As I looked out on the full room during my State of the City address last month at the Westin, I marveled at this group of engaged residents and business owners who, I believe, share my goal of making Sandy Springs the most envied community in the metro area. Our quality of life, our people, and our prime location are the connective tissue essential to achieving that goal. We are witnessing a boom in development. Cranes are part of the City’s skyline, but with the growth, we also are experiencing some growing pains.

While rapid growth has brought with it some positives, it has also caused consternation and uncertainty. The City’s Next Ten Comprehensive Land Use Plan is one program designed to bring better balance. The Next Ten plan allows us to remain a vibrant, neighborhood-centered community with the essential, ongoing revitalization and redevelopment needed for a healthy community. Regarding the current efforts to refine the development code, our goal is to simplify the zoning process and make the code easier to understand and administer, creating more certainty for everyone. The Next Ten plan also includes small area plans for the revitalization and redevelopment of the Perimeter area – the economic engine; the Powers Ferry area of the City that will take on new significance with the Braves; and the Roswell Road corridor - the City’s main thoroughfare. I’ve described Roswell Road as a broken tiara that needs to be re-jeweled. There’s been powerful transformation on Roswell Road beginning on the south end at the Gateway complex and working its way north. The crowning jewel will be City Springs. I urge you to attend one of the code development meetings scheduled for later this month (see page III).

Transportation and regional planning is another essential element to help achieve the vibrancy and quality of life that will further establish Sandy Springs as the metro area’s most desirable community. The metro area’s population increased 1.1 million between 2006 and 2016, and the prediction is another million in the next ten years and eight million total by 2040. Over the next five years, through T-SPLOST funds, the City will receive an estimated $103 million to use for transportation improvements. Congestion could eventually push people out. People will not tolerate the loss in quality of life and that is one of the reasons why I think this community supported the T-SPLOST initiative in the commanding way that it did. We need to invest in creating systems to provide future generations with a thriving community with economic prosperity. We can’t make change in one person per vehicle increments. We have to rethink change, including rail transit.

The other day, my wife Jan and I were driving along Mount Vernon Highway and caught the sun setting. Cranes rising above City Springs, the city’s new downtown district.

Cranes rising above City Springs, the city’s new downtown district.

The  Springs-Times

STATE OF THE CITY

MAYOR EMPHASIZES NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION

By Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul

Cranes rising above City Springs, the city’s new downtown district.

TEASE YOUR TASTEBUDS AT FOOD THAT ROCKS

Celebrate the warmer and longer days at the second annual Food That Rocks! This year’s event scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2017 will showcase more than 20 Sandy Springs chefs and restaurants and three bands under two large tents. An additional treat this year will be New York Times bestselling author and former AJC feature reporter Mary Kay Andrews, who will release a new cookbook, The Beach House Cookbook (St. Martin’s Press) in early May and will be offering tastings of some of her favorite recipes. Food That Rocks, set for 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Hammond Park, is for 21-years and older. General admission tickets are $50 per person in advance, $55 after April 24 and $60 at the door. First-taster VIP tickets are $65 per person in advance, $70 after April 24 and $75 at the door (if available). You can learn more about the event on the Food that Rocks website: FoodThatRocks.org
BRAVING THE BRAVES

Volunteer for a Better Sandy Springs, the flagship community-wide service day for Sandy Springs. Through the work of 500+ community volunteers, partnering with parks, schools and nonprofit organizations to landscape, plant, paint and do light cleanup of their grounds and facilities. Now in its 15th year, the organization has provided materials and volunteer hours worth more than $600,000 in city-wide improvements. This year’s works sites include:

- Abernathy Arts Center
- Big Trees Forest Preserve
- Community Assistance Center
- Crooked Creek (future park)
- Dorothy Benson Center
- Dunwoody Springs Elementary
- Hammond Park
- Heards Ferry Elementary
- Heritage Sandy Springs
- High Point Elementary
- Keep Sandy Springs Beautiful
- Lake Forest Elementary
- Lost Corner Preserve
- North Springs High School
- Ridgeview Charter School
- Sandy Springs Library
- Sandy Springs Middle School
- Sandy Springs Tennis Center
- Watershed Alliance Projects
- Woodland Elementary

The event will take place on Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. rain or shine. You can contact the organization via email at vbss@leadershipsandysprings.org for more information.

The City will monitor and respond to traffic in real-time from its Traffic Management Center.

STARS AND STRIPES

A community tradition and highlight of the summer, the Stars & Stripes Fireworks display is one of the biggest annual events in Sandy Springs. Pack a picnic and frisbee, and head to the lawn beneath the iconic King & Queen buildings. The evening begins with danceable live music and ends with one of the area’s most dazzling firework displays illuminating the skies of the city. This year’s event will take place on Sunday, July 2 from 7:30–10:30 p.m.

SECOND ANNUAL

RHYTHM & BREWS

Heritage Sandy Springs announces the return of Rhythm & Brews, on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 1–7 p.m. This year’s event will feature a full day’s line up of original artists whose music is deeply rooted in the South, along with exposure to area brewers. Rhythm & Brews not only celebrates the sips and sounds of the region, but also presents an opportunity for audiences, both young and young at heart, to kick back and relax in a beautiful outdoor setting. Rhythm & Brews tickets are available online: sprgs/RandB

continued from page I

on the Performing Arts Center. It was magnificent. City Springs will be a gathering place for everyone; it’s the City’s gift to itself. And while I expect to see everyone from every corner of the City there, there is one person who will be notably absent and that is the City’s founding mayor, Eva Galambos. She would be so proud of this project and of the great people who call this great community home.
SANDY SPRINGS ALERTS

Don’t Be the Last to Know! Last year the City launched an emergency notification system called Sandy Spring Alerts to keep the community in the know about traffic and road closures, severe weather, power outages and other safety concerns. Sandy Springs Alerts will alert you via text or email notifications of emergencies: public safety and weather alerts to a weekly traffic advisory. You choose the alerts you want to receive. The system also features Smart 911 that allows registrants to provide medical and other pertinent information about themselves and their family members that would be critical for first responders to have in an emergency. For example, emergency medical personnel would want to know about allergies or medications an individual has or is taking; or the fire department would want to know about pets in an effected household. Sign up at sandyspringsga.gov/alerts today.

DEVELOPMENT IN SANDY SPRINGS IS ABOUT TO GET SMARTER

Sandy Springs is making changes to its Development Code to guide future growth in our city and effectively implement the planning priorities articulated in the Next Ten Comprehensive Plan. The new Development Code will unify existing development regulations—zoning, subdivision and environmental standards—into a single, graphically-rich document that is easy to use and understand. The document will bring more predictability and certainty to the development approval process.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS...

OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING

You can view the Development Code framework from a city-wide perspective on Monday, March 20 at City Hall. The Open House starts at 4 p.m. followed by the Meeting at 6 p.m.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

To learn more about changes in your neighborhood, we are hosting the following meetings based on City Council Districts:

**DISTRICT 1 MEETING**
Wednesday, March 29 at 6 p.m.
Davis Academy - Lower School Media Center, 8105 Roberts Drive

**DISTRICT 2 MEETING**
Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m.
City Hall - Council Chambers 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500

**DISTRICT 3 MEETING**
Wednesday, March 29 at 6 p.m.
SSUMC - Activity Center, Parlor Room, 85 Mt Vernon Highway NW

**DISTRICT 4 MEETING**
Monday, March 27 at 6 p.m.
North Springs Charter High School Media Center, 7447 Roswell Road

**DISTRICT 5 MEETING**
Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m.
Church of the Atonement 4959 High Point Road

**DISTRICT 6 MEETING**
Monday, March 27 at 6 p.m.
Holy Innocents School 805 Mt Vernon Highway

OPEN OFFICE MEETINGS AT CITY HALL

If you are not able to attend the city-wide or district meetings, you can visit us at City Hall. Though walk-ins are welcome, you are encouraged to schedule a 15-minute appointment with staff to avoid waiting. Appointments can be made by emailing the Planner of the Day at pz@sandyspringsga.gov. These meetings will be held: April 3 from 1 – 5 p.m., April 5 from 8 a.m.–12 p.m., April 7 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Please enter City Hall through the front entrance adjacent to Roswell Road.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

SUMMER CAMPS

Spring break is just around the corner and before long, school will be out for the summer! Now’s the perfect time to start thinking summer plans, and the City’s Recreation and Parks Department offers summer day camp sessions catering to wide variety of ages, interests and special needs. Before and After Camp Care is available. See the full list on page IV.

CELEBRATE OUR PARKS

National Kids to Parks Day is an ideal way to get outside, meet new friends and celebrate the City’s beautiful parks. This year’s event will be on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hammond Park. Don’t miss this free community event!

GET OUT ON THE RIVER

Time to play in the river! The Chattahoochee River runs along 22 miles of Sandy Springs and it’s quite a fun neighbor to get to know. For those wanting to learn more, Canoe, Kayak and Paddleboard Intro Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Overlook Park. This is a free event for ages 10 and up. For the more competitive set, the 6th Annual Standup Paddleboard Race is scheduled for Sunday, June 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at Overlook Park. The fee for this event is $55/$65/kids are free.

LEARN TO BE A BETTER PHOTOGRAPHER

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 on Saturday May 6 at Lost Corner Preserve for a photography workshop followed by a nature photography walk. Learn more about the program online by visiting: spr.gs/photography
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 summer break, check out the many wonderful programs and camps in Sandy Springs.

SUMMER CAMPS
» Day Camp
» Sports Day Camp
» Discover Nature Camp
» Theater Camp
» Theater Production Camp
» Musical Theater Camp
» Soccer Camp
» Lacrosse Camp
» Hangout Camp
» Gymnastics Camps
» Rhythmic Gymnastics Camp
» Anime & Cartooning Camp
» Archeologist Camp
» Oceanography Camp
» Studio Painter Camp
» Video Game Maker Camp
» Video Game Lovers Camp

WATERSPORTS
» Canoe Kayak & Paddleboard Intro Day
» Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga / Demos
» Paddleshack Watercraft Rentals

EVENTS
» Gymnastics Team Tryout
» Fulton Golden Games
» National Kids to Parks Day
» 6th Annual Standup Paddleboard Race

ACTIVITIES
» Nature Photography
» Discover Nature Classes
» Karate

CHILDREN’S PARTIES
» Gymnastics Birthday Parties

EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS
» Summer Camp
» Gymnastics

SUMMER CAMPS
» Day Camp
» Sports Day Camp
» Discover Nature Camp
» Theater Camp
» Theater Production Camp
» Musical Theater Camp
» Soccer Camp
» Lacrosse Camp
» Hangout Camp
» Gymnastics Camps
» Rhythmic Gymnastics Camp
» Anime & Cartooning Camp
» Archeologist Camp
» Oceanography Camp
» Studio Painter Camp
» Video Game Maker Camp
» Video Game Lovers Camp

SUMMER RECREATION

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

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