



The Springs-Times



By Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul

TIME TO ENGAGE

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR CITY'S NEW ZONING AND CODE

A driving force in creating the City of Sandy Springs was a desire to shift land use decision-making from the courthouse to the community. The Council knew the 1970s-era Fulton County code was flawed, but adopted it to install needed controls to fill a vacuum that developers could exploit, believing those flaws could be fixed over time.

That was 2005. Before too much development was proposed, the Great Recession hit in late 2007, and zoning activity virtually halted. Simultaneously, the gradual reformation of the City's codes also stopped.

In late 2013, the effects of the recession ended and suddenly, Sandy Springs was awash in proposed new projects. Equally as sudden, the code's defects became glaring.

Meanwhile, as the first council adopted basically a "just say no"

attitude toward the few projects proposed, archaic state laws and Supreme Court cases dating to Georgia's agrarian past gave great deference to developers when they sued the City over denied zoning. Thus, courts often rejected the



One of many stakeholder meetings where staff, consultants, and community strategized about the City's Next Ten.

Council's "just say no" approach which resulted in denser development.

Over time, zoning decisions were driven more by what could pass court muster than what the land use plan prescribed. To slow development and buy time to patch the zoning code, the

Council and I approved three zoning moratoria over the past three years. As we delved into the code; however, we concluded that patching was impossible. Outmoded and riddled with contradictions and complexity, the old

code proved woefully inadequate to manage 21st Century style development. We needed to scrap the code and start over.

Last year, the City contracted with a nationally renowned land use consultant to aid our staff and citizens in

drafting a state-of-the-art zoning code and land use map. The process will give us better tools for managing growth along with a simple, plainly written code that anyone can understand. In the future we will be able to utilize the land use processes to mitigate, where possible, the legacy zonings remaining from Fulton County, and provide more neighborhood certainty about potential development that could occur around them.

There will be three categories of land use:

1. Protected neighborhoods – preserving existing single-family neighborhoods where significant change is undesirable and rezoning is discouraged;
2. Evolving areas – existing areas that need redevelopment, such as older apartment complexes, where investment and rezoning are appropriate—there, the focus is on providing higher quality housing;
3. Opportunity areas – existing commercial districts that need improvement. Here, the emphasis is mixed use retail/office/housing. — *continued on page II*

FOOD THAT ROCKS IN SANDY SPRINGS

For one night only, more than 25 of the best local restaurants will be rocking the big tent! The first annual Food That Rocks, a Celebration of Sandy Springs, is set for Saturday, May 14,

2016 for 7-11 p.m. at Hammond Park. The all-inclusive event will provide food, wine, beer and cocktail tastes, local bands and benefit Sandy Springs-based charities Second Helpings, Ian's

Friends Foundation and the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance (GOCA). Tickets are \$55 per person in advance and \$65 at the door, and may be purchased online at FoodThatRocks.org.

The event is for 21 and older. You can find a list of participating restaurants by visiting FoodThatRocks.org or by calling 404-875-4434.

continued from page I — In key parts of the city, small area plans will strictly define what development can occur. For example, various “nodes” along Roswell Road will encourage more community-centered retail-like neighborhood restaurants and shops.

“Our primary goal is to produce strong, enforceable development standards and significantly reduce case-by-case decision-making.”

Finally, the plan declares protected neighborhoods off limits to additional rezoning or variances that allow non-standard lots. Our primary goal is to produce strong, enforceable development standards and significantly reduce case-by-case decision-making. The plan will set fundamental criteria on height, density and intensity, as well as solid transitions between development types. It will also set appropriate streetscape features and prioritize

walkability and dedicated public spaces within development. Under the old code, we had few tools to implement these features.

Too often, land use has been a “live and learn” process in Sandy Springs, and some of those lessons were painful. We are applying those lessons to a new plan with a higher degree of enforceability, better able to withstand court challenges, and much more development predictability for our neighborhoods.

We hired top-notch outside help, bolstered our development staff, and named a residents’ committee to oversee the process that taps the vast expertise of our Homeowners Associations and neighborhood representatives, land use attorneys, transportation experts and others.

Now it’s your turn. We have had several public meetings for citizen input on these ideas, and we’d like to see even greater participation in the future. This process will chart our future for the next ten years, and defining that future requires your involvement. Please engage with us in person, on-line and plan to attend future public meetings.

LANTERN PARADE

Sandy Springs Hospitality and Tourism is proud to present the inaugural Sandy Springs Lantern Parade on June 18 at Morgan Falls Park. Chantelle Rytter, creator of the very successful Beltline, Grant Park and Decatur Lantern Parades, will produce this unique “Take It To The River” parade. Rytter is working to create new lanterns, and is bringing along Alice, the floating alligator who will be gliding through the Chattahoochee River as part of the festivities. Whether participant or spectator, it is a night you won’t soon forget! Every moment will be a photo op... and it’s free!

Don’t have a lantern? Stay tuned for updates on fabulous Lantern Workshops where you can learn to create your own illuminated masterpiece.

The Parade will begin at North Springs United Methodist Church at 9 p.m. and will wind down to Morgan Falls Park where the Morgan Falls dam is located. After the parade, the event’s shuttle sponsor, Atlanta Movie Tours, Inc. will drive you back to the starting point. It will be an illuminating night to remember!



NEW COMMUNITY PARK OPENS

More than one hundred people attended the ribbon cutting at Lost Corner Preserve, officially opening the City’s newest park. Located on 24 acres of beautiful woodlands and nature trails, Lost Corner Preserve is a destination for nature lovers and history buffs. The property dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. The property was once a working farm that has had only two owners since Native Americans inhabited the land. Lost Corner was settled by the McMurtry family, one of the founding families in Sandy Springs (then called Oak Grove) and later owned by the Miles family (in 1913). Fred Miles was an electrician and worked for Georgia Power selling electricity by the

recently constructed Morgan Falls Hydroelectric Dam. He and his wife, Nancy, built a bungalow style house, which was one of the first in the area to have electricity. The property was called Lost Corner because those who tried to find it often found themselves lost. The Miles’ had five children, and daughter, Peggy, grew up at Lost Corner and lived there until her death in 2008. It was Peggy Miles’ desire that Lost Corner be forever designated as a passive nature preserve. In 2006, the property’s owner approached the Sandy Springs Conservancy. Through a major fundraising effort and support from the Trust for Public Land and the city of Sandy Springs, Lost Corner was purchased

and became an official city park in 2008. The park features a craftsman bungalow that was built in the 1920’s and recently renovated to accommodate meetings and special events, a community garden with 60 garden beds available for renting that captures the essence of the property when it was a working farm. The walking trails are open from daylight to dusk daily allowing visitors to enjoy the park’s natural beauty and habitat for wildlife.

During the park’s renovation in 2015, Mayor Paul, a third generation beekeeper, added an apiary.

Additionally, the greenhouse from Glen Hall was relocated to Lost Corner.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE PRESERVE

Nature Photography Workshop – Whether you are looking to buy your first Digital SLR camera or want to begin using more than your camera’s automatic setting, join us for this photography workshop. Saturday May 7, 2016, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25. Learn more and register online: spr.gs/photography

Nature Discovery Summer Camp – Week 1 (June 20-24) and week 2 (July 11-15). Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$165 per session. (be sure to check page IV of this edition of Spring Times for additional summer camp offerings from the City’s Recreation and Parks Department.

COMMIT TO HEALTH IN SANDY SPRINGS

The recent addition of Lost Corner Preserve offers Sandy Springs residents and visitors another beautiful destination to get outside and enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures.

In partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks is promoting NRPA's Commit to Health campaign. Working in collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), NRPA is carrying out a large-scale, national campaign that improves healthy eating and physical activity among youth across the nation.

The physical activity standards include the following:

- Dedicate at least 20% or at least 30 minutes of morning or afterschool program time to physical activity, and at least 60 minutes for a full day program.
- Provide physical activities in which youth are moderately to vigorously active for at least 50% of the physical activity time.
- Ensure physical activity takes place outdoors whenever possible.
- Do not permit access to television or movies.
- Limit digital device time to less than one hour per day, and digital device use is limited to homework or activities that engage youth in moderate to vigorous intensity and physical activity.

With more than 950 acres of parkland, Sandy Springs residents and visitors, of all ages, can enjoy the many activities found in any one of the City's 16 parks. The City's Recreation and Parks Department, in partnership with the National Park Service, maintain beautiful trails for hiking and exploring along the City's 22 miles of the Chattahoochee River shoreline. All parks are open from sun-up to 11:00 p.m. except for Morgan Falls Overlook Park, River Park, the Dog Park, and Ridgeview Park that are open from sun-up to sundown.

SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL DISTRICT 3 CITY COUNCIL SEAT

The City of Sandy Springs will hold a special election on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 to fill the seat left vacant by District 3 Councilmember Graham McDonald. McDonald resigned on March 11, 2016 to pursue the District 52 seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. Only registered voters who live in District 3 may vote in this election.

Early voting will take place at the North Fulton Annex building beginning May 2 - 20, 2016. Early Voting will take place between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Election Day voting to fill the District 3 seat will take place on May 24, 2016 at Hammond Park in the Round Program Building located at 6005 Glenridge from

7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. For details on the Special Election and General Primary also being held, please visit sandyspringsga.gov/vote.



LOCATING A POLLING PRECINCT

The Fulton County Elections Board has posted a poll location tool for you to find your precinct for Election Day for the state election. To locate your polling precinct, visit gis.fultoncountygga.gov/apps/pollingplacelocator/. The Election Day polling location for the Special Election

to fill the District 3 Seat will be held at Hammond Park, Round Program Building, located at 6005 Glenridge Drive. Only those citizens who are registered voters who live in District 3 may vote for the District 3 seat.

PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

SANDY SPRINGS — Sandy Springs District 3 residents can request an absentee ballot for the City's Special-Called Election to fill the District 3 City Council seat by downloading the application and either: hand deliver or mail it to the City Clerk at Sandy Springs City Hall, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350; or fax to the City Clerk at 770-206-1420; or email to the City Clerk at vote@sandyspringsga.gov. Please make sure to include the May 24, 2016 election date on the request for an absentee ballot for the District 3 Special Election. Voters will need separate, individual requests for absentee ballots for the General Election and District 3 Special Election.

FULTON COUNTY — Fulton County registered voters may visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website to download an application for official absentee ballot for the state election to be held on May 24, 2016.

The application can then be mailed to: Fulton County Voter Registration, 130 Peachtree St. S.W.; Suite 2186; Atlanta, Georgia 30303, or can be faxed to Fulton County at 404-730-8839.

If you are unable to download the ballot, Fulton County will mail it to you. The ballot must be mailed back and received by Fulton County by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. For additional information, call the Fulton County Voter Registration Office at 404-730-7072.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

National Kids to Parks Day - Saturday, May 21

For its sixth year, Sandy Springs will participate in the National Park Trust's, National Kids to Park Day, on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. at Hammond Park located at 705 Hammond Drive. Activities for all ages will be provided by the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department and include: obstacle course challenges, water slides, inflatables, face painting, balloon artist, raffles, DJ music, and much more. Admission is free.

Stars and Stripes at the Concourse - Sunday, July 3

Head to the Concourse Corporate Center lawn for the annual fireworks display. The band Shiloh, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Fireworks will begin at 9:45 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to pack a snack, bring a blanket, and enjoy an evening under the stars as fireworks illuminate the sky above the iconic King and Queen buildings. Pets, tents, outdoor cooking and personal-use sparklers are not permitted.

TEAM SPORTS

- » Pickleball
- » Sandy Springs Youth Sports (Football/Cheer)

GYMNASTICS

- » Gymnastics Summer Classes
- » Gymnastics Summer Clinics
- » Rhythmic Gymnastics

EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

- » Sparkling Stars Gymnastics
- » Exceptional Adventures Summer Camp

SUMMER CAMPS

- » Gymnastics Camp
- » Claymation & Special FX Art-Science Combo Camp
- » Preschool Gymnastics Camp
- » Space Invasion Art-Science Combo Camp
- » Summer Hangout
- » Rock & Roll Expression Art-Music Combo Camp
- » Soccer Summer Camp
- » Anime & Cartooning Art-Science Combo Camp
- » Super Summer Sports Day Camp
- » Davy Jones' Locker Art-Science Combo Camp
- » Traditional Day Camp
- » Discovery Quest Camp
- » Discovery Quest Before & After Care
- » Combo Camp Before & After Care
- » Featuring Aesops Fables Theater Camp
- » Nature Discovery Camp
- » Day the Rooster Didn't Crow Theater Production Camp
- » Wrestling Camp
- » Annie JR Musical Theater Production Camp
- » Fencing Camp
- » Rhythmic Gymnastics Camp

WATERSPORTS

- » Canoe, Kayak & Paddleboard Intro Day
- » Stand Up Paddleboard Demo
- » Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga
- » Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga Fit
- » Paddleshack Watercraft Rentals



HOBBIES

- » Gardening
- » Overlook Park Audubon Bird Walk

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- » Sport Smart Enrichment Program

EVENTS

- » Standup Paddleboard Race
- » National Kids to Parks Day
- » Fulton Golden Games Tennis Tournament

SUMMER RECREATION

Whether you're looking for a team sport or creative outlet for your children, or would like to improve your own fitness without getting locked into a private gym contract, the City of Sandy Springs offers affordable programs at convenient locations.

We also offer free community events that make it fun and easy to get to know your neighbors! For parents looking for a safe place for their children after school and during school breaks, check out the many wonderful programs in Sandy Springs.

WE HAVE PROGRAMS AND CLASSES FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS , CHILDREN , ADOLESCENTS , TEENS AND ADULTS

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- » Gymnastics Summer Classes
- » Parent and Me Play Date

MARTIAL ARTS

- » Karate
- » Fencing



SCHOOLS OUT CAMPS

- » The Art of Chemistry Spring Break Camp

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

- » Gymnastics Parties
- » Garden Party in the Park

YOU CAN FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT ALL CITY PROGRAMS BY VISITING REGISTRATION.SANDYSPRINGSGA.GOV

