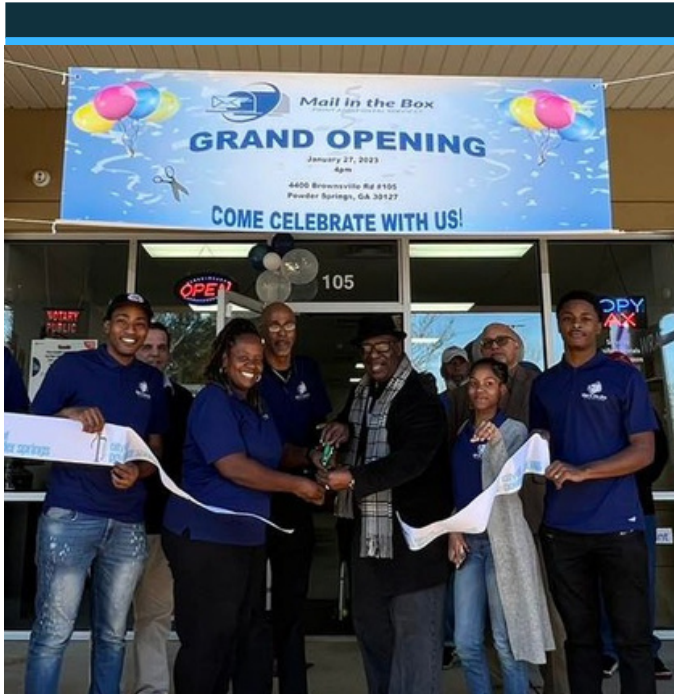




NEWSLETTER **APRIL 2023**

Inspired. **Invigorated.** Innovative



**TOWN HALL
APRIL 20
7-9pm
FORD CENTER**

New Year Brings New Businesses to City

The City in the first quarter of 2023 has welcomed four new businesses with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Delivering the first such event in January was [Mail in the Box](#) Print and Postal Services at 4400 Brownsville Road, Suite 105, in the Brownsville Commons (Kroger) shopping center. Mailbox rentals, copy & print center services, notary, passport photos, shredding and shipping supplies are just a few of the services they offer.

February brought the celebrations of two new Marietta Street businesses.

[J'Vonne B Barbering Studio](#) allowed us to use our "clippers" to cut the ribbon with them on Feb. 10 to celebrate their recent opening. Offering various hair-related services for both men and women, you'll find the shop at 4093 Marietta St.

A week later, Mayor Al Thurman and the City Council plus several city staff and community members welcomed [Fork In The Road Halal Food](#)

to the city. This eatery, at 4148 Marietta St., no. 200, specializes in gourmet seafood dishes and American cuisine.

Our first-ever AR — augmented reality — ribbon cutting is in the books, and it was done within the facility of Soapbox, which has 5,800 square feet of space designed for TV/film pick-ups, music videos and other 3D AR & VR (virtual reality) productions. It was within the company's 3D capture studio in which we did their ribbon cutting. You can view the ribbon cutting anywhere you like with your smartphone by visiting [8th.io/5hbdw](#).

We welcome these great businesses to Powder Springs!



New Recycling Drop-off Center Coming in April

On April 22, a new recycling drop-off center will open its doors in Powder Springs, providing residents with a convenient and eco-friendly way to dispose of their recyclable materials.

The new center, located at Powder Springs Public Works, 3006 Spring Industrial Drive, will be open on weekends only, with drop-off hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The materials accepted at the center include glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and containers, aluminum cans, metal cans, cardboard, and mixed paper.

The center aims to promote a cleaner and greener environment by encouraging the community to recycle their waste instead of sending it to landfills. By providing an accessible and hassle-free drop-off and hassle-free drop-off location, residents can easily dispose of their recyclable materials and contribute to a more sustainable future.



Residents are encouraged to separate their recyclables before dropping them off at the center. This will help to streamline the recycling process and ensure that the materials are properly sorted and processed.

For more information on the new recycling drop-off center, including a full list of accepted materials and drop-off hours, please visit our website at cityofpowdersprings.org and follow us on Facebook.



Sanitation Rates To See Slight Increase in July

On July 1, rates for sanitation services will increase by \$1.50 per household per month to \$24. Rates are likely to increase again in Jan. 2024 and thereafter, at a slower pace, to keep up with expenses.

Costs are increasing. To attract and retain drivers and collectors, the City must increase salaries. Public Works departments and private garbage disposal companies around the country are short staffed. The only way to ensure the City hires and retains drivers and collectors is by offering competitive salaries and benefits. Also increasing are disposal costs paid at private facilities, along with fuel prices, with the average cost

for diesel doubling between June 2020 and June 2022.

What is the City doing to control costs? The City is revisiting collection routes to increase efficiency and thus delaying the need to add routes as the number of households in the City grows.

When the contractor costs would increase dramatically next year, the City did not renew the curbside recycling contract. However, the City is opening a recycling drop-off center, which costs significantly less than curbside collection. To reduce costs further, the City secured a \$107,000 grant from the state to purchase equipment for the drop-off center.

Not everyone is paying. As recently as two years ago, up to 20% of households were not paying their sanitation bills regularly. When such a large portion of households do not pay, the remainder have to pay more to make sure expenses are covered.

What is the City doing about households that do not pay? The City encourages residents to enroll in autopay by waiving the \$75 cart deposit and now offers a discount on monthly rates for those households that enroll in autopay. The number of customers enrolled in autopay has increased by 50% in the last several months. As of March, only 6.6% of accounts are currently past due, close to the industry average.

City Completes Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative

The City of Powder Springs was recognized as a graduate of the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative (GEPC) program by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the Georgia Cities Foundation (GCF) at the 2023 Cities United Summit. Nearly 1,000 government leaders, public servants and legislative stakeholders convened in Atlanta Jan. 20-23 for the event.

The GEPC is a two-year program that helps cities build a local placemaking team and develop a specific placemaking strategy, based on the unique assets of a community.

"Effective placemaking strategies can be a catalyst to growing and transforming communities," said GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson. "We commend the City of Powder Springs on their completion of the program and their commitment to positively developing their community."

More information on the program can be found on the Georgia Cities Foundation website, georgiacitiesfoundation.org.



Upcoming Events

For event locations and details please check the city website, cityofpowdersprings.org.

Through April 9: Easter Egg Quest, dawn to dusk
April 11: One Book, One City, 6 p.m.
April 22: Pick It Up Powder Springs, 9am-12pm & Shred Day, 4-7pm
April 29: Spring Chicken Run & Festival, 7am-3pm
May 4: National Day of Prayer, 6:30pm
May 12-14: Bringing the Sea to the Springs Festival. (Times vary by date. See website for details.)
May 25: Family to Park Day, 6:30pm
May 29: Memorial Day Ceremony, 12pm
June 3: Bark in the Park, 9am-12pm
June 8: Family to Park Day, 6:30pm
June 17: Juneteenth Unity Celebration & Walk, 2-8pm
June 22: Family to Park Day, 6:30pm
July 4: 4th of July Celebration, 6-10pm
July 13: Family to Park Day, 6:30pm
July 29: Back-2-School Bash, 10am-1pm
July 29: Sounds of the Springs Concert, 7:30pm
Aug. 11: Family to Park Day, 6:30pm
Aug. 19: Shred Day, 10am-2pm
Aug. 26: Sounds of the Springs Concert, 7:30pm

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.



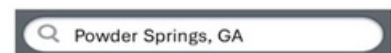
"**Let's Hear From You**" By using this menu option, the app user can call or email the City with the touch of the screen. This is a great way to communicate with the City for any questions, comments or concerns without having to search the website or app. Staff will be ready to reach out with a response.



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

BAG IT *don't* BLOW IT

THE PROBLEM

Yard waste can be tricky! If it is not disposed of properly, this can be a serious threat to our streams and lakes – and can contribute to stormwater problems.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

When yard waste and other debris clog our stormwater sewers, it can lead to serious issues like stormwater pollution, localized flooding, and an increase of rats and cockroaches (yuck!).

WHAT IS CONSIDERED YARD WASTE?

Yard waste includes:

- Leaves
- Pine straw
- Grass clippings
- Twigs

THE SOLUTION

We have a responsibility to protect and maintain clean and healthy waterways. See reverse side for tips on how to properly dispose of yard debris and help avoid clogging our city's stormwater system.



THE *do's* AND *don'ts* OF YARD WASTE DISPOSAL



DO use your leaves as compost/mulch to insulate your soil.



DO leave grass clippings on your lawn as fertilizer.



DO put all yard waste in a biodegradable bag on your curbside for pick-up.



DO request a work order if yard waste exceeds maximum allowed number of 6 bags.



DO NOT blow leaves or grass clippings onto street, nearby drains, gutters, or drainage ditch.



DO NOT dump yard waste into your regular trash can.



DO NOT include other trash of any kind into yard waste.



DO NOT use plastic bags for debris; they are not allowed in compost landfills.

