



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
2022

**Inspired. Invigorated. Innovative**



## New Developments Beginning to Take Shape

Powder Springs remains the fastest growing Cobb County city based on U.S. Census data, and our population will continue to grow with the addition of quality housing being built across the city.

New home construction is perhaps most evident in the downtown area, with Atlanta-based Novare Group having begun the initial steps to construct 221 apartments across two sites – 4.9 acres where Powder Springs City Hall and Community Development facilities previously sat, and 1.4 acres on Hotel Avenue.

Novare has recently cleared its two sites, with infrastructure and walls constructed.

Clearing and infrastructure work is being done on 20 acres along Brownsville Road at the intersection of Oglesby Road where Selig Development is constructing a multifamily development known as



Heartwood Powder Springs. Breaking ground in June, it will have 300 units within 10 three-story residential buildings. Building permits have been issued for its main buildings, with its accessory buildings and clubhouse in plan review. Heartwood is slated to welcome its first residents in late fall of 2023.

Construction continues at Kerley Family Homes' Old Lost Mountain Estates, Creekwood by Paran Homes, and Tapp Farm by Traton Homes. As of mid-September, certificates of occupancy had been issued for 76 homes with 95 in progress and 119 units left to permit.

# Your SPLOST Dollars at Work

California Skateparks will begin installation of a skatepark in Silver Comet Linear Park this winter. Designed for users of all skill levels, and for special events, the park will open in time for spring break in 2023.



S.H. Creel Contracting recently completed a large pavilion at Powder Springs Park. Other improvements scheduled in 2023 include a dog park and a farmers' market space, renovated restrooms and parking. Contact the Parks Department for rentals of the pavilion or Thurman Springs Park.

Currently under construction, the new Pineview Trail and trailhead will be completed in January 2023. The project was designed several years ago to address the need to attract users from the Silver Comet to the downtown in order to support local businesses. DAF Concrete is installing parking at the trailhead, connecting the Silver Comet to the downtown, installing on-street parking closer to the downtown, and adding wayfinding signage. The Silver Comet Trail is one of the City's prime assets and the connection will provide safe connection directly to downtown to help economic development efforts.

CMC Inc. recently completed safety improvements, turning lane extensions, pavement striping, and marking and signage work at the intersection of Florence Road at CH James Parkway.

Right-of-way acquisition is underway for the intersection improvements on Sailors Parkway at Powder Springs Road and Forest Hill Road. It will include a parallel access road, traffic signal, median, sidewalks and signage. This work is scheduled to be bid in 2023.

Brownsville Road improvements from Hiram Lithia Springs Road to CH James Parkway will include new curb and gutter, turning lanes, milling and resurfacing, pavement striping, and marking and signage work. It will be bid in October 2022 and will begin construction early 2023. The design for the roundabout at Powder Springs Dallas Road and Florence Road is nearly complete and it will bid in 2023.



## City App Highlights



With "Report An Issue", you can submit a variety of concerns that directly route to the appropriate city department for resolution and provides the submitter status updates. This is great way to bring code enforcement or road repair issues, as examples, to the attention of the City. The app provides an exact location pin and the ability to upload photos for reference. After a couple of quick taps by the submitter, the City will be ready to respond to the submitted concern.



"Let's Hear From You" By using this menu option, the app user can call or email the City with the touch of the screen. This is a great way to communicate with the City for any questions, comments or concerns without having to search the website or app. Staff will be ready to reach out with a response.



There are many great informational tools available as well. The app provides a way to "Explore The City": for example, if the user selects this from the menu, they are given options to get more information about City Events. It's a great way to learn more about the City.

We hope everyone takes the opportunity to download this free app to learn more about the City, communicate easily with city staff and elected officials, and help the City keep Powder Springs a beautiful place.

Available for Apple & Android devices



Apple App Store



Google Play - Android

## Recycling Services are Returning

Curbside recycling service officially ended with one final recycling pickup and recycling cart collection at the end of September. This came after the City received notice from its recycling provider that the provider was cancelling the contract as a result of significant rate increases that the City was unwilling to place on every sanitation customer.

Only 25% of City sanitation customers were utilizing curbside recycling service, but a potential rate increase would have affected every sanitation customer. Rather than an increased monthly fee in addition to the unreliable service experienced and complained about by many customers, the City opted to keep the rate this year at \$22.50 per month and accept the notice of termination of curbside recycling.

City of Powder Springs officials recently toured other metro Atlanta recycling centers while within their efforts to develop the city's own. Most recycling drop-off centers separate materials as compared to "single stream" recycling at the curb. Also, all the sites were staffed. The City aims to mirror this structure.

The city is considering at its drop-off center accepting mixed glass, aluminum containers, ferrous metal containers, mixed paper, cardboard, and no. 1 & no. 2 plastics. By separating the materials, we hope to decrease the likelihood of these materials ending up in a landfill. The City's goal is to open the site at Public Works (3006 Spring Industrial Drive) before Christmas.

## New Faces Gracing City Departments



Joining the city this summer as its new Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs director was **Travis Landrum**, who comes to Powder Springs from the City of South Fulton, where he had served in the same role. Landrum had also worked in director roles in the cities of Douglasville and Smyrna after previously serving in deputy director positions in Smyrna and Columbus.



**Capt. Anthony Stallings** was sworn in as the newest member of the Powder Springs Police Department at the City Council's Sept. 19 meeting. Stallings brings more than 14 years of police experience, having started with Cobb County Police, and most recently serving with Dunwoody Police as patrol supervisor.

## City Hall Development Moving Forward

In September, the City Council approved execution of a contract with Croft and Associates as the architect and engineer for the new municipal building to be built at Municipal Court, which will be renovated and expanded to become Powder Springs' future City Hall. The City will be soliciting proposals to qualify contractors for the project's construction.

City Hall is set to be completed sometime in 2024. Until then, public access to City Hall will remain at the Powder Springs Police Department, 1114 Richard D. Sailors Parkway, effective May 23, 2022.

For on-site payments of sanitation bills, establishing or canceling service, property tax payments or homestead exemptions, residents should go the Powder Springs Police Department at 1114 Richard D. Sailors Parkway. We also have two drop box locations for your 24-hour convenience. One is outside the Police Department under the flags, and the other is at the bottom of the ramp at 4426 Marietta St.

For permits, business licenses, or planning & zoning matters, please visit the Community Development department at 4181 Atlanta St. in the Ford Center (Building 4). Municipal Court is currently at 4181 Atlanta St. in the Vaughn Arts Center (behind the Library). Court dates and trials are on specific, scheduled Wednesdays, beginning at 9 a.m. On-site payments of municipal fines may be made weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**\*Plan to attend the City's 4th Quarter Town Hall on October 25. See the website for details.**



# ARPA Funds to the Rescue

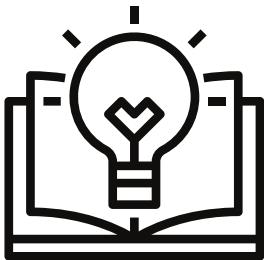
The City of Powder Springs has and continues to expend federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act to address community food insecurity, the COVID education gap, economic impacts to city businesses, and more.



## Food Insecurity

A contract with Powder Springs-based nonprofit Reflections of Trinity includes weekend food bags and family food boxes for local elementary schools, and additional weekly distribution of food from their existing location at 4037 Austell Powder Springs Road.

City staff have also negotiated a contract with Goodr to operate a grocery room at Tapp Middle School. This is a unique service enabling qualified students and residents to select groceries and hygiene items to take home to their families.



## Closing the Gap

The Mayor and Council chose to direct a portion of the funds from the City's ARPA grant to help address the learning gap experienced by local students due to the pandemic. Communities in Schools of Georgia in Marietta/Cobb County, a local nonprofit, was chosen to provide tutoring services in Compton and Powder Springs elementary schools. They plan to employ two AmeriCorps tutors, one for each school, to work with students outside normal class time.

CIS will also place a full-time site coordinator to serve both schools. The coordinator's role will be to work with each school to identify students at risk, assess their needs, and provide resources and interventions to change outcomes. CIS has an existing partnership with the Cobb County School District and was approved to begin working this fall in McEachern High School.



## Economic Impact

To help offset the economic impact to small businesses as a result of the pandemic, the Mayor and Council approving grant funding of up to \$5,000 to for-profit businesses (including home-based businesses) and 501(c)(3) organizations with less than \$2 million in estimated annual gross receipts that demonstrated either a financial disruption of 10% or more or a loss of direct or contacted employees of 10% or more.



## City Drainage Assessment

The City continues to seek competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors to perform a comprehensive assessment of the City's storm drainage system to be funded by ARPA monies. The selected vendor will update the City's stormwater asset inventory and mapping database with the data collected and perform an analysis of the data to identify budget levels for annual stormwater asset maintenance and capital repairs and replacement.



## Mental Health and Surveys

Additionally, the City is developing a program to include mental health awareness in public safety services as well as implementing a survey tool to solicit citizen engagement and feedback. Residents should be on the lookout for this survey tool in the coming weeks.