our residents with open and transparent insight into the use of taxpayer dollars in support of the betterment of the community.

Under the leadership of Mayor Paul and our City Council, we have accomplished much together and will continue working together to deliver results on our community priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. McDonough". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**John McDonough**  
City Manager

# OUR CITY

The policymaking and legislative authority of the government is vested in the Mayor and six Council members, who are elected for four-year terms. Council members are elected by district, and the Mayor is elected at-large by popular vote. The Mayor and Council members serve until their successors are qualified and certified. Terms of office begin after certification of the election and swearing into office. Elections are held every four years.

The City operates under a council/manager form of government, where the Council is the legislative authority, and the Mayor possesses all of the executive powers granted to the government under the constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the City of Sandy Springs charter. The City Manager maintains all of the administrative powers granted to the government under the constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the City's charter.

Deploying a non-traditional approach to government services, the City operates as one of the largest Public-Private Partnerships in the country. The City provides a full range of services, including police and fire protection, the construction and maintenance of highways, streets, and other infrastructure, and

recreational and cultural activities. All services outside of public safety and the City Manager's executive staff are outsourced. Sanitation services are provided through contracts with private carriers. Water and sewer services are delivered to residential and commercial properties by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The City created a legally separate entity, the City of Sandy Springs Public Facilities Authority (the "Authority"), to assist with the leasing and multi-year contracting of capital facilities. The Sandy Springs Hospitality Board is a component unit of the City and functions as the tourism and marketing arm of the government. In addition, the City has a joint venture with the City of Johns Creek for Emergency 911 services through the Chattahoochee River E911 Authority (ChatComm) and with the North Fulton Cities of Alpharetta, Milton, and Roswell for a unified radio system through the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (NFRRSA).

## BUSINESS CLIMATE

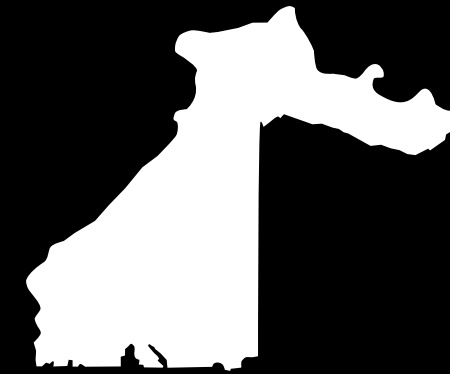
More than 5,500 businesses currently call Sandy Springs home. From world-renowned corporations such as UPS, First Data, Intercontinental Exchange (parent of the New York Stock Exchange), and Mercedes-Benz USA; to

small, family-owned retailers and restaurants, the business community realizes a strong return on investment dollars.

The City's commercial properties comprise more than 46 percent of the total tax digest by property value, which ensures a strong economic foundation for the government. Sandy Springs is located at the crossroads of the most traveled east-west and north-south connections with prime access to Interstate 285 and Georgia Highway 400, with Interstate 75 located just west of the City's border. Four stations on the MARTA rail transit system also serve Sandy Springs, creating an attractive transportation location for business.

More than 40 percent of the available hospital beds in the metropolitan Atlanta area are located in Sandy Springs. The City is home to nationally-recognized Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Northside Hospital and Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital. In addition to the hospitals, the city's largest employers are headquarters and regional offices of companies representing a variety of industries. Among those companies are Amtrak, VMware, AirWatch, Graphic Packaging, CSM Bakery, Cox Enterprises, and Mercedes Benz.

## OUR COMMUNITY



### INCORPORATED

2005

### SIZE

38 square miles

### POPULATION

106,739\*\*

Additional Daytime Population:  
100,000+

### MEDIAN AGE

36

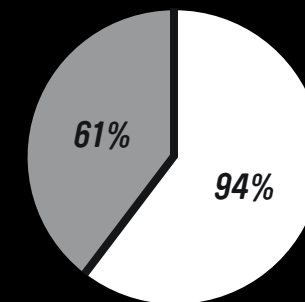
**FEMALE** 53%



**MALE** 47%



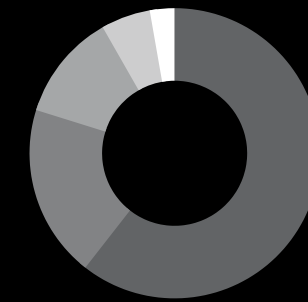
### EDUCATION



High school graduate (percent of persons age 25+ years - 2012 - 2016) 94%

Bachelor's degree or higher (percent of persons age 25+ years 2012-2016) 61%

### DIVERSITY



Caucasian — 66%

African American — 21%

Hispanic or Latino — 13%

Asian — 6%

Multiracial — 3%

### INCOME

Median household income (in 2016 dollars) \$68,629

Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2016 dollars) - \$53,257

Persons in poverty - 12%

Bond Rating: AAA - Highest credit rating available from Moody's Investors Service

### HOUSING

Owner occupied - 47%

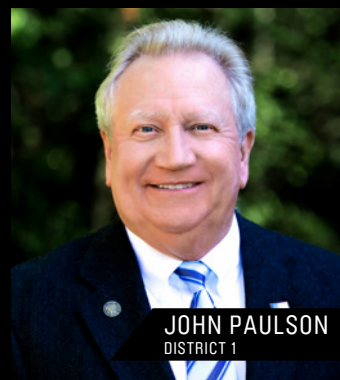
Renters occupied - 53%

\*\* based on 2017 Census Data Government

# SANDY SPRINGS CITY LEADERSHIP



**RUSTY PAUL**  
MAYOR



**JOHN PAULSON**  
DISTRICT 1



**STEVE SOTERIS**  
DISTRICT 2



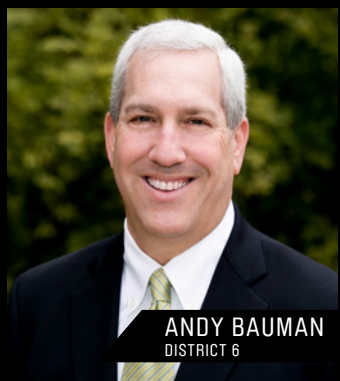
**CHRIS BURNETT**  
DISTRICT 3



**JODY REICHEL**  
DISTRICT 4



**TIBBY DEJULIO**  
DISTRICT 5



**ANDY BAUMAN**  
DISTRICT 6



**JOHN MCDONOUGH**  
CITY MANAGER

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### PEDS (ATLANTA REGION'S PEDESTRIAN ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION)

Golden Shoe Award for the City's "Walk-friendly Suburban Retrofit"

### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS ASSOCIATION/HAAS & WILKERSON PINNACLE AWARD, BRONZE LEVEL

Best Parade (under \$250,000) - Take It to the River Lantern Parade

### KIDS OUT AND ABOUT

#2 Favorite Place to Have Fun Outside - Abernathy Greenway Park

### MACARONI KID

Best Gym - Hammond Park

### KIPLINGER

#8- Ten Best Places for Early Retirement

### SAFEWISE

#15 Safest Cities in Georgia

### VALUEPENGUIN.COM

#5 - Best Cities for Young Families

### LIVABILITY.COM

#4 - Top Best Cities for Recent College Grads

### WALLETHUB.COM

#14 overall and #3 among midsize cities - Most Diverse Cities

### HOMESNACKS.NET

#5 - Top 10 Best Cities in Georgia

### AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF GEORGIA: ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE STATE AWARD

Marsh Creek Preserve.

### GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS INNOVATIVE STORMWATER PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Marsh Creek Preserve

### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, POTOMAC CHAPTER - MERIT AWARD (ANALYSIS, PLANNING, AND URBAN DESIGN)

Sandy Springs Comprehensive Plan and Small Area Plans (Rhodeside & Harwell, Consultant)



# MANAGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Deploying a non-traditional approach to government services, the City of Sandy Springs operates as one of the largest public-private partnerships in the United States. This factor coupled with responsible fiscal policies ensures financial health and stability for the City.

The City operates under a July-June fiscal calendar with financial reports reflecting that period. This 2018 fiscal year report accounts for activity from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

This Popular Annual Financial Report has been created as an easy to understand snapshot of the City's financial affairs. The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report offers a full accounting and is available online by visiting: [spr.gs/cafr](http://spr.gs/cafr)

# REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Revenue is the money that the City receives from taxes and other fees, and expenditures refer to how we spend that money.

In the City's 2018 fiscal year revenues increased significantly, primarily due to this being the first full year of T-SPLOST implementation. In addition to dollars received for T-SPLOST projects, other revenue the City received increased by more than \$6 million versus the previous fiscal year.

Expenditures decreased by 14 percent this fiscal year as expenses were reduced.

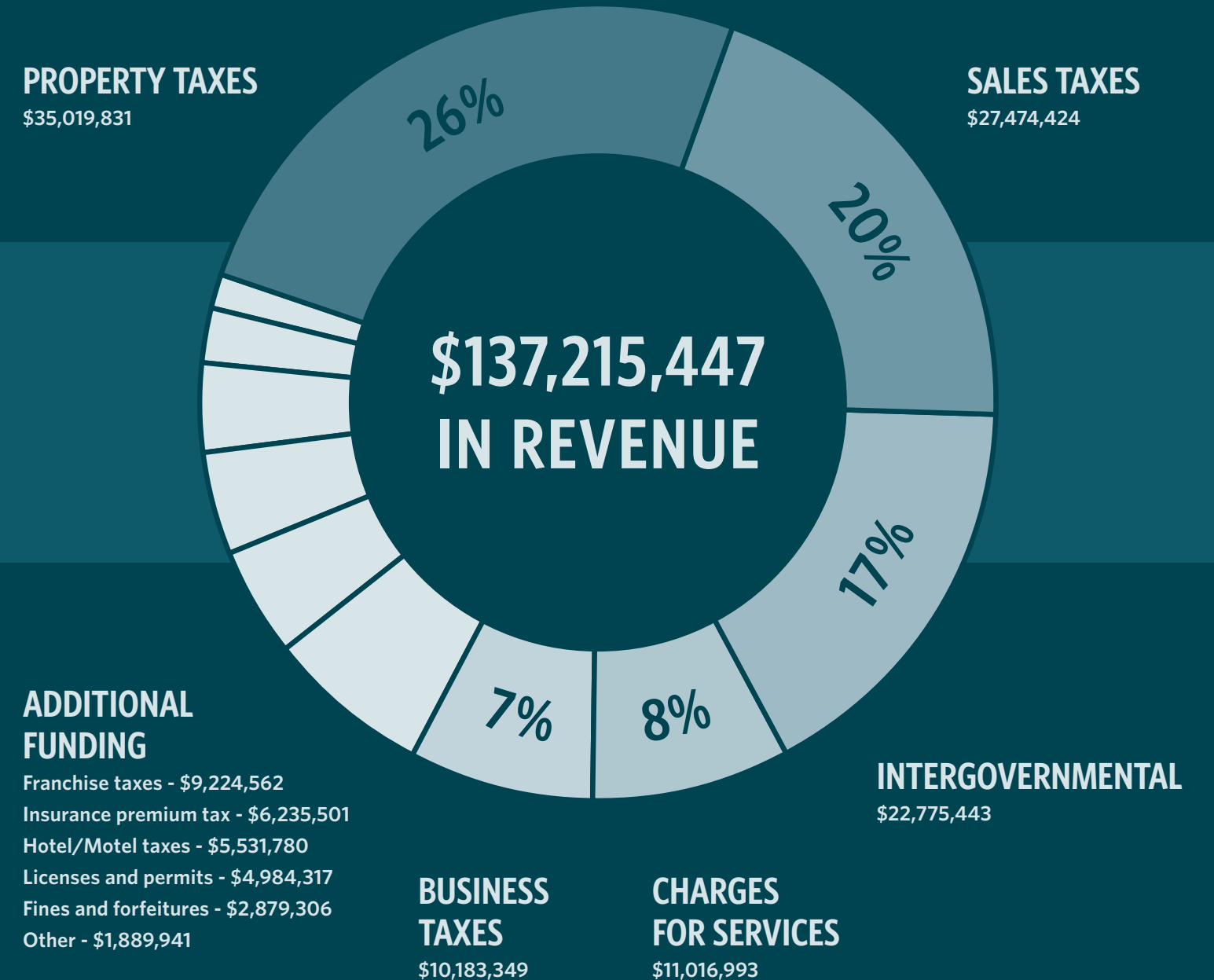


Revenues	2018	2017
Property taxes	\$35,019,831	\$29,447,969
Sales taxes	\$27,474,424	\$29,989,575
Hotel/Motel taxes	\$5,531,780	\$5,492,264
Auto excise taxes	\$110,781	\$111,902
Franchise taxes	\$9,224,562	\$9,715,393
Business taxes	\$10,183,349	\$9,803,144
Insurance premium tax	\$6,235,501	\$5,857,691
Licenses and permits	\$4,984,317	\$5,284,871
Intergovernmental	\$22,775,443	\$6,462,423
Charges for services	\$11,016,993	\$6,914,186
Fines and forfeitures	\$2,879,306	\$2,966,094
Interest earned	\$912,960	\$1,091,867
Miscellaneous	\$866,200	\$1,119,592
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$137,215,447</b>	<b>\$114,256,971</b>

Expenditures	2018	2017
<b>Current</b>		
General government	\$21,743,685	\$18,482,980
Judicial	\$1,619,227	\$1,531,040
Public safety	\$36,932,141	\$34,853,005
Public works	\$30,090,874	\$26,117,779
Culture and recreation	\$65,731,006	\$102,723,830
Housing and development	\$5,713,276	\$6,441,126
<b>Debt service</b>		
Principal	\$3,581,612	\$4,016,664
Interest	\$7,335,973	\$7,470,230
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$172,747,794</b>	<b>\$201,636,654</b>
<b>Proceeds from sale of capital assets</b>	\$5,859,052	\$3,546,371
<b>Issuance of notes payable/capital lease</b>	\$0	\$388,305
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<b>(\$29,673,295)</b>	<b>(\$83,445,007)</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$138,372,263</b>	<b>\$221,817,270</b>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b>\$108,698,968</b>	<b>\$138,372,263</b>

# WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

The chart below represents for the total amount of money received into all of the City's funds during its 2018 fiscal year and breaks down where the money was received from. The majority of the money the City received was from property taxes and the City's portion of the 7.75 percent sales tax collected on purchases in Sandy Springs.



# HOW WAS THE MONEY SPENT?

The large chart below represents for the total amount of money spent from all of the City's funds during its 2018 fiscal year and breaks down how the money was allocated. The small chart is sized proportionally to the large chart and represents the amount of money the City paid against its bond debt. Of the total amount the City spent, only 3.7 percent of it was spent on debt interest.

**CULTURE AND RECREATION**  
\$65,731,006

**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
\$36,932,141

**\$161,830,209  
IN CURRENT  
EXPENDITURES**

**JUDICIAL**  
\$1,619,227

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
\$30,090,874

**HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
\$5,713,276

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**  
\$21,743,685

**DEBT SERVICE - \$10,917,585**

**INTEREST**  
\$7,335,973

**PRINCIPAL**  
\$3,581,612

# NET POSITION

Net Position is the difference between what the City owns and what the City owes. Positive net position balances indicate a measure of financial stability. The City's net position increased from \$349 million in FY2017 to \$390 million in FY2018.

The City's financial activities also include Component Units which are legally separate organizations for which the City is financially accountable. Financial information for these component units is reported separately.

Assets	2018	2017	\$ Increase*	% Increase*
Current assets	\$135,253,905	\$179,365,796	(\$44,111,891)	(24.59%)
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$460,638,092	\$396,138,471	\$64,499,621	16.28%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$595,891,997</b>	<b>\$575,504,267</b>	<b>\$20,387,730</b>	<b>3.54%</b>
Liabilities				
Current liabilities	\$31,753,230	\$47,128,579	(\$15,375,349)	(32.62%)
Long-term liabilities	\$173,405,202	\$179,344,597	(\$5,939,395)	(3.31%)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$205,158,432</b>	<b>\$226,473,176</b>	<b>(\$21,314,744)</b>	<b>(9.41%)</b>
Deferred service concession arrangement receipts	\$480,000	\$30,000	\$450,000	1,500.00%
Net Position				
Net investment in capital assets	\$276,338,164	\$253,053,379	\$23,284,785	9.20%
Restricted	\$27,561,495	\$8,476,972	\$19,084,523	225.13%
Unrestricted	\$86,353,906	\$87,470,740	(\$1,116,834)	(1.28%)
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$390,253,565</b>	<b>\$349,001,091</b>	<b>\$41,252,474</b>	<b>11.82%</b>

\*numbers written in curved brackets ( ) are negative

# LONG TERM DEBT

In 2018, the City transitioned from "renter" to "owner" when it moved into its new City Hall. The 30 year bonds issued to fund City Hall are comparable in layman terms to a 30-year mortgage. The City's debt will continue to decrease as we pay down the principal.

Long-Term Debt	2018	2017
Bonds payable	\$172,229,890	\$175,738,334
Capital lease payable	\$1,678,431	\$2,556,253
Notes payable	\$2,397,156	\$2,590,946
	\$176,305,477	\$180,885,533

**AA+**  
Standard & Poors

**Aaa**  
Moody's Investor Services



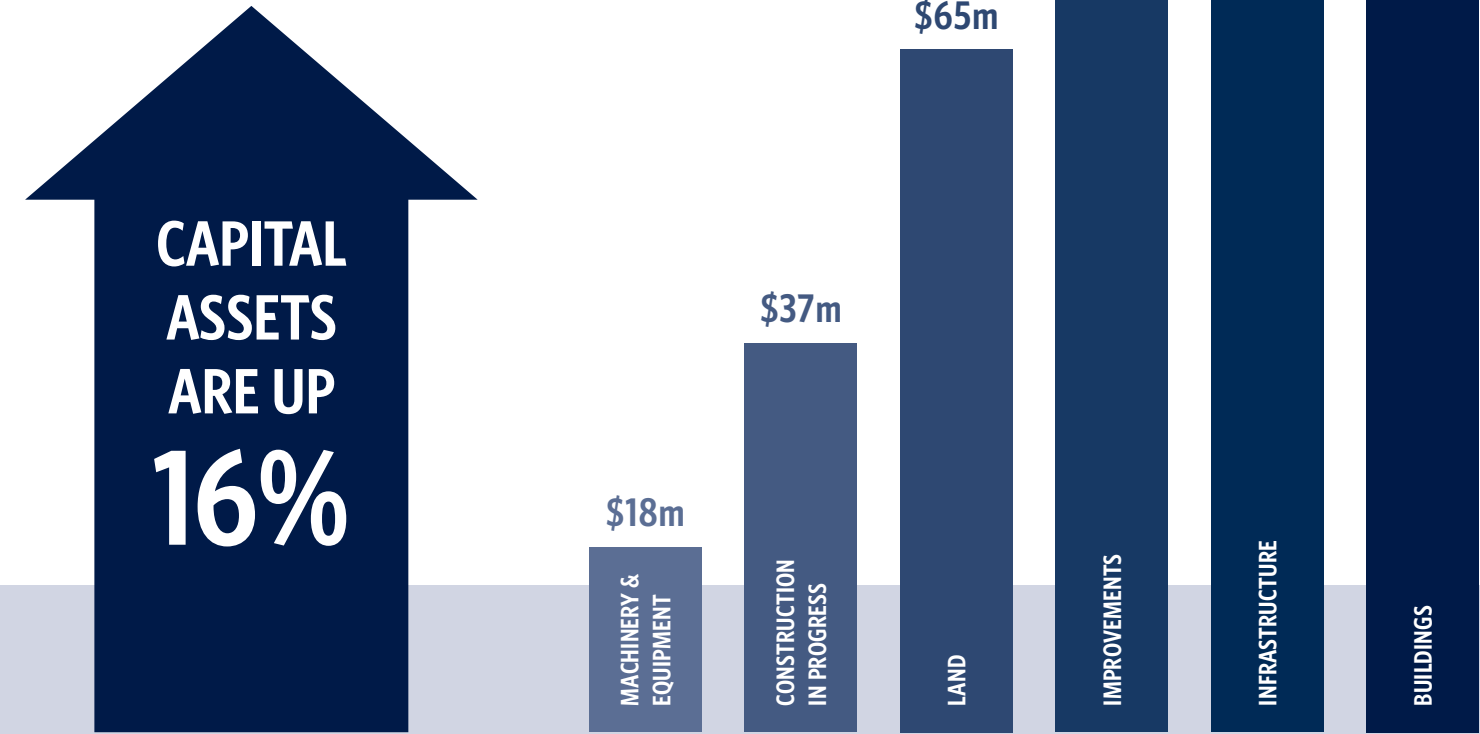


# CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are items the City owns that hold value. The total amount of our assets increased 16 percent in the 2018 fiscal year as the City continued to invest in projects throughout the community.

With construction work completed at City Springs in 2018, a sizable portion of our Construction in Progress assets was reclassified as Land, Buildings, Improvements and Infrastructure assets.

Capital Assets	2018	2017
Land	\$64,963,848	\$29,565,609
Construction in Progress	\$36,989,537	\$226,427,596
Buildings	\$139,347,278	\$7,202,018
Improvements	\$83,457,467	\$16,986,294
Machinery & equipment	\$17,582,054	\$10,686,283
Infrastructure	\$118,297,908	\$105,270,671
Total	\$460,638,092	\$396,138,471



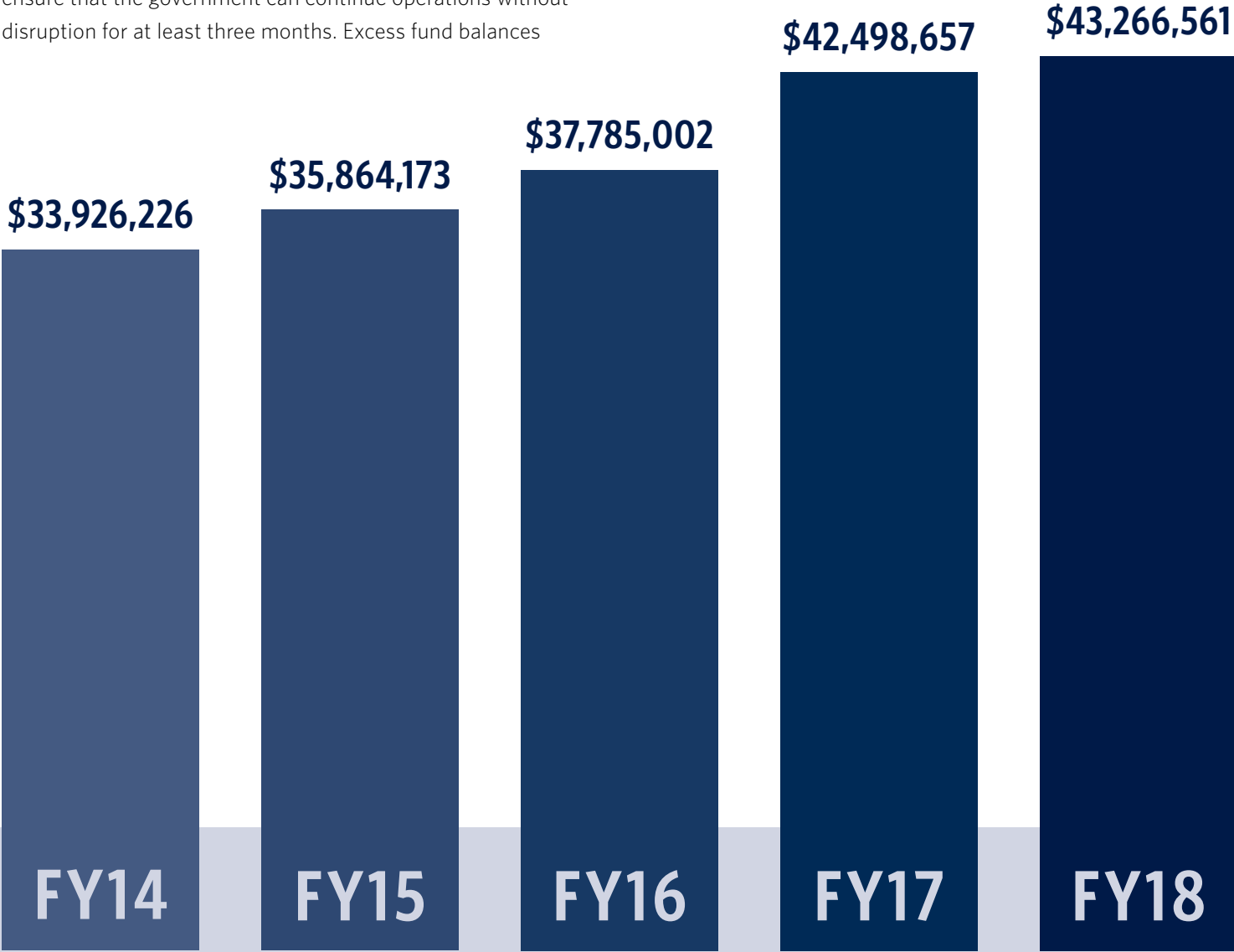
# GENERAL FUND BALANCE

The General Fund's balance could be considered to be the City's "rainy day fund." Everyone agrees it is a good practice to have some extra money tucked away in a savings account, and the same principle applies to cities.

The City's policy is to maintain a minimum General Fund balance reserve of \$20,500,000 or 25 percent of operating expenditures, whichever is greater. This is enough money to ensure that the government can continue operations without disruption for at least three months. Excess fund balances

over that requirement are used in subsequent years for pay-as-you-go capital projects and one-time non-recurring expenditures.

The yearly increase in the General Fund balance is due to a combination of the City being under-budget in its expenses and over-budget in its revenues, an indicator of sound fiscal policy.





# KEEPING OUR CITY SAFE

Sandy Springs is the sixth largest city in Georgia. However, despite the big city numbers, there is still a small town feel. This sentiment is certainly shared by our residents and business owners, reflecting their positive relationships with our public safety personnel. Ongoing and popular citizen engagement initiatives that emphasize crime and fire prevention are an example of our citizens taking responsibility for their own safety, as well as the welfare of their neighbors. Exceptional response times by our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians make the city a safe place to live and work.

Crime prevention is a top priority in Sandy Springs, and the Sandy Springs Police Department has a record to be proud of. In fact, according to Safewise, an independent review site that ranks cities by safety, Sandy Springs is the only major city (population 100,000+ residents) to be listed on the top 50 Safest Cities in Georgia list. Sandy Springs, with its urban bustle, ranked in 15th place alongside laid-back rural towns.

This year, the Sandy Springs Fire Department initiated a career matrix, expanded training programs, and instituted Department-wide efficiencies to help Staff get the job done. The Department is proud to say that there were no lives lost to fire.



**IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHETHER A SITUATION IS A TRUE EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1 AND LET THE CALL TAKER MAKE THE DETERMINATION.**

**CALLS TO 9-1-1**

<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>121,704</b>
<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>111,374</b>

The Sandy Springs Police Department partners with residents and business owners to create a sense of community and increase awareness encouraging people to look out for each other. The number of Calls for Service doesn't necessarily reflect the number of incidents, but rather the likelihood and the comfort level for people to call 9-1-1. When in doubt, play it safe and call 9-1-1.

**FASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES**

One of the Sandy Springs Fire Department's biggest accomplishments this year was the relocation and consolidation of technical rescue equipment and the emergency personnel trained to use it. Previously, equipment was stored in various locations throughout the City and had to be collected enroute to victims. Now the equipment, and the individuals trained to use it, are located at Station 3, which was carefully selected by analyzing data from previous rescues. The goal: to reduce the time taken to reach incidents.

Gains were realized within two weeks of the relocation. During a river rescue event, response time was cut from 45 minutes to 10 minutes. Similar gains were recorded in succeeding events.

With technical rescue staff consolidated in a single location, the Department has been able to increase the technical training regime and invest in new technical rescue equipment. This year, SSFD procured a specialty rescue boat built for shallow water.

**INVESTING IN IMAGING TECHNOLOGY**

With advances in technology, cameras are becoming more practical and affordable. Officer-assigned cameras document interactions with suspects, witnesses, and victims, and the footage can become valuable evidence during investigations. This year, all SSPD patrol officers received body cameras which integrate with new dash-cams installed in police vehicles. When a body camera is activated, the dash-cam automatically begins recording. Footage from both devices is automatically uploaded to a cloud-based server for retention.

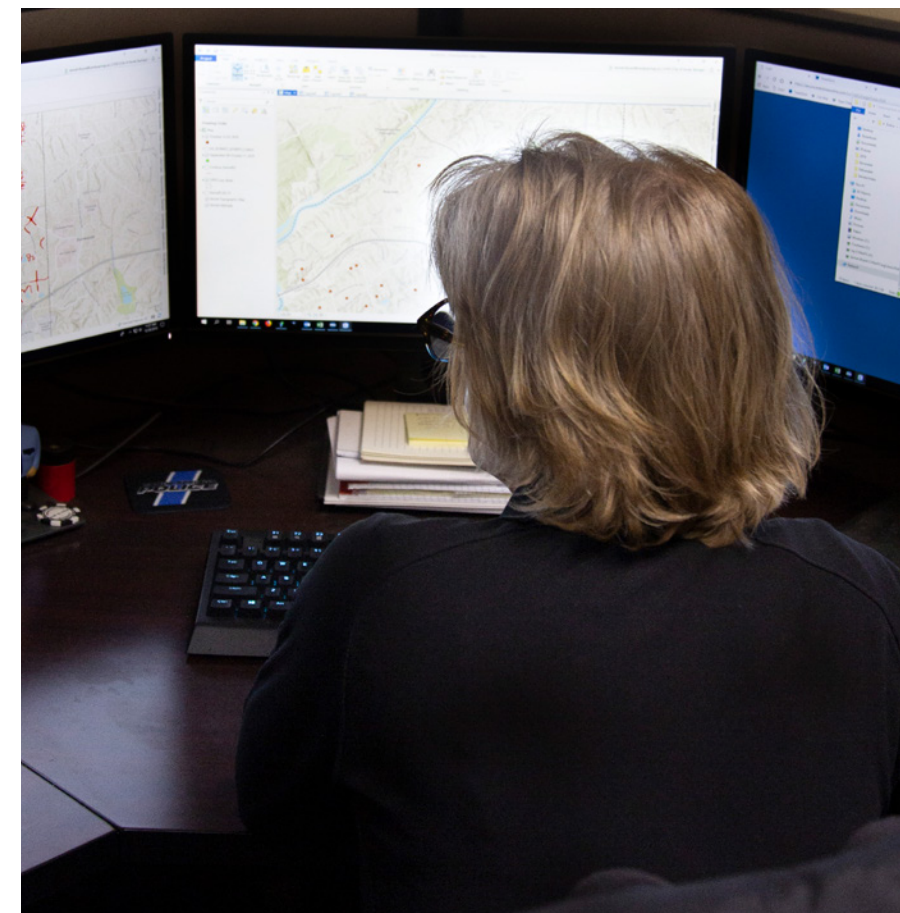
**THE DATA-DRIVEN POLICING REVOLUTION**

The Sandy Springs Police Department prides itself on its investment in Intelligence Analysis. While most similarly-sized departments have one analyst, SSPD's analyst team has grown to four. Our dedicated team collaborates with analysts in other jurisdictions, allowing them to work from a larger, more averaged, dataset.

While crime is generally down in Sandy Springs, "Entering Autos" and the associated theft, remains constant. Oftentimes, cars are left unlocked, sometimes with keys and valuables in plain sight. Police consistently urge the public to lock their doors and conceal their valuables.

**PREDICTIVE MODELING**

This past year, a notable number of car break-ins were occurring in a retail district. SSPD's Intel Unit developed a predictive model to calculate the probability of when and where car break-ins might occur. By analyzing timing of, location of, and other data from previous crimes, patterns and habits were identified, and the Unit calculated a high probability that a criminal would attempt to break into cars in a particular restaurant parking lot on a certain date and time. The Department pre-positioned officers and, sure enough, a suspect was caught red-handed. This is just one example of how statistical modeling is becoming an increasingly powerful tool for crime prevention and criminal investigations. As the technology evolves, it will continue to be integrated into the activities of the Department.



**SSPD TEAMS WITH SECRET SERVICE TO INVESTIGATE CYBER-CRIME**

To cut back on fraud and other cyber-crimes, Detective Keith Sawtell was assigned to the United States Secret Service Atlanta ECTF (Electronic Crimes Task Force). Detective Sawtell attended a four-week training program at the National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI) in Hoover, Alabama. This federally-funded training center is dedicated to instructing state and local officials in digital evidence and cyber-crime investigations. SSPD received nearly \$30,000 worth of new digital forensic equipment from the NCFI at no cost to the Department, providing a technical advantage in conducting Digital Forensic Investigations internally for Sandy Springs and as part of the Secret Service's Task Force.

**FBI PARTNERSHIP IS GETTING RESULTS**

The SSPD continues to pride itself on its collaboration with other neighboring jurisdictions, as well as State and National agencies. This year, an SSPD officer joined the FBI's Atlanta Metro Major Offenders Violent Crime Task Force as part of a resource-sharing partnership. The Task Force is already seeing success in the investigation and arrest of a violent, serial, armed robbery crew that executed armed robberies at a metro Atlanta CVS, a Walgreens, and a Waffle House.

**IMPROVING INVENTORY MANAGEMENT**

To more efficiently track equipment, inventory, and maintenance records, the Sandy Springs Fire Department migrated from paper record-keeping to an electronic database. This update enables the Department to save time and track equipment more easily.

## SSPD INVESTIGATORS IDENTIFY SERIAL OFFENDER

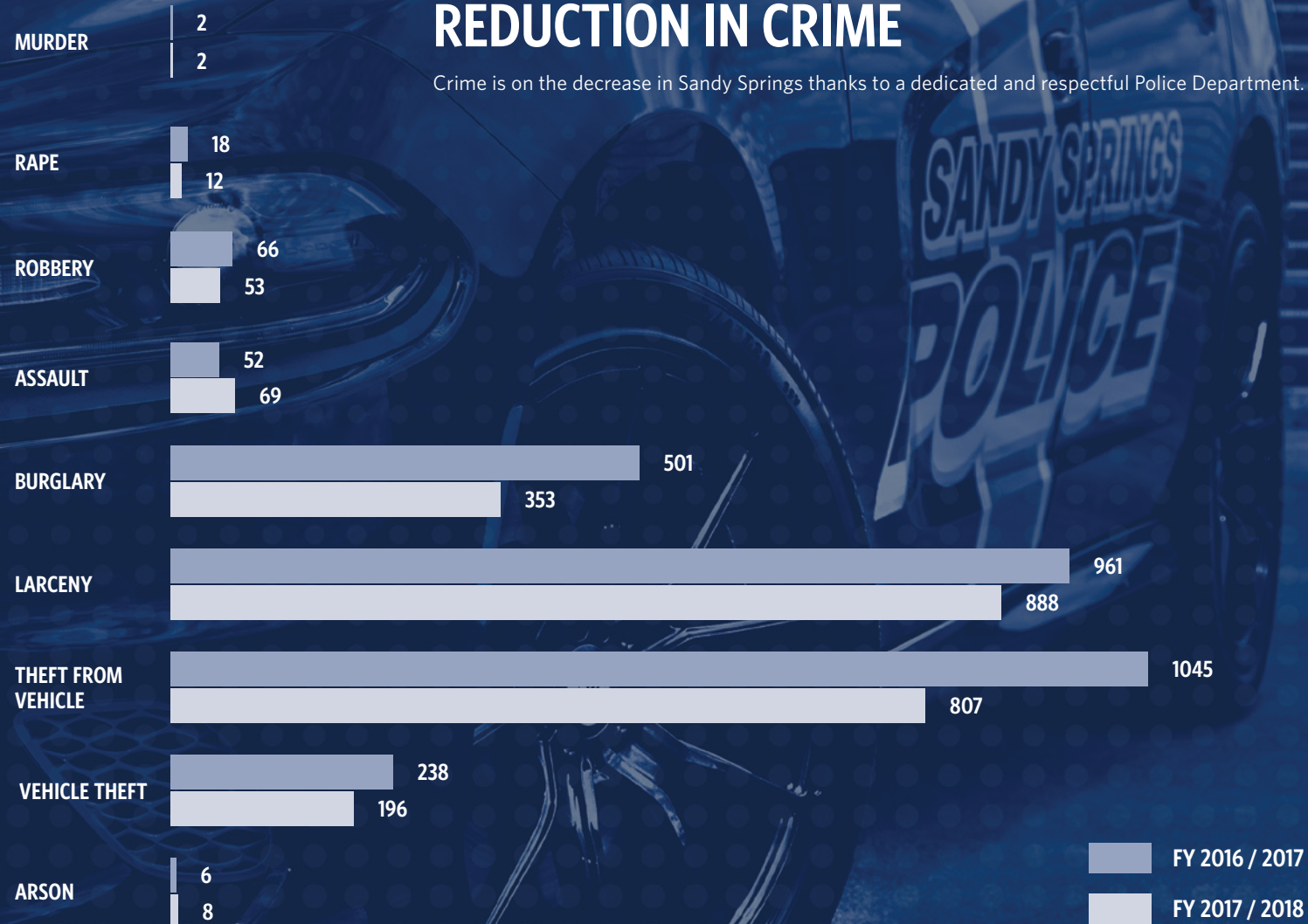
When SSPD Investigators began looking into a reported assault in Sandy Springs, the perpetrator was unknown. However, a pattern was recognized that linked the crime to similar crimes in multiple south-eastern states. Collaborating with the FBI, GBI, Sandy Springs, Cobb County, Homewood and Birmingham, Alabama Police Departments, Sandy Springs Investigators noticed crucial evidence that identified a suspect, which resulted in 28 indictments for crimes that go back as far back as ten years.

## FIRST RESPONDERS FOR HIRE

Under the City's Public Private Partnership model, citizens are now accustomed to private contractors performing public services. But how about the other way around? This year, SSFD initiated a program to make its Emergency Medical Technicians available to businesses for private events. The program is another example of the Department's initiative to get emergency responders close to where incidents may occur.

## REDUCTION IN CRIME

Crime is on the decrease in Sandy Springs thanks to a dedicated and respectful Police Department.



## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

While most people hope they will never ever experience an active shooter event, the reality is that, though the threat is rare, it is also very real. The Sandy Springs Police Department provides Active Shooter Training to local businesses, houses of worship, and schools, where they train staff so they are better prepared for an active shooter event. Within our schools, officers follow the initial training by attending the school's drills to review and provide feedback. Companies and organizations desiring this type of training can begin the process by contacting the Sandy Springs Police Department.

## APARTMENT HOME OVERSIGHT

There are 23,000 apartment units in Sandy Springs, and the city has been actively working to improve apartment safety standards.

There have been no apartment fires in Sandy Springs since the City began requiring all apartment units to have fire extinguishers installed in kitchens. This year, the apartment fire prevention initiative was expanded to require that all stove-tops have automatic extinguishers above them by the end of 2018.

Our Code Enforcement division investigates apartment resident complaints about issues such as leaks, malfunctioning HVAC systems, and pest infestation. Staff also conducts apartment sweeps and review reports from private inspections.

Several existing apartment and condominium communities within the City's South District were identified as having severe dilapidation, resulting in issuance of notices of violation and citations, where applicable.

## FIREFIGHTERS GRADUATE POLICE ACADEMY

This year, firefighters Patrick Flaherty and Matthew Hildebrand graduated from the Cherokee County, Georgia Public Safety Training Center Police Academy. Officer Flaherty received the Leadership Award, and Officer Hildebrand received the Academic Achievement Award. The Basic Mandate training they completed expands the capabilities of the Sandy Springs Fire Department's medics who are assigned to the North Metro SWAT team. Officers Flaherty



and Hildebrand are now sworn police officers in addition to their duties as firefighter medics which also enables them to assist the Fire Marshal's office with enforcement.

## I WANT TO RIDE MY BICYCLE

With the opening of City Springs, the Sandy Springs Police Department created a Bike Division comprised of six officers and one Sergeant. Cameras cover the entire property and can be monitored from the security command center to allow for the deployment of officers.

The Sandy Springs Fire Department has also embraced two-wheeled transportation with a bicycle team equipped to respond to medical emergencies. The EMS team has undergone training in national standards and is especially nimble, allowing it to provide coverage for the many 5K and 10K races held throughout the city.



## TRAIN, TRAIN, AND TRAIN AGAIN

Driven by a desire to serve, becoming a firefighter can be considered a calling. The Sandy Springs Fire Department's new Career Matrix helps firefighters understand their training options, select specialties, and build their careers. This matrix offers information describing which classes are required for promotions into different positions within the Department.

Training occurs year-round, and often the Department will invest in SSFD employees becoming certified trainers of particular skills. For example, in 2018, five members of SSFD were trained in defensive EMS tactics, avoidance, de-escalation of difficult and hostile situations, and pre-hospital trauma life support. These trainers have since passed on their skills to 25 percent of the Department's emergency responders.

This year, SSFD employees completed more than 6,800 hours of training including continuing education, recertification training, and the credentialing of 14 new EMTs and paramedics.

## FIRE HYDRANTS REPAIRED

This year, the Sandy Springs Fire Department undertook the major project of inspecting each of the city's fire hydrants to make sure they were working as designed. When issues were detected, they shared the information with the City of Atlanta, which is responsible for making needed repairs. To date, all hydrants have been inspected, and a repainting program has begun.

# HOPE FOR THE BEST...

## BUT PREPARE FOR THE WORST

During times of severe weather and other emergency situations, our community can take comfort in our ongoing focus on emergency preparedness.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS TRAINING

Planning and training are essential ingredients in effective emergency preparedness. In September, Staff from across all Departments participated in a three-day FEMA certified training program for emergency operations. The course reinforced our emergency operations teams' ability to effectively manage large-scale incidents and provided the opportunity for members of different Departments to coordinate their emergency planning.

## SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

When the forecast calls for stormy weather, there is a multi-pronged approach to keeping residents and business owners safe and informed. Sandy Springs Alerts, the City's mass notification system, links with

FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning system to automatically send residents National Weather Service warnings and other emergency messaging. Sandy Springs Alerts is powered by Smart 911, a tool which allows users to provide 9-1-1 with information so that public safety can help users more quickly in an emergency, users can provide information, including notes about special medical or health issues. The City continues to encourage community members to opt-in to notifications at [sandyspringsga.gov/alerts](https://sandyspringsga.gov/alerts).



The worst of our winter weather typically happens in January, and to prepare for any snow or ice, the Public Works Department added a 10,500-gallon brine storage unit, two brine generators, and two 1,200-gallon sprayer systems. GPS systems were added to all City vehicles this year to track our fleet in real-time during a storm. The City's priority during a winter storm is to clear and keep our main arteries open, so that public safety can continue to assist those who need help.

The GIS Department integrated industry-standard mapping software, ArcGIS, with our incident tracking software, WebEOC, allowing the City to display incident data and Vehicle GPS data on a single map. The Department also teamed up with the City's Stormwater team to identify, map

and remedy stormwater hot spots—pipes, drains, catch basins, and manholes that could become problematic in the event of flooding.

The City installed a loud speaker weather alert system in the City Springs District and has updated existing tornado sirens to be triggered automatically based on the National Weather Service's localized polygon, as opposed to manually and City-wide. This hyper-localization has resulted in fewer false alarms and better citizen participation.

In advance of regional natural disasters such as the recent hurricanes, the Fire Marshal's Office inspected local senior centers to assist them in their preparations to accommodate evacuees from harder hit areas.

## CYBER SECURITY

With cyber attacks regularly making the news in 2018, the City continues to invest in securing its information systems. Unlike many local governments, Sandy Springs has a single Information Technology team which manages the hardware, software, and infrastructure of all City departments, limiting potential points of vulnerability. A dedicated cyber security employee implements best practices to insulate City infrastructure from the outside.

## TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

When primary systems fail, a crisis can be averted by having secondary systems already in place. Our Information Technology Department has worked to build redundancy into all city systems. During an emergency situation, the City can lose phone lines, Internet lines, networking infrastructure, and servers without experiencing interruption in service. Even in the most extreme circumstance where a physical or cyber attack could destroy one of the city's data centers, our system is designed to keep Staff operational.



# ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Creating a safe city is a community effort, and ongoing and popular citizen engagement initiatives that emphasize crime and fire prevention help make the City a safe place to live, work and visit. From self defense and fire safety classes to programs such as Citizens on Patrol and Fire Corps community members are provided with information and skills to stay safe, as well as opportunities to help their neighbors during an emergency.

## COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Building and nurturing relationships with our public safety officers is facilitated by the numerous opportunities for citizen engagement. The monthly “Coffee with a Cop” meetings provide a casual way to get to know the officers, so that the first time you meet them is not during an emergency situation. Participating in ongoing HOA meetings also keeps police informed of various neighborhood concerns.

Our Police Department continues to offer safety classes and this year offered eight women’s self defense courses, plus an additional class designed for college students. The Department also held eight firearm safety classes.

Our Fire Department’s Smoke Detector Program, “Where There’s Smoke,” provides apartment homes with smoke and CO<sub>2</sub> detectors. In November, SSFD partnered with WSB-TV’s People2People and provided 100 smoke detectors and 25 - CO<sub>2</sub> detectors to apartment residents in need of this life-protecting equipment.

Community members also enjoyed interacting with our public safety Staff at the following events:

- National Night Out
- Touch a Truck
- Sandy Springs Festival
- Explorers
- Career Fairs
- Self Defense and Firearm Classes

## NEXTDOOR NETWORK

SSPD actively communicates with residents via the Nextdoor network and prides itself on having high engagement. Of the 86,784 contacts on the City’s various Nextdoor lists, more than 24 percent use this platform to communicate with the Department.

In one instance, there were reports of burglaries, where suspects were using the same car. An image of the suspicious car was posted on Nextdoor, and within 24-48 hours of that posting, a homeowner spotted the car and called 911 when he witnessed the suspect coming up the driveway.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Part of Sandy Springs’ charm is its community spirit. Residents love it here and share their passion by volunteering with the City in a variety of different ways. To learn more, visit the Getting Involved section on page 48.



## CPR TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Sandy Springs Fire Department hit its goal of training 1,000 people annually. This year, it integrated the American Heart Association’s “Stop the Bleed” program into CPR training. The Stop the Bleed program teaches individuals how to apply direct pressure and elevate to control bleeding in emergency situations.

SSFD is working with the Performing Arts Center to provide ongoing bi-annual training to its employees.

If your school, civic group, business, or organization would like free CPR training, visit [spr.gs/cprtraining](http://spr.gs/cprtraining).



# GETTING AROUND

Keeping people moving around Sandy Springs is a major priority for the City. While our road expansion projects improve traffic capacity, we also use technology to improve traffic flows, day-to-day, hour-by-hour, and minute-by-minute. City Staff also utilize traffic flow data to inform long-term planning, and our sidewalk initiatives are making Sandy Springs a more walkable place to live.



## KEEPING TRAFFIC FLOWING TODAY

Keeping traffic moving throughout the City is a big priority. Utilizing SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimization Technique) technology for Adaptive Signal Timing has reduced travel time through the more than 25 intersections along Roswell Road alone. Our system uses an interconnected real-time method of signal control that continuously measures traffic demand on all approaches to intersections in our network and optimizes the signal timing at each intersection to minimize delay and stops. Timing changes are small, to avoid major disruption to traffic flows and frequent to allow rapid response to changing traffic conditions. The City is quickly expanding its Adaptive Traffic Signal capabilities. Sixty intersections used this technology in 2017. This year, we added 30 more intersections, and an additional 20 intersections are under design.

Another strategy to keep motorists moving is mitigating the impact of the various road construction projects.

Our Public Works Department has implemented higher contractor prequalifications than State recommendations for projects with significant impact. This strategy was proven effective during this year's Mabry Road Stormwater Repair project. The project came in under budget and ahead of schedule and remedied flooding in the area, with minimal neighborhood complaint.

Additionally, when possible, much of the road work is conducted in the evenings, as in the case of the Roswell Road Streetscape project. We were able to complete this project without causing major impact to one of our busiest roadways, minimizing our impact on local businesses, especially the many restaurants along Roswell Road.

## SIDEWALK EVALUATION PROGRAM

Our Public Works and GIS Departments teamed up this year to streamline the process for evaluating sites for sidewalk installation. Utilizing technology and data, we are working

to better identify gaps in sidewalks, with a goal of ultimately creating a contiguous sidewalk network. This process will also facilitate and help the City coordinate with public and private developments while in the planning stages. GIS is also working with Georgia Safe Sidewalks to identify possible hazardous sidewalks, so improvements can be made

## IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

Sandy Springs has collected approximately 88 percent of the projected revenues from the 0.75-cent T-SPLOST sales tax approved by voters in 2016. There has been much work done related to design and planning of projects intended to improve local intersections, traffic efficiencies, and Last Mile Connectivity, as well as adding sidewalks throughout the city.

In September, the City Council approved a

Compressed Grid plan to improve safety and efficiencies at Mount Vernon Highway, Johnson Ferry Road, and Roswell Road. This project was first introduced in 2007, but the project was put on hold as the City evaluated impact and needs related to the City Springs development. In 2012, the project was reintroduced as part of the City Center Master Plan, featuring dual roundabouts. Based on community feedback, the design was again changed to a grid format. While the project initially included state and federal financial support, the City chose to place the project under T-SPLOST, providing more flexibility in design. The Compressed Grid was selected as the design that can accommodate the expansion of green space where practical and provide fewer right-of-way impacts to surrounding commercial properties.

Community input was sought this year regarding plans for the Mount Vernon Corridor. Initial designs unveiled in October include a 10'-12' multi-use path, 6' sidewalks, and a center turn lane which can be used for future technology. Safety and operational improvements are also included at the existing signalized intersections within the project area.

Working with the Perimeter Center Improvement Districts, the City is exploring the addition of multi-use sidepaths on Peachtree Dunwoody and on Glenridge to connect to the Mt. Vernon multi-use path and associated transit locations. In conjunction with pathway provisions in the I-285/400 project, ultimately there will be connectivity to a multi-use path along GA 400.

To help motorists know which roadways to use - or avoid - the City maintains a Road Work Advisory page on its website (bookmark [spr.gs/roadwork](http://spr.gs/roadwork)). Planned lane and road closures are posted on this site, including updates from GDOT regarding the construction of the Transform 285/400 project. The page now consistently ranks among the top 20 viewed pages of all pages on the website. The page also links to information about commuting alternatives. The Communications Department developed a "Your Commute, Your Choice" campaign during the spring, which was shared with GDOT, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the PCID for use in alerting motorists to consider commuting alternatives.

## COLLABORATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND PARTNERS

The City's prime location within the metro Atlanta area offers many opportunities to share best practices and collaborate with neighboring municipalities and partners.

In addition to Public Safety mutual aid agreements, other departments enjoy partnerships with colleagues in neighboring communi-

ties. This year, the City began collaborating with Gwinnett County on a project currently under design on Spalding Drive which will create a sidewalk on the Gwinnett County-owned bridge allowing for access to Crooked Creek Park.

Extending the reach of our sports and after-school programming, the Recreation and Parks Department renewed an Intergovernmental Agreement with Fulton County Schools for long-term facility use, extending 12-year term agreements with four schools.



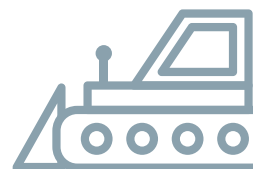
**335**  
HAZARDOUS  
TREES REMOVED



**36,000**  
FEET OF NEW  
SIDEWALK BUILT



**800**  
SIDEWALKS TRIP  
HAZARDS REPAIRED



**16.2**  
MILES OF ROADS  
RESURFACED





# BIG CITY, SMALL TOWN FEEL

In March, the ribbon was cut on the brand new Mercedes-Benz USA North American headquarters, adding another Fortune 500 corporation to the growing list of companies that call Sandy Springs home. The City's over sized scissors had plenty of use this year, cutting ribbons to welcome the many mid-size and small businesses making their marks on the community.

## WE SUPPORT BIG BUSINESS

While the highly anticipated opening of the Mercedes Benz North American headquarters was a big event this year, economic growth is not limited to bringing in new businesses. Retention and providing opportunities for growth are also important objectives. In 2018, three of the City's major employers expanded their footprints. Nspire Brands (former Arby's, Wendy's, and Buffalo Wild Wings Café) added 1,100 new jobs. Edible Arrangements relocated its headquarters from Connecticut, and Elavon Financial Technology services grew its employee base.

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Mercedes-Benz North American headquarters was not only a successful story for our Economic Development Department, but also for Community Development. The City's building inspectors and site inspectors consistently engaged with Mercedes-Benz's site supervisors, development team, construction team, and legal department throughout construction to move the project forward with a high level of professionalism.

## TOP EMPLOYERS IN SANDY SPRINGS

RANK	BUSINESS	EMPLOYEES	% TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
1	IBM CORPORATION	3,152	5.5%
2	COX COMMUNICATIONS, INC	2,563	4.4%
3	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE GENERAL	2,072	3.6%
4	CISCO SYSTEMS, INC	1,148	2.0%
5	MANHEIM AUCTIONS, INC	1,136	2.0%
6	VMWARE, INC	1,100	1.9%
7	COX ENTERPRISES, INC	992	1.7%
8	INTERCONTINENTAL EXCHANGE, INC	928	1.6%
9	ORACLE AMERICA, INC	912	1.6%
10	GLOBAL PAYMENTS, INC	763	1.3%

Does not include three regional hospitals located in Sandy Springs (Northside, Emory St Joseph's and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), which collectively have more than 25,000 employees but do not disclose official numbers.

## HEADQUARTERED HERE

Major corporations located in Sandy Springs.

### FORTUNE 500

United Parcel Service - #44

WestRock - #194

Veritiv - #346

Intercontinental Exchange - #477

### FORTUNE 1,000

Graphic Packaging Holding Co. - #565

BMC Stock Holding, Inc. - #685

Beazer Homes USA - #983

## WE SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

### SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES

The state of Georgia was recently ranked #1 in the country for small business climate (NFIB 11/18), and the Sandy Springs small business market is very healthy, due to incentives adopted by the City Council for businesses that locate within certain areas of the city, as well as Staff-led initiatives to help businesses navigate the building and permitting processes.

### BUILD FASTER, OPEN SOONER

When a new business opens in Sandy Springs, the City understands that time is money. The faster that business can open its doors, the better chance it has of being successful and profitable.

Prompt plan reviews and next business day inspections are steps in customer service the City uses to help new businesses open their doors a bit faster. Plan and inspection reviews are promised within 5-11 business days, along with a professional review of construction permitting.

Launched in October, *BUILD Sandy Springs* seminars were developed for home builders and developers eager to learn how to navigate the inspection process more efficiently and better serve their customers.

### NORTH END TASK FORCE

During its annual January retreat, the City Council adopted redevelopment of the City's North End as a priority. The low-density rental housing typical of the 1960s and 1970s, a declining retail environment, and a lack of development like that found in other parts of the city were cited as reasons for the focused attention, and a task force was named in March to lead the process. From August through November, the task force met

six times, and two public visioning meetings were held, drawing at least 500 people who participated in the visioning and prioritizing activities.

## COME SEE WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

The City's Hospitality and Tourism office, **Visit Sandy Springs**, actively supports and promotes local restaurants and retailers to our neighboring drive-markets, and beyond through various outreach, including media placements and attendance at national tourism shows. The increase in traffic is not only in real life, but online as well at [visitsandysprings.org](http://visitsandysprings.org). This year alone, traffic to the website nearly doubled, with a dramatic increase by users in Nashville, Charlotte, and Birmingham.

The annual Food That Rocks event in June gave the team an opportunity to host regional travel writers, among the first to attend the inaugural event on the City Green and get a sneak peek at what's to come at the Performing Arts Center.

## NORTH GEORGIA AGRI-TRAIL

The City has been included and involved in the Farm Trail, Georgia's only urban-to-rural agricultural trail. The Farm Trail is an extension of the Hospitality Highway which runs along Georgia 400 from just north of Downtown Atlanta to Dahlonega. The Farm Trail links seven communities together: Buckhead, Sandy Springs, Roswell, Alpharetta, Cumming, Dawsonville, and Dahlonega, allowing visitors to explore farm-to-table dining, agritourism destinations, wineries, breweries, and farmers markets.

## ENDORSED BY OUR CUSTOMERS



Gail Munoz  
Plan Reviewer

"Gail Munoz, has been great to work with over the course of past few years. First in the field as an inspector and now as a plan reviewer, she is very responsive, has great attention to detail, is pleasant to work with, and provides an experience that most metro Atlanta city planning offices don't offer."

- Jeff Hatala



German Medina  
Land Development Inspector

"Hey German! Thanks for being awesome and providing such great and friendly customer service. It means a lot!"

- Cheyenne Throckmorton



# FOCUSED ON CUSTOMER SERVICE

From the City's inception, providing high level customer service has remained a top priority. The City has gained a reputation for its dedication to customer service that can be found in person, online and on the phone. Each of the City's departments prides itself on its accessibility and responsiveness to residents, business owners, and visitors.

## PROVIDING SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Whether a visitor to City Hall arrives by public transportation, uses our on-site self parking, or chooses to valet park, they are greeted by a friendly staff member upon arrival at the front desk in the lobby. The lobby's design features a variety of sitting areas, both inside and outdoors, with access to free Wi-Fi.

The customer-focused lobby design was also incorporated into the renovations for the Hammond Park Gymnastics Center, one of the City's most popular parks. The plans included the addition of a welcoming lobby desk, along with user-friendly access to the information and programming kiosk. This enhancement allows for more walk-in traffic, and safer cash transactions, resulting in a more positive experience for visitors.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

If you have a question, chances are good that one of the City's 24/7/365 Call Center representatives can assist you in finding an answer during that call. Our Call Center handled approximately 90,000 calls this year, with first call resolution for 93 percent of those inquiries.

To better serve the community, Web Chat was added in 2017, with the Call Center handling approximately 1,600 chats during the year. Working with Public Safety, in June the Call Center took on the task of handling intrusion (burglar) alarm calls from alarm companies, ensuring that the alarm companies met the State and City mandated verification requirements before connecting with ChatComm, the City's emergency 9-1-1 center. Triaging these calls saved 9-1-1 operators more than 13,000 minutes during the programs first three months of implementation - time 9-1-1 operators were able to use to help individuals with true emergencies.

When individuals have questions about

projects in their neighborhoods or throughout the City, getting on the "same page" with City Staff is made possible by using common maps to provide feedback and explanations.

The GIS Department allows public access to the hundreds of maps City Staff use in their work via the City's Open Data Portal. Created in 2016, the GIS team continuously updates the City's Open Data Portal (created in 2016), granting the public access to the most current information.

## FOLLOWING UP

The Sandy Springs Police Department conducts random follow-up outreach via telephone to gauge customer satisfaction. Additionally, many of the City's departments utilize surveys to monitor customer service.

## TREAT YOUR FAMILY LIKE FRIENDS AND YOUR FRIENDS LIKE FAMILY

To help attract and retain a talented workforce, the City initiated new employee-driven initiatives this year. To promote team-building, employee-based committees created and implemented Staff-wide programs. A Staff Appreciation lunch utilized the City Green for team-building games and activities. Two "Lunch and Learn" programs were implemented this fall.

## GOVERNMENT 101

A City-wide new employee on-boarding initiative to introduce new hires to our Council-Manager form of government and service delivery model also launched this fall.

With the move to City Springs, the City's HR team launched HR to Go, creating a schedule of office hours at Police Headquarters, the Fire Stations, and Municipal Court to make it easier for personnel located in those offices to have easy access to support.



**Trevor Ramos**  
Athletics Manager, GRPA  
Programmer of the Year Recipient

## GRPA AWARD RECIPIENT

In October, Trevor Ramos, Athletics Manager for the City's Recreation and Parks Department, was recognized as the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association District 7 Programmer of the Year at its awards banquet in Oconee County. A member of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association since 2006, Ramos is a Certified Park and Recreation Park Professional and has served Sandy Springs residents for more than nine years, providing athletic programs and special events that have touched the lives of more than 50,000 families.



# TAKING THE LEAD

Since our inception as a city in 2005, Sandy Springs' innovative Public Private Partnership service delivery model has caught the attention of cities around the world, with many sending delegations to learn more about how we get things done.

*Honest, Efficient, and Responsive* are our guiding principles, as we strive to lead the way as a trailblazer in best practices.



## REIMAGINING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITAL CONTENT

The City's public information systems greatly expanded in 2018 with the purchase of 34 digital signs and two video walls. At the same time, redevelopment work began on the CitySprings.com website. Recognizing the incredible scope of work to generate content for these platforms, the City's Communications Department began developing a ground breaking content distribution system that would not only push content to the new website and digital signage, but also serve as the basis for future City information systems.

Dubbed the Sandy Springs Unified Platform, the system enables Staff to create content in one place and publish it on multiple websites and digital signs, which has increased efficiency and lowered the likelihood of informational errors. The Platform is already garnering industry attention for solving the issue of inputting identical content in multiple places, as the public expects to find information in an ever-growing number of digital spaces. The Communications team will continue to expand the Platform to integrate more systems and further increase efficiencies.

## STREAMLINING FOOD TRUCK REGULATIONS STATEWIDE

The Sandy Springs Fire Department is spearheading statewide licensing and inspections for food trucks. Working with Georgia State Senator John Albers (R-56), SSFD is setting the standards for licensing by identifying best practices and criteria which will enable food truck operators to apply for a permit in one municipality which is recognized state-wide.

## REFINING OUR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The City has become well-known for our innovative Public Private Partnerships and each year, we host multiple delegations from governments visiting Sandy Springs to learn more about our service delivery model. The City continuously works to refine that PPP model to ensure that our community receives high quality service and the most value for its tax dollars.

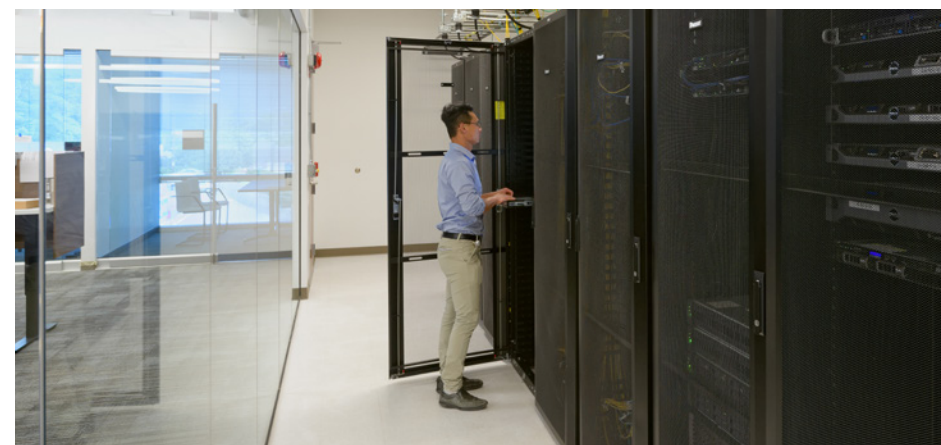
This year, Recreation and Parks hired a dedicated Landscaping Maintenance Contractor. Previously bringing technical expertise to landscaping in our parks and enhance the look of the City's public spaces with seasonal plantings.

Contracts for Field Services, through the Public Works Department, were rebid this year, consolidating seven contracts to three, which resulted in substantial savings to the taxpayer. The new contracts cover services including: maintaining community appearance, State Route mowing, street maintenance, right-of-way litter pick up, and mowing. As the work programs were evaluated, efficiencies were found in coordinating efforts between Field Services and the new Recreation and Parks Landscape Management contractor.

## UTILIZING DATA TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department maintains geographic data collected by the City and aggregates it with data provided by its various partners. Many of the resulting datasets are available via the City's Open Data Portal, allowing the public and partners to access the information and utilize it on their own initiatives.

Working with departments like Community Development and Public Works, the GIS team led a number of innovative data-driven projects. A study of satellite imagery enabled the assessment of tree canopy to identify the best places to plant trees. The development of a stormwater mapping application allows the City and residents to understand drainage routes in the city. And the integration of permitting software with our GIS system enables our inspectors to see utility projects plotted on a map of Sandy Springs.



## REIMAGINING OUR DEVELOPMENT CODE

City leaders adopted new Development Code in August 2017 which codified the Next Ten Comprehensive Plan. In early 2018, the Planning and Zoning team led efforts to update the Code, refining materials in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Development Code will generate connectivity as properties re-develop, incorporating smarter design that reflects the local values set forth in the Next Ten. For example, the design of new commercial developments in Sandy Springs is required to include landscaping with shrubs and perennials, ensuring our city continues to be a beautiful place to live.

The Sandy Springs Code Enforcement Division of our Community Development Department works closely with residents and business owners to ensure compliance with city codes, and has worked diligently this year on several initiatives:

### NOISE ORDINANCE

A decibel levels ordinance was introduced for the first time to help regulate and reduce noise. Most noise complaints were related to construction and other commercial noise, so this initiative has greatly benefited our residents.

### SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

Due to the increasing popularity of Airbnb and VRBO, this spring, the City set a license fee and neighbor notification requirements for short-term rentals. The regulations are to ensure that short-term rental spaces meet city code standards and that operators pay the required hotel/motel taxes. The new ordinance went into effect in May. Community Development is currently identifying, licensing, and monitoring neighborhood complaints.

### ILLEGAL SIGN ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement Officers worked closely with the Public Works Field Services Division to remove illegal signs from the City's rights-of-way and utility structures. To date, more than 127 were removed and 333 sign inspections were conducted to ensure compliance with permits.

# STAYING ACTIVE

With more than 950 acres of parkland, Sandy Springs residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy the many activities found in our parks. The Recreation and Parks Department, in partnership with the National Park Service, maintains beautiful trails for hiking and exploring along the 22 miles of the Chattahoochee River shoreline which borders our city. This year, we began the process of developing a Recreation and Parks Master Plan, which assesses the current inventory and help the City determine the potential for adding more recreation and parks initiatives.





## TAKE A STROLL ALONG A TRAIL IN OUR NEWEST PARKS

Trail enthusiasts looking to celebrate the National Park Service's National Trail System's 50th Anniversary have two new local parks to visit!

This past year, ribbons were cut, officially opening Abernathy Greenway South Trail Park and Windsor Meadows Park. Abernathy

Greenway South Trail Park is a 14-acre walking trail and green space that runs along the south side of Abernathy Road between Johnson Ferry and Wright Roads.

Windsor Meadows Park is a four-acre passive park located at the intersection of Windsor Parkway and Northland Drive, along Nancy Creek. This neighborhood park replaces three houses that were destroyed during flooding in October 2009. The City purchased the land through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) flood hazard

mitigation grant program.

To strategically address and enhance the City's green space, parks, open space, trails, and recreation, the Recreation and Parks Department this year began the process of creating a Parks Master Plan. Stakeholder meetings, as well as a public open house, took place to gain community input. The community desires more trails and open space preservation, connectivity between park systems, and a desire dog park. Formal recommendations are expected in early 2019.

## EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Building on the success of leisure programs on varied topics such as photography, art and gardening the City has provided additional opportunities for residents and neighbors to explore their interests and possibly develop new hobbies.

### PHOTOGRAPHY LECTURE

The Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center introduced the National Geographic Lecture series as part of its opening week, with famed photographer Steve Winter and his program, "On the Trail of Big Cats".

### ART AT LOST CORNER PRESERVE

With the popularity of the "Maker Movement," the Friends of Lost Corner took the opportunity to host a Plein Air Painting workshop in conjunction with a Gnome Home miniature house building event.

### SCULPTURE COMPETITION

In partnership with Art Sandy Springs, the City issued a Call for Entries for the Inaugural ArtSS in the Open Sculpture Competition. The Call invites local, regional, and national artists to submit sculptures for possible inclusion in an outdoor exhibit surrounding the City Green at City Springs. The theme for the inaugural competition is "Inspired. By Nature". The first installation is set for April 2019.

### YOUTH FITNESS

The Sandy Springs Junior Fitness Club, designed for 7 to 14-year-olds, was introduced in 2018. Twenty-five children participate in this evening program, which takes place at Ison Springs Elementary School. The students focus on speed and agility. This pilot program is expected to roll out to additional schools.



### YOUTH GOLF

The "Little Chippers" golf program teaches the fundamentals of golf to kids 7 through 14 years old. The Little Chipper program is held at Lake Forrest and Ison Springs Elementary Schools.

### SPORTS LEAGUES

Looking ahead to 2019, the Recreation and Parks Department will partner with the Atlanta Sport and Social Club to provide adult sports leagues and corporate field day events.

## CULTURAL AND ARTS CENTER FACILITY PROPOSED

The goals set forth in the City Center Master Plan and The Next Ten Comprehensive Plan include creating a unique, vibrant, and walkable district that serves as a civic and cultural center for Sandy Springs. In 2015, the City began discussing the concept of a Cultural and Arts Center facility, with a programming workshop held in 2016 to evaluate needs and possible budget requirements, while also talking with potential partners for the project. This fall, the City, along with interested partners including the Chamber of Com-

merce, Visit Sandy Springs, and the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, provided the community with an update, and a public visioning session was held in November with Houser Walker, the architect chosen to help develop a concept. The cultural center is planned to be the home of the Anne Frank in the World exhibit as well as a Holocaust Memorial.

## RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT CITY PARKS

Phase One renovations were completed at the Hammond Park Gymnastics Center this fall, including a newly-designed main entrance, which opens into an air-controlled vestibule. The lobby includes an office, a waiting area for parents, and a registration/information kiosk.

The Overlook Park Playground received a new synthetic turf ground cover.

The playground at Morgan Falls Athletic Field was resurfaced to replace wood chips with a smoother surface and make it universally accessible.



# COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

2018 was an eventful year, with many of the City's annual events finding a new home at City Springs.

The year started off with a reimagined tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., focusing on community organizations and the people who exemplify the tenets of Dr. King. The event drew more than 250 people who learned about the Sandy Springs mission, an organization dedicated to helping and inspiring Latino students in our community.

The third annual Lantern Parade hit the streets this past April drawing a large crowd that "took it to the River" once again. The event won two awards this year from the Southeast Tourism Society.

The summer event season kicked off with the sold-out Food That Rocks, our first event on the City Green. Nearby lightning delayed the start of the event, but didn't dampen the evening as guests wine, dined and danced. Proceeds from the event benefited Second Helpings, the Community Assistance Center and the Drake House.

The City's annual Stars and Stripes event once again took place on the green space at the Concourse Office Park. While several thousand spectators filled the lawn, the event also drew spectators who viewed the light show from nearby parking decks, shopping centers, businesses and apartment buildings.





This year's annual **National Night Out** was held on the City Green and kicked off a week's worth of opening events for the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center. You couldn't help but feel safe at this family-friendly event featuring state and national-level law enforcement partners. Attendees got to meet members of the FBI, the GBI, and Homeland Security, along with the men and women who serve the community as part of the Sandy Springs Police and the Sandy Springs Fire Departments. Guests toured mobile crime

scene labs, rescue boats, and vehicles, and enjoyed hot dogs alongside their favorite public safety heroes.

Recreation and Parks' annual **Back to School Bash** at Hammond Park grew from 500 attendees last year to 800 this year. The annual event features games and activities for residents of all ages.

Leadership Sandy Springs' **Movies by Moonlight** enjoyed its new location on the City Green, with themed events that

corresponded with the various films. The popular movie, "Coco", included a visit from the Consul General of Mexico and featured dancers from Los Ninos and Mariachi music. "The Greatest Showman" created a big-top feel on the green and included demonstrations from local gymnastics groups; The "Star Wars" movie brought out the costumes on both little and big people!

The Heritage **Sandy Springs Festival** changed its footprint to include International

performances on the stage at City Springs. The weekend closed with a free songwriters-in-the-round concert event, **Home by Dark**.

In October, **Spooky Springs** brought back "not-so-scary" fun for the City's littlest residents, as the toddler set trick-or-treated at the Playable Art Park on the Abernathy Greenway.

Another new addition was the **Harvest Music Fest**, a free bluegrass, roots, rock, and Amer-

icana concert on the City Green. Attendees enjoyed the sounds of local and national artists, ate barbecue, and drank beer, and football fans even caught the Georgia-Florida game on the screen above the CityBar.

Our annual **Veterans Day Tribute** moved to City Hall and featured additional events to the day dedicated to honor those who have served. Immediately following the tribute ceremony in the Byers Theatre, the attendees were invited to celebrate the United States

Marine Corps' 243rd birthday, complete with the ceremonial cake-cutting. Later that same evening, the community was invited back to a free concert featuring Nashville favorite, Yankton, of Rascal Flatts fame.

And last, but certainly not least, the second annual **Sparkle Sandy Springs** lit up the City Green for its month-long presentation of decorated gingerbread houses. This year's kick-off event featured the City's first-ever Christmas Tree lighting and Menorah lighting.



# GETTING INVOLVED

Sandy Springs became a city, in large part, due to the spirit, passion, and volunteerism of its residents. Residents love it here and share their passions by contributing their time, talents, and opinions with the City in a variety of ways.

## HELPING HANDS

Residents and business owners interested in the work of the Police Department actively participate in programs like the Citizen's Police Academy and Cops on Patrol. This past year, more than half of the participants in one of the CPA classes graduated and went on to join Citizens on Patrol. A waitlist for these programs exists due to our community's enthusiasm.

For those interested in volunteering with the Sandy Springs Fire Department, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, Citizen Fire Academy, and the Citizens Fire Corps provide that civic opportunity. Members of the Citizens Fire Corps actively attend fire incidents to provide rehab support. Fire corps members also participate in advance training with many members receiving Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification.

The Recreation and Parks Department also offers volunteer opportunities through its sports programs like gymnastics, track and field, and basketball. Volunteers participate in community and special events, work with the Staff and, assist in the planning and implementation of events.

The opening of the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center provided the arts lovers in our community the opportunity to share their passion with our theatre and event patrons. Close to 100 SSPAC volunteers perform essential tasks, such as greeting, ushering, ticket scanning, assisting with Guest Services, and various other venue needs.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Sandy Springs community consists of a highly engaged group of residents, business owners, and Homeowners Associations, resulting in consistently high turnouts at meetings and events, along with high levels of engagement through online surveys and comment opportunities. As an example, the City launched its North End Revitalization long-term planning project this year, with two public meetings drawing a combined 450 in attendees.

Preceding many of the public meetings hosted by the City are preliminary meetings with stakeholders directly involved in those specified projects. These meetings serve to keep neighbors abreast of the project, increase and clarify communication, and assist in avoiding rumors and misunderstandings. For property targeted for redevelopment, the City requires two Community Meetings and posts information on a dedicated project page within the City's website to ensure the public is informed prior to any formal vote on any rezoning or issuance of a conditional use permit. These added touch points with the community are not required but are an examples of our commitment to Customer Service by going above and beyond common practice.

## SSPD PACKS THE PANTRY

Every year, the Sandy Springs Police Department participates in a food drive to contribute to the Community Assistance Center. With the help of the Citizens on Patrol volunteers, more than 2,600 pounds of food were donated, up from 400 pounds last year!



# STORMWATER

The Stormwater Services Unit of Public Works works to improve stormwater management to meet community goals. The program includes drainage system maintenance, capital improvement projects and compliance with State and Federal stormwater regulations.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Upgrading the City's aging stormwater infrastructure is an important priority. Along Mabry Road, the City installed a new pipe system to increase the capacity of drainage system in the area. With the new system in place, approximately 80-94 percent of the water flow will route directly to a designated outfall at Marsh Creek. Replacing pipes that range in size from 42" to 60" while trying to keep impacts minimal to the community is difficult. Communication began early in the project with the impacted neighborhood, so it was understood what was involved with construction and why the project was needed. Regular meetings were held to update the neighborhood. This project was completed ahead of schedule, under budget, and with minimal issues raised by the community - a successful partnership between city, contractor, and community.

The Marsh Creek Rain Garden Park received two awards this year: the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Innovative Stormwater Project of the Year Award and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia Engineering Excellence State Award. The park treats and filters stormwater runoff before it flows into Marsh Creek, the tributary leading to the Chattahoochee River. The stormwater facility reduces flooding and stream bank erosion in the neighborhoods surrounding the immediate headwaters area

by reducing and controlling stormwater flow. Marsh Creek includes park-like green space, walking trails, and extensive landscaping, as well as educational signage to explain the stormwater treatment process.

In September, the City unveiled a new sculpture at Marsh Creek, adding to the beauty of the park. The heron and daffodil wrought iron sculpture was created by local artist Andrew Crawford and gifted to the city by the Riverside West Garden Club in honor of the organization's 50th anniversary.

## STORMWATER STRATEGY

The team has partnered with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to develop a consolidated Watershed Based Plan for Nancy Creek. The project was a partnership with EPD and other municipalities to improve water quality in the basin.

The team also completed the City's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), which outlines how the City will comply with the 2017-2022 MS4 permit issued in December 2017. The Georgia EPD audited the City's stormwater program, which the city passed without a single deficiency, not a common occurrence. During the MS4 permitting process, which included the inspections of ponds and public and private developments in the community, our program was deemed above and beyond, exceeding minimum requirements.



2,000+

ELEMENTS OF STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTED



318

INQUIRIES PROCESSED RELATED TO STORMWATER ISSUES



4

ENGINEERING DESIGNS COMPLETED AT A TOTAL COST OF \$137,736



26

STORMWATER PROJECTS COMPLETED TOTALING \$1,046,579



787

STORMWATER RELATED WORK ORDERS COMPLETED

# CITY SPRINGS

How does a city of neighborhoods and strip shopping centers find common ground, literally? As Sandy Springs became a city in 2005, there was unity in spirit, but the City lacked a center point and a traditional component of most cities - a town square. The challenge presented City leadership with an opportunity to craft its downtown from scratch, transforming a centrally-located strip shopping center, highlighted by an asphalt parking lot, into a 21st century town square.

Efforts to develop the City's downtown efforts date back to 2008, when the City purchased the property which would develop into City Springs. A year-long visioning session in 2012 created the City Center Master Plan,

and Phase One was approved in January 2013. It took another year of visioning, community input, and fine-tuning the priorities and needs related to the space. The challenge, said Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul, was designing a town square that "incorporates history, gives the city heart, looks to the future, and reflects the vision of the community it serves."

The transformation of parking lot into City Springs began with placing all future parking underground. More than 280,000 cubic yards of dirt were

removed from the site to dig what is, today, an underground parking deck. Jars of dirt, collected from the City's neighborhoods during a brand unveiling event in 2015 and placed in safe keeping were used this spring in the landscaping, reflecting the commitment that City Springs is "everybody's neighborhood."

City Springs offers something for all - from nature lovers and art admirers to those looking for new ways to connect to community members. City Springs is home to City Hall and performing arts

center featuring a 1,070 seat theatre and a smaller, 350 black box-style Studio Theatre. Meeting spaces are found in the Conference Center, where the Terrace meeting room and adjoining outside terrace are perfect for meetings or events. City Springs is reflective of New Urbanism, encouraging walkability and connectivity where none existed previously. Based on the more than 300 meetings, events, and performances which have taken place so far, community is happening here.





## SANDY SPRINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This summer, the red carpet rolled out, the curtain rose on a unique and magical performing arts center, and the community was galvanized around the space.

Just as with the many productions produced, there was a lot that happened behind the scenes before any lights, camera, and action were called. Initial offices were located in a former clock shop located at the corner of Mount Vernon Highway and Sandy Springs

Circle. The majority of Staff came on within six months of the offices opening, with a goal to provide a diverse mix of entertainment, with successful at-capacity attendance.

Opening season is reflective of that objective. The first performances included jazz legend Branford Marsalis, Tony Award-winning actress Sutton Foster, Atlanta's favorite big-band impresario Joe Gransden, and "America's Got Talent" winner, Eugene Landau Murphy, Jr., who all performed to sold-out crowds in both the Byers Theatre and Studio Theatre.

The feedback from the performers and audience has been overwhelmingly positive.

Originally planned for 303 bookings, the number of events scheduled has exceeded 400.

The versatile combination of performance spaces has been beneficial when performances require a change of venue. When the space is available, Staff has been able to shift gears and transform a room that can host the Mayor and City Council one night into a cabaret or night club the next evening.

The diversity in program ranging from well-known familiar names to Internet celebrities with large followings has introduced our spectacular facility to audiences from all over the metropolitan area and beyond.



## CITY SPRINGS THEATRE COMPANY

Way before construction was complete, City Springs Theatre Company established Sandy Springs as a home for theatre. The company features Broadway talent, including artistic director Shuler Hensley, who has gathered an impressive collection of awards including a Tony, multiple Obie Awards, and Drama Desk awards.

Actions speak loudly, and our community is enthusiastically committed to musical theatre. The initial budget called for 500 season subscribers; the curtain rose for the production of "42nd Street", 4,200 subscribers were on board. The total number of patrons served for the inaugural season was 20,000. Quality theatre can be found at the intersection of Broadway and Galambos Way.

The City Springs Theatre Company is also a partner with the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center for arts education in our city. In August, students enjoyed a complimentary performance hosted by the Jewish Film Festival. September initiatives included a dance master class and a tech master class with the production team of "42nd Street". In November, students received special pricing to attend Roswell Dance Theatre's "Nutcracker" at City Springs, and in December, Master dance and technical classes were conducted in connection with "Elf the Musical".

## MOVING CITY HALL

The move to the new five-story City Hall enabled multiple departments an opportunity to reimagine and organize their workspaces. The Facilities Department, grew from a staff of two to ten; more than 90 percent of its time was devoted to move preparation. Efforts began with purging records in all City departments,

For three months leading up to the move, the departments "cleaned house" - including a



paper audit and digitization of files. For example, Human Resources digitized its forms and now trends towards a paperless process, allowing departments limited electronic access to personnel files for performance appraisals. The Community Development Department and the Fire Marshal's Office audited legacy Fulton County records dating back to the 1950's, and determined what need to be retained and digitized. Looking ahead to minimizing paper on the front end, the IT Department installed badge ID printers; this technology is designed to reduce unnecessary or duplication of copies.

With a nod to the Mayor's favorite collegiate football team, the hallways at City Hall took on an orange glow, as packing containers were loaded and readied for the big move.

Furniture selection was another big component, and employees were consulted and surveyed on workspace design and furniture selection, with the guiding principle of form following function.

Moving from the old to new building began on Friday, May 4, 2018 with all offices open

for business on Monday, May 7, 2018, at the usual time.

The former City Hall, now called the North Municipal Complex, remains home to the Municipal Court and Sandy Springs Police Headquarters. The Courtroom was renovated, probation offices were relocated to this location, and a new server room was added to support SSPD, with sections of the building formerly housing general city services.

## SYSTEMS IN PLACE

IT devoted 6 to 9 months, to the move to City Springs. The team is especially proud of the fact that, during the move, no systems were ever offline, and there was a seamless transition to the new building.

The move also required construction of a new Server Room. The City's internal IT Staff provided the architecture for the new network, sometimes putting in more than 100 hours per week, working seven-hour days. Our own public fiber connects the building, providing an increase in internal and external bandwidth.





## WALKABILITY

A major component of the creation of “Downtown Sandy Springs” is the inclusion of a walkable grid comprised of smaller blocks and featuring sidewalks and streetscapes. This year heralded the opening of Galambos Way, the extension of Bluestone Road, and the creation of Denmark Drive, connecting Boylston Road to Roswell Road. Pedestrian traffic, including City Staff walking to nearby restaurants, residents at The Aston taking a stroll, and those from nearby neighborhoods walking to City Green to enjoy a show, has increased. Looking to the future, pedestrians will enjoy new sidewalks on Mount Vernon Highway and Johnson Ferry Road.

## COLLABORATIVE WORK SPACES

The move enabled GIS to create and expand its department, allowing Staff to work side-by-side for the first time; previously, offices were located within Public Works and Community Development. Their new office space allows for collaborating and sharing their workload and requests for information. A new Staff member was added, expanding

the team to three. Benefits from the reconfiguration were evident as the team took on updating the data set for the 2020 Census. Working alongside one another, the project yielded an additional 15,000 addresses for the City by identifying residents living in rehab homes, extended stay hotels, and the inclusion of approximately 1,000 individual rental units within the City’s 15-20 new apartment complexes. The team utilized information from the Secretary of State’s office, Fulton County Schools, and utilities like Georgia Power. Accuracy in numbers is especially important for Federal Funding, grants, etc.

## PARKING INNOVATIONS

Prior to the development of City Springs, much of the main campus was an asphalt parking lot. Today, that space is covered by a four-acre City Green. Parking is tucked underneath the development in an underground parking deck, providing City Springs with ample parking, while reducing stormwater runoff and adding green space to the area.

More than 25,000 cubic yards of concrete, 9,000 tons of reinforcing steel, and miles of post-tensioning cables create the framework

of the parking deck. The deck is enhanced with industry best practices featuring the latest technology and designed for efficiency. Changeable colored lights inform drivers about space availability, and LED boards throughout the deck notify drivers of the significance of each color. The deck also contains three dual-adaptor electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations for public use. For visitors that prefer valet parking, City Springs offers a ticketless system requiring guests to share their cell phone numbers to receive their tickets. This also allows visitors to communicate with the valet team to request when they would like to have their cars retrieved.

## NOT JUST ONE BUILDING

Developing the parcel that would become City Springs was an exciting challenge for all involved, from architect to construction team. How to meet the objectives in the City Center Master Plan and keep contained within the eight-acre property. The first drawings illustrated separate buildings housing performances and city offices, but also limited green space on the property site. The ultimate design literally placed all

under one roof - City Hall, Conference Center, and world-class performing Arts Center, enabling a four-acre park to also locate on the property.

The design has proven to be an extremely efficient model for launching and operating the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center (PAC) as PAC and City Staff are able to seamlessly collaborate and share services.

For example, all initial branding, PR, and advertising materials for the Performing Arts Center were developed by the City’s Communications Department. The teams meet weekly and collaborate daily on artistic concepts to meet the needs of the performing groups, as well as the PAC operation.

The PAC Operations team has direct access to the City’s on-site IT Department, enabling the two entities to share technology infrastructure. The digital signage throughout the building, as well as the marquee facing Roswell Road is another example of collaboration success. The Communications team launched an aspirational initiative to tie together the City’s many web products into a unified database. The first products under this Unified Platform were the CitySprings.com website and the digital signage contained within the property. The website was recrafted from a blank page, programmed to interact with the Unified Platform. As content is added, those same materials are automatically formatted and can be shared, “monitor-ready” to any of the property’s monitors. This process creates efficiencies as well as ensures that any changes in content are applied to all areas where that content is used. Future phases will tie in the City’s website and internal electronic channels.

The Communications and GIS Departments worked together to develop a mailing list to send out the first season brochure for the Performing Arts Center.

The Performing Arts Center Staff also formed a relationship with Recreation and Parks Staff,

sharing assets and staffing for several on-site family-oriented events, helping with games and kids’ activities.

## REVITALIZATION OF ROSWELL ROAD

The City Springs project was a catalyst for other mixed-use projects along the Roswell Road corridor. Since the City’s investment was announced, three other projects have gotten underway (Modera, Cliftwood, and The Adley), all of which are incorporate a new type of retail that thrives in a walkable community. That type of retail product did not exist in Sandy Springs prior to the City Springs redevelopment. In addition, those projects are part of the more than 1,400 new housing units being created in the City Springs district.

Incorporating the Performing Arts Center and City Green’s programmable green space has added to the community feel of the entire district. One can walk from dinner at Rumi’s or Casi Cielo to a concert or shopping at Fox’s Clothing, places that are not within the City Springs project itself. Sandy Springs really is morphing into a regional destination.

## CONFERENCE CENTER

Locating meeting space was a challenge prior to the opening of City Springs, and conference rooms at City Hall were in short supply. With the new facility, finding a place to meet is much easier. Cafe-style booths on the first and second levels of City Hall allow individuals or small groups to meet as needed at no charge. For larger, planned gatherings, the Conference level at City Springs provides versatile spaces to handle most requests.

Christening the Conference Center was the Sandy Springs Perimeter Chamber’s annual State of the City Luncheon. The event was held prior to the official opening of City Springs, providing Staff the opportunity to

“live test” processes and space requirements. The State of the City was held with a sold-out crowd in attendance. Since then, many area businesses have begun using the space to hold meetings, trainings and social events.

In addition to traditional business meetings, the Conference Center can be styled to meet the needs of a multitude of events. Former Congresswoman Karen Handel held an Opioid Summit town hall meeting at City Springs this summer. Kennesaw State regularly makes the Center into a “college campus” for its Executive Educational Programs. The Terrace meeting room transformed into a club room, featuring an intimate concert with the Assad Brothers, a pop-up shopping mecca for the Elegant Elf Holiday Marketplace, and our first wedding ceremony and reception in November.

During the first two months of operation, the Conference Center was used for:

- 62 commercial events
- 61 Nonprofit events
- 46 City meetings

In addition to its popularity with the community, many City events have relocated to the new conference center.

Multiple public information open houses have been held in the Conference Center. The second PIOH for the North End Revitalization Project had more than 200 people in attendance.

The Sandy Springs Fire Department hosted three days of training for fire service leadership from around the state.

The Smart Cities team is scheduled to host the Georgia Municipal Associations’ Expo soon.

Visit Sandy Springs teamed up with the City of Dunwoody to host its first Family Reunion Expo that drew 150 people.



## GREEN PROPERTIES OF THE BUILDING

The City is committed to creating a sustainable community, including efforts to help reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency, preserve green spaces, and reduce waste. City Hall at City Springs is an example of that commitment to working towards sustainable standards. The City is an ENERGY STAR Partner, and City Hall was constructed with that partnership and commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship in mind: to yield cost savings to the City taxpayers through reduced energy demands, provide health and productive work environments for Staff and visitors, and contribute to the City's goals of protecting, conserving, and enhancing the region's environmental resources.

### UNDERGROUND CISTERN

Fountains are a striking feature at City Springs. Beneath the heart of the City Green

is a 300,000-gallon cistern which captures 100 percent of the drainage from the on-site buildings and is used to irrigate the green spaces at City Springs, as well as provide water to supply the five on-site fountains. The stormwater collected by the cistern substantially reduces the amount of storm water introduced into our storm drains. During dry periods, the cistern is designed to hold enough runoff water to supply the entire complex for over two weeks.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Building Automation Systems (BAS) are the foundation for modern building energy management. This intelligent technology connects the mechanical and electrical systems at City Springs, enabling the City to communicate on a single platform to deliver needed information. Included in that system is the Centrifugal Magnetic-Drive Chiller Plant, which features state-of-the-art design and active magnetic-bearing technology. The Chiller Plant lowers the total cost of ownership over the life of the equipment due

to reduced energy and maintenance costs. The equipment is highly efficient, utilizing industry-leading low entering condenser water temperatures, offering as low as 0.175 kW/ton at full capacity and below 0.1 kW/ton at part load.

The lighting fixtures throughout the building are LED fixtures, with the majority of fixtures controlled by electronic room controllers, vacancy sensors, and/or occupancy sensors. Additionally, offices located on the external parts of the building are equipped with daylight sensors, allowing the lights to be maintained at a dimmed status.

### COOL ROOF

The 295,000 sq. ft. City Springs building was constructed with a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) Cool Roof. The roof elevations were constructed with an environmentally friendly, single ply roofing membrane. It is wind resistant and near puncture-proof, has extremely strong seams, and, it is very energy-efficient. The roof elevations on the building total approximately 65,000 square feet.

### RECYCLING

Through an agreement with our waste haul provider, the City utilizes a single stream recycling system. The system allows all recyclable materials to be easily disposed of in one central location. Recycling containers are located throughout the building, including in the elevator waiting areas, and breakrooms and at the City Green. Each of these recycling containers is emptied into a single recycling compactor located on the Service Level of the building.

### HOT WATER HEATER

The building is equipped with a tankless natural gas domestic water heater system, which provides hot water on-demand throughout the facility. This style of heating system brings added efficiency, giving the City a 99 percent efficiency rating, as the water is heated only when needed.



CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS

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