

ANNUAL SANDY SPRINGS FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 19-20 AT HERITAGE GREEN

Find out why this year's event will attract more than 30,000 people. - Page II



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The Springs-Times



By Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul

ZONING MORATORIUM

NEW ZONING APPLICATIONS HALTED FOR SIX-MONTHS

When people stop me to chat in the grocery store, at a restaurant or an event, invariably the conversation turns to two related topics: development and traffic. It's clear the community has legitimate concerns about a sudden, rapid flurry of proposed new developments.

It's a concern that your council and city leadership share. That is why we recently voted to implement the third zoning moratorium in the last 18 months—the latest a six-month halt to new zoning on commercial and apartment applications.

From 2007 through mid-2013, zoning applications were almost non-existent because the Great Recession made it impossible to finance new projects. But in mid-2013, the local economy reemerged, and we were deluged with development proposals. Dozens of developers came forward with ideas; many would have totally changed the character of our community. Fortunately, most never got very far and rarely reached public view.

Yet, we had a number that did make it through the public process, and there is justified public anxiety about whether we are moving too far, too fast.

The six-month moratorium passed in July gives us time to make significant

progress on a new comprehensive land use plan that council kicked off in planning this summer. Done in haste at city start-up, our original plan revealed significant flaws over time. For example, in some areas like Allen Road and Sandy Springs Circle, the plan calls for unlimited density. Likewise, it also allows unlimited density on certain Perimeter district parcels.



Sandy Springs residents discuss development priorities during a Comprehensive Plan visioning exercise.

Secondly, when we started the city, we adopted Fulton County development ordinances. We knew there were flaws, but we were used to it, understood it, and were comfortable with its quirks. During a time of slow growth, it worked fine. Yet, when the economy fired up, we came to understand just how outdated those ordinances had become.

The council-approved moratoria were designed to let us modify our zoning ordinances to deal with development concepts the code never really

anticipated. Soon we realized, it is too flawed for patchwork and needs a complete overhaul.

An outdated land use plan plus archaic ordinances produced some unfortunate policy challenges that forced us to make land use decisions largely based on zoning applications. Zoning alone can only regulate development; it rarely can truly shape or stop it.

Early in our existence, council denied a number of rezoning requests, only to lose when challenged in court. Georgia's statutory and common law gives property owners the right to enjoy the economic benefits of their property. Courts have ruled the City has failed to recognize the property owner's right to reasonable use of their property.

So, after thousands in legal fees, we often ended up with denser projects than were originally proposed. Simply saying "no" did not always pass court

muster. Too often, the city found itself reacting to development rather than leading the development process.

By strengthening our ordinances and developing a state-of-the-art land use plan that can withstand legal scrutiny, we can do a better job of managing growth. We can't stop growth – nor should we. However, our neighborhoods can have greater certainty about the kind of development that can occur around them.

Over the next 15 months, we want to bring certainty to neighborhoods and the rest of the community by producing a true comprehensive land use plan and development ordinances that incorporate best practices from around the country. To do so, however, we need the community's active and avid participation.

Once we get the plan and ordinances where the community is comfortable, the council's intent is to use this as a guide in zoning decisions; and I will stand behind that intent with a veto if necessary.

City Center Website:
SandySpringsCityCenter.com

E-Newsletter Sign Up:
sandyspringsga.gov/signup

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2015 SANDY SPRINGS FESTIVAL

A community tradition for Sandy Springs since 1984, there is something for everyone at the Sandy Springs Festival. Virtually every kind of art imaginable is represented in the juried Artists Market, plus the Children's Park and Teen Territory features huge inflatables, arts & crafts, a petting zoo, and face painting for all ages. The official start to

the Festival is the annual Sandy Springs Lightning 5K/10K. The stages are filled with entertainment and all genres of music, and attendees can nibble on delicious bites throughout the weekend. Oh, and did we mention the annual Pet Parade? The Sandy Springs Festival is located at Heritage Green, in the heart of Sandy Springs!



Hours of Operation

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Admission

1-day passes: \$5 Adults, \$2 Children

2-day passes: \$7 Adults, \$3 Children

Free for Children 5 and under and HSS members

BUILDING A CITY ROADMAP

In June residents, business owners and civic group leaders met with the City's representatives to share thoughts to envision a future Sandy Springs. These meetings were a 'warm up' to begin the community thinking as the City prepares to update its Comprehensive Plan.

The City created its first "Comp Plan" in 2007. According to Georgia law, a comprehensive plan must be updated every 10 years, and community engagement is a critical component.

But what exactly is a Comprehensive Plan? It's a fact-based resource for the community to use to track implementation of community-based policies. A Comp Plan creates an environment of predictability for business and industry, investors, property owners, taxpayers and the general public. It also helps local

governments to recognize and implement important economic development and revitalization initiatives. A Comp Plan establishes overarching goals defining community desires, with small area plans providing specific area-based direction guiding how to achieve those wishes.

Community engagement is a critical piece in developing a quality Comprehensive Plan. Residents and businesses are able to ask questions and provide their thoughts and suggestions through a series of surveys, open house meetings, small group/stakeholder meetings and through other mechanisms – with that input factored into determining final plan recommendations. Watch the City's website for upcoming workshops and meetings.



HAPPENINGS

Movies by Moonlight

Now in its 11th year, Movies By Moonlight returns, bringing back the nostalgia and fun of the outdoor cinema. Imagine a drive-in movie and a block party all rolled into one (and free!) Leadership Sandy Springs oversees this family-oriented, community outing. Family-friendly films are projected on a huge inflatable screen, along with family entertainment, food and community spirit. Each year, close to 5,000 Sandy Springs residents come out to see this wonderful open-air series. 2015 schedule includes:



Big Hero 6

2015 Oscar winning animated film

Friday, August 21



Home

Endearing film about a lovable alien

Friday, August 28



Cinderella

live-action remake of the 1950 animated classic

Friday, September 25

Events start at 6 p.m. with food trucks on-site and movies begin at dusk. In case of inclement weather on the day of the movie, please call (404) 256-9091 for an update.

Concerts by the Springs

The season's last Concerts by the Springs will feature hometown favorites, Banks and Shane! Concerts by the Springs take place at Heritage Green on the Sandy Springs Society Entertainment Lawn (6110 Bluestone Road). The concert is from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and is free to the public. But don't dawdle! This 19 year summer concert series always draws a 'sell-out' crowd.



WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...

Smoke alarms are an essential component to a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke will spread fast, and working smoke alarms can offer an early warning to help people get outside quickly. In the City's continuing efforts to keep residents safe, Sandy Springs Fire Rescue hosted its inaugural "Where There's Smoke" fire prevention event in July at the Lodge Apartments on Roswell Road. Between January 2014 and July 2015, Sandy Springs Fire Recuse responded to almost 300 calls related to instances of smoke and fire in multi-family (apartment) homes. The "Where

There's Smoke" pilot program is designed to protect residents who live in multi-family dwellings. More than 140 residents participated in the July event, which focused on smoke detector safety. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue personnel assisted with alarm checks and smoke detector installations. The Georgia Fire Marshal's office donated 100 smoke detectors that were available at no cost to residents who did not have working detectors in their apartments. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue plans to host this event twice yearly at complexes throughout the city.



KICKOFF COOKOUT

Celebrate the start of college football season with the Savor Sandy Springs Kickoff Cookout on Saturday, August 29, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Five Season Brewing at the Prado Shopping Center. Show off your spirit by wearing

your team's colors and celebrate with your favorite Sandy Springs restaurants. Free admission! Visit the Savor Sandy Springs Facebook page for more information.



ROAD WORK UPDATE

Summer has been a busy season for crews working on road projects around town. Spalding Drive and Mount Vernon Road is scheduled to re-open this week (weather permitting), and

Riverside Drive and Johnson Ferry Road should re-open by mid-September. To keep up with these projects, visit the city's website, Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.

PLAYING IT SAFE ON NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The cities of Sandy Springs, Dunwoody and Brookhaven police departments joined forces on Tuesday, August 4 at Perimeter Mall for a community event to teach children and their families how to play it safe! National Night Out is an annual awareness campaign that promotes positive public safety-community relationships. Participants got to know the men and women who protect them and keep their neighborhoods safe. Kids could also get up close and personal with our PD canine companions and check out the special vehicles that patrol our cities. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs, drinks and activities for the kids!



SSPD COMMUNITY CLASSES

The Sandy Spring Police Department continues its commitment to keeping residents and businesses owners safe by offering safety classes. The stand-alone classes are free and open to Sandy Springs residents and business owners.



Women's Self-Defense

The Women's Self-Defense class teaches participants how to respond to a physical attack, and shares strategies to increase awareness.

Select September 17 or November 12, 2015, 6-8 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Police Department



Firearms Safety Class

The class teaches basic shooting skills, storage, cleaning, liability, and gun nomenclature. Participants may bring their own pistol, ammo, and targets or can rent or buy them from the range.

Select September 2, October 7, November 4 or December 2, 2015, 6-9 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Gun Range

For more information, contact Sergeant Ron Momon Sandy Springs Police Crime Prevention Unit at 770-551-6947 or rmomon@sandyspringsga.gov

EVENTS

- » Movies by Moonlight     
- » Father Daughter Dance     
- » Sandy Springs Festival     
- » Bird Walk    
- » Stargazing    



WATERSPORTS

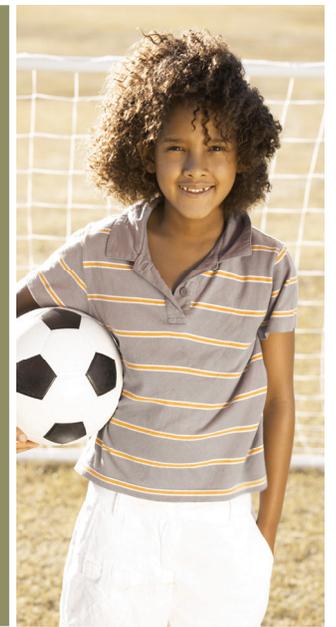
- » Stand Up Paddleboard Demo    
- » Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga    
- » Rowing Clinic for Beginners    

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- » Cheerleading     
- » Running Club     
- » Golf Clinics     
- » Sport Smart    
- » Art Drawing and Clay Classes    

TEAM SPORTS

- » Basketball: Skills Challenge    
- » Basketball: Youth League    
- » Soccer    
- » Football    
- » Kickball: After-School League    
- » Lacrosse    
- » Volleyball League    
- » Pickleball    



MARTIAL ARTS

- » Karate    
- » Fencing    
- » Wrestling Club    

SPECIAL NEEDS

- » Special Olympics Bocce    
- » Meet Up Sundays    
- » Exceptional Adventures Club    
- » Gymnastics    
- » Special Pops Tennis    



GYMNASTICS

- » Gymnastics Fall Classes    
- » Gymnastics Clinics    
- » Rhythmic Gymnastics    



FALL RECREATION PROGRAMS

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 this fall in Sandy Springs.

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

SCHOOLS OUT CAMPS

- » Art a La Carte Kidz Camps    
- » Terrific Scientific Camps    
- » Gymnastics Camps    



HEALTH AND FITNESS

- » Yoga with Weights    
- » Bender Ball Pilate Class    
- » Fitness Boot Camp    



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

