



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Inspired. Invigorated. Innovative



**“There is no time like Spring,
When life’s alive in everything...”**
- Christian Rossetti, English poet

April's arrival into Powder Springs brings with it renewed life in our areas of nature and our neighborhoods, as the spring growing season brings with it the growth of both trees and our lawns. These vibrant greens and the incoming hues of other plants throughout the spring and summer, from your favorite blooms to our city flower, the purple coneflower, are not to be missed.

Our gathering spots across the city, from our parks' active areas and passive amenities to our downtown amphitheater, will also see gatherings grow with the return of warmer temperatures, multiple concert series, monthly marketplaces and annual festivals.

As residents and visitors venture outside more and more in this new year, we wish to highlight in this quarterly newsletter the needed efforts that city employees, our valued residents and other city supporters are taking and should take to keep Powder Springs looking its best. Read on to meet just one of our many departments playing its part to keep the city looking beautiful, as well as ways that you can lend a hand toward keeping our city clean.

**TOWN HALL
MEETING**

Apr. 24, 2025

Ford Center
4181 Atlanta St.
7:00pm



Q&A WITH CODE ENFORCEMENT

Like many cities and counties, Powder Springs has its own Code Enforcement department. But what is Code Enforcement and how does it operate? We spoke with Crystal Parris and Douglas Shiplett, who serve as the city's Code Enforcement arm but are employed by SAFEbuilt, which the city contracts with to be its Quality of Life Unit or Code Compliance.

While Code Enforcement is separate from police, the department works hand-in-hand with Powder Springs Police Department, such as when Parris or Shiplett notices what appears to be inhumane conditions on a property, while police will contact the SAFEbuilt duo if they come across possible code enforcement issues.

What is the focus of code enforcement?

Shiplett: City beautification – that's the number one reason overall – to keep the city running and to keep it beautiful.

Parris: It's also safety as well. When you have blighted properties, you run the risk of having rodents. You know you have properties when windows are busted out. You have properties where the grass is tall. There could be sinkholes, there could be anything going on on the property. There's also people living in inhumane environments – we also look into certain things like that too. So that's what makes code enforcement so important.

What do you on a typical day?

Parris: I like to ride [the neighborhoods I cover] to stay on top of the things that I already know that are issues. When people call us [about properties], they call because they have concerns. I want to stay on top of those concerns, because the more consistent you are, the more results you'll get. And then I after I do those areas, then I kind of just do the areas that are not as troubled.

When we come on a property and [the property owner says] "We don't have an HOA," or "Our HOA gave us permission to build this fence," yeah, but you still needed a permit through the city. It's always still really good to call the city and just check with the



Save our Water by Reporting Stormwater Pollution



Where does it go?

When rain or water hit hard surfaces it creates stormwater runoff.

Runoff picks up pollutants as it is carried directly through gutters and drains to rivers, streams, and lakes that hold our drinking water, making it toxic and unsafe for people and animals



How do I report illicit discharge in my neighborhood?

An illicit discharge is a discharge that is not composed entirely of storm water, except allowable discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit. These occur due to illegal dumping or illegal connections to the stormwater drainage system



Telephone: 770-943-8001



www.cityofpowdersprings.org/522/Report-Drainage-Problems-or-Illicit-Disc



Q&A WITH CODE ENFORCEMENT con't.

city because it could be on a drainage easement, or something like that.

[A homeowners' association] has the ability to approve something within their covenant — it has nothing to do with us. We operate on a city level.

Shiplett: Utilities here run underground, so the only way to find out that is to contact Powder Springs Community Development so they can tell you where you can and can't build, and that's based off of not only the city's right-of-ways, but also Georgia state right-of-way.

What are examples of things against city code?

Shiplett: You may collect cars and you want to have a whole bunch of cars, but you can only have as many cars as your driveway can fit. If you have that extra car hanging out of your driveway or it's halfway on the sidewalk, that's violation — you're impeding the sidewalk.

Those cars parked in the grass can also be an environmental hazard, as leaking fluids can seep into the dirt or into storm drains.

(Other common code violations mentioned by Parris and Shiplett range from illegal dumping to dilapidated fences, and accumulation of outside storage. One lesser-known code violation involves lack of house numbering.)

Parris: If there's an emergency, the police need to get to you, the ambulance needs to get to you. If you don't have those house numbers visible, they can't find you. And a lot of properties really don't know that [part of the city code].

All homes have to be numbered with numbers being 4 inches in height, 2 inches in width, and either in a reflective or a contrasting material. These numbers must be either on the home's mailbox or the home itself.

Commercial entities are also under the purview of Code Enforcement when it comes to things such as ensuring active businesses have up-to-date business licenses, and for alcohol-serving establishments, that pouring licenses or package sale licenses are displayed.

Will a code violation require a court hearing?

Parris: We look for compliance — we don't want to bring anyone to court. If we see that you're complying, then that's we're going to work with you. Code Enforcement is not about causing hardships. It's about compliance. So if we gain compliance, then we're happy with that.

In all, it's a three-step system: For a property that is not had a violation in the past, we do a courtesy warning citation system ... that gives them a couple of days to correct it without being on record. If that doesn't work, it goes to a warning level, which from then a case has started, and it's tracked, and after re-inspection, if it's not corrected, then a citation is issued to bring them to court. We might just go straight to a warning or straight to a citation based off the history of that property.

Parris: If we've done a sweep in your neighborhood, you're either going to get a citation or you're going to automatically get a warning. There's no courtesy [warning].

Once someone has cleared a code violation, is that it?

Parris: We keep an eye on properties after they've been cleared in court for some time. We just want to make sure that the violation, once it's cleared, that it remains cleared. Because we hear, and we hear very often that the people that we do have to bring to court, they go back to the same behaviors. And we just want to make sure that those behaviors are put behind some people.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursdays in April: Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series, 12:00-1:00pm

April 19: Welcome to South Cobb event, 2:00-8:00pm

April 25 & 26: High School Jazz Exhibition

May 1: National Day of Prayer Service, 6:30pm

May 2: Book Fest Movie Night, 7:00pm

May 3: Book Fest and One Book, One City

May 14, June 11, July 9: Powder Springs Marketplace, 5:00-9:00pm

May 16-18: Powder Springs Seafood Festival

May 22, June 5 & 26, July 10 & 24: Family to Park Movie Night, 6:30pm

May 26: Memorial Day Ceremony, 12:00pm

June 7: Bark in the Park, 10:00am - 1:00pm

June 21: Juneteenth Celebration, 2:00-8:00pm

July 4: Fourth of July Celebration, 6:00-10:00pm

July 26: Sounds of the Springs Concert Series, 7:00pm

Power Through the Warmer Months With These Power-Saving Tips

Georgia Power – which along with GreyStone Power and Cobb EMC provide electric service in various areas of the city – offers these tips for all homeowners to reduce their energy usage and the potential for sticker “shock” every month.

CHANGE AIR FILTER



Change standard air filters once a month, or pleated filters once every three months. A clogged filter makes your A/C work harder, increases wear on your unit, and uses more energy.

THINK THERMOSTAT, AND FAN ON



Set your programmable thermostat to 78°F in the summer for energy-efficient results. Using ceiling fans can make your space feel 4 or 5°F cooler, and during moderately hot weather, ceiling may allow you to avoid using your A/C altogether.

UNBLOCK AIR VENTS



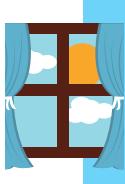
Keep air vents clear of obstruction to help your heating and cooling system operate more efficiently.

TURN OFF LIGHTS



Turn off the lights when you leave a room. To help you remember, try leaving eye-catching reminders next to light switches and doorways.

UTILIZE NATURAL LIGHT



Cleaning windows or dusting blinds? Close draperies, blinds, or shades to reduce extra heat caused by direct sunlight. Consider opening windows, and turning off your A/C, when cooler weather allows.

WASH CLOTHES COLD



Wash full loads of clothes with cold water and avoid over-drying. Also, clean the lint trap before every load to increase efficiency.

FOCUS ON THE FRIDGE



Proper cleaning and maintenance of the refrigerator, such as dusting the dirt from refrigerator coils and removing food to allow air to circulate, can reduce energy consumption.

FIRE UP THE GRILL



Reduce the temperature inside your home by using an outdoor grill or smoker instead of indoor ovens and stoves.

TUNE UP THAT A/C



Have your A/C professionally serviced to ensure it's running efficiently. Trim nearby plants around the A/C units so they can receive proper air flow. Nearly 20 percent of monthly energy use may be attributed to cooling your home in the summer. Inefficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems can also amount to hundreds of dollars in additional energy costs every year.

All three electric service providers in Powder Springs offer programs and assistance to those who may need support paying their power bill.

Cobb EMC offers payment arrangements, choose your own due date, a senior discount and convenient payment options. Visit cobbemc.com/payment-assistance.

Georgia Power customers can visit georgiapower.com/residential/myenergy.html to learn about programs and resources for qualifying customers in need of support, including income-qualifying discounts and payment arrangements. Rate plan options and a bill calculator are also available, along with other helpful resources.

GreyStone Power offers a leveled billing plan, with details at greystonewpower.com/leveled-billing-plan. Customers who need more time to pay, meanwhile, may qualify for a due date extension – to learn more, visit greystonewpower.com/leveled-billing-plan.

Help Keep Powder Springs & Cobb Clean this Spring – and Beyond

The City of Powder Springs each spring holds green-focused events on or around the Earth Day observance, and offers year-round recycling at its weekend drop-off center.

Here are the opportunities in and around Powder Springs to help make our city and county a cleaner and greener place.

Saturday, April 19: Pick It Up Powder Springs! Join us for a morning dedicated to cleaning up our community one street at a time. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Ron Anderson Recreation Center to collect cleaning supplies and clean-up locations, then pick up trash in and around your assigned location until noon. Come as a team, business or as an individual to help us keep Powder Springs beautiful!

Saturday, May 3: Shred Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Powder Springs Police Department parking lot, 1114 Richard D. Sailors Parkway. Protect against identity theft by having documents shredded securely onsite by a licensed, bonded and locally owned shredding company. Please remove all paper clips and binder clips. Limit of 10 banker boxes or ten 13 gallon trash bags per vehicle.

Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturdays only December through February): The City of Powder Springs' Drop-off Recycling Center offers its services to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve our planet's natural resources and save valuable landfill space. Sanitation staff are on site during operating hours to assist those dropping off recycling – materials cannot be brought or dropped off at Public Works outside of its weekend operating hours.

Visit cityofpowdersprings.org/657/Recycling to learn more about the center and what materials can be accepted.

