



JANUARY 2024

NEWSLETTER

Inspired. **Invigorated.** Innovative.



What's Inside

Mayor's Letter

A special message from the Mayor.

Finance Update

Sanitation

Recycling update and information about our new trash trucks.

Downtown Growth

Learn how the city and community are growing together.

Agency of the Year

Congratulations Parks and Recreation.

A New Horizon

Residents and visitors to Powder Springs will notice an altered landscape in 2024 — from new homes and apartments to commercial development. But the city's mission remains unchanged: maintaining a safe, economically secure and stimulating city that people want to visit and call home. To support its mission, additional public safety personnel have been hired and equipped with modern-day crimefighting tools. Longtime and incoming businesses have been supported through initiatives such as "Springs Spotlight" video features on social media and in-person business visits. Powder Springs will remain a destination thanks to continuing events like the city's Fourth of July Celebration, Summer Concert Series and the award-winning "Bringing the Sea to The Springs" Seafood Festival, while new offerings scheduled for 2024 include a spring lunchtime concert series and festivals put on by community partners. Read on to learn about key happenings from the past year and a look at things to come in 2024, and we hope to have you join us at our special events and council meetings and stay connected on our City App.



DIRECTING QUALITY GROWTH IN 2024

Greetings to all...

On behalf of our City Council, city staff, and employees, I extend our Best Wishes for 2024 to all residents and newcomers in Powder Springs. I am honored to serve again as your mayor and thank you for your continued support and trust.

As we prepare for a new year, I congratulate Patricia Wisdom upon her reelection as City Council member at-large, Post 2, and welcome Dwight McMutry who succeeds City Council member Patrick Bordelon to represent Post 1 at-large. I also want to recognize Patrick for his public service and valuable contributions to Powder Springs during the past eight years. Together with City Council members Henry Lust, Ward 1, Doris Dawkins, Ward 2, and Dwayne Greene, Ward 3, we will continue to be a hardworking governing team, ready to move Powder Springs' initiatives forward and to ensure open communication, collaboration, and goals for quality growth remain priorities in our activities.

2024 promises to be an exciting year in Powder Springs! New communities will come to life around Thurman Springs Park and across the city. More homes will be available offering diverse living options for essential city workers, single professionals, young families, and retiring seniors as well as achieving the population density needed to sustain businesses and economic growth. Residents will enjoy expanded amenities including the skatepark on Sailors Parkway and more features planned at Powder Springs Park. By year-end, our new city hall will become an important landmark in our thriving city.

Across metro-Atlanta, a growing population is bringing new dynamics to how we manage resources. With this in mind, members of our DAPS and DDA authorities and Planning and Zoning boards will join the City Council, administrative staff, and department heads at this year's annual retreat. The intent is to develop a unified understanding of our short-term and long-term needs to align all levels of Powder Springs' governing and administrative teams for better outcomes. Continued strategic planning will enhance our culture of preparedness that will endure from one administration to the next to enable us to direct Powder Springs' initiatives, resources, and growth more effectively.

Powder Springs has so much to offer, and you have talents to share with us, too. I encourage you to get involved in 2024. You can follow Powder Springs on social media, the City App, read our newsletters, and attend our public meetings to learn more about city initiatives. If you would like to join the action, please volunteer on one of our ambassador teams, help at city events, qualify to serve on a board, or consider applying for an internship or job. We welcome you and hope to see you soon at a city event.

Al Thurman

Mayor, City of Powder Springs



Henry Lust

“I am super excited about the accomplishments achieved by the city in 2023. We completed and opened our Linear Park Skate Park with a fantastic grand opening. We have been told that there is no other park of the size and versatility as our skate park in the country. We plan to have our new Municipal Government Complex and Parking deck completed in 2024. We are financially sound and positioned for future growth “

Henry Lust, Mayor Pro Tem

Council Member, Ward 1

hlust@cityofpowdersprings.org

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



Doris Dawkins

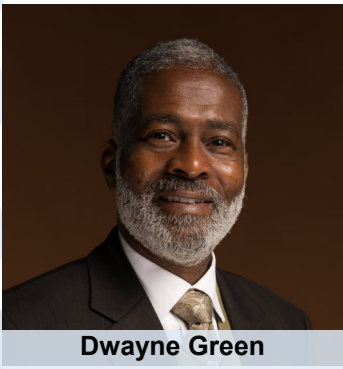
“I am grateful for the new businesses, increased residents positive changes and growth. I look forward to the growth and opportunities for employment and jobs for the residents and am very excited to see the beautiful apartments and new city hall completed next year. Our council is proud of the caliber of growth and expansion of business in our business district.”

Doris Dawkins

Council Member, Ward 2

ddawkins@cityofpowdersprings.org

770-943-1666, ext. 323 to Leave a Voicemail



Dwayne Green

“The city has made great strides with the new skate park, all of the new housing developments, the logistics center. My outlook is for all of these new developments to not only be completed but be a positive impact on the city socially, financially and just overall be productive with the current community members merging with the incoming community members for the city’s growth and stability.”

Dwayne Green

Council Member, Ward 3

dgreen@cityofpowdersprings.org

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



Patrick Bordelon

“I am proud to say that we have been able to revitalize our downtown area bringing in new businesses, restaurants and housing. Additionally, I am proud of our continued commitment to maintain some of the best city services, both in the Public Works Department and Police Department, available while working diligently to do so in the most financially responsible ways possible.”

Patrick Bordelon

Council Member, Post 1 - At Large

pbordelon@cityofpowdersprings.org

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



Patricia Wisdom

The city has had a productive year with tremendous growth and development throughout the city. We have worked with our representatives for their support of curb cuts on 278 to address truck traffic on our local roads. I look forward to addressing how we can best address the traffic we experience and to bring restaurants to our downtown.”

Patricia Wisdom

Council Member, Post 2 - At Large

pwisdom@cityofpowdersprings.org

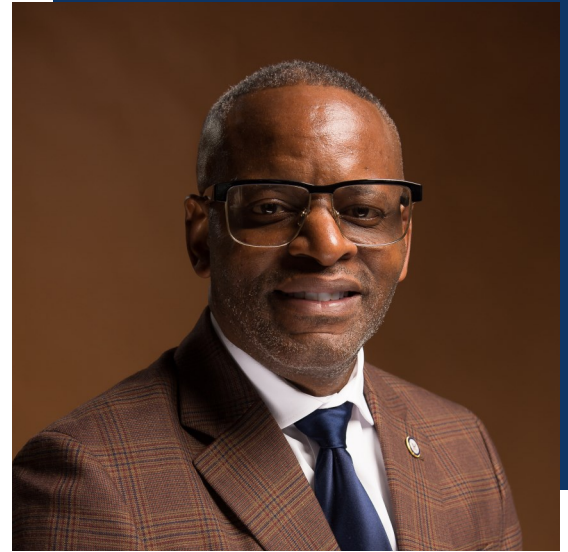
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2024 Begins with New City Council Combo

Meet Our Newest Councilman

Dwight McMurtry was born and raised in Powder Springs. He graduated from John McEachern High School, where he met his beautiful wife, Davette. After more than 27 years of service in the U.S. Navy, he and his family decided to move back to Powder Springs, where he continued serving as a board member of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). His educational background consists of a master's degree in Business Management (Trident University). He has two wonderful children, Darius and Diondra (who's currently serving in the U.S. Navy), and three grandsons.

"Together, we can ensure that Powder Springs will remain a great and safe place to live and continue to build businesses to grow and thrive," McMurtry says. In the upcoming year, he says he's excited and looking forward to the city's new municipal complex, which is scheduled for completion in late winter, and the completion of the new apartments downtown.



Bordelon Bids Adieu

McMurtry steps into the Post 1 - At Large council seat, succeeding Patrick Bordelon, who did not seek re-election and whose second term ended in December.

"I am very grateful to the residents of Powder Springs for giving me the opportunity to serve on City Council for the past eight years," Bordelon said. "When I first ran in 2015 there was a clear message from our small businesses and citizens that they wanted things to change and that the city should move in a new direction. This message has always been top of mind with myself, the other Council members, the Mayor and our staff. The job has not been easy but it is very gratifying to see our plans, as supported by you, to come to fruition."

What's next for the former councilman? "It's time to turn the page to the next chapter in my life in which I plan to focus on my family, my health and an ambitious travel schedule," he

says. "We are already booking trips into 2025 and are looking forward to reaching our goal of visiting all seven continents over the next few years. As I step aside to make way for our next group of leaders to take over, I am most grateful for the many relationships and friendships I have been able to create during my time on Council. That is the true benefit of being a servant leader.

"Thank you. And may God bless you all."

Mayor Thurman and Councilwoman Wisdom Begin Third Terms

November's municipal election also saw the re-election of Mayor Al Thurman and Councilwoman Patricia Wisdom, the latter of whom was unopposed at the ballot box. The two took their oaths of office for their respective third terms during the City Council's Jan. 2 meeting.

Thurman previously served as councilman starting in 2002, running for and elected to his first term as mayor in 2015, becoming the first African-American mayor in Cobb County's history.

City Council typically meets on the first and third Monday of the month for its at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, temporarily located at the theater behind the library at 4181 Atlanta Street. During the months of July through September, the meetings are held on the third Monday. December's meeting is held on the first Monday.

Inaugural Internship Program

Four McEachern High School students gained this past fall first-hand knowledge of operations within the city government and several businesses that call the city home under a new collaborative program.

Three of these students enrolled in the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) program were assigned to Public Works for a two-and-a-half month period, with Jose Luis and Josue Macias assigned to the city's fleet operations to learn about fleet management through hands-on projects chosen to reinforce classroom projects they had performed at school, while MyMy Le was assigned to Public Works where her statistics project focused on developing a new sanitation route.

Rotating among various city businesses and three city departments was Jaydan Hall, whose interest was in business entrepreneurship.

The inaugural program was a collaborative effort that could not have been done without instructor Beth Amacher. Participating business owners were Charles Harding of Blades Lawnmower, Julia Davis of The Book Worm Bookstore, Dr. Andrea Davis of Hand-Me-Up's, Saul Rodriguez of RID Property Services, Marcel Kennedy of Kennedy Advisors and Dr. Brian Davis of Rooted Trading Co. City staff included Community Development Director Tina Garver, Economic Development Director Marsellas Williams, Sanitation Supervisor Leroy Young and City Manager Pam Conner.



JOIN OUR TEAM

To learn about the city's open positions, visit cityofpowdersprings.org and click the "Jobs" link underneath the City of Powder Springs header image.

Volunteer of the Year



Residents and visitors see him everywhere — he's a "volunteer extraordinaire." He's often offering services for city events and programs, and even those programs hosted by others in the community.

Kelly Fisk was honored as Powder Springs' Volunteer of the Year in December. He serves on multiple boards and commissions, including Planning and Zoning and Arts & Cultural Affairs, and interacts with civic organizations in the city and county to better the lives of our residents, chiefly our veterans.

He was Logistics Management Specialist with the Consolidated Storage Program, Logistics Services Management Center, and Marine Corps Logistics Command (Albany, Ga.) before retiring from more than 35-plus years of service to the Marine Corps. He served 20 years as an active-duty Marine retiring as a master sergeant, 1982-2003. He continued five-plus years as a contractor and 10 years as a Civilian-Marine.

He graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Science in education. A member of the Stonebridge Church in Marietta, Fisk enjoys free time with his wife Brenda and their two daughters and grandchildren.

2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

January 2* & 16 *
February 5 & 19
March 4 & 18
April 1 & 15

May 6 & 20
June 3 & 17
July 15
August 19

September 16
October 7 & 21
November 4 & 18
December 2

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

Financial Outlook

The City of Powder Springs in late December completed its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The report demonstrates the fiscal stability and sound financial practices of the City.

The City's actual general fund revenue was \$2,239,101 more than final budgeted revenues for fiscal year 2023. Actual expenditures were \$971,969 less than final budgeted expenditures.

A significant portion of the increased revenues is investment income resulting from the City's new investment policy and additional tax revenues from new development and new valuations of properties without a homestead exemption. Investment earnings are dependent upon the availability of capital dollars to invest, which will gradually decrease as capital projects are completed. This along with lower interest rates, the predominant residential character of the city, the loss of revenue sources, and rising operational expenses will require continued careful budgeting to maintain positive budget variances experienced in FY23.

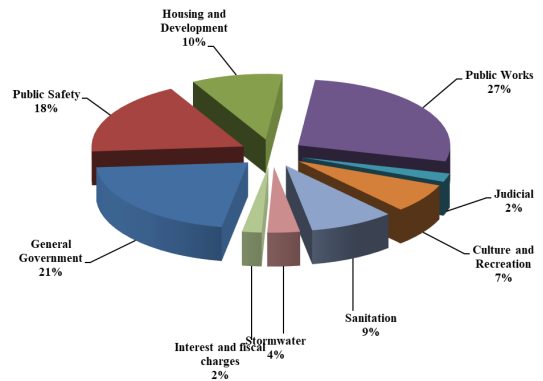
In addition to increased revenues, expenditure amendments increased. Expenditure amendments of the FY23 General Fund included a mid-year pay increase and implementation of employee physical and financial wellness initiatives aimed at employee retention, and a transfer of excess prior year fund balance to Capital Projects for future resurfacing and emergency preparedness.

Despite expenditure amendments, actual expenditures were \$971,969 less than final budgeted expenditures, due primarily to vacancies in approved positions. Within the general fund, there was a positive budget variance of \$1.9 million, which will

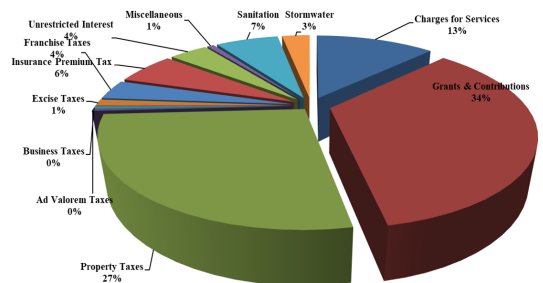
address one-time capital expenditures as well as set-asides for resurfacing, emergency preparedness and the 6-month operating reserve policy.

As detailed within its financial statements, the city maintains a general fund balance to cover operations for six months. The unassigned fund balance of the General Fund at June 30, 2023, of \$21,042,550 represents the equivalent of 22 months of the FY24 operating expenditures. Of course, that amount decreases throughout the fiscal year to cover operating expenses but not below the 6-month threshold.

Fund Analysis



Expenses



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, 2022.

This was the 32nd 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 Department 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 FY23 will again meet the requirements of this program and is in the process of submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for certification.

Trash Cart Placement



For an explanation about cart placement, view this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH1bTNEVU3c>



Recycling Drop-off Rolls On

The City of Powder Springs' Drop-off Recycling Center opened this past spring, and operates on weekends at 3006 Springs Industrial Drive. Materials cannot be brought or dropped off at Public Works outside of its weekend operating hours, which are Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit [cityofpowdersprings.org/657/Recycling](https://www.cityofpowdersprings.org/657/Recycling) or scan the QR code to learn more about the Recycling Program, including what materials can be dropped off at the center, what materials are not accepted, and additional rules.



New Garbage Trucks Bring Need for Correct Cart Placement

Some city sanitation customers in 2024 will be serviced by Powder Springs Public Works' newest garbage truck, and proper placement of garbage cans will be key.

This new side-loader garbage truck utilizes a robotic arm, and therefore garbage cans must be placed with the front side facing the road. Cans must also be placed away from anything that can block or obstruct the arm, including (but not limited to) mailboxes, vehicles, and anything that may block collection of the can, or could cause damage to or be damaged by the arm.

Sanitation customers will be notified in advance when they will be serviced by the new garbage truck. Eventually, the side-loader will replace all existing collection vehicles.

In collaboration with Cobb Works, the City sponsored several sanitation and maintenance laborers in a skill enhancement training program. The employees achieved CDL's and increased pay, and the City achieved an expanded pool of drivers.



2024 Sanitation Holiday Schedule

The City of Powder Springs observes several holidays throughout the year that have an impact on trash collection. In general, if a holiday occurs on your normal collection day, it will be picked up on the next business day.

Find the 2024 Sanitation Holiday Schedule by scanning this QR code or by visiting <https://www.cityofpowdersprings.org/387/Holiday-Schedule>

If you have any questions concerning the holiday schedule, please call the Public Works Department at 770-943-8010.



New Municipal Complex to Bolster Booming Downtown

As the physical and symbolic heart of the community, downtown Powder Springs has welcomed tens of thousands of residents and visitors to its new park and amphitheater, anchored by the City's preserved and renovated commercial structures as well as new residential development intended to attract young professionals and empty nesters to the city's hometown appeal and welcoming qualities. Adding to this rebirth of downtown vibrancy and community connections is the new Municipal Complex currently under construction and fronting the new park.



In October, the City Council unanimously approved a contract with The Macallan Group to build this multipurpose center and a 120-space parking deck. The Marietta-based construction and contracting company has been a trusted community partner to the city on a previous 2015 project: overseeing renovations to the Historic Bodiford House as it became the Seven Springs Museum.

The new space was approved at \$13.1 million, up from a previous price tag of \$12 million. Contributing to the price increase was an increased building size to include citizen-focused space, including an atrium and a community room. These spaces will allow the city to host local organizations, feature local artisans' creations in the Art Gallery, and be the gathering site for the city's inaugural Youth Council, among other purposes.

The Municipal Complex's parking deck, which will be useable by employees and the public, was not included in the issuance of bonds to go toward funding the project, which also pushed the project's price upward. The parking deck will provide needed space to those visiting downtown businesses and Thurman Springs Park, which is right across the street from the Municipal Complex site. Pricing was also pushed upward by factors that other governments, businesses and individuals have endured in recent years: supply chain issues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflation.

With it being constructed on the former site of the city's court building, the Municipal Complex will allow most city operations to be regathered under one roof, from city administration and elected officials' offices to Finance, Economic Development, Community Development, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Municipal Court. Parks, Senior Services, Police and Public Works will maintain their existing facilities.

The downtown redevelopment...from Thurman Springs Park to the commercial corridor, new residential development, parking improvements, and city hall...will help achieve the city's mission to create a safe, vibrant, economically stimulating city where residents and visitors want to connect.

Along with bonds, additional funding for the Municipal Complex project is coming from capital funds, federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, revenues from the Special Purpose Local Optional Sales Tax (SPLOST), and the General Fund.

ARPA Funding Key to Several City Initiatives

Congress authorized the disbursement of relief funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid local government in responding to and recovering from the pandemic. Previously, the City received nearly \$6 million in ARPA dollars. Following a 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, certain solutions to address food insecurity and the learning gap, stormwater assessment and repairs, development of a stormwater capital program,

and partnership with the county to implement a mental health co-response program in public safety.

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 and under its contract provided 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 and with Lowe Engineers to assess stormwater infrastructure for repairs and upgrades.

As of this fall, Reflections of Trinity via its ARPA-funded contract distributed more than 7,000 weekend food bags for at-need students and provided over 9,000 boxes of food to city families.

The Goodr store at Tapp Middle School, prior to its fall reopening, had served 397 households and distributed 9,925 pounds of food.

More than 3,500 stormwater inspections across the city have been conducted with earmarked ARPA funds, with stormwater repairs completed at Country Walk Drive, Hollow Stream Trail, Nectar Drive and Ten Oaks Court.

Curb and gutter cleaning along Richard D. Sailors Parkway began in December and is expected to continued through early spring.

Upcoming projects include a capital improvement plan for stormwater infrastructure and development of an affordable housing plan.

SPLOST

The Special Purpose Local Optional Sales Tax is a 1 -percent sales tax in Cobb in which tax collections are distributed among the county and its cities. With its portion of SPLOST funding, the city is able to improve infrastructure and pursue capital projects, from needed equipment to new park facilities, resurfacing and intersection improvements, just to name a few examples.

Previous SPLOST collections have helped the Police Department purchase new car cameras, body cameras and Tasers. Going forward, the funds are expected to help the department purchase and equip

two new vehicles a year, at an expected cost of \$80,000 each, in 2023 dollars.

The city's parks gained a crown jewel this summer with the addition of Skate Park in Silver Comet Linear Park. Youths and even adults on skateboards wasted little time after the Mayor and City Council cut the ribbon to officially open the new amenity.

As the only one of its kind in the country to date, the Skate Park is available to users of all levels. No matter their skill level, users are encouraged to wear adequate protective gear. Usage of the Skate Park is at the user's risk and during daylight hours.



This fall saw the substantial completion of the Pineview Trail, connecting the Silver Comet Trail to downtown Powder Springs. The final gap to connect to the park will be completed with city hall.

Powder Springs Park is the focus of an estimated \$1.2 million package of additional improvements. Along with the pavilion, the improvements up next include a dog park, a new farmers market area with utility hookups, and renovation of the existing restroom building.

Several street improvements across the city were completed in 2023 at a cost of \$644,363, and focused on safety and parking improvements.

The City completed resurfacing in 2023 with nearly \$900,000 in SPLOST and Local Maintenance Improvement Grant program funds. The City will continue its resurfacing program, allocating up to \$1.5 million using SPLOST. LMIG and General Fund dollars.

Right-of-way needed for intersection improvements at Richard D. Sailors Parkway at Powder Springs Road and Forest Hill Road continued last year making way for a parallel access road, traffic signal, sidewalks and median planting. Additional SPLOST projects planned for 2024 include a roundabout at Powder Springs Dallas Road and Florence Road and traffic signal upgrades at New Macland Road at Macedonia Road, Marietta Street and New Macland Road and Marietta Street at Brownsville Road.

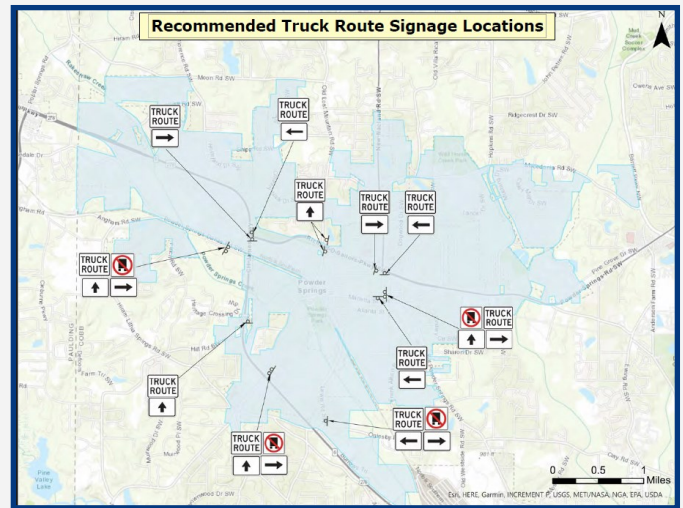
Transportation Transformations Key

The City continued in 2023 its efforts to seek a change in access policy on U.S. 278 with curb cuts and signalized intersections. It sought the assistance of the state Cobb County Legislative Delegation and lobbyists familiar and successful with policy setting at the Georgia Department of Transportation. City officials, staff and consultants met in July with state Sen. Michael "Doc" Rnett, state Rep. David Wilkerson, and Georgia Department of Transportation State Transportation Board Member Micah Gravley to discuss the city's request for strategic curb cut access.

One intersection under consideration is south of Lewis and Oglesby Roads near the new Native Development logistics center. A goal addressed at this location would be facilitating truck movement directly to and from U.S. 278 and away from local roads.

The City completed a truck route study to establish a route intended to direct truck use to major travel corridors designed for such use, and the City in its preparation of a fiscal 2025 budget will weigh cost estimates of study recommendations.

The City requested its city engineer to review approved developments and current traffic patterns to recommend improvements at intersections in the City that will best mitigate traffic impacts. A lighting assessment began in 2023 in order to improve lighting deficiencies identified by the public. Both study recommendations are expected in 2024.



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.

Public Access to City

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Where Do I Go for City Services?

Open Hours

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

'Book Worm Book Fest' Set for April

Powder Springs is among the sponsors of The Book Worm Book Fest 2024 — a weeklong celebration for lovers of books of all ages set for April 8-13.

Over the course of the week, join the festival for many unique book themed events, from the kick-off event on Monday to the Festival Saturday event featuring authors, panel discussions, a special kids festival and so much more. The book fest will conclude with the One Book One City discussion.

Monday - Stop by The Book Worm to pick up early copies of the Book Fest brochure, early bird swag, and books that may have been pre-ordered for authors that will be in attendance. At 6 p.m. there will be a special author appearance at The Book Worm.

Tuesday - From 4 to 6 p.m., Cobb County Bookmobile will be at Thurman Springs Park for Storytime in the Park.

Wednesday - Fun awaits with the Charlie & The Chocolate Factory themed event (full details TBA).

Thursday - Poetry Slam at 6 p.m. at Rooted Trading Company. Submissions are being sought.

Friday - Special ticketed Mystery Event from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Green Magnolia House to include special author and vendor appearances.

Saturday - Festival Saturday - Thurman Springs Park to include panels, author signings and vendors, concluding with the "One Book, One City: event with Dr. Ian Smith. The festival will feature:

- Author appearances for all ages;
- Independent Bookstore Owner Panel - owners from five of Georgia's local bookstores, including Julia Davis from The Book Worm;
- Mayor's Reading Club Panel to include Powder Springs Mayor Al Thurman; Austell Mayor Ollie Clemons; Kay Love, managing director of City Solutions who oversees the program; and Cobb Collaborative's Irene Barton, who will serve as moderator;
- Cobb Collaborative will host two of its Basics Workshops;
- Read & Play Book Carnival - kids area to include author storytime, signings, games and more.

Find updates on this inaugural event by visiting thebookwormbookfest.com.



Public, Community Partners Come Out for National Night Out

The Powder Springs Police Department's annual National Night Out Celebration on Oct. 3 was a success, with the community able to enjoy free hot dogs and drinks, freebies from local businesses and organizations, and a chance to meet our friendly police officers and PD support staff.

Several of our public safety partners also took part in the annual event, including the Cobb Fire Department and Cobb District Attorney's Office. The Hiram Police Department and the Austell Police Department were also in attendance, the latter of which welcomed our Powder Springs Police Department during their National Night Out event in August.

Community partners also taking part were ADT Alarms, American Legion, Larry Thomas, Chattahoochee Technical College, Croy Engineering, First Baptist Church, Foothills Chiropractors, Got You Covered Blankets, Governors Gun Club, Ordinary 2 Extraordinary, Powder Springs First United Methodist Church, Powder Springs Nursing and Rehab, Premier Martial Arts, Publix, & State Farm: Katie Harris.

Held annually the first Tuesday in October, keep your calendar free for this year's Powder Springs Police Department's National Night Out, set for Oct. 5.



Welcome New Employees

The City of Powder Springs welcomed 15 new staff members into its ranks in the 2023 calendar year. We are glad to have these talented employees as part of our team:

Community Development

Kerisha Black

Human Resources Department

Henry Smith I

Parks & Recreation Department

Vangie Rodenbeck

Police Department

Matthew Meade
DeJuante Miller
Andre Morrison
Edward Reeves
Linda Tibbitts

Public Works Department

Lynda Beene-Cummings
Kellen Boyd
Antavious Henderson
Jordan Payne
Shaun Roberts
Roger Williams
Leroy Young



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.



App Store



Google Play

#powderspringsproud

Agency of the Year

Powder Springs' Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs department is at the top of its class, recognized in November at the Georgia Recreation and Park Association Awards Banquet in Athens as the 2023 Agency of the Year (Population under 20,000).

The department of six employees — four full-time and two part-time — manages 47 acres of park space as well as the Patricia C. Vaughn Cultural Arts Center, the multipurpose Ford Center Reception Hall, and the Seven Springs Museum at the Bodiford House. In July, the department opened the city's new Skate Park at Silver Comet Linear Park, which welcomed several pro skaters and skate enthusiasts at a grand opening event in October.

The department's programs and hosted events serve residents and visitors of all ages. Drawing over 10,000 visitors each May to Thurman Springs Park is the "Bringing The Sea to the Springs" seafood festival, which earned in 2022 the "Spot-On Event of the Year" honor from Cobb Travel & Tourism. Hundreds more have enjoyed each of three concerts offered in the park during the annual "Sounds of the Springs" summer concert series, which will also celebrate its fourth year in 2024. Celebrating its third year in 2024 will be the Juneteenth event and appearing for a second year following its successful inaugural event in 2023 is the Hispanic Heritage Festival in October.

An estimated 500 families attended last year's Family to Park Day summer movie series with sponsorship from the First Baptist Church of Powder Springs on Marietta Street. The city's senior citizens, meanwhile, have been able to take advantage of programs such as the Seniors in Motion weekly line dancing classes, a "sip 'n' paint" series, and senior trips ranging from shopping outings in Jasper and Duluth to plays at the Fox Theatre and museums such as the Tubman Museum of African American Art.

Even the city's four-legged residents have had their day in the sun, with the annual "Bark in the Park" in June, welcoming about 75 dog-loving families and their furry family members. Not content with resting on their laurels, the department is well underway with preparations for an eventful 2024, which will bring back all of the aforementioned events and add a series of Brown Bag Lunch midday concerts in April to complement the annual September slate of such concerts. Area organizations are also bringing new events to the city's park facilities in the new year, including the Welcome to South Cobb festival.



Bike Rack Art

The City was one of 310 grantees selected to receive a 2023 AARP Community Challenge grant from AARP Livable Communities and AARP Georgia. Through the grant, the City was able to install five new, permanent bike racks in the downtown area, each decorated by a local artist, to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

The City purchased the bike racks and partnered with the South Cobb Arts Alliance to have artists paint them. This was part of the city's placemaking efforts to create a sense of place in the downtown and capitalize on tourism art. Through the partnership with SCAA, the city was able to work with McEachern High School and Tapp Middle School art classes to paint two.

You will find one bike at the entrance of Thurman Springs Park, one in front of the temporary city hall on Marietta Street, one by Skint Chestnut Brewing Company, one by the Dillard Street Silver Comet Trail entrance, and the fifth at the corner of Oakview &

Pineview Drive across from the townhomes.

The city plans to add two more bike racks and work with SCAA to paint and install, bringing the total to seven, in a nod to the city's historic seven springs.



Citizen of the Year



Powder Springs' 2023 Citizen of the Year is Laurie Wong, founder and executive director of Reflections of Trinity, an

organization that serves families in need and combats hunger in the community through service and education. Wong was surprised with the Citizen of the Year award at the Riverside EpiCenter during a Nov. 2 luncheon hosted by the Cobb Chamber's South Cobb Area Council, which represents South Cobb's three distinct districts of Austell, Mableton and Powder Springs

The Citizen of the Year Awards are given to honor an individual whose impact through the years will be recognized and regarded with pride throughout the area as a role model, and are given based on local area nominations.

Reflections opened in 2003 and began as a thrift store to support the Reflections charity. In 2005,

Wong opened an eBay business to support the ministry and launched the food pantry in 2012, serving 33 families on the first day of outreach.

From 2012 through 2022, Reflections has served over 13 million pounds of food to 500,000 individuals and currently feeds over 1200 families each week and over 7500 individuals each month.

For the past 20 years, Wong has faithfully served communities within and around Powder Springs as a provider of resources to families facing crisis. Her entrepreneurial spirit, visionary leadership, and heart of service are reflected in the charity organization she founded more than 20 years ago.

Although Wong dedicates most of her time to serving her community through her charitable organization, she finds time to work with youth and seniors and partner with local churches and charitable organizations. She is always willing to support the community engagement goals of the City of Powder Springs and contributes to the wellbeing of the community.



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.



Apartments Add to City's Residential Options

Powder Springs' first multifamily community in nearly 20 years is the first of its kind in the area, offering upscale amenities including co-working spaces, dog park, grilling and outdoor dining spaces, a resort-style swimming pool and fitness center with outdoor and indoor gathering spaces.

Selig Enterprises on Oct. 10 hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Heartwood Powder Springs. The 300-unit property will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Following the initial move-ins in 2023, more units will be made available to residents in the new year.

Recently advertised rental rates at Heartwood had one-bedroom units from \$1,657 to \$1,783, two-bedroom units between \$1,910 and \$2,192, and three-bedroom

units starting at \$2,464. Offered floor plans vary, with additional styles scheduled to come online this year.

Heartwood Powder Springs is located at 4493 Brownsville Road just off U.S. Hwy. 278.

Novare's Apartments

Novare (at the time of this newsletter's printing in early January) has planned to begin move-ins in early February, which will include its Carriage homes and building nearest Murray Avenue. Its primary location off Marietta Street is soon to come in early 2024. There will be 220 apartments units – studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments and will feature similar amenities offered by Selig, including co-working space, swimming and fitness and residential gathering space adjacent to Thurman Springs Park.

Events Calendar

2024

CITYOFPOWERSPRINGS.ORG

For Event location and details see the city website

JAN 6	Tree Chipper Event 10:00am - 2:00pm	MAY 27	Memorial Day Ceremony 12:00pm	SEPT 12	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm
APRIL 4	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 1	Bark in the Park 10:00am - 2:00pm	SEPT 19	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm
APRIL 6	KPSB Plant Sale 10:00am	JUNE 6	Family to Park Day 6:30pm	SEPT 26	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm
APRIL 11	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 19	Juneteenth Celebration +	SEPT 28	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm
APRIL 13	One Book, One City 6:00pm	JUNE 20	Family to Park Day 6:30pm	OCT 1	National Night Out +
APRIL 18	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JULY 4	July 4th Celebration +	OCT 5	Pick It Up Powder Springs 9:00am - 12:00pm
APRIL 20	Pick It Up Powder Springs 9:00am - 12:00pm	JULY 11	Family to Park Day 6:30pm	OCT 12	Hispanic Heritage Fiesta +
APRIL 25	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JULY 25	Family to Park Day 6:30pm	OCT 12	Shred Day 10:00am - 2:00pm
APRIL 27	Shred Day 10:00am - 2:00pm	JULY 27	Back to School Bash +	OCT 19	Trunk or Treat +
MAY 2	National Day of Prayer 6:30pm	JULY 27	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm	NOV 11	Veteran's Day Ceremony 11:00am
MAY 17 - 19	Bringing the Sea to the Springs Seafood Festival +	AUG 24	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm	DEC 6	Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting - 6:30pm +
MAY 23	Family to Park Day 6:30pm	SEPT 5	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	EVENT DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE Indicates Street Closures +	



4426 Marietta St.
Powder Springs, GA 30127

Businesses and Job-Seekers

Connecting Job-Seekers to Local Businesses

The city had its first-ever Job Fair on Sept. 20, drawing 75 attendees to meet seven participating employers: Pro Sports Team Outfitters, Compass Building Systems, Wilson Air Conditioning Service, The City of Powder Springs, Boge America, Angelic Companions, and Providence Care. Successful recruiting will see a reprise in 2024.



Seminar Outlines Business Opportunities

About three dozen vendors and contractors attended our Oct. 18 “How to do Business with the City” seminar, with attendees gaining information on how to enhance and improve business opportunities with the City of Powder Springs, learning about bidding opportunities and the city's procurement requirements and processes. Plans are underway for 2024.

