



cityofpowdersprings.org



Inspired. **Invigorated.** Innovative.

### 2021...Growing Stronger Together

There's more to say about 2020 than my annual message can cover. Unprecedented events affected all of us, and caused us to re-examine our core values as a divided nation. We are clearly reminded that honesty, respect and compassion are required to heal our differences, and that the true work of making the future better begins at home.

For several years, Powder Springs has conducted programs to build trust and relationships with our community. But like many cities across the country, we continue to face systemic discrimination and divisiveness that require action. Last August, our 4P team of pastors, principals, parks and police held a two-hour public discussion on social issues. The love for our city and desire for inclusion and healing were very evident among attendees. More discussions will be held in 2021. Please join this conversation to help us address discrimination in any form and remain welcoming to all residents and visitors.

There is no doubt the pandemic changed how we live, work, and serve our community. Powder Springs was one of the first cities to declare a state of emergency for everyone's protection. City Council and staff went above and beyond keeping employees safe while making operational changes to provide ongoing services to residents. We now offer telework, virtual meetings and events, and improved online services — creating more ways to connect the city with its citizens.

Using CARES Act funding, the city provided \$227,000 in economic relief grants to qualifying local businesses and non-profits as well as \$110,000 in mortgage, rent and utility assistance to eligible residents who lost jobs due to COVID-19. Local schools also received Chromebooks, hotspots, and iPads to support student learning when schools closed.

The good news is that Powder Springs is rebounding from this crisis stronger — with new residents, more building starts, land annexations, a stable tax rate, and another SPLOST approved by voters in 2020. Over the next six years, our share of SPLOST will be well spent to expand amenities, renovate facilities, improve downtown parking and unsafe intersections, resurface roads, and update public safety vehicles and equipment. Based on your feedback, a state-of-the-art skate park will be added to the Linear Park, and Powder Springs Park will be redesigned to provide a permanent home for our farmers market, party pavilions, and extra parking to support future mixed-use activities.



Mayor Al Thurman

Create  
*Destinations*  
that appeal to  
residents and visitors

Develop  
and promote a  
*Safe City*

Create an  
atmosphere of  
*Community*

Attract  
and retain  
*Businesses*

#### YEAR IN REVIEW

In this Issue:

Ask the Council  
City Sanitation  
Code Enforcement  
Downtown Development  
CARES  
SPLOST  
Events

### A Summer of Music is on It's Way



With Thurman Springs Park and the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater up and running we have big plans for the summer of 2021! A concert every month beginning in May with our Bringing the Sea to the Springs Festival and followed by Juneteenth in June. We'll also have concerts in July and August.

There will be family movie nights throughout the summer months and in September we'll host four Brown Bag lunch Series Concerts you can come out and enjoy while getting fresh air in the park.

### Hippity, Hoppety...



Brand new for 2021 we've planned a Powder Springs Egg Quest! Drive or walk around Thurman Springs Park home of the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater and try to find all 50 wooden eggs. The eggs will range in size from 12"-18" and will be numbered so you can be sure you saw them all. Eggs will be out beginning March 20 and stay up until Easter.

You'll also want to watch for Ernest the Easter Bunny as he hops his way through Powder Springs. Everyday we'll post a photo on social media for you to guess his location! No prizes just plain fun to have with your family!

Watch for more information soon at [cityofpowdersprings.org](http://cityofpowdersprings.org).



### A New Twist on an Old Classic

Our annual Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat moved forward as planned though with a few slight changes. Guests drove their vehicles around the downtown park to receive treats from the decorated trunks. Everyone had a great time child and adult alike! But then who doesn't love an excuse to dress like a villain? Or "fancy" a city work truck?



cityofpowdersprings.org

(Mayor's Letter cont.)

Despite the pandemic, our Community Development team, Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Development Authority of Powder Springs (DAPS) worked constructively to ensure quality growth moved forward on plans begun over two decades ago. Developers continue to be attracted to Powder Springs due to the high-value initiatives we have completed and new proposals on the drawing board. In 2021, we will partner with the City of Austell and Cobb County to plan a SPLOST-funded trail along Austell-Powder Springs Road. This project will expand our trail system, beautify the transit corridor, and revitalize this part of our city.

2021 also brings exciting events to our new downtown park and live performances at the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater. Check the city's website for dates and mark your calendars. Then come on down for the festivals, food and fun!

**AL Thurman**  
Mayor, City of Powder Springs

### Ask the Council

**What do you think the city accomplished in 2020 despite the pandemic?**

The city was able to keep our staff and citizens visiting city facilities safe, while continuing to maintain city services. The city's positive financial position was maintained with an excellent audit and comprehensive annual financial review. - **Henry Lust, Mayor Pro Tem and Ward 1 Council Member**

We did so well in how we handled the CARES money that we received, helping the businesses and people struggling with rent, utilities and food. And all the iPads that we gave to the schools — I think that was one of the best things that we did last year. - **Nancy Farmer, Ward 3 Council Member**

**How do you foresee the city moving forward in the next year?**

I expect to see the City continue to improve in economic development in the downtown area to include further planning as to how the downtown will look with new residential housing and mixed-use development. I also anticipate that more focus will be on traffic analysis and needs as the City grows, and look forward to more direct opportunities for more citizen participation in the planning for their City. - **Patricia Wisdom, Post 2 - At Large Council Member**

The city is poised to continue the tremendous growth it has enjoyed the last five years thanks to its commitment to being inclusive, forward thinking and bringing all of our community partners to the table to ensure we are providing the type of smart development our community has been asking for. - **Patrick Bordelon, Post 1 - At Large Council Member**

I hope to see more growth, development and movement in downtown Powder Springs, events in Thurman Springs Park, shops, a couple of restaurants and the community coming together to embrace this beautiful city. - **Doris Dawkins, Ward 2 Council Member**

## 2021 City Council Members



**Al Thurman**



**Doris Dawkins**



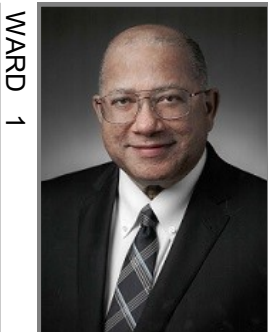
**Nancy Farmer**



**Patrick Bordelon**



**Patricia Wisdom**



**Henry Lust**

### 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

January 4 & 19*	July 19
February 1 & 15	August 16
March 1 & 15	September 20
April 5 & 19	October 4 & 18
May 3 & 17	November 1 & 15
June 7 & 21	December 6

Meetings are held Mondays @ 7:00pm  
City Council Chambers  
4488 Pineview Drive

*\*Indicates a Tuesday Meeting*

### How Will You Attend Events in 2021?

We're sensitive to the changing needs of our community and to meet those needs we've tried to make our events work both in a traditional manner and virtual or "on your own time". While we try to prepare for everything please be aware that these dates/events are subject to change. To keep in the know follow us on Facebook or just check the website for up to date events information!

### 2021 Special Event Calendar

Bridal Expo	Feb. 21
Spring Into Spring Event	March 20
Powder Springs Egg Quest	March 20-April 4
Pick It Up Powder Springs (Spring)	April 24
National Day of Prayer	May 6
Park Grand Opening	May 14
Bringing the Sea to the Springs Festival	May 14- May 16
Spring Chicken 5K Run/Festival	May 15
Memorial Day	May 31
Family Movie Night	May 27
Bark in the Park	June 5
Family Movie Night	June 10
Juneteenth Celebration	June 19
Summer Camp Session 1	June 14-17
Summer Camp Session 2	June 21-24
Family Movie Night	June 24
Springsfest (4th of July Celebration)	July 3
Summer Concert Series	July 17
Family Movie Night	July 22
Summer Concert Series	Aug. 14
Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series	Sept. 6
Summer Concert Series	Sept. 11
Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series	Sept. 13
Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series	Sept. 20
Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series	Sept. 27
National Night Out	Oct. 6
Spooktacular Chase	Oct. TBD
Fall Festival	Oct. TBD
Pick It Up Powder Springs (Fall)	Oct. TBD
Veteran's Day	Nov. 11
Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting	Dec. 3
Reindeer Games & Santa Village	Dec. 4



### Events In a Pandemic...Why, Yes We Can

When the pandemic hit we started planning for new ways to provide entertainment to our community. We searched the web for ideas to stay engaged at home and put together the [Virtual Recreation and Entertainment](#) page on our website.

We also worked together to come up with a new means to provide you with entertainment opportunities. Some of these included a Virtual National Day of Prayer Walk, a 4th of July Drive-by Parade, a live Virtual National Night Out, the Reindeer Scavenger Hunt and the Wildhorse Storybook Trail!

Throughout it all we have been amazed by the resilience and ingenuity of our community. Just one of the reasons we're Powder Springs Strong.

### Did You Know...

Powder Springs has recorded and published over 50 videos since January 2020? These videos range from local business spotlights to event recaps to Parks promo videos.

All our videos can be found on the city YouTube channel. Just another way we're working to keep you informed about our city!

## By the Numbers “Reside With Pride” Collections

Sanitation workers had their work cut out for them during the spring and fall “Reside With Pride” bulk item collections.


What got thrown out during these collection periods? The Public Works crew crunched the numbers:

<u>Reside with Pride</u>		
Spring	Fall	Item
32	24	Refrigerators
17	30	Washers
18	19	Stoves
15	23	Dryers
61	152	Grills
9	15	Hot Water Heaters
17	47	Lawn Mowers
13	11	Freezers
311	563	Mattresses

## Public Works Keeps Working



Despite an atypical year defined by the coronavirus pandemic, Public Works lived up to its name, completing infrastructure projects, street repairs, traffic and safety projects, and much more.

 Powder Springs drivers may notice safer roads via the solar flashing stop signs on Warren Farm Road, a streetlight on Finch Road near the railroad tracks, and the completed bike lane striping on Lewis Road. New reflectors to improve night visibility were put in at the roundabout median on Lewis Road and on the median at Lynn Drive at Old Lost Mountain Road.

Infrastructure projects were completed on Springs Industrial and Mustang drives, Dillard Street, Liberty Creek, Silver Brooke and Deer Creek. Stormwater infrastructure repair locations included Hopkins Rd at Ashley Woods Drive and 3769 Dillard St., while work on Aikens Ridge Lane focused on repairing 10 feet of storm drainpipe.

Richard D Sailors Parkway eastbound and westbound saw road repairs, while guardrails on

## Public Works' 2020 Totals

361	Storm Drains Cleaned
982	Storm Drains Inspected
11	Catch Basins Repaired
20	Feet of Storm Pipe Repaired
14	Miles of Curb Cleaned
2,089	Bags of Debris Removed From Right of Way
6,140	Tons of Garbage Picked Up
12	Storm Water Infrastructure Repairs
39	Potholes Repaired
81	Street Lights Repaired
46	Street Signs Replaced/ Repaired
3	Road Repair Projects Completed
3	Miles of Road Resurfaced

Powder Springs Dallas Road also were fixed. Crews also completed paving projects on the 2019/2020 LMIG list, as well as driveway repairs at the Senior Center. Several roads throughout the city, meanwhile, saw street sweepers pass through during the year.

Detention Pond maintenance was performed on 27 ponds throughout the city, while tree trimming and debris removal efforts included dangerous trees cut down on New Macland Road and the Community Development department, and removal of fallen trees throughout the city as a result of the ground being saturated due to heavy rainfall.

Unforeseen events adding to Public Works' workload included Hurricane Zeta, the storms from which brought down several trees and debris that crews had to remove from streets and right-of-way.

And of course, the COVID-19 pandemic required addressing for most of 2020, and continues into the new year, with Public Works charged with disinfecting city buildings twice daily. The department used federal CARES funding to install touch-less toilets, bathroom sinks and paper towel dispensers to reduce the touching of surfaces by employees and the public.

## City Sanitation Crews and You

The Sanitation Department provides weekly curbside trash collection and yard waste pick up to city residents. If you reside within the city limits of Powder Springs, this service is required. (Refer to City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 11 Section 43). In addition, no outside private collectors are allowed to operate in the city. (Refer to City Code of Ordinances Chapter 11 Section 63).

New service sign-up details and fee structure can be found at [cityofpowdersprings.org](http://cityofpowdersprings.org).

## Collection Procedures

- On your designated collection day, your cart should be placed at the curb right-of-way no later than 7 a.m. Due to time constraints, the sanitation department will be unable to return in the event that trash service is missed.
- City code states the trash container may be placed at the curb no earlier than 8 p.m. on the day before the scheduled collection day and shall be removed from street-side no later than 9 p.m. on the day of collection. This time limit shall not apply for the placement of leaves at the curb from October through April.
- Please do not park vehicles in the street as this makes it difficult to maneuver garbage trucks through city streets.
- All garbage must fit inside the city issued container provided to you. In the event you cannot place all garbage in your city container, extra trash must be bagged or boxed and you must call the Public Works Department and request a work order. Additional charges will apply.

## Collection Tips

- Please bag all trash. This will ensure that all garbage makes it into the truck. When papers or other loose materials are not bagged and the can is dumped, wind and pressure tends to blow materials onto city roadways and yards.
- Do not place hot ashes, hot liquids or flammables in the carts.
- Please containerize broken glass, mirrors or any other sharp objects and label "SHARP".
- Trash must not be mixed, stacked, or placed so as to make pick-up or collection difficult or slow. For example, leaves or grass shall not be mixed with limbs, cans, sticks, or other items. Limbs shall not be crossed but shall be placed with the butt or cut end facing the street edge.
- All carts are property of the city. If damages beyond repair occur, the resident shall assume the responsibility and must pay the cost of a replacement cart.

Department	Director	City Phone 770-943-1666	Email
City Manager	Pam Conner	Ext. 313	<a href="mailto:pconner@cityofpowdersprings.org">pconner@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
City Clerk	Kelly Axt	Ext. 312	<a href="mailto:kaxt@cityofpowdersprings.org">kaxt@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Community Development	Tina Garver	Ext. 361	<a href="mailto:tggarver@cityofpowdersprings.org">tggarver@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Court Administrator	Tracie Jackson	Ext. 233	<a href="mailto:tjackson@cityofpowdersprings.org">tjackson@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Human Resources	Rosalyn Nealy	Ext. 317	<a href="mailto:rnealy@cityofpowdersprings.org">rnealy@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Police (Acting)	Lane Cadwell	Ext. 209	<a href="mailto:lcadwell@cityofpowdersprings.org">lcadwell@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Public Works	Dwayne Eberhart	Ext. 102	<a href="mailto:deberhart@cityofpowdersprings.org">deberhart@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs	Jeff Crowder	Ext. 305	<a href="mailto:jcrowder@cityofpowdersprings.org">jcrowder@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>
Finance (Interim Director)	Janet Camburn	Ext. 349	<a href="mailto:jcamburn@cityofpowdersprings.org">jcamburn@cityofpowdersprings.org</a>

## Sanitation Holiday Schedule

For more information contact Public Works at 770-943-8010.

Good Friday, April 2

- Fri. routes collected Mon. April 5.
- No yard waste collection the week of April 5. Collection will resume Mon. April 12.

**Memorial Day, May 31**

- No yard waste collection the week of May 31. Collection resumes Mon. June 7.

**Independence Day, July 5**

- No yard waste collection week of July 5. Collection resumes Mon. July 12.

**Labor Day, September 6**

- No yard waste collection for the week of Sept. 6. Collection resumes Mon. Sept. 13.

**Thanksgiving Holidays, Nov. 25-26**

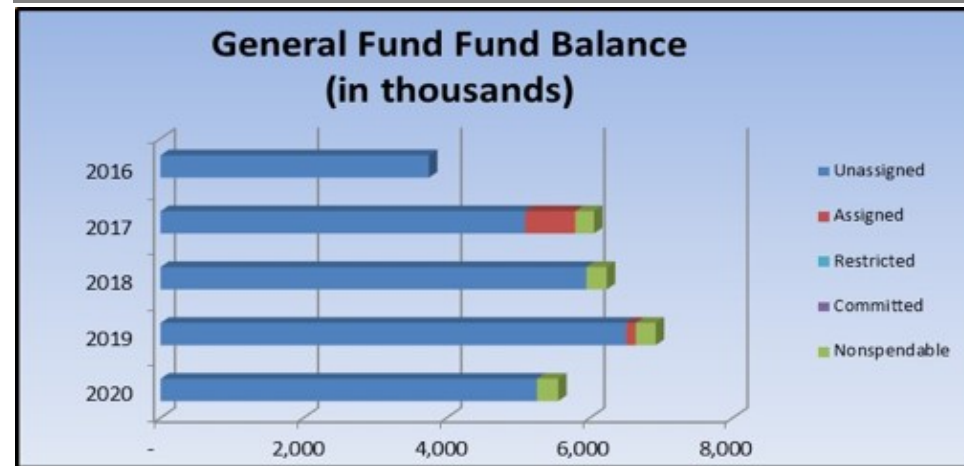
- Tues. pick up on Mon. Nov. 22.
- Wed pick up on Tues. Nov. 23.
- Thurs pick up on Wed. Nov. 24.
- Fri. pick up on Mon. Nov. 29.
- Yard Waste collections resume Mon. Dec. 6.

**Christmas Holidays, Dec. 24-27**

- Tues. pick up on Mon. Dec. 20.
- Wed. pick up Tues. Dec. 21.
- Thur. picked up Wed. Dec. 22.
- Fri. pick up Thurs. Dec. 23.
- No yard waste collection for the week of Dec. 27.

**There will be no yard waste collection the following weeks in 2021:**

Jan. 4-8, Jan. 8-22, April 5-9, May 31,  
June 4, July 4-9, Sept. 6-10, Nov. 22-26,  
Nov. 29 - Dec. 3, Dec. 20-24, Dec. 27-31



## Powder Springs' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Earns Highest Honors

The City of Powder Springs was awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Powder Springs was notified of its award in an Oct. 28, 2020, letter from the GFOA.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The city's Finance department has successfully completed its fiscal year 2020 audit preparation and fieldwork and submitted the CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, to the State of Georgia and the GFOA by the Dec. 31, 2020, deadline with the following results:

- The City's external auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins LLC, issued an unmodified audit report or "clean opinion" on the fiscal year 2020 financial statements.
- The City ended fiscal year 2020 with an unassigned fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,273,008, or 8.3 months of fiscal year 2020's operating expenditures. The City's policy is to maintain about 6 months of these reserves at all times.

## New Crosswalk in Downtown

Have you noticed the new pedestrian crosswalk downtown on Marietta Street? You'll find it downtown, running from next to rooted trading co. and the former Marietta St. Cafe & Grill. Please keep an eye on the warning lights and pedestrians waiting to cross.



## What are code violations, and who enforces them?

The City's Quality of Life Officers help resolve code violations. Their efforts encourage attractive neighborhoods, vibrant businesses, and a peaceful and enjoyable City for everyone.

### Where can I read all of the codes in Powder Springs?

The City's codes are always available through the City Clerk's office, but another helpful option is via the internet at [cityofpowdersprings.org](http://cityofpowdersprings.org). You will find the city's Code of Ordinances and the Unified Development Code.

### What are some common code violations?

#### Parking

- All vehicles — including motorcycles, trailers, boats, and family cars, etc. — must be parked on the driveway. Those vehicles parked on yards, grass, or dirt are in violation of code section 6-6.
- Parking is prohibited on any residential street; only off-street parking shall be permitted in any residential neighborhood.
- Parking of commercial vehicles overnight is not allowed in any residential or neighborhood district.

#### Outside storage and yards

- Appliances, building material, furniture, or other outside storage may not be stored on yards, porches, or patios.
- Grass or weeds in the front, side or rear yard must not exceed eight (8) inches.

#### Building permits

- Most repair or renovation on buildings and houses in the city require a permit. If you plan to enlarge, alter, repair, demolish, or change a building or house, contact the permits office
- Any project without a permit may result in a citation to either the contractor, homeowner, or agent in charge of the project.
- Repair debris (remodeling or construction) must be disposed of by the contractor, owner or renter of the property.

## Get the Business Newsletter

Stay updated on news and events for the business community by signing up to receive our free e-newsletter every month. It's filled with great advice, fun happenings, and important information every Powder Springs business owner should know.

Visit [www.cityofpowdersprings.org/](http://www.cityofpowdersprings.org/) to get on the distribution list.

## Other Ways to Stay "In the Know"

Follow us on Social Media:  
Instagram  
Facebook  
Twitter

Hashtag your Powder Springs purchases and business visits with [#buylocalpowdersprings](#)

Hashtag your Powder Springs entertainment, recreation activities, and photos with [#playlocalpowdersprings](#)



## Portion of City's CARES Funding Goes to Citizen, School Aid

More than half of the city's \$805,038 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding was spent directly on initiatives that aided students, residents and businesses.

Tapp Middle and McEachern High received 100 and 200 Chromebooks, respectively, as students began a school year that has relied heavily on remote learning. Powder Springs and Compton Elementary, meanwhile, received iPads and WiFi hotspots to aid in their efforts to teach students at home.

With layoffs, reduced hours and other impacts to some residents in the workforce, the city partnered with the Center for Family Resources to administer an aid program to provide rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to struggling families. More than \$111,000 in aid went to 143 adults and children in 40 Powder Springs households.

Forty-eight Powder Springs-based businesses and nonprofits, meanwhile, were granted a total of \$227,450 through a Small Business Grant Program, aimed at helping organizations affected by the pandemic, with awardees spending their funds on personal protective equipment, rent, utilities or other expenses.

Spending for these aforementioned initiatives totaled more than \$417,000. Additional funds allocated to the city went toward purchasing personal protective equipment, plexiglass barriers, cleaning and sterilizing equipment, touchless restroom technologies, software to streamline employee health tracking and reduce face-to-face interactions, and more.

The city's CARES funding came from a more than \$10.3 million appropriation approved by the county for Cobb's six cities. Allocated to the cities on a per capita basis, the relief monies originate from the CARES Act, passed by Congress and signed into law by then-President Donald Trump on March 27. Under that act, a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund was established to be paid directly to the states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and eligible units of local government. In April, Cobb County received funding from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund as an eligible unit of local government.



## Powder Springs 'Masking Up,' Supporting Georgia Hospital Association campaign

The City of Powder Springs is showing off its residents, staff and elected officials in their face coverings of choice in its effort to promote the Georgia Hospital Association's #MaskUpGA campaign. The GHA's effort is to encourage all Georgians to make the choice to wear face coverings when in public settings and to social distance when possible to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 in our state.

Organizations, businesses, and individuals are asked to post on social media pictures or videos of themselves wearing masks, and tag these posts #MaskUpGA and #MaskUpPS along with a message about why they choose to "mask up."



### Keeping our City Pretty

The pandemic affected our roadside cleanup in 2020 with the cancellation of our two annual Pick It Up clean-up events. While the City did successfully pick up over 2,000 bags of trash alongside our roadways in 2020, a typical Pick It Up event usually yields an additional 500 bags.

With the vaccine and greater adherence to masking and social distancing, the City plans to conduct its clean-up program in April and October this year. Along with the Pick It Up program, the City has developed an enhanced program aimed at litter pick-up, which will be released in the spring 2021.

Success depends on participation of the community, and the City encourages you to register for the Pick It Up event. Help keep our city pretty by discarding your trash in trash receptacles rather than discarding on public rights-of-way.



## City of Powder Springs, DDA Recognized for Livable Centers Initiative Implementation

The City of Powder Springs and the Powder Springs Downtown Development Authority has received the 2020 Great Place Award from the Atlanta Regional Commission.

The award was earned by the city and its DDA for their implementation of the Powder Springs Livable Centers Initiative plan implementation and renovations to its town green and historic buildings, which includes the addition of Thurman Springs Park to the downtown area.

The ARC's 2020 Developments of Excellence awards recognized places that are improving quality in communities across metro Atlanta, with the Great Place Award among four award categories recognizing catalytic projects.

"The City of Powder Springs utilized a Livable Centers Initiative implementation grant to renovate and double the size of its Town Green area. Town Green is now a true anchor for the vibrant Powder Springs community," the ARC said in a news release announcing the award winners. "The project also includes the rehabilitation of three nearby buildings for restaurant and retail uses. This Great Place also promotes walking and biking with a trailhead extension from Main Street along the park that will one day connect to the Silver Comet Trail."

Powder Springs 'downtown has been transformed in 2020 with the completion and opening of Thurman Springs Park. A grand opening celebration in conjunction with an inaugural seafood festival dubbed "Bringing the Sea to the Springs" will be held in May 2021.



## Powder Springs' Downtown Park Now Open to Residents

Powder Springs residents and visitors have a new place to enjoy an autumn stroll and other outdoor experiences year-round. The city held Sept. 23 a "soft opening" of its new downtown park.

The \$4.1 million park, located at 4485 Pine View Drive, across from the city's Community Development building, was named Thurman Springs Park upon a vote by the Powder Springs City Council at its Oct. 5 meeting. The name honors Mayor Al Thurman, who is in his second term after previously serving more than a decade on the city council.

"This park, our newest and grandest public amenity, will be a source of inspiration, (and) energy, driving more downtown development, creating a destination in the heart of our historic downtown," Thurman said during the soft opening ceremony. "This has been on the drawing board for over three decades."

*"This park, our newest and grandest public amenity, will be a source of inspiration, (and) energy, driving more downtown development, creating a destination in the heart of our historic downtown,"*

The park features the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater, built-in seating, tables and chairs, a Ping-Pong table, children's climbing structure, green space and splash pad.

Announcing the park's intended name during the soft opening ceremony was Mayor Pro Tem Henry Lust, who in his remarks highlighted the facility's proximity to current and future city features.

"This project is a significant step that will shape our

future. According to experts, Powder Springs has the best downtown access to the Silver Comet Trail in Cobb County," Lust said. "Not only will this new amenity anchor City Hall, local businesses and new townhomes, it will also connect to our trail system around the city's historic core. With these unique advantages, I'm eager to see what our innovative gathering space will inspire next."

Construction began on the park in the spring of 2019, and plans had called for its grand opening to be back in May, concurrent with the inaugural "Bringing the Sea to the Springs" seafood festival. But he COVID-19

pandemic led to the May events' cancellation, along with a summer concert series that also would have been held in the park.

A formal grand opening for the park will be held along with the debut of the seafood festival May 14-16, 2021.

Additional events scheduled to be held in 2021 include a Juneteenth celebration on June 19, the return of the in-person SpringsFest on July 4, and the summer concert series. Exercise classes and trivia night are also being planned, Crowder said.

The park's splash pad, meanwhile, will be open the entirety of next summer, beginning Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, allowing youths and the young at heart to cool off during the high-temperature days.

