



JANUARY 2023

# NEWSLETTER

Inspired. **Invigorated.** Innovative.



## What's Inside

### Mayor's Letter

A special message from the Mayor and Council.

### Initiatives

Now and for the future, follow the City's journey in achieving its mission.

### Finance

Learn where our city stands financially and what you can expect in 2023.

### Residents

Read about new homes, sanitation, and more!

### Events

City event wins top award! Also see what's planned for 2023!

## Mission: Possible

The collaborative effort between the City, residents and businesses to *promote a safe, economically secure and stimulating city where people want to visit and call home* provided the City continued success in 2022 and promising opportunities in 2023 in achieving the City's *mission*. Working since 1996 to make the downtown the "heart and soul" of the community and since 2010 to advance its strategic priorities, the City celebrated the groundbreaking of the mixed-use project on Marietta Street overlooking Thurman Springs Park and the announcement of the 2022 Spot On Award from Cobb Travel and Tourism for Event of the Year to advance *creating destinations*. The priority of *attracting and retaining business* was advanced with business walks and recognitions and the groundbreaking of a logistics and warehouse development that will bring up to 200 jobs. The priority of *creating an atmosphere of community* was advanced with ARPA dollars to support those in need, with community outreach through the City App and increased social media, and appreciation of local artists and authors. The *developing and promoting a safe city* priority was advanced with increased public safety personnel and activities, infrastructure improvements and equipment.



# OPENING OUR DOORS: Progress and Prosperity in 2023

*Greetings and best wishes  
to all for a successful 2023!*

In Powder Springs, when one door closes, many more open -- bringing exciting opportunities for growth and prosperity. New homes, mixed-use and commercial development, land annexation, a stable tax rate, expanded public amenities, and better infrastructure will keep us well positioned over the next decade.

Our old City Hall and the Community Development building closed their doors in 2022 to prepare for mixed-use development which will transform our downtown core. Atlanta-based Novare Group will construct 226 apartments and almost 5,000 sq. ft of restaurant and retail space on these sites anchored by Thurman Springs Park. Nearby, the Pineview Trail and trailhead will soon connect Silver Comet Trail users to our downtown businesses and newest eateries, and a redesigned Municipal Court building will become the future home of City Hall.

2023 will be a year of unparalleled progress. Selig's development of 300 garden-style homes on Brownsville Road will welcome its first residents by year-end. Along Austell Powder Springs Road, annexed land will become a planned unit development of 105 new single-

family homes. Twelve new townhomes will be built on Walton Street, and another 70 residences will be constructed along Powder Springs Dallas Road. In addition, home building will continue at Old Lost Mountain Estates, Creekwood, and Tapp Farm subdivisions.

Powder Springs has become an extremely popular place to live, work and play. As each new door opens, it fulfills the promise of quality high-end and affordable housing, local business support, a skilled work force, and inviting communities of active and engaged residents. With approximately 1500 new dwellings approved or under development in the city, and another 500 residential applications coming before us for consideration, city leaders are ever mindful of sustaining our small-town character and quality of life as we manage growth responsibly in such a positive environment.

To ensure quality growth continues as we prosper, we have set a six-month moratorium on new rezoning applications for residential development. During this pause, we will do a full buildout and budgetary impact analysis to make sure we manage growth in the best way possible for continued success. At the same time, our business recruitment and retention efforts will go forward to attract commercial projects like the 20 West Intermodal planning and distribution facility, an investment of \$35 million by Native

Development that will create up to 200 new jobs within our city. We will also actively implement our land annexation plan and work closely with the State to gain curb cuts on US-278 needed for commercial growth along this major corridor.

Using SPLOST and other funding, we will improve roadways, infrastructure, public safety, and city amenities to support our growing city. Community issues of food insecurity, Covid-related education gap, inflationary impact on local businesses, mental health awareness in public safety, and new communication tools for citizen engagement and feedback will be addressed with federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

In Powder Springs, we achieve progress and prosperity by a shared vision. I want to recognize and thank our City Council members, our city staff and employees, community development team, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the Development Authority of Powder Springs (DAPS), and all citizen volunteers serving on our boards, commissions, and committees for their outstanding teamwork. I also want to encourage all Powder Springs residents to get involved in city meetings and activities. Together, let us open our doors to progress and prosperity for another extraordinarily successful year!

*Al Thurman*

Mayor, City of Powder Springs





**Henry Lust**

"I am so very proud of the work we have done in 2022. We have put the needs of our citizens and businesses front and center in the allocation of our ARPA funds, from establishing the Goodr Food Store in Tapp Middle School to enhancing the work done by Reflections of Trinity in distributing food items, to providing tutoring services to students who are experiencing COVID-created skill gaps, to helping struggling businesses."

**Henry Lust, Mayor Pro Tem**

Council Member, Ward 1

[hlust@cityofpowdersprings.org](mailto:hlust@cityofpowdersprings.org)

770-943-1666, ext. 322 to Leave a Voicemail



**Doris Dawkins**

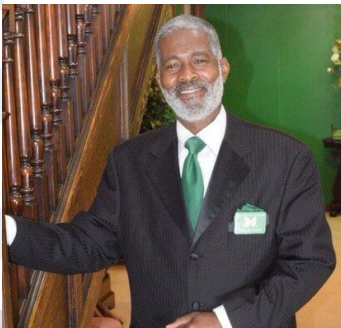
"I am grateful for the new businesses, increased residents, and positive changes and growth of Powder Springs. I am proud that the staff and council have been able to serve the citizens and keep them safe. My goal is to enhance the quality of life for the residents, increase development and services, improve living conditions for those in need and to promote unity."

**Doris Dawkins**

Council Member, Ward 2

[ddawkins@cityofpowdersprings.org](mailto:ddawkins@cityofpowdersprings.org)

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**Dwayne Green**

"It has been a very progressive year for the city, from the upcoming new structure for City Hall, the various programs passed for the benefit of the underserved, and overall direction and positive drive that's sure to make Powder Springs an even more attractive city in which to live and thrive."

**Dwayne Green**

Council Member, Ward 3

[dgreen@cityofpowdersprings.org](mailto:dgreen@cityofpowdersprings.org)

770-943-1666, ext. 324 to Leave a Voicemail



**Patrick Bordelon**

"This year was another year of progress and growth for Powder Springs. The rebirth of activity in downtown has us all very excited for the future of the city. There are several new businesses which are thriving and more on the way. I've never been more optimistic about our city's future growth."

**Patrick Bordelon**

Council Member, Post 1 - At Large

[pbordelon@cityofpowdersprings.org](mailto:pbordelon@cityofpowdersprings.org)

770-943-1666, ext. 321 to Leave a Voicemail



**Patricia Wisdom**

"In 2023, I look forward to seeing how the apartments will complement the downtown parks and the entire municipal complex. Powder Springs Park will be renovated and will feature a dog park and the return of the farmers market. The Linear Park Skatepark will be developed and will be a major tourist attraction to the city. All of these developments will enhance the beauty of our city."

**Patricia Wisdom**

Council Member, Post 2 - At Large

[pwisdom@cityofpowdersprings.org](mailto:pwisdom@cityofpowdersprings.org)

770-943-1666, ext. 320 to Leave a Voicemail

# Jobs Coming to Powder Springs

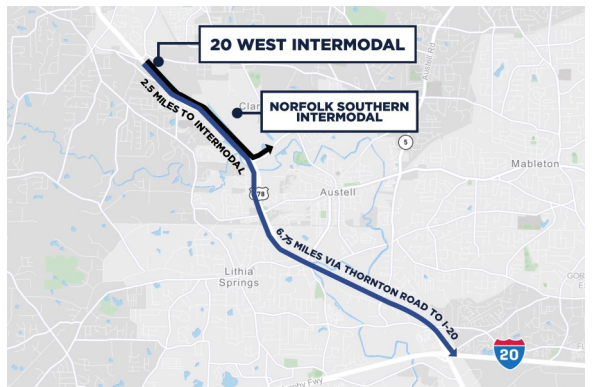
Kicking off with a groundbreaking ceremony in October, the 20 West Intermodal Logistics project off Highway 278 and Lewis Road is being developed by Crow Holdings Capital and Native Development Group LLC. CBRE will be representing the owner for leasing the building, which is expected to be ready June 2023.

At nearly 347,000 square feet, the facility will feature 36-foot clear heights and 7-inch slabs with ample auto, truck dock and trailer parking areas. It is aimed at serving one or two future tenants, but designed to hold up to three.

Its location will be 2.5 miles from the Norfolk Southern Intermodal in Austell, but also provide quick access to Interstate 20.

“This is just going to be a great aspect to the City of Powder Springs. We want to create that ‘live, work, and play’ (environment) — we’ve been working on the ‘live,’ we’ve been working on the ‘play,’ but this brings the ‘work,’” said Mayor Al Thurman during the groundbreaking event. “We’re hoping this is going to bring jobs to the city, so we’re very excited about this development.

The City Council as part of its approval of Native’s annexation of the majority of the acreage placed 27 stipulations on the project, with many aimed at minimizing impact to residents in the area. Had Native not pursued annexation with Powder Springs, it could have pursued development without being bound by any stipulations.



## Art in Our City



November brought the annual arrival of the M2R Fence Gallery into and around Thurman Springs Park, adding to a number of creative visuals already across Powder Springs’ downtown.

Through Nov. 26, residents and visitors to Powder Springs were able to view more than 100 temporary art panels from the exhibit along fencing within and around Thurman Springs Park and down Oakview Drive between Pineview Drive and Jackson Way Extension. It was the third-straight autumn the park has hosted the exhibit.

Powder Springs welcomed the traveling art installation, though its downtown has already had its share of art installed both in 2021 and 2022. Along the construction fences on Marietta Street and Lewis

Road are a dozen city-installed artworks that show the sights and highlights of the great city. The historic Boyd Building downtown, meanwhile, became the home of Shadowbox at the Springs, a vignette art venue within the building’s front windows facing Marietta Street. This installation is thanks to the South Cobb Arts Alliance, whose home office is just a few yards away in Powder Springs Park.

Downtown’s “Welcome to Powder Springs” mural was unveiled late in 2021 and is the work of John W. Christian. Located on the side of Sweet Southern Coffee and Dessert on Marietta Street, the mural was the artist’s 50th piece as part of the Georgia Mural Trail, which Christian originated.





## Rezoning Pause

In its efforts to facilitate growth and development for long-term sustainability and diversification of its tax base, the City of Powder Springs in November paused acceptance of new residential rezoning applications for six months.

During this period, the City is undertaking a planning, zoning and growth management review as it develops a comprehensive development plan that integrates all areas associated with current residential inventory and projected residential development. These efforts will guide city staff as they determine if any proposed amendments are needed to be made to the city's Comprehensive Plan, LCI Plan, Unified Development Code, or other city codes.

The City's goal throughout this process will be to continue land-use regulations in the most predictable fashion with the least amount of disturbance to residents, business owners, and visitors to the city.

Residential construction remains underway across several single- and multifamily developments across the city, and will help accommodate new residents in Cobb County's fastest growing city per the 2020 Census, which put its population at 16,887.

The moratorium on new residential rezonings did not affect any pending development proposals that had already been filed with the city and were in the process to be considered by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council. Nor did the moratorium pause any residential projects previously approved by the City Council or prevent the permitting of such approved developments.

## New Homes

Just before the 2022 calendar year came to a close, 127 permits for single-family houses and townhouses had been issued. Construction continues at Kerley Family Homes' Old Lost Mountain Estates, Creekwood by Paran Homes, Tapp Farm by Traton Homes, and Townhomes at Park Place. For the subdivisions already under construction, certificates of occupancy had been issued for 152 homes, and there are 107 in progress and 87 units left to permit.

Multifamily projects that broke ground in 2022 include Selig Development's Heartwood Powder Springs, which will bring 300 units in a garden-style environment at 20 acres along Brownsville Road at its intersection of Oglesby Road. Officials with the City and Selig Development broke ground in June at the site, which will become the first apartment development in the city not specifically marketed to seniors.



Community amenities will include a resort-style swimming pool and deck with an adjacent activity field for pickleball, bocce ball, cornhole and large grilling areas. Plans also include co-working areas, an indoor/outdoor fitness center with yoga studio, an indoor/outdoor bar, a dog park and smaller pocket parks and nature trails. Heartwood is slated to welcome its first residents in late fall of 2023.

Novare Group, meanwhile, is constructing downtown 226 multifamily units across two sites — 4.9 acres where Powder Springs City Hall and Community Development facilities previously sat, and 1.4 acres on Hotel Avenue. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in September for the project, which will span eight buildings — a mix of two-story carriage houses and three-story and four-story apartments.

The apartment community will offer controlled-access buildings, a co-working lounge, private garages and a resort-style pool with a sun shelf and tanning ledge. Outdoor grilling stations, a fitness center with a yoga room and outdoor entertainment areas are also among the amenities.



Cobb County is a welcoming place, and Powder Springs is no different. We encourage individuals from all walks of life, genders, races, faiths, and socio-economic groups to visit, work, and live within our city.

See what our county is all about by viewing the Cobb Travel & Tourism 2023 marketing campaign at [cobbunity.org](http://cobbunity.org).

## Why New Locations?

Most city departments are operating in locations spread across the city ahead of construction of a city hall/municipal court facility, set to begin later this year. These locations will be in effect until further notice.

## On-site Payments, Establishing/Canceling Service, & Homestead Exemptions

For payments of sanitation bills, establishing/canceling service, property tax payments & homestead exemptions, visit the Powder Springs Police Department at 1114 Richard D. Sailors Pkwy.

## Public Access to City

Located at the Powder Springs Police Department, 1114 Richard D. Sailors Pkwy

# Where Do I Go for City Services?

## Open Hours

8:30 am- 4:30 pm  
Monday - Friday  
Closed on City Holidays

## Drop Box Locations

24-hour drop box locations are outside the Police Department under the flags, and at the bottom of the ramp at 4426 Marietta St.

## Municipal Court

Located at 4181 Atlanta St. in the Patricia C. Vaughn Cultural 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 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Permits, Business Licenses, & Planning & Zoning

For permits, business licenses, and planning & zoning matters, please visit the Community Development department in the Papa Morris Building at 4181 Atlanta St.

## We Need YOU!

Powder Springs will focus on community involvement in 2023 in its efforts to expand its **volunteer programs** through partnerships with residents, businesses, schools, churches and nonprofits. Top projects will include assisting **Keep Powder Springs Beautiful** in its goals to beautify and improve the appearance of the City, working with local schools through the City's **Partnership in Education** program, expanding **youth** programs with a Youth Council and internships through Cobb Works, enlarging our active **senior** programs and restoring and growing the **Pastors, Principals, Parks and Police** program. To further advance our priority of *creating an atmosphere of community*, we need your help! We hope you will volunteer your time and talents.

## In the Know

Get City of Powder Springs News in your inbox, as we've launched an email newsletter that will bring you city headlines and our events calendar. Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hB9kMr>

You can also get our Business Newsletter to stay updated on news and events for the business

community.

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

 @powder\_springs

 @powdersprings01

 @cityofpowdersprings



Do you have one minute a month to help make Powder Springs better?

Join your friends and neighbors and make your voice heard on important issues.

Just take a minute to sign up here: <https://www.flashvote.com/powdersprings>

It's free, fast and fun — you'll get a short one-minute survey every few months and you'll get to see full survey results within 48 hours! Plus, FlashVote makes sure your feedback is anonymous.

Your input will help the City make better decisions for everyone in the community.



App Store



Google Play

## Download Our City App

Download our free app to learn more about the City, communicate easily with city staff and elected officials, and help the City keep Powder Springs beautiful.



# Finance Current Operations & Future Initiatives

The City of Powder Springs in late December completed its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

The city's financial statements have been audited by Mauldin & Jenkins LLC, a firm of licensed certified public accountants, which has concluded that the city's financial statements for the 2022 fiscal year are fairly presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and free of material misstatement.

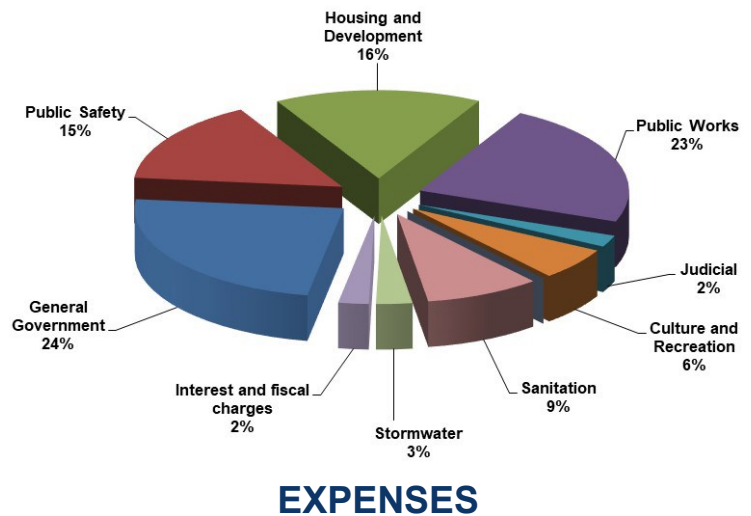
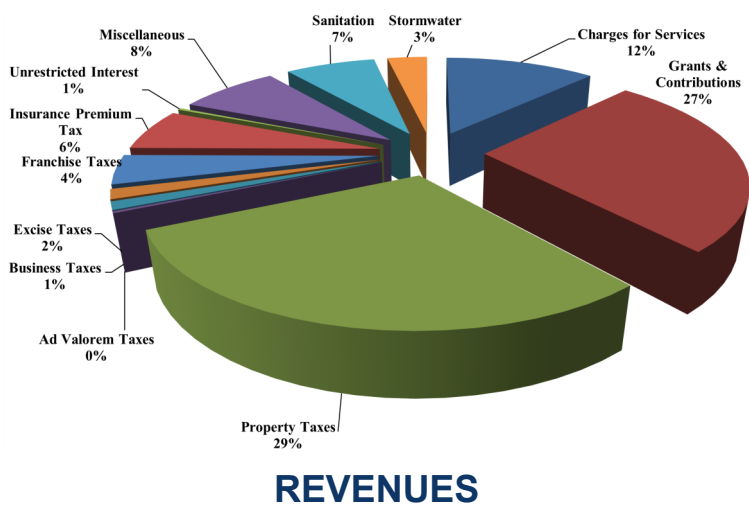
As detailed within its financial

statements, the city's policy is to maintain a healthy general fund balance to maintain operations for six months. The unassigned fund balance of the General Fund at June 30, 2022, of \$18,987,057 is currently 238.4% of fiscal year 2022 general fund expenditures or 21 months of 2022 operating expenditures. A portion of this balance is due to the merging of the old Water & Sewer Fund into the General Fund for capital projects. The reserve balance is necessary for periods of weak revenues and emergency situations, as well as capital planning.

As part of the financial strategic plan, the government is committed to a consistent millage rate for property taxes to facilitate the provision of city services. The city's operating millage rate for fiscal year 2022 was retained at 9.5. The city

also offers residents a "floating" exemption of property taxes, which maintains the taxable value of the property as long as the resident continues to own the property. Upon sale of the property, the taxable value is set at the assessed value.

Powder Springs is primarily dependent on residential property values to fund city services. About 78% of the tax digest is derived from residential property and 20% from commercial property with the balance derived from industrial or other property. There was an increase from the total assessed taxable value in Fiscal Year 2022 with a net tax digest increasing by 4.04% to a taxable value of \$503,368,370. The 2021 tax digest was approved by the Cobb County Board of Equalization on June 28, 2022.



## City Maintains Financial Reporting Honor

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the city for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended June 30, 2021.

This was the 31st year that the city has achieved the prestigious award. 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. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR with contents that conform to program standards. Such reports must also satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable legal requirements. View it on the city website on Finance Dept. pages.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. City finance staff and leadership believe the current Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY22 will again meet the requirements of this program and is in the process of submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for certification.

# Say 'Bye-Bye' to Bulk Trash



This past October, residents took advantage of our twice-annual "Reside With Pride" bulk trash collection service by putting 293 tons of material on the curb.

That's more than 2 1/2 times our sanitation crews' typical weekly haul — and that was in addition to the regular sanitation pick-ups!

Reside With Pride is a service provided by the city for residents within the city limits on city garbage service.

A typical Reside With Pride week costs the city about \$8,400, which goes mostly to labor and overtime, though a portion is increased landfill costs. We do this twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, so be on the lookout for our next Reside With Pride this spring, March 7-10, 2023.

# Say 'Hello' to New Recycling Drop-Off

Faced with notice that the recycling provider would no longer pick up recycling, the City acted to establish a drop-off center at its Public Works facility at 3006 Springs Industrial Dr.

Scheduled to open mid-March 2023, the location will accept and separate glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, aluminum and ferrous materials.

Hours of operation will include weekends. See [powdersprings.org](http://powdersprings.org)



## Sanitation Holiday Schedule

For more information, contact Public Works at 770-943-8010. There will be no yard waste collection the following weeks:

<b>Jan 2-16</b>	<b>July 3</b>	<b>Nov. 27</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Nov. 20</b>	

### Veterans Day, Nov 11, 2023

No yard waste will be collected for Nov. 13

### Thanksgiving Holidays, Nov. 24-25, 2023

No yard waste will be collected Nov. 20 and 27.

Tuesday's route will be picked up on Monday, Nov. 20.

Wednesday's route will be picked up Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Thursday's route will be picked up Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Friday's route will be picked up Monday, Nov. 27.

### Christmas Holidays, Dec. 25-30, 2023

No yard waste will be collected Dec. 25.

Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Wednesday's route will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 28.

Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, Dec. 29.

Friday's route will be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 30.

### New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024

No yard waste collection Jan. 1, 2024.





## 'One Book, One City'

The "One Book, One City" campaign returns this April with Matthew Quick's "We Are The Light." An author talk and book discussion is scheduled for 6 p.m. April 11 in the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater in Thurman Springs Park.

One Book, One City citywide literary events encourage the community to read the same book at the same time to promote bringing the public together and lifelong reading. This is a joint venture between the City of Powder Springs, the Book Worm Bookstore located

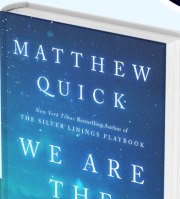

in the city's downtown, and the Powder Springs Public Library.

April's scheduled event comes nearly six months after the city's previous One Book, One City event, which brought award-winning author Reem Farqui, writer of the juvenile fiction title "Unsettled," to Thurman Springs Park during the city's Fall Festival.

For information about the One Book, One City, call Powder Springs Public Library at 770-439-3600 or the Book Worm Bookstore at 770-439-2029.

POWDER SPRINGS READING TOGETHER

# ONE BOOK ONE CITY



**MONDAY, APRIL 3 | 6:30PM**  
BOOK DISCUSSION AT POWDER SPRINGS LIBRARY  
Powder Springs Library  
4181 Atlanta St, Powder Springs, GA

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11 | 6PM**



## JOIN OUR TEAM

To learn about the city's open positions, visit [cityofpowdersprings.org](https://cityofpowdersprings.org) and click the "Jobs" link underneath the City of Powder Springs header image.

## Tinseltown in 'Powder Town'

The city is becoming a go-to for movie shoots! Our downtown this past summer and fall was the site for film crews shooting not one, but two, upcoming projects: "Hands Off My Father" (tentative title) and "Love's Secret Ingredient," both of which are set to be Lifetime movies. In addition to Thurman Springs Park and areas around it, the crews also shot within or around Rooted Trading Co., Skint Chestnut Brewing Company and Suga's Pimento Cheeses.

In December, a Georgia film crew transformed the city's Community Development office into a police station for a thriller film and shot several scenes within it over a two-day period.

Keep your eyes peeled for our city when these films are aired!



## 'Event of the Year'



Powder Springs' "Bringing The Sea to The Springs" 2022 seafood festival received the "Event of the Year" Award at Cobb Travel & Tourism's Annual Meeting & Mixer held Nov. 15 at The Brickyard in Marietta.



If you haven't already marked your calendars, the festival will return for its third-annual offering May 12-14, 2023, to Thurman Springs Park, Home of the Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater. The City has once again joined with Robin Roberts Promotions to present this free family event designed to bring the community together through tasty food, juried arts and crafts, fellowship, and fun.

While the emphasis is enjoying fresh seafood, other cuisines are available as well. In addition to food, the festival features arts and crafts for sale, live music from local Atlanta musicians, and more. Additional details on the upcoming festival will be released in the coming weeks.





## Volunteer of the Year

Jake Hardy's passion for historic renovation, retail, development and construction continue a tradition passed on from his mom and dad who began historic property renovations over 20 years ago with the White Rabbit Cottage in West Cobb. Lucky for Powder Springs, his creativity and vision have played a role in his family's renovations of five commercial properties in the downtown that preserve and repurpose old buildings into new life in an event venue, a photography studio, an ice cream shop, his Rooted Trading Co. and most recently the city's new brewery and newest restaurant.

For these and other reasons, Jake Hardy is the City's 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

The City is blessed with a large group of dedicated people who volunteer their time and talent to make a difference in our community and they were honored at the Volunteer Appreciation dinner on December 15, 2022. Nominated in addition to Hardy were Maxx Brown (owner of Special Blends Mobile Bartending), Julia Davis (owner of The Book Worm Bookstore) and San Miller (president of the South Cobb Arts Alliance).

## Major Initiatives Beginning in 2022 & Continuing Through 2023



### COVID-19 Funding Assistance – American Rescue Plan Act

Congress authorized the disbursement of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid local government in responding to and recovering from the coronavirus pandemic. In FY22, the City

registered and made application to receive nearly \$6 million under the terms and conditions specified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Following public survey and input, a list of eligible projects was developed to respond to the needs of the community and reflect pandemic-related priorities, including investments in various infrastructure improvements, support of small businesses, promotion of downtown to help boost the City's recovery from the pandemic, and certain solutions to address food insecurity and the learning gap and stormwater repairs.

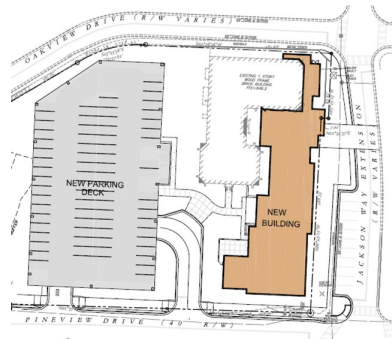


Under ARPA, the City has contracted with Reflections of Trinity and Goodr to address food insecurity. Reflections of Trinity is a nonprofit that operates a food pantry and thrift store in the City and under its contract will provide weekend food bags to local

elementary school students who are on the free or reduced lunch program as well as an expanded weekly distribution of food boxes to families in need. Goodr established a grocery at Tapp Middle School. The City has also contracted with Communities in Schools to provide tutoring services in local schools and with Lowe Engineers to evaluate and assess stormwater infrastructure for needed repairs and upgrades. Funding will occur in 2023 to complete repairs and upgrades.

### City Hall

In FY22, the City engaged a planning firm to begin and complete schematic design for the renovation and expansion of the municipal court building as the new municipal complex that will house City Hall, Municipal Court and Community Development. Employees relocated from the three structures to temporary locations in other City facilities pending the renovation and expansion of the new building. Croft & Associates was hired to complete design and engineering, which should be completed in early 2023. The MacAllan Group (who completed the renovations of the Seven Springs Museum) will serve as the construction contractor and is expected to develop and submit a guaranteed maximum price contract winter of 2023. Construction is expected to begin shortly thereafter in the spring and will likely require 14-18 months and should be completed in the summer of 2024. The project will include cosmetic upgrades in the existing municipal court building and a new two-story building that will connect with the existing structure. The project will include parking improvements behind the primary building.



## 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

January 3\* & 17 \*  
February 6 & 20  
March 6 & 20  
April 3 & 17

May 1 & 15  
June 5 & 20\*  
July 17  
August 21

September 18  
October 2 & 16  
November 6 & 20  
December 4

Meetings are held Mondays @ 7 p.m. in the Patricia C. Vaughn Cultural Arts Center, 4181 Atlanta St., and via Zoom. \*Indicates a Tuesday Meeting



## Public Safety

The City engaged a consultant to assist the Police Department in applying to renew its state certification. In FY22, work included a review of policies, documentation of proofs for certification standards, and coordination of a mock assessment and actual certification assessment. The certification process is expected to be completed in FY23.

The City of Powder Springs currently uses police radios that operate on an open network, allowing public access to potentially sensitive information and possibly putting safety officers at risk when certain information is shared. The City applied for and was selected to receive federal funding in 2022 to purchase mobile and in-car encrypted police radios. The encrypted radios will protect public information, improve the overall quality of public services and provide protection to officers. The current equipment should be replaced in 2023 and will improve the department's ability to collaborate with other agencies in maintaining citizen safety.

## Capital Projects and Infrastructure Improvements

Currently under construction, the new Pineview Trail and trailhead will be completed in 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 at a project cost of \$1M. 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 at a cost of \$337,000.

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 at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million. 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. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 at an estimated cost of nearly \$1 million.

The design for the roundabout at Powder Springs Dallas Road and Florence Road is nearly complete and it will bid later in 2023. Design is underway for intersection improvements at New Macland Road and Macedonia, which will include striping and signal upgrades. Traffic signal upgrades will also occur at Brownsville and Marietta and New Macland and Marietta. The City has contracted with Cobb Department of Transportation for the upgrades.

Recommended in a Georgia Tech planning study in 2018, the City recently partnered with Cobb County and the City of Austell to complete a study to examine the design and placement of a trail that will connect the cities of Powder Springs and Austell from the Silver Comet Linear Park to downtown Austell along Austell Powder Springs Road. The scoping study began in 2022 and potential trail alignment opportunities will be studied in the next phase in 2023.

The City was selected to receive funding assistance for design and engineering of a trail from the Silver Comet Trail and Old Lost Mountain Road to Jackson Way and Pineview Drive where it will connect with Thurman Springs Park. Currently, the city's core lacks sufficient access to the Silver Comet Trail, especially in areas where the city's amenities are located, such as downtown Powder Springs. The Powder Springs Silver Comet Trail Connector project will create that access. Residents will be able to utilize the connector for recreation or to reach their destinations in town. The project was awarded \$360,000 for the engineering phase of the project set to begin in 2023.

The City completed resurfacing in 2022 with SPLOST and Local Maintenance Improvement Grant program funds. The resurfacing program was awarded in 2022 at approximately \$855,000 and resurfaced Saddlerun, Lookout Trail, Ramblewood Court, New Towne Drive, Mooring Drive, Port Lane, Starboard Drive, Deer Creek, Dillard Street and Mustang Drive. The City will continue its resurfacing program in 2023, which sees road improvements ranging between \$700,000 and \$1 million each year using SPLOST and LMIG dollars. Roads are selected from the City's road rating program, originally prepared in 2015 and scheduled to be updated in 2023.

Addressing concerns about speeding, the year saw the installation of speed tables on Warren Farm Road and Atlanta Street at a cost of \$45,000 each. Stormwater improvements, including infrastructure repairs and failures, were performed at a cost of approximately \$200,000.

The City previously replaced police vehicle laptops, body cameras and tasers and the 2022 SPLOST program refunded the purchase. SPLOST will be used in 2023 to purchase a police vehicle; it is one of the funding sources for the City's police vehicle replacement program each year.



### What Should I Do if I Received a Code Enforcement Warning Notice?

Correct the violation by the date shown on the Warning Notice. If you are unable to correct the violation within the time given, call the Quality of Life Officer to discuss the violation. Only one Warning Notice for a particular violation will be issued within a 12-month period. Repeat occurrences of the same violation within the 12-month period will result in immediate issuance of Citation. Typical violations include parking on grass, outdoor storage and property maintenance.

# Transformation in Transportation

Historically, economic development on U.S. 278 within Powder Springs and Cobb County has been impacted by the inability to receive curb cuts. The Georgia DOT purchased access rights when the road improvements were completed years ago. The City has been working with the GDOT since 2004 to secure needed access to certain properties fronting 278, and GDOT has in the past indicated support for limited access at a few locations as well as strategically placed signalized intersections.

The City redoubled its efforts in 2022 to seek a change in access policy on this important freight-movement corridor. It has sought the assistance of the state Cobb County Legislative Delegation and lobbyists familiar and successful with policy setting at the Georgia Department of Transportation. The City will continue its efforts in 2023 to seek an encroachment permit at certain locations on U.S. 278, the chief one being the just south of Lewis and Oglesby Road near the new Native Development logistics center. A signalized intersection at this location will support distribution of goods and products as well as facilitate truck movement directly to and from U.S. 278 and away from local roads.

In 2023 an Intersection Control Evaluation will be performed in support of the request. It is required to establish intersections and provides a procedure to evaluate intersection control alternatives and leverage safety advancements. Additionally, the City will seek proposals to develop a truck route plan for the entirety of the City with the intent to direct truck use to major travel corridors intended for such use.



## Citizen of the Year

The 2022 Powder Springs Citizen of the Year Award was given to City Manager Pam Conner during the Cobb Chamber's South Cobb Area Council meeting at the Cobb County Police Department Police Academy. Each year, the Cobb Chamber Area Councils select leaders and role models whose leadership and impact throughout Cobb County can be regarded with pride through the Citizen of the Year Awards. These outstanding citizens are chosen for their definable, exceptional deeds, with which he or she has made their community a better place to live. Awards are given to deserving individuals based on local area nominations.



## Taking Care of Business

Focused on retention of existing businesses, the City's retention plan concentrated on celebrating the longevity of our local businesses, many of which opened over 15, 20 or 25 years ago. The City recognized more than 300 businesses in 2022 and will continue its program in 2023. There were 46 25-year Legacy award winners, 31 20-year Platinum award winners, 43 15-year Gold Winners, 72 10-year Silver award winners and 151 5-year Bronze award winners in 2022.

Additionally, the City began in 2022 and will continue business outreach visits in 2023. The Economic Development and Community Development Departments, along with a rotating elected official, visited two to three businesses each month to learn about their needs and how the City can support them. Eighty percent of new jobs created in a community come from existing businesses.

Video spotlights of individual businesses are a key element of the City's program of appreciation for its local businesses with two each month that highlight our local businesses. The City also provided marketing support to groups of

businesses working together to conduct a special event. Since officially implementing a social media marketing campaign, there has been a major uptick in viewership and engagement with our platforms, directly benefitting our businesses. For example, there were more than 163,000 impressions (the number of times posts appear on an individual's screen) in Oct. 2022 versus 66,000 in Oct. 2021. Similarly, in Sept. 2022 we had 204,000 impressions versus 87,000 in Sept. 2021.

Experiencing continued growth, Community Development issued occupational tax certificates to 65 new businesses in 2022. 12



# Heroes Recognized

Helping to kick off Public Safety Appreciation Week, observed Oct. 3-9, our own police Capt. Jason Holcomb received the Medal of Valor at the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Public Safety Appreciation Breakfast. Holcomb was selected for his actions in making a felony stop of a vehicle whose driver was involved in a shooting earlier that day.

Officer Kara McIntosh was given an award for Meritorious Service by the South Cobb Business Association at its monthly luncheon in October. After a subject had accidentally overdosed and was no longer breathing, Officer McIntosh responded and was able to administer Narcan and begin life saving measures.

The West Cobb Business Association's awards ceremony hosted at the West Cobb Church in late October saw Officer Doug Racine recognized for his response to a fatality accident in which a mother and child were struck and killed in the roadway and his incredible composure and professionalism in managing such a chaotic scene.

During the luncheon, the Police Department K-9 unit, led by Officer Doug Racine and Officer Matt Rook, was gifted a \$2,500 donation from the Jess Rousey Honoring Heroes Foundation, Inc. from proceeds raised at the Cars for K9s event in June.

Officer Carson Yates was recognized by the Leaders Helping Leaders Network for Servant Officers. Yates, responding to a 911 call, performed CPR on a collapsed marathon participant who was showing no signs of life. After taking over for another runner who began the aid, he continued CPR for nearly ten minutes until EMTs arrived. The man regained consciousness before being transported to the hospital.

In December the Cobb County Law Enforcement Achievement Award was presented to Sgt. Roderick Cheatham-Seay for his outstanding performance for closing numerous felony cases and recovering thousands of dollars of stolen property and removing dangerous individuals from the community.



## PD Promotions

Police Chief Lane Cadwell announced several new promotions in 2022. These promotions were not given but rather earned, and the department is better today because of these employees who have committed themselves first to service, and now to leadership.

Please help us congratulate

**Capt. J. Holcomb**    **Sgt. A. Knuth**  
**Capt. D. Smith**    **Sgt. A. Cipriano**  
**Lt. J. Wright**      **Sgt. D. Borders**



# Welcome New Employees

Welcome to employees who joined the Powder Springs team:

**Alicia Acree, PD**  
**Velda Babiak, IT Manager**  
**Chris Bass, PD**  
**Robert Bodron, PD Lt**  
**Savon Burch, Public Works**  
**Michele Coursey, Event Coordinator**  
**Parker Forman, PD**

**Thomasina Jordan, PD**  
**Aaron Knuth, PD Sgt**  
**Lindsey Landers, Parks Facilities**  
**Travis Landrum, Parks Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director**  
**Ricardo Liddie, PD**  
**Jennie Mayes, Reception**

**Matthew Meade, PD**  
**Eric Meyer, Development & Infrastructure Agency Director**  
**Tracey Provitt, PD Executive Assistant**  
**Andrew Siegel, PD**  
**Anthony Stallings, PD Captain**  
**Conrad Wells, PD**



Recognizing our other heroes through "Above and Beyond" and "Shout Out" Awards to employees in 2022.

**KELLY AXT**  
**JOHN BROWN**  
**LANE CADWELL**  
**GLENDA LEHNER**  
**JENNIE MAYES**  
**DELETHIA MORRIS**  
**SHAUN MYERS**  
**ROSALYN NEALY**

**TAMARA NEWKIRT**  
**NIKKI PROCTOR**  
**TRACEY PROVITT**  
**BILL TANKS**  
**DEVON WALLACE**  
**JAMES WRIGHT**  
**SANITATION CREW**







# SPECIAL EVENT CALENDAR 2023

MAR 25 -APR 9	<b>Easter Egg Quest</b> Dawn to Dusk	AUG 10	<b>Family to Park Day</b> 6:30pm
APR 11	<b>One Book, One City</b> 12:00pm	AUG 19	<b>Shred Day</b> 10:00am-2:00pm
APR 22	<b>Pick It Up Powder Springs &amp; Shred Day</b> 9:00am-12:00pm	AUG 26	<b>Sounds of the Springs Concert</b> 7:30pm
APR 29	★ <b>Spring Chicken Run &amp; Festival</b> 7:00-3:00pm	SEP 7	<b>Brown Bag Lunch Concert</b> 12:00-1:00pm
MAY 4	<b>National Day of Prayer</b> 6:30pm	SEP 14	<b>Brown Bag Lunch Concert</b> 12:00-1:00pm
MAY 12-14	★ <b>Bringing the Sea to the Springs Festival</b> Times vary by date. See website for details.	SEP 21	<b>Brown Bag Lunch Concert</b> 12:00-1:00pm
MAY 25	<b>Family to Park Day</b> 6:30pm	SEP 23	<b>Sounds of the Springs Concert</b> 7:30pm
MAY 29	<b>Memorial Day Ceremony</b> 12:00pm	SEP 28	<b>Brown Bag Lunch Concert</b> 12:00-1:00pm
JUN 3	<b>Bark in the Park</b> 9:00am-12:00pm	OCT 3	★ <b>National Night Out</b> 6:00pm
JUN 8	<b>Family to Park Day</b> 6:30pm	OCT 7	<b>Pick It Up Powder Springs</b> 9:00am-12:00pm
JUN 18	★ <b>Juneteenth Unity Celebration &amp; Walk</b> 3:00-8:00pm	OCT 14	<b>Cystic Fibrosis: Cycle for Life Bike Ride</b> 7:00am-12:00pm
JUN 22	<b>Family to Park Day</b> 6:30pm	OCT 21	★ <b>Spooktacular Chase 5k/8k</b> 7:00am-10:00am
JUL 4	★ <b>4th of July Celebration</b> 6:00-10:00pm	OCT 21	★ <b>Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat</b> 10:00am-12:00pm
JUL 13	<b>Family to Park Day</b> 6:30pm	NOV 11	<b>Veterans Day Ceremony</b> 11:00am
JUL 22	★ <b>Back-2-School Bash</b> 10:00am-1:00pm	DEC 1	★ <b>Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting</b> 6:30pm
JUL 29	<b>Sounds of the Springs Concert</b> 7:30pm	DEC 2 -JAN 4	<b>Reindeer Scavenger Hunt</b> Daily

For event locations and details please check the city website [cityofpowdersprings.org](http://cityofpowdersprings.org).

★ Indicates street closure.



4426 Marietta St.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

## Parks Upgrades



Parks within the city have or will be getting passive and active upgrades through the use of the city's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) dollars.

A new pavilion was constructed this fall in Powder Springs Park, which has more additions on the way — a dog park for both large and small dogs, and a parking lot/ farmer's market area that will have water and electrical outlets that would better allow the park to host special events.



This past February, the council approved a \$1,859,900 contract with California Skateparks to build a skatepark in Silver Comet Linear Park, a project funded by the 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Construction is set to be complete spring 2023. Designed for all users, the skatepark will also have a competition-level certification through World Skate. World Skate is the governing body for skateboarding. The skatepark will be located near the exercise facility in the linear park. The climbing structure will be relocated to the Dillard Street trailhead.