



JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Inspired. **Invigorated.** Innovative.

SPLOST: PAVING THE WAY FOR CITY IMPROVEMENTS



Your tax dollars, along with funds paid by visitors to Powder Springs and Cobb County via the 1-percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, have funded multiple improvements to our city in 2024, and more are yet to come in the new year.

Signals at both Marietta Street at Brownsville Road, and at Marietta Street at New Macland Road, were replaced and upgraded from old Georgia Department of transportation state systems to Cobb County. The city covered the cost of design and installation and Cobb County agreed to maintain and operate. The signals are expected to provide more efficient traffic management, replacing previous frequent malfunctions. A third signal is planned at Macedonia and New Macland.

Recreational areas received improvements, with Silver Comet Linear Park's Skate Park seeing installation of three shade structures along with a new trail connector at Calvary Baptist Church, facilitating easier more direct access for emergency services.

The climbing structure, previously at Linear Park but now at the Dillard Street trailhead, has been improved by the addition of a walkway leading to the structure. Additionally, signage was installed at the parking area and upgraded at the trail. Landscaping, benches, and vegetation clearance was postponed to 2025.

The Ford Center Reception Hall, which hosts special events, city council work sessions, town halls and more, saw installation of new windows replacing three sets of doors, lighting, benches, planters and interior paint.

In 2025, the city will begin its work on phase two of improvements to its portion of Powder Springs Park (the side accessible from Brownsville Road) with a long-awaited dog park, electrical hookups for food trucks, lighting improvements, and renovations to the restroom facilities.

Drivers should keep their eyes peeled for road improvements set to begin in the new year. Perhaps the most significant is the creation of an access road that will run parallel Powder Springs Road, beginning at Forest Hill Road, and will include a landscaped median and traffic signal. Additionally, Powder Springs-Dallas Road at Florence Road will see conversion of an existing stop sign and thru-traffic to a three-leg roundabout. Construction of both will start this year.

The Lewis Road and Oglesby Road improvement project will include intersection improvements aimed at deterring trucks from coming downtown. This project is still in design phase, with tentative plans calling for starting construction late in the year.

In 2024, the city invested approximately \$1.7M in resurfacing projects and will repeat a similar investment in 2025.





Henry Lust

In 2024, Powder Springs celebrated several notable highlights, including the continued revitalization of its downtown area, which saw new businesses opening, beautiful apartments, townhomes, single-family homes and events that brought the community together. The city’s investment in expanding its parks and trails network also stood out, further enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Looking ahead to 2025, I look forward to the completion of ongoing infrastructure projects, such as road improvements and expanded public amenities, as well as new initiatives to attract businesses that align with the city’s vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Henry Lust, Mayor Pro Tem
 Council Member, Ward 1
hlust@cityofpowdersprings.org
 770-943-1666, ext. 322 to Leave a Voicemail



Doris Dawkins

Powder Springs is still the small town with an atmosphere of community with the big city ambition. There have been several housing developments completed and annexations to expand the boundaries of our city. We are looking forward to our new city hall in 2025 and continuous quality growth and development. Looking forward to the growth and opportunities for employment for the residents. I will continue to work with staff to attract new business and improve the downtown area.

Doris Dawkins
 Council Member, Ward 2
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Dwayne Green

Highlights for me were the completion of the nearby apartments off Marietta Street and Brownsville Road, and as of recent, the Christmas parade – it’s one of the best I’ve seen since becoming a resident of the city. What I would like to see are more sustainable businesses in the area that are able to not only open but remain. It’s a little disheartening to engage and support the businesses to one day they are up and gone. It’s a loss to the business, the city and the citizens of Powder Springs.

Dwayne Green
 Council Member, Ward 3
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 770-943-1666, ext. 324 to Leave a Voicemail



Dwight McMutry

Serving on the council is a serious responsibility, as the decisions we make today will have a lasting impact on our community’s future. During my time in this role, I’ve had the privilege of meeting many incredible business owners and community members. I’m excited to continue working alongside our community to support the growth and success of our city. I encourage all residents to stay involved by attending council meetings and engaging with us — your voice is vital to shaping our city’s future.

Dwight McMutry
 Council Member, Post 1 - At Large
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 770-943-1666, ext. 321 to Leave a Voicemail



Patricia Wisdom

The top highlights for me in 2024 was seeing the fruition of the downtown development with the completion of the Novare apartments (Springside) and the new City Hall rapidly being completed. I have gotten many positive comments from residents of how the downtown is developing. In 2025, I am looking forward to continued completion of downtown development with more retail and restaurants coming around the parks and the new City Hall. I am also looking forward to the completion of Powder Springs Park with the inclusion of our dog park and the Farmers Market.

Patricia Wisdom
 Council Member, Post 2 - At Large
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WE APPRECIATE ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS AND LOOK FORWARD TO MORE PROGRESS IN 2025

Greetings and best wishes to all citizens of Powder Springs as we prepare for 2025!

I always enjoy this time of year not only for holiday fellowship, but also to appreciate our city's progress as we anticipate the steps ahead to continue to build a strong, safe, and caring community.

Powder Springs has become a very desirable place to live, work and play. During 2024, many projects on the drawing board several years ago were realized under our vision for quality growth. New communities came to life across the city, offering a choice of affordable housing options to meet the diverse needs of city employees, young families, professionals, mid-life residents, and seniors. Next year, home building will continue at Old Lost Mountain Estates, Creekwood, and Tapp Farm subdivisions and 70 more residences now under construction at Adler Springs on Powder Springs Dallas Road will be complete.

In the heart of Powder Springs, inviting apartments, townhomes, shops, and landmark buildings have swept away construction dust and are ready for business. Downtown residents can enjoy year-round events at Thurman Springs Park, walk through history at the city's Seven Springs Museum, or meet and greet in local shops and eateries re-establishing business along Marietta Street. By mid-2025, our new multi-purpose municipal complex will open to anchor our downtown district and provide many city services conveniently under one roof.

This year, getting around the city without a car will be easier, too, by using affordable micro-transit provided by CobbLinc Go. This federally-funded program will expand on-demand and wheelchair-accessible transportation services across Powder Springs, Austell, and South Cobb. In addition, commercial investment such as Native Development's \$35 million distribution facility near U.S. 278 and future annexation and mixed-use development opportunities along the East-West Connector will create more new jobs and strengthen our commercial tax base in years to come.

Your city leaders are ever mindful of sustaining Powder Springs' character and quality of life as we manage growth in such a positive environment. City planning will continue to carefully evaluate each opportunity and assess city capabilities to ensure our progress stays on track.

In Powder Springs, positive outcomes are achieved by working together. I want to recognize the outstanding teamwork of City Council members, our city staff and employees, and all citizens serving our city. So much of our progress depends on quality service by employees; by citizens serving on city authorities, boards, and commissions; and by volunteers of all ages lending a hand at events or keeping our green spaces clean and attractive. Each person deserves our appreciation when a job is well done. Please use the new feedback tool at cityofpowdersprings.org to celebrate a great city service and how it brightened your day.

Looking ahead, I encourage Powder Springs residents, longtime and new, to attend city meetings and join activities that interest you in 2025. Together, we shall enjoy progress and prosperity for another extraordinary year!

Al Thurman
Mayor, City of Powder Springs

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Powder Springs' 2024 Citizen of the Year is Elliott Hennington, general contractor at the Trimen Enterprises. Over the years, Hennington's leadership roles have included Chairperson of the Powder Springs Community Taskforce (2015-2024), and board member positions with both the Austell Community Taskforce and Circles Cobb. Since 2016, he has also been an active member of 4P Powder Springs, contributing to various city improvement projects.

Hennington is well-known for organizing the Annual Back-to-School Bash for over 20 years, an event providing backpacks and school supplies to local students. He has also coordinated the Giving Hope for Holidays event for nearly a decade, delivering toys to children in need. His dedication to education and youth support extends to Tapp Middle School, where he has spent more than a decade tutoring and mentoring students, as well as helping establish a nonprofit youth foundation that offers affordable summer camp options.

He has also been a committed member of the Cobb County Government Parks and Recreation Board, where he served as chair from 2018 to 2023. Appointed by Cobb County Chair Lisa Cupid, Hennington has been instrumental in guiding parks initiatives and community programs. Additionally, he serves as Lead Deacon at Destiny World Church Austell and as co-chair of the South Cobb Opportunity Zone, a United Way-funded initiative supporting community growth and development.

Announced as Powder Springs Citizen of the Year by Mayor Al Thurman, Hennington was one of three honorees recognized during the Oct. 30 South Cobb Area Council luncheon at the Riverside EpiCenter. Also honored as Citizens of the Year were Quintasha Swanson for City of Austell and Carolyn Turner for City of Mableton. Citizen of the Year Awards in each district are given based on local area nominations and selected by the Cobb Chamber's South Cobb Area Council.



GRPA VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

The American Legion Post 294 was recognized in December as the Georgia Recreation and Park Association's State Volunteer Award Recipient because of its faithful commitment to the residents, guests and visitors of Powder Springs.

The American Legion Post 294 has been an outstanding partner to the City of Powder Springs and its Parks and Recreation Department since at least 2001, and the scope of Post 294's efforts is vast.

They constructed the Veteran's Memorial Garden in



front of the library and have hosted the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day Ceremony since 2017 for veterans and the community at large.

The Legion provides these events' guest speakers, musical talent and military representation.

Post 294 also helps sponsor each October's National Night Out (NNO) event. NNO is a national campaign with a focus on community building and promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

American Legion Post 294 also provides the color guard and welcome tents at the Powder Springs Seafood Festival and the 4th of July Celebration, and passes out candy at the annual Trunk-or-Treat Fall Festival. The members of the American Legion are a welcome addition to city events, providing volunteers and ambassadors that welcome residents, guests and visitors.

The American Legion is also a staple of the City's Christmas Parade, providing a marching color guard to lead the parade down Marietta Street, a flag float, a group of motorcyclists, and a float that features generations of veterans and military families.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



As a growing city, Powder Springs has been blessed with a growing number of volunteers committed to serving our community in multiple ways. This year's Volunteer of the Year, Daren Patrick, is no exception.

Exemplifying this year's theme, "Light Up the Night," Patrick is known for shining his light throughout Powder Springs. Continually going above and beyond to help and assist wherever needed, his winning smile has become a feature at many of our events, welcoming citizens and visitors alike.

As a vital member of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, Patrick's guidance and influence has enhanced the projects and ventures of this group in meaningful ways. His willingness to reach out to local businesses on behalf of the commission led to the procurement of hundreds of pumpkins for the Trunk or Treat Fall Festival in 2023 and 2024, taking a premier seasonal event for our city to the next level.

As a community leader, he has influenced many community partnerships that benefit the ongoing initiative of "Creating an Atmosphere of Community" here in Powder Springs. Along with his church, he has been present at each Family to Park Movie in 2023 and 2024, providing free activities for children in our community, including giving away over 700 units of slime in 2024!

'BOOKMARK' YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT 'ONE BOOK ONE CITY' AUTHOR AND 2ND ANNUAL BOOKFEST

"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 district, and the Powder Springs Public Library.

One Book, One City holds two author-centered events each year, with both featuring a community-wide author talk and discussion followed by a book signing.

The next One Book, One City event will be held Saturday, May 3, at Thurman Springs Park and will feature Denny S. Bryce and Eliza Knight, co-authors of "Can't We Be Friends: A Novel of Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe." This will be taking place during the second-annual Book Worm Book Fest, a weeklong festival for book lovers of all ages, set for April 28-May 3. It will include author panels & signings, a "Mystery at the Book Fest" event, the Kids Read & Play Carnival, and a Marilyn Monroe movie on Friday, May 2. More details are at thebookwormbookfest.com.

Past One Book, One City authors and titles:

- "Olivetti" by Allie Millington.
- "The Overnights: An Ashe Cayne Novel" by Dr. Ian K. Smith
- "Wildseed Witch" by Marti Dumas
- "We Are the Light" by Matthew Quick
- "Unsettled" by Reem Faruqi
- "All Her Little Secrets" by Wanda M. Morris
- "Why We Fly" by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal

MEET OUR 2025 FEATURED AUTHORS

DENNY S. BRYCE & ELIZA KNIGHT

Co-author's of a novel exploring the unique friendship between jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald and movie star Marilyn Monroe.

COMING
MAY 3



FEDERAL ARPA FUNDS HELP FILL IMMEDIATE, LONG-TERM NEEDS



The City of Powder Springs received \$5.8 million through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Nearly every resident has been directly affected by the city's ARPA-funded projects – from the thousands of recipients of the supplemental grocery program that began following the COVID-19 pandemic to homeowners who may have seen crews assess the city's stormwater system, which was followed by repairs of the infrastructure.

Drivers, meanwhile, will notice railroad safety improvements on Angham and Finch roads near Powder Springs Dallas Road., which were installed in order to establish a Quiet Zone at these crossings.

To accompany the city's signature project of its under-construction City Hall, ARPA funds were used to construct the adjoining parking deck, which upon completion will provide parking not just to employees

and visitors to City Hall, but also those visiting downtown businesses.

More than 400 residents have enrolled in the ARPA-funded FlashVote, which sends short surveys periodically to gauge community priorities. Residents and business owners can enroll in this program by visiting flashvote.com/powdersprings.

ARPA funds also went toward providing tutoring services for students in Powder Springs, aimed at offsetting learning loss in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Communities in Schools program resulted in a 63% increase in attendance and a 123% improvement in reading readiness.

ARPA is also funding an affordable housing plan, which is currently underway and anticipated for completion in 2025.



FREE GROCERIES FOR QUALIFYING RESIDENTS, TAPP MIDDLE FAMILIES

Registration is NOW OPEN to book appointments through May to the food pantry at Tapp Middle School, which provides access to groceries free of charge for families in need during the school year, supplementing their regular grocery shopping. Register by scanning the QR code.

In order to access this resource, you MUST be a resident of the City of Powder Springs OR the immediate family of a Tapp Middle School student, AND eligible to receive the benefits from any of the following programs:

- Free or reduced price lunch
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) "food stamps"
- Reside in a Low to Moderate Income Household as defined by the federal government.

This food pantry is a partnership between the City of Powder Springs and Reflections of Trinity, with funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

POWDER SPRINGS' FINEST POLICE OFFICERS HONORED

Several members of the Powder Springs Police Department were recognized in the past year for their efforts in not only protecting the public, but also in their service to residents.

In October, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce recognized **Officers Kara McIntosh, Paul Philpot, Ed Reeves, and Andrew Siegel** for their involvement in protecting the public before and during their apprehension of a murder suspect who led officers on a high-speed chase on Richard D. Sailors Parkway.

The Chamber also recognized **Officer Andre Morrison** for going above and beyond in caring for young children found walking barefoot on a cold March 17 evening outside of their home where authorities found deplorable living conditions and two adults who failed to provide adequate care to the children.

Lt. Armando Cipriano and Officers Parker Forman, Si'Aayni Dillard, Andre Morrison and Christopher Woods were recognized for their actions in stopping entering autos and arresting several suspects after the foot pursuit of these suspects.

And **Lt. Cipriano, Sgt. Bernard Ellis, and Officers Cory Dilbeck, Thomasina Jordan and Linda Tibbitts** were recognized for attending Powder Springs Nursing and Healing's fall festival and enjoying some time with the residents.



Officer Thomasina Jordan was recognized by Cobb County Law Enforcement Association for dedication and productivity in traffic enforcement efforts. **Sgt. Arren Knuth and Officers Matthew Meade and Carson Yates** were honored by the West Cobb Business Association for actions during an entering auto investigation and arrest.

Join us in congratulating these officers for their bravery and their commitment to excellence in service to our community.

YOUR HOME'S CAMERAS CAN HELP CONTINUE CRIME RATE DECREASES

The City of Powder Springs has seen its crime rates drop in the past year. Through mid-December, the city saw its largest decreases in burglaries with a 72% drop in burglaries through most of 2024 as compared to 2023. The same time period also saw a 63% drop in stolen vehicles and a 32% drop in thefts from vehicles.

Aiding the Powder Springs Police Department in its investigations of crimes is its use of the Axon Fusus system. Fusus is an open and unified intelligence ecosystem that integrates and enhances all public safety and investigations assets for law enforcement, first responders, and private security personnel.

One component of the Fusus system

is the ability for residents and business owners to register their security cameras with the Powder Springs Police Department. Registering your cameras does not allow police access to your live video stream — it only enables investigators to know a camera is present at your location and easily request video evidence should an incident occur.

Also providing more sets of "eyes" across the city are FLOCK License Plate Readers, which notify law enforcement when they spot a license plate related to outstanding warrants, missing persons, stolen vehicles and other incidents. While the city has invested in several FLOCK cameras across the city, homeowners associations and

businesses have also added their own FLOCK cameras to the overall system.

The city's use of Fusus and FLOCK cameras are among the components that feed into Cobb County's Real Time Crime Center. Real-time crime centers are hubs where police ingest and analyze surveillance, intelligence, and data from a number of sources in real-time.

The police department was granted a new Crime Analyst position this year. The Crime Analyst will help gather information from all our technology tools and through collaboration with other cities and Cobb County to assist investigators with locating information and persons involved in crimes.

CITY LOSES THREE FORMER ELECTED OFFICIALS IN 2024



John Oliver Rogers

The past year saw the passing of a former mayor of Powder Springs and two former members of its City Council.

In April, former Powder Springs Mayor John Oliver Rogers died at the age of 87. Rogers served as Powder Springs' mayor from 1977 to 1984. He retired from Southern Bell in 1989 after 33 years of service and was a long-time member of First Baptist Church in Powder Springs.

knew everybody" in Powder Springs, and had a desire to make Powder Springs "an even-better place to call home," city leaders who served at the time recalled.

Mellichamp died in May at the age of 81, according to friends and neighbors.

And December saw the passing of former Councilwoman Rosalyn Neal, who passed away Dec. 10. She was 83.



Richard Mellichamp

Former city leaders lauded Rogers for his "steadfast" leadership and also tackling a tight financial situation the city found itself in as he was taking office. When the city celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2013, Rogers joined then-mayor Pat Vaughn and two other former mayors in a celebration video featuring a discussion on the city's past and present.

A longtime resident of Powder Springs, Neal served two terms on the city council in the Post 1 - At Large seat from 2008 through 2015. Current and former elected officials remembered her as a "great leader" and "very caring."

Neal was a graduate of Gordon Military School and worked for the FBI for a number of years prior to starting her own transportation company, which often sponsored the city's Fourth of July Celebration prior to her service on the council.



Rosalyn Neal

A Navy veteran, Richard Mellichamp had lived in Powder Springs 40 years when he launched in the fall of 1991 his first-ever bid for elected office to become an at-large city councilman, according to an October 1991 article in the Marietta Daily Journal.

The City of Powder Springs offers its condolences to family and friends of these three former city leaders, and is thankful for the time and energy they gave to the city and its residents.

Winning his contest by a mere 10 votes, Mellichamp served from 1992 to 1995. Mellichamp "seemed like he

POLICE TRAINING FOCUSES ON MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Powder Springs Police Department is committed to equipping officers with the tools needed to address mental health crises effectively and compassionately. To this end, the department participated in a series of resiliency training sessions focused on handling mental health emergencies encountered while on and off duty.

This specialized training ensures that officers are prepared to manage crisis calls effectively, de-escalate situations, and provide critical resources to those in need. In addition to responding to community needs, the department has prioritized the well-being of its officers and their families.

By fostering partnerships with organizations such as WellStar and The Nichols Center, the department continues to provide ongoing training opportunities and access to self-help resources. These collaborations ensure a holistic approach to mental health, promoting resilience and well-being both within the department and throughout the community.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE TRASH BIN



OUR CITY'S SOLUTION TO INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

This is a true story. It really happened and continues happening to this day right here in Powder Springs. It is a story about global trade, and it is a story about problem solving. But most of all, it is a story about a community coming together for the greater good.

Our story begins on a cold February day in 2017. Around 2 a.m., while the residents of our community were tucked warm in their beds, all the way across the globe China would institute a series of policies with consequences every member of Powder Springs would feel. What would become known as the "National Sword" is a series of trash ban policies that have restricted the amount of solid waste that China allows to be imported into their country.



not only didn't want it but wouldn't allow it, our entire recycling industry changed overnight. The ban has had several consequences:

- Global impact: The ban has affected recycling industries worldwide, because China was the world's largest importer of waste plastics and other recyclable materials.

Why would a policy on the other side of the world impact our Powder Springs community you might ask? Well, the answer is simple – China had been the buyer for all our recycling. They were the exclusive market for the unwanted trash of not only the U.S., but also Japan, the United Kingdom, and Germany. And when they suddenly

- Local impact: Some cities have been able to find new markets or improve their recycling operations, while others have had to make changes, such as dropping some materials from their recycling program.

Our cozy little community did not feel the impacts of these policies

immediately. But in 2022, when our contracts for curbside recycling came up for renewal, the reality of these policies hit hard. The cost to continue curbside recycling service was going to more than double – and we were not alone in our dilemma. Like many other municipalities in the U.S., we were forced to decide how we would manage the new costs of recycling.

In the U.S., small town and rural recycling operations have been hit the hardest. While most continue to operate, rising costs and falling incomes are forcing some, like Kingsport, Tenn. to shut down. Others, like Phenix City, Ala., have stopped accepting all plastics. Places like Deltona, Fla. suspended curbside pickup. Residents in municipalities like these now must travel to collection points in sometimes distant locations if they want to recycle. Some are inevitably tossing their recyclables in the trash instead.

But Powder Springs did not give up. Determined to find a way to continue providing a valuable service for citizens, without incurring unreasonable costs, the city applied for a grant to start its own small scale Recycling Center. The general idea was that, by taking out the "middleman," we could accomplish several goals:

Why Did the Recycling Industry Change?



- Continue to provide recycling to citizens of Powder Springs
- Allow citizens to participate by their own preference and at their own pace
- Persist in diverting waste from landfills – which in turn saves \$50 per ton dumped
- Do all of this by utilizing grant funds to offset costs of equipment needed to operate the recycling center.

Because starting this center was a problem-solving strategy, we needed the solution immediately. So we applied for a grant from Georgia Department of Natural Resources and were one of the first municipalities awarded these funds. We took what had been a patch of ground to a functioning Recycling Drop-Off Center in a matter of months – a miraculous enterprise! But we also tried to leave ourselves room to learn and grow. And we have learned quite a bit about the recycling industry and what our city needs. Here is what we have learned:

- Powder Springs believes in recycling! We average between 100-180 vehicles per weekend.
- We can make a significant impact in the number of materials sent to already overburdened landfill sites.
- By making small improvements along the way to our processes, we could offer our citizens a service at a reasonable cost and defray the expense through the sale of our recycled materials.

Now for the numbers...so far here is what we have been able to capture over the first 18 months of the center's operation:

MATERIAL	TONS COLLECTED	TOTAL RECLAIMED FROM LANDFILL
CARDBOARD	27.89	
GLASS	6.64	
MIXED PAPER	13.95	
PLASTICS	6.47	
ALUMINUM	0.66	
STEEL	2.77	

If you remember from our earlier figure of it costing \$50 for every ton tipped into the landfill, not only did we save landfill space, but we also experienced a \$3,200-plus cost reduction in landfill fees, which in turn keeps our fee increases lower than would otherwise occur. As we have no open landfills in Cobb County, the markets for places to send our trash are and continue to become competitive. We can anticipate costs of these "tipping fees" to go up as we search for places further afield to send our trash, possibly even out of state. Finding ways to solve this now will save us headaches down the road.



We want this project to help sustain what we believe is a really great way of life we have here in Powder Springs. By gathering our recycled materials ourselves, sorting them at our facility and then selling them at the best price we can find, we are choosing to fight the rising costs in this market on behalf of our citizens. If you've been to our site, you'll note

that it doesn't look sleek or polished – this is a grassroots effort. It is one small city coming together to refuse to let global trends and big business

take them down. It is a community deciding to ban together to say, "We can make a difference, and we will."

While we understand some residents' desire to bring back curbside recycling, the changeover to a drop-off center has resulted in a smaller impact to residents' bills. Originally at \$20 a month when curbside service was offered, that rate would be more than double had the city not moved to the drop-off center. The current rate is nearly \$30 a month.

I'm a proud citizen of Powder

Springs. I am also honored to have been tasked with the management of our Recycling Center as a city staff person. If you haven't been out to our facility at 3006 Spring Industrial Drive yet, come by and see us. You'll meet some of the friendliest and most helpful people in our city. They'll teach you how your items should be sorted for drop off and assist you in every way they can.. Many of our regular visitors can't say enough about this awesome group of employees. We'd love it if you became one of our regulars if you aren't already.

Vangie Rodenbeck,
Special Projects Supervisor for
Community Projects & Outreach

RECYCLING CENTER

The City of Powder Springs' Drop-off Recycling Center at 3006 Springs Industrial Drive operates Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during non-winter months, and Saturdays only, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., December through February. Materials cannot be brought or dropped off at Public Works outside of its weekend operating hours.



Visit 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.



COUNT ON IT

CITY'S TECH TEAM UPGRADING ITS DEPARTMENT AND OTHER OPERATIONS

The City of Powder Springs is excited to announce transformative developments within our IT Department, reinforcing our commitment to innovation, efficiency, and service excellence. These enhancements are designed to better meet the needs of our growing community and ensure the city is well-positioned for the future.

Recent highlights include:

Introduction of Chief Information Officer (CIO) Role

To strengthen our strategic and operational focus, we have added an executive-level Chief Information Officer (CIO) to our leadership team. The CIO will drive innovation, oversee data and IT systems, and ensure technology aligns with the city's long-term goals. This role underscores our commitment to smart governance and enhanced service delivery.

Upgraded Network Infrastructure

We've updated our city's network infrastructure to support faster, more reliable connections across departments and public spaces.

Enhanced Cybersecurity

Protecting residents' data and city systems is a top priority. Our team has adopted advanced cybersecurity measures, including firewalls, threat detection systems, and employee training programs.

Improved Citizen Services

Online platforms have been upgraded to make it easier to pay bills, report issues, and access public records.

These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to leveraging technology for a smarter, safer, and more connected Powder Springs. We appreciate your support and invite feedback as we continue these efforts.

BUSINESS OWNERS: DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE

Business license renewals for the 2025 calendar year were due Jan. 1, but those who have yet to renew still have time to do so without penalty. Scan the QR code to find information on how to easily renew online.

A late payment penalty of 10% plus 1.5% per month will be assessed after March 1. Citations will be issued by code enforcement for failure to renew.

All 2025 occupational tax license renewal certificates will be issued by email.

Those whose businesses are no longer in operation should submit a closed business affidavit form to avoid penalties.



FINANCE

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, 2023.

This was the 33rd 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. The FY24 ACFR has been submitted to GFOA to determine its eligibility for certification.

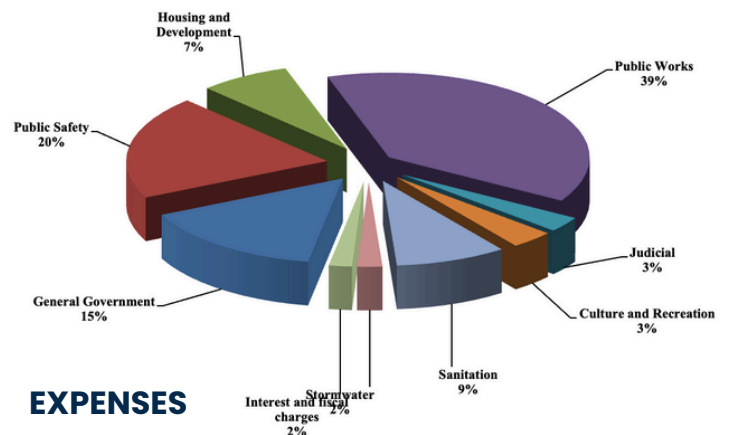
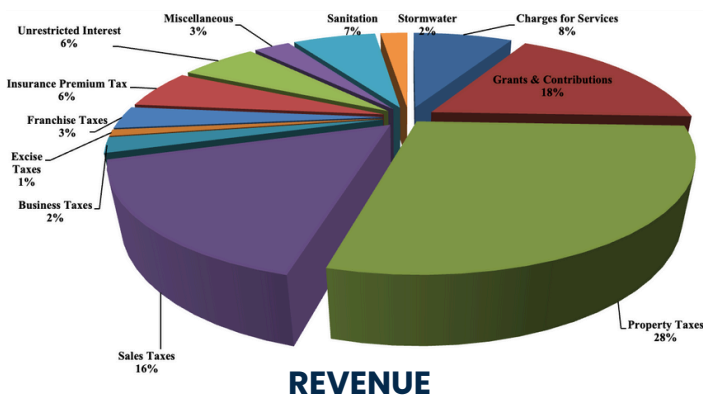
It can be viewed on the city's website on the Finance Department page.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Powder Springs in late December completed its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The report demonstrates the fiscal stability and sound financial practices of the City.

The City's budget is prepared in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia and the Code of Ordinances of the City. The City adopts the fiscal budget during June of the preceding fiscal year. During June of 2023, the City adopted a General Fund Budget for operations for fiscal year 2024 of \$11,431,428. At the end of the fiscal year, the final amended budgeted expenditures and transfers out were \$13,023,132. Actual General Fund revenue was \$2,184,552 more than final budgeted revenues for fiscal year 2024. Actual expenditures were \$1,045,694 less than final budgeted expenditures.

The City's policy is to maintain a healthy General Fund balance to maintain the City's operations for at least six months. The unassigned fund balance of the General Fund at June 30, 2024 of \$22,884,142 is 22.1 months of the current year's operating expenditures. This balance includes just over \$7 million that the Mayor & Council plans to use for future capital needs. This reserve balance is necessary for periods of weak revenues and emergency situations as well as capital planning. As part



EXPENSES

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 2024 was 9.5. The City also offers residents a "floating" exemption of property taxes, which maintains the taxable value of the property if 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. Approximately 80% of the tax digest is derived from residential property and 18% 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 2024 with a net tax digest increasing by 27% as a result of continued growth and development.

This fall, the city recognized Sept. 23-27 as National Finance and Accounting Appreciation Week. A proclamation highlighted the city's bond rating upgrade to Aa1, a six-month operating reserve account, and investment earnings under its financial investment policies.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

The City of Powder Springs welcomed several new staff members into its ranks in the 2024 calendar year. We are glad to have these talented employees as part of our team.



Nicholas Poole
Data Processing/IT



Brian Allen
Administration



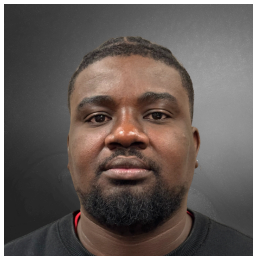
Phyllis Calloway
Administration



Corey Chester
Finance



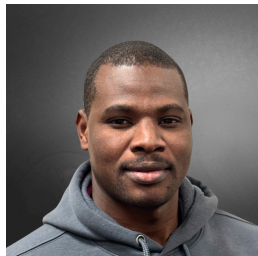
John Johnson
Parks & Recreation



Nisolson Joseph
Public Works



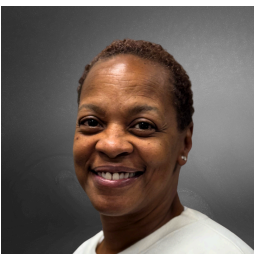
Quinton Partee
Public Works



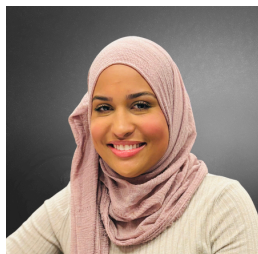
Brune Pierre-Louis
Public Works



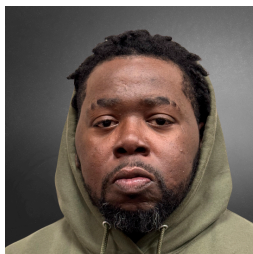
John Spanoudakis
Infrastructure & Development



Latanya Whitaker
Finance



Ashley Williams
Infrastructure & Development



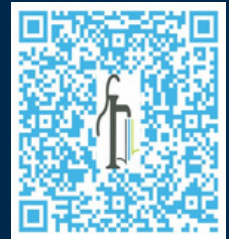
Armando Zachery
Public Works

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

2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

JAN 6* & 21 *
FEB 3 & 17
MAR 3 & 17
APR 7 & 21
MAY 5 & 19
JUN 2 & 16

JUL 21
AUG 18
SEP 15
OCT 6 & 20
NOV 3 & 17
DEC 1

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



CELEBRATING SERVICE

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENT SERVICE!

Have you had a great experience with one of our employees recently? Let us know so we can recognize them on Social Media!



CITYOFPOWDERSPRINGS.ORG

CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION MARKS MILESTONE, MOVES TOWARD MID-YEAR OPENING

The men and women working hard to construct Powder Springs' future City Hall were celebrated Nov. 1 at a "topping-out ceremony" within the construction site, with crew members, subcontractors, city staff and others involved with the project treated to lunch provided by Macallan Construction, which is building the new facility.

The topping-out ceremony marked the placement of the roofing elements, a symbol of progress and the hard work of everyone involved.

"I ride through here at least three times a week, and I'm just so impressed of the progress and everything I see going up. To all of those working on this building, you're doing a phenomenal job," Mayor Al Thurman told those in attendance. "This two-story building is going to be our new home— it's going to be a blessing to the City of Powder Springs."

The two-story City Hall, being built along Jackson Way Extension between Oak View Drive Extension and Pineview Drive and across the street from Thurman Springs Park, will allow our Municipal Court and city departments to return to downtown.



At the topping-out event, two metal beams within the building were painted white, allowing attendees to sign their names onto them and become a ceremonial part of the building.

In his remarks to those in attendance, Bill Tracy, Macallan's general superintendent and vice president, said the construction site had been accident-free spanning back to April 2023.

"By the end of today, we'll have 26,000 man-hours with no injuries or incidents on this project," Tracy said.

The City of Powder Springs is looking forward to the project's scheduled completion, set for the second quarter of this year.

SPRINGSIDE'S OPENING GIVES MORE RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS TO NEWCOMERS



Powder Springs' downtown is bustling with new residents with the arrival of the city's newest multifamily community.

Novare Group on Nov. 13 hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of Springside Apartments. With its main property between Marietta Street and Jackson Way and another along Hotel Avenue and Lewis Road, Springside has 226 total units on 6.6 acres and as of mid-November had about 63 percent of its spaces leased to residents, with the aim to have all units leased in three to four months.

The community's amenities include a resort-style pool that features a sun shelf, covered porch with TVs, outdoor grilling areas, pet park & dog spa, co-working lounge and a fitness center.

Springside joins Heartwood Powder Springs as the first non-senior multifamily communities in the city in nearly 20 years. Heartwood, located at 4493 Brownsville Road just off U.S. Hwy. 278, held its grand opening in October 2023.

Single-family home construction also continues in the city. Through June 30, about 74% percent of homes across nine in-progress subdivision were completed — 461 certificates of occupancy issued out of 625 total units.



Events Calendar

2025

CITYOFPOWDERSPRINGS.ORG

For Event location and details see the city website

APRIL 3	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 7	Bark in the Park 10:00am - 1:00pm	SEPT 10	Powder Springs Marketplace 5:00pm - 9:00pm
APRIL 10	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 11	Powder Springs Marketplace 5:00pm - 9:00pm	SEPT 11	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm
APRIL 17	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 21	Juneteenth Celebration +	SEPT 18	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm
APRIL 24	Spring Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm	JUNE 26	Family to Park Movie 6:30pm	SEPT 25	Fall Brown Bag Series 12:00pm - 1:00pm
MAY 1	National Day of Prayer 6:30pm	JULY 4	July 4th Celebration +	SEPT 27	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm
MAY 2	Bookfest Movie Night 7:00pm	JULY 9	Powder Springs Marketplace 5:00pm - 9:00pm	OCT 7	National Night Out + 6:00pm
MAY 3	Bookfest + One Book, One City	JULY 10	Family to Park Movie 6:30pm	OCT 8	Powder Springs Marketplace 4:00pm - 9:00pm
MAY 14	Powder Springs Marketplace 5:00 pm - 9:00pm	JULY 24	Family to Park Movie 6:30pm	OCT 11	Hispanic Heritage Fiesta + 4:00pm - 9:00pm
MAY 16,17,18	Powder Springs + Seafood Festival	JULY 26	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm	OCT 18	Trunk or Treat + 10:00am - 2:00pm
MAY 22	Family to Park Movie 6:30pm	AUG 13	Powder Springs Marketplace 6:00pm - 10:00pm	NOV 11	Veteran's Day Ceremony 11:00am
MAY 26	Memorial Day Ceremony 12:00pm	AUG 23	Sounds of the Springs Concert Series - 7:00pm	DEC 5	Christmas Parade & + Tree Lighting - 6:30pm
JUNE 5	Family to Park Movie 6:30pm	SEPT 4	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

SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO AFFECT POWDER SPRINGS RESIDENTS

Following a judgment last year by the Cobb Superior Court, Powder Springs residents and others living in Cobb Commission District 4 will be summoned back to the polls in the coming weeks to select their county commissioner.

The Primary Election will take place on Feb. 11, and if necessary, a runoff will be held March 11. The General Special Election will be April 29.

Advance voting will be available for these contests at select locations — watch for more details on the City's social media channels or that of Cobb County Government.

A Cobb County Superior Court Judge ordered this special election, affecting both Cobb Commission Districts 2 and 4, after ruling the county's use of home rule powers to draw its commission maps was unconstitutional.

Winners of the April 29 General Special Election contests will serve on the county commission through 2028. Qualifying for the contests took place in December.

