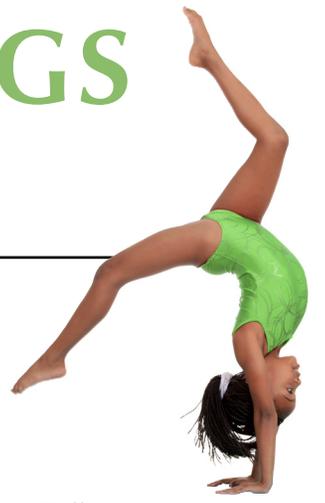


# FALL CAMPS IN SANDY SPRINGS

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Learn about some camps offered during this Back to School Season. — *Page III*



# The Springs-Times

Fall 2016 • Issue 36



By Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul

## MAKE AN INFORMED VOTE

### T-SPLOST: TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL-PURPOSE LOCAL-OPTION SALES TAX

Earlier this year, the City held two public open house meetings related to the proposed Local Option Sales Tax for Transportation (T-SPLOST) referendum to be on the ballot this November 8. These were not just information gathering meetings. They provided an opportunity for residents to directly impact one of our city's most pressing problems — traffic.

Transportation is THE single most important issue facing the metro Atlanta region. The proposed 0.75-cent sales tax equates to \$570 million for Fulton County (excluding Atlanta) and approximately \$100M for the City of Sandy Springs to use to advance our efforts on transportation improvements.

Fulton County is leading the T-SPLOST initiative, and the 14 cities within the county are all working

together to help improve quality of life throughout the county.

The largest single category of T-SPLOST is congestion relief and removal of traffic bottlenecks.

You don't have to look further than

but Sandy Springs now has a population of 105,000, doubling during the day to service our businesses.

The City and region have grown exponentially, with that traffic spilling out into our city streets as cars and their

transportation projects like improving access to our MARTA stations to encourage transit usage as well as pedestrian and bike improvements.

In addition, T-SPLOST includes funding for the Perimeter Transit Last Mile Connectivity. This is a critical component for our business community that relies on, or prefers to use, public transportation to get them to their jobs in the city. T-SPLOST funding will provide the sidewalks, bike paths, and other needed connections, so we can make better use of transit.

T-SPLOST is a county-wide initiative and some projects are cross-jurisdictional to deal with the regional nature of congestion. It is important that we all work together because traffic isn't confined to city boundaries.

You can view the project list and link to the information provided by Fulton County by visiting [sandyspringsga.gov/tsplost](http://sandyspringsga.gov/tsplost). If you have the Sandy Springs Works app, click the T-SPLOST link, and you'll be connected.



I-285 as viewed from Roswell Road looking east.

I-285 to underscore the how essential that is.

I-285 was built in 1969 for 90 million dollars. The population of Sandy Springs back then was 39,000 people. Fast forward to today: Same highway,

drivers make their way to destinations within Sandy Springs.

T-SPLOST will provide the resources to ease the gridlock. And funding isn't only designated for motorists. T-SPLOST will fund alternative

## RULES OF THE ROAD FOR UTILITY COMPANIES

The City's streets are undergoing a fair amount of construction as the race to seed Sandy Springs with new fiber networks is underway. Since the beginning of 2016, requests for utility permits has increased by more than 200 percent. The subsequent construction is popping

up around town and at any given time, there could be ten different utility companies working within the city. To help residents know who is working outside their homes, the City launched an interactive map which can be accessed through the City's website. In addition,

the City recently implemented new rules governing utility construction. The new policies include advance outreach to impacted residents. Under the new requirements, utility companies must provide property owners within the work zone written notice at least 72

hours in advance of work beginning. If a project impacts more than 500 feet of underground work, roadside signage at each end of the work zone must be installed. You can find the utilities map and policy under the Residents tab at [sandyspringsga.gov](http://sandyspringsga.gov).

# WELCOME TO MARSH CREEK RAIN GARDEN

If you've driven along Johnson Ferry Road, there's a good chance you've seen the construction project just west of the City Springs construction site. The Marsh Creek Rain Garden is scheduled to open later this year and will be the City's newest park. Located within the City Springs District, Marsh Creek Rain Garden will offer a tranquil green space just footsteps from the heart of Sandy Springs. While this is a passive park designed to allow visitors the opportunity to sit and relax or enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk, the various components of the park are quite active

working together to improve water quality and reduce flooding!

Developed to be a water treatment plant, Marsh Creek Rain Garden will use natural plant life and a water fountain to get the job done, incorporating natural features to help it blend in with the neighborhood while still performing the vital storm water treatment task.

Working with the Georgia Environmental Protection Department (EPD), this park should not only improve water, but could also become a model for regional detention facilities.



# MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROJECT: WE WANT YOU TO LOVE BUTTERFLIES

Sandy Springs is participating in the National Recreation Parks Association's "Parks for Monarchs" campaign. The nationwide initiative is encouraging local park and recreation agencies to use the collective power of parks to work to save the monarch butterfly by planting essential milkweed, educating the public, and introducing other conservation activities.

The Monarch butterfly, an iconic North American species whose migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans, is on its way to becoming an endangered species.

The Monarch butterfly population has declined more than 90 percent over the last two decades. The primary cause is the loss of habitat. Illegal deforestation has devastated the area in Mexico where the Monarchs hibernate for the winter. Additionally, milkweed, which provides key nourishment and shelter to Monarchs as they migrate

between Canada, the United States and Mexico every year, has been almost wiped out in America's "corn belt" heartland. The National Parks and Recreation Association is asking that municipalities help restore their habitat by planting milkweed in as many locations as possible. So far, Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks and the Friends of Lost Corner have planted milkweed and the companion nectar plants at Lost Corner Preserve, Abernathy Greenway, Spalding Drive Elementary School, Overlook Park at Morgan Falls and Hammond Park. The City hopes to add even more locations.

Scientists agree that the fate of the Monarch hangs in the balance. The Monarch will not survive unless replanting habitat becomes a priority for all communities. Sandy Springs is proud to participate in the initiative to ensure future generations will see Monarchs as they make their migration each year across our continent.



# PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER

## FIRE PLACE SAFETY: IS YOUR CHIMNEY READY FOR WINTER?

Temperatures are dropping, and it will soon be time to use the fireplace again! The Sandy Springs Fire Rescue department wants to keep us safe and offers these tips:

- Get an annual chimney check. Have chimneys inspected and cleaned as necessary by a qualified professional chimney service technician. This reduces the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.
- Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
- Install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
- Choose well-seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months and stored in a covered and elevated location. Never burn Christmas trees, treated wood or wrapping paper in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Place firewood or fire logs at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate. To start the fire, use kindling or a commercial firelighter. Never use flammable liquids.
- Keep the hearth area clear. Combustible material too close to the fireplace, or to a wood stove, could easily catch fire. Keep furniture at least 36" away from the hearth.
- Use metal mesh or a screen in front of the fireplace to catch flying sparks that could ignite or burn holes in the carpet or flooring.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Before turning in for the evening, be sure that the fire is fully extinguished.
- Discard ashes in a closed metal container and remove from the house.

## PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES FROM CAR BREAK-INS

Don't become a victim of one of the most common crimes in our community! Car break-ins are the number one crime in Sandy Springs and the Sandy Springs Police Department offers two easy tips to keep your

valuables safe: 1. Do not leave anything of value in sight, either lock valuables in your trunk or take them with you. 2. Lock your car doors! With the holiday shopping season ahead, these are good habits to form.

# SANDY SPRINGS UNVEILS NEW LOGO

You will soon see a new look to the City's marketing. On October 4, the City Council approved adoption of a new logo. Research revealed that residents and business owners alike, love Sandy Springs' urban energy coupled with its laid back lifestyle. The new mark reflects the original logo's theme of nature,



**SANDY SPRINGS**  
GEORGIA

green space, water, and the iconic "S," while also connecting to the energy, dynamism, and warmth recognized as inherent in Sandy Springs. The City's Seal will remain the same, preserving the original logo as part of that icon.

Keep an eye out for the new logo as it begins to be used around the city.

# LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL

Pickleball may have a silly name, but it's seriously becoming the country's fastest-growing sport! The game first started 50 years ago in Seattle and, according to Sandy Springs resident Dr. Alan Bragman who is the USA Pickleball Association's local ambassador, the name came from the founder's pet dog named, "Pickles" who would chase after the ball! Pickleball is a combination of tennis, badminton, table tennis and racquetball. Players find that it's fast-paced, easy to learn, great exercise and lots of fun. Dr. Bragman, who was a table tennis and tennis player, made the switch to Pickleball citing benefits including: a smaller court size — a Pickleball court is a third of the size of a tennis court; the no-volley zone, also known as the "kitchen," the underhand serve, which Dr. Bragman says levels the playing field and makes the game less dependent on a power serve, and the ball is plastic similar to a whiffle ball and travels

considerably slower than a tennis ball. Pickleball can be played as either a singles or doubles game and very popular in retirement communities. The average age of a Pickleball player is sixty years old.

Come see what the racket is all about at the newly constructed Pickleball courts at Hammond Park!

**Where:** Hammond Park, 6005 Glenridge Drive. **Who:** Adults 18+ **When:** Monday–Friday from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.



# GYMNASTICS PROGRAMMING

## Sandy Springs Gymnastics Goes for Gold

The U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics Team's gold medal performance was hotter than July this past summer turning everyone into gymnastics fans! The Sandy Springs Gymnastics Center is keeping the enthusiasm going and offering new opportunities for the community to get active.

## Parents Night Out

Parents can enjoy a night out while kids have a blast learning gymnastics! The evening is designed for kindergarten-age children through 6th grade and includes a meal, arts and crafts and gymnastics! The upcoming dates for Parents Night Out are Friday, November 4 and Friday, December 2, 2016. The event runs from 6–10 p.m. and is located at the Sandy Springs Gymnastics Center. The cost is \$20 per child.

## Equipment Specific Gymnastic Clinics

Does your child, age 5–18, want to master a specific skill? Want more practice time in the gym? The Sandy Springs Gymnastics Center is hosting equipment specific clinics. The upcoming clinic on November 19 will focus on the balance beam and on December 17 the focus will be on the vault. Times are 2–4 p.m. for ages 5–7 and the cost is \$25, 2–5 p.m. 8 and older and the cost is \$35.

## Playdate for Preschoolers

Boys and girls age 5 and under can have a weekly play date at the Sandy Springs Gymnastics Center's Preschool Gym. Parent participation is required and drop-ins are welcome! Mark your calendars for Wednesdays from 10–11 a.m., the cost is \$5 per child.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Veterans Day Tribute

Former WSB-TV news anchor John Pruitt returns as emcee, hosting the City's 7th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration on Friday, November 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Concourse Corporate Campus. The event honors those who have served our country as a member of the armed forces. For more information visit the City's website.

## Savor Sandy Springs Restaurant Week

Sandy Springs offers a vast selection of dining options, and Restaurant Week 2016 is the perfect time to get out and try something new. Participating restaurants will offer exclusive menus that provide diners the opportunity to taste appetizers, entrées, desserts and other tasty treats at special Restaurant Week prices. Dine out during the week of November 2–9, 2016, and discover a world of unique flavors in Sandy Springs!

## Elegant Elf Marketplace

The 6th annual Elegant Elf Marketplace, presented by the Sandy Springs Society, returns this year on Saturday and Sunday, November 5–6 showcasing over 85 carefully selected local and regional vendors. The hours are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday at Lake Forest Elementary School, 5920 Sandy Springs Circle. There is a \$5 entrance fee and children 10 and under are free. Easy access parking is free. Please visit [sandyspringsociety.org](http://sandyspringsociety.org) for more information.

## Sandy Springs Education Force's Annual 5K – "Footprints for the Future" returns

The third annual Footprints for the Future 5K will wind through the heart of Sandy Springs beginning at Lake Forrest Elementary on Saturday, November 12, benefiting Sandy Springs Education Force and the students in our eleven Sandy Springs public schools. The race, a certified Peachtree Qualifier, will include chip timing and a professional finish line provided by Georgia Multisports Productions. The event also includes a pre-race warm-up led by fitness professionals, live entertainment, including a DJ, vendor booths and a Family Fun Run. Register online at [active.com](http://active.com) (Keywords: Footprints for the Future)

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR NEXT 10

In case you missed the opportunity at the Sandy Springs Festival to share your opinions about the City's Comprehensive Plan, you can still participate.



The plan will be posted later this month on the Next Ten website and there will be a community meeting in November. Visit [thenext10.org](http://thenext10.org) to find out more.

# SANDY SPRINGS ALERTS

*from the City of Sandy Springs*

Sign up to receive Emergency Alerts and Notifications.

## TRAFFIC ALERTS

Opt-in for **Emergency Lane and Road Closures** to know when traffic conditions have turned into gridlock. Opt-in to **Weekly Traffic Alerts** for a once a week notice about lane and road closures due to construction projects.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Opt-in for **Emergency Notifications** for severe weather updates, major power outages and other safety concerns.

## SMART911

Sandy Springs Alerts offers the option of creating a Smart911 profile which contains information about your medical information, your family and pets. The information is held by Smart911 and sent to responding public safety personnel when you dial 9-1-1 from a registered number.



SIGN UP AT [SANDYSPRINGSGA.GOV/ALERTS](https://sandysspringsga.gov/alerts)