

Pride of Place



2008 Annual Report

SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA

CONTENTS

MAYOR'S LETTER 4

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS'
MESSAGES 6



A MESSAGE FROM
THE CITY MANAGER 9

*“I like to see a man
proud of the place
in which he lives.”*

—Abraham Lincoln



10 PUBLIC SAFETY

16 TRANSPORTATION

22 RECREATION
AND PARKS

26 FINANCIALS

Pride
of
Place





MAYOR'S LETTER

Greetings!

During our fourth year of incorporation, it is a good time to assess how the residents of Sandy Springs feel about being part of the City of Sandy Springs. The predominant message I hear as I move through the community, "Thanks, and keep up the good work."

The most frequent comments center on the highly visible services—the police and paving. The quick response time when officers are needed, their very presence throughout the community and their graciousness in dealing with residents have been noticed, time and time again. The numbers bear out the improvement of public safety. Crime rates from July 1, 2006, to the present are down 13 percent. Under the leadership of Chief Terry Sult, and his emphasis on community policing, further reductions of the crime rate are expected.

Anecdotes about the positive attitudes of our police are sent to me regularly. One gentleman recently reported that he was in a minor traffic accident, it was his fault, but that the incident did not leave a bad taste since the officer was so concerned about the gentleman's well being. Another resident reported blue lights flashing behind him, and expected the worst as he pulled over. The officer stopped the car because the sari worn by the lady in the front seat was caught in the door and dragging on the ground. The officer's action saved a gorgeous gown from being ruined.

It is not surprising that the newly paved streets engender so many comments: they represent a very visible effect of cityhood, and they represent 100 percent more than the paving that occurred when we were unincorporated. The City has now paved 63.5 miles, which is 17 percent of total mileage in the entire city. The priorities on paving have been most traveled roads first and then the less traveled on the basis of their condition.

There are many less noticeable improvements in our public services that enhance daily life. Traffic engineering has definitely shortened delays on our roads. We have newly striped lanes that enhance turning capability, and lights on Roswell Road are synchronized. Moreover, a new Traffic Management Center operating via underground fiber optic cables and cameras at intersections is developing the capability of automatically adjusting traffic signals when there are incidents and unusual delays. This is the most sophisticated system in Metro Atlanta.

These are only some of the outstanding achievements which have made the residents of Sandy Springs proud of their city. The involvement of so many residents in task forces, hearings and other city activities attests to civic pride and involvement.

Sincerely,

Eva Galambos

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs

I still get goose bumps when I come north on Georgia 400 and reach the Sandy Springs city limit sign. I think about the enthusiasm and the feeling of finally belonging as members of a close knit community that our residents express when I meet them. Sandy Springers now feel empowered, as proud residents of a government they control.

Eva Galambos, PhD
Mayor



CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' MESSAGES

The City of Sandy Springs was founded on the premise that a government closer to the people is a better government. I think that premise has been borne out. Decisions are now made locally and residents have a much easier time making their views known to the decision makers. That is a good thing.



Douglas MacGinnitie
Councilmember
District 1

We have improved our infrastructure by repaving miles of roads and putting down new sidewalks. We are upgrading our parks and recreation centers so the community can come together. Public safety is much enhanced by proactive policing and faster response times from EMS and fire. The question when we became a city was whether we could provide better services. I believe we have answered that question with an overwhelming YES!



Ashley Jenkins
Councilmember
District 4

What a remarkable three years it has been. Our City streets are cleaner, smoother, safer and friendlier. The dramatic changes in our City are due to the professional and dedicated individuals that work for the City and CH2M HILL. I am so humbled to be a part of this historic time in Sandy Springs. Let's all celebrate local control.



Dianne Fries
Councilmember
District 2

We have made meaningful changes and advancements in the public safety departments of police, fire and EMS, our parks are making progress with the huge increase in recreation programs' participation and progress is being made in repairing streets and sidewalks. But the thing I'm proudest about is that Sandy Springs is a reality, and we have all worked together to bring a dream to reality.



Tiberio "Tibby" DeJulio
Councilmember
District 5

Repaving 60 miles of streets; creating a world-class fire and police organization; successfully executing the nation's largest municipal services privatization; constructing more sidewalks in three years than was done in a generation; we can list so many marvelous accomplishments – yet, the highlight of incorporation is the renewed pride people have in saying, "I'm from Sandy Springs."



Rusty Paul
Councilmember
District 3

With police, fire and EMS personnel deployed at an increased level to assure safety and protection, we have provided the most important basic service: protection of families and property. This has been accomplished over a fiscally prudent budgetary framework. Through our public private partnership, we are delivering superior governmental services. The City has allocated \$60 million for road resurfacing, parks and other capital needs, all without increasing the property tax millage rate.



Karen Meinzen McEnery
Councilmember
District 6

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



John McDonough
City Manager

We made significant progress in 2008. Crime in Sandy Springs is down, police presence in our neighborhoods is up and lives were saved as a result of your commitment to help us create one of the finest police and fire/rescue programs in the country. Throughout the past year, we also invested significant resources to improve our infrastructure; particularly in the area of sidewalks, parks, roads and bridges and storm water drainage facilities.

We saw bold new initiatives started in our police and fire departments as well as the announcement of a joint (E-911) public safety answering and dispatch authority with the City of Johns Creek. Our efforts to dramatically improve the chances of survival in the event of cardiac arrest are paying dividends. Thanks to your support, the Fire Department, working in partnership with the American Heart Association trained more than 1,150 residents in CPR and the use of AEDs. The Fire Department, in partnership with local hospitals and Rural Metro Ambulance, also launched a new induced hypothermia therapy program, to increase survival rates of cardiac arrest patients. Sandy Springs is one of the first fire rescue departments in the region to implement this new life-saving procedure.

Using cutting edge technology in our Traffic Management Center, we are improving travel times on our streets. Most of our traffic signals have been upgraded and numerous intersection improvements were made to help maximize our existing transportation network. Our Sidewalks to Schools Program has seen the installation of thousands of feet of new sidewalks making it safer for our children and residents to walk to schools.

Many of our most utilized parks received significant maintenance and upgrades and attendance in our recreation programs is growing. We also completed master plans for Morgan Falls Park that included significant improvements to the athletic fields and a new overlook park at Bull Sluice Lake. These improvements will be constructed beginning spring of 2009. Working in partnership with the State of Georgia, Sandy Springs Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land, the City acquired 22 acres named Lost Corner Preserve from Peggy Miles. This property will always remain a passive park for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Our unique model of government, where general government services are delivered through a public-private partnership, combined with cutting edge programs in public safety, has garnered local, regional, national and international attention and made this a City of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,

John McDonough
City Manager

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2008, Public Safety continued to be a top priority for the City of Sandy Springs. One of the primary goals of the Mayor and City Councilmembers is providing safety and security for the City's residents, businesses, property, critical infrastructure and natural resources. They continue to fine tune public safety to keep the City safe. This year, both the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department (SSFRD) and the Sandy Springs Police Department celebrated numerous accomplishments and service to the community.



In operation for 18 months, SSFRD has soared to major heights. Here are their highlights of an incredible year:

- The Fire/EMS response rate continues to improve due to new equipment and reliability. The fire department has four quints, two engines, two brush trucks and three quick response vehicles that handle a multitude of emergency calls. They responded to 9,273 calls for service during FY'08, 78 percent of which were emergency medical calls.
- Ninety-one full time firefighters are on staff. They include: six battalion chiefs, 18 crew chiefs, 39 fire/rescue technician 2s and 20 fire/rescue technician 1s. There are 52 part-time firefighters. Five chiefs and a fire protection engineer achieved the designation of "Chief Fire Officer" and became nationally accredited from the Center of Public Safety Excellence.

Sandy Springs has placed automated external defibrillators at City Hall and Police Headquarters, and also in all Fire Rescue, Police and City vehicles, to help save the lives of heart attack victims.

A Resident's View FIRE

Each day on the way to preschool, Kricket Ichwantoro and her three-year-old-daughter Simone pass Sandy Springs Fire Station No. 1 on Spalding Drive. Simone had always had a fascination with the fire department and everything associated with it. As her birthday approached Ms. Ichwantoro thought what a wonderful place to have a birthday party—go to the fire station.



"Every day we pass the firehouse and we talk about the fire trucks, so I thought maybe for her birthday party we could arrange to visit the station and see the trucks," Ichwantoro says. "I was excited, I didn't know what to expect. [In the end] it was way beyond my expectations. It was valuable and fun for everybody. It was a wonderful day to spend with those who have dedicated their lives in service to others."

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue trained 1,126 people this year in CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use.

Ichwantoro called Fire Station 1 and set up the party. It was a surprise for the guests and the birthday girl. It consisted of a tour of the fire station and an educational view of the fire trucks and uniforms. "The tour continued with the girls getting to sit in the truck and Simone was overjoyed," she adds. "And then, wonderful Fire Fighter Joey Kendall dressed up for us in all his gear. It had never occurred to me that little children would hide from fire fighters during a fire. But it certainly made sense. They look so different with all the gear on. Captain Greg Grady explained this to the parents. I was so thankful that we had this opportunity to see Joey dress up. Captain Grady took over the show and explained things to us as Firefighter Kendall dressed one layer at a time."

"I couldn't help think that what started out as simply a fun and educational activity during my child's birthday party could potentially save a life," concludes Ichwantoro. "The children, of course, don't comprehend exactly what a fire really is and how these courageous people risk their lives every time they go to work but the parents do. I want to thank the B Shift of Station 1 for opening their home to us and showing our children such kindness."



- Training for firefighters continues. Firefighters are recognized by Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) to hold trainings and have held 10 state and national academy training classes in Sandy Springs. A nationally recognized apparatus operator class was developed this year and all necessities are in place for training for all drivers in 2009. The firefighter recruit class was redeveloped from a four-week 160-hour minimum program to a nine-week 340-hour program that meets the national standard. An in-house 80-hour Fire Inspector-I program was started for SSFRD employees. The training staff was appointed to several state training committees that rewrote the new firefighter curricula for Georgia. The Department logged 15,307 hours of training: 8,589 of state certified training hours and 6,718 of other training hours.
- The Fire Marshal's Office conducted 15 fire investigations: 13 structures, one outside and one vehicle. They also play an instrumental part in the safety of new and existing buildings in the City. They
 - Carried out 3,006 inspections.
 - Issued 357 certificates of occupancy.
 - Reviewed 488 building plans.
 - Evaluated and drilled on 18 business fire exits.
 - Reviewed 145 zoning cases.
- SSFRD trained 1,126 residents in CPR and AED use. They also placed and identified 154 AEDs in the City.
- There were a total of 36 people (three classes) who went through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The program also garnered favorable publicity in the city's media outlets as well as being participants in this year's Sandy Springs festival.
- The Department conducted the first Hydrant Inspection Program to ensure all municipal fire hydrants are in working order. As part of the program, a map was created in the City's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department based upon the coordinates of the fire hydrants' locations.



A Resident's View EMS

On July 1, 2008, the City of Sandy Springs contracted with Rural/Metro Ambulance to provide 911 emergency medical services (EMS) within the City. Rural/Metro has dedicated five ambulances at peak hours of the day and three at off-peak hours. While these units still may be called upon to respond outside of the City's borders to assist neighboring jurisdictions for disaster response or during unusually busy periods, the units will have "home" posting locations within the City.

These units are to be dynamically positioned throughout the day based upon historical call patterns. A combination of street-corner and fire station posting locations are utilized to ensure the most rapid response. This type of deployment plan, coupled with greater unit availability has assisted Rural/Metro with maintaining their contractually obligated response times of eight minutes to life threatening emergency and 15 minutes to non-emergency requests, 90 percent of the time.

Prior to July 1, Fulton County had contracted with and provided financial subsidization to Rural/Metro to provide these services for all of North Fulton. Under this previous arrangement, EMS resources were shared across all of North Fulton, sometimes leaving Sandy Springs residents and visitors with only three ambulances at peak times of the day. Under the new contract, Sandy Springs has gained two additional units during peak hours and one additional unit during off-peak hours, and has considerably more control over the utilization of these units outside of the City limits. This should equate to better ambulance availability and faster and more consistent response times.

Better response times equal better customer satisfaction. Since Rural/Metro has been operating in Sandy Springs, patient response has been overwhelming. One patient said, "Your crew took very good care of my husband and me. When they got us to St. Joseph's, they got us in a room and did everything possible to be sure that we were comfortable." Another added, "I was being very stubborn and did not want to go to the hospital. Your paramedics stayed and convinced me to go. The physician at the hospital told me that they saved my life."

Three hospitals, with 1,197 beds, offer virtually all types of specialty care. Northside Hospital (537), St. Joseph's Health System (410) and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite (250) call Sandy Springs home. Kaiser Permanente, Glenlake Medical Center provides a wide range of medical and diagnostic services.



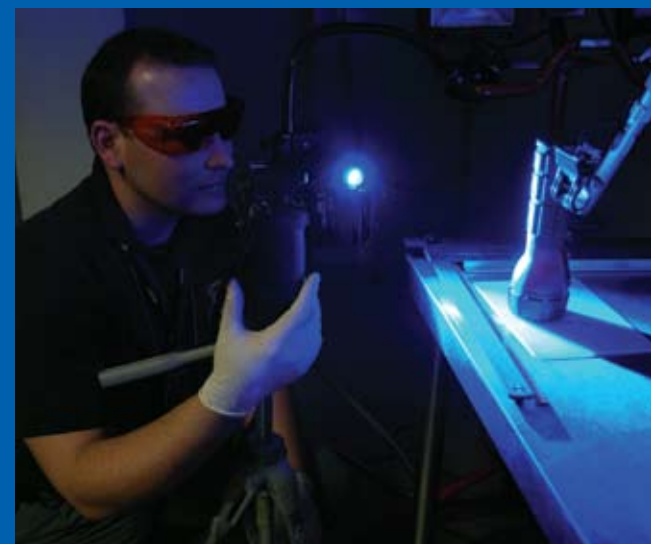
The Police Department had many notable achievements:

- There is a 9 percent decrease in crime over the last two fiscal years.
- The Department answered 92,482 calls for service and averaged 7,706 calls per month with a peak of 8,602 calls for the month of August 2007.
- For the second year in a row, a police officer traveled to Israel as part of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). This two-week training program focused on counterterrorism, emergency management and other types of policing strategies. The officer traveled throughout Israel learning the history of the country, security measures, communications procedures, counterterrorism tactics and other law enforcement techniques that the officer has put into practice. The officer's specialty is terrorism and identifying "soft targets."
- In February 2008, the Police Department started a Gang Unit to focus on issues that were arising from gang activity within Sandy Springs. Since its inception, they have had 45 felony arrests (93 percent of which were gang-related), 68 misdemeanor arrests and 56 City arrests. They have deported 26 illegals due to gang activity. The Unit has confiscated 118 kilos of cocaine, 200 pounds of methamphetamines and \$218,000 in cash.
- The entire department came together to compete for Special Olympics. More than \$20,000 was raised for the non-profit organization. The Police Department came in 6th place in money raised for the charity. The department also had a representative at the Winter, Summer and Fall Special Olympic Games. A Special Olympics Torch Run was held on Roswell Road from City Hall to the Police Department headquarters. Calendars, coffee cups, t-shirts and hats were sold.
- Through the donations of private schools in the community, more than 300 stuffed animals were collected and given to the Department. These stuffed animals are used to comfort children in stressful situations. This is a continued effort that the Department has had since its inception.
- The Neighborhood Watch Program has 57 "Watch" active programs. There are 21 "Watch" programs in inactive status, which means they have not had regular meetings and contact with the Police Department. There are also 10 "Watch" programs in the startup phase at this time. The Community Affairs Unit plans on making a great effort to expand its Neighborhood Watch program as well as starting a Business Watch Program.
- The Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) renewed the Department's Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) grant, which is a major public safety partnership. This year, two officers averaged 34 DUIs a month. Funded by the grant, these officers have 410 DUI arrests, 1,296 speeding tickets and 619 other tickets, which resulted in 496 physical arrests. The primary goals of the HEAT project are to: reduce impaired driving crashes; reduce excessive speeding; increase the safety belt usage rate; and educate the public on traffic safety matters.

A Resident's View POLICE

With the addition of a Mini Crime Scope Alternate Light Source, Sandy Springs Police Crime Scene Analyst Detective Shane Barkley can see amazing things. One of only a handful in the state of Georgia, this piece of equipment can help crime scene investigators see latent fingerprints on items such as sunglasses left at burglary scenes to firearms at homicide scenes.

"This is the standard for the FBI. I am very fortunate to have this," said Det. Barkley. The piece of equipment was purchased through funds donated to the Friends of Sandy Springs by the Donald and Celia Gilner Philanthropic Trust, part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. "It gives several spectrums of light and the spectrums of light react with various chemical treatments used to reveal latent fingerprints. Once we obtained this device, our capability used to detect latent fingerprints increased by 50 percent."



The Sandy Springs Police Department gave away more than 150 teddy bears to "children in distress." These are children who are involved in accidents, who are injured or who are involved in domestics cases that Uniform Patrol Officers see and the bears ride along with the officers' for this reason.

"I have made forensic identifications in cases ranging from entering autos to homicides," Det. Barkley adds. "The Sandy Springs Crime Scene Unit has worked hard to develop a good reputation in forensic identification and this device is part of that. This is a high end device used in forensic identification and the impact of this gift cannot be underestimated and the tangible results of this gift cannot be understated. The technology is good for decades."

"You can't meet Shane and not say, 'This is some police officer,'" said Sandy Springs resident Dr. Don Gilner (Col., Ret.). "I have always been drawn to people in uniform. They put themselves out and they deserve a pat on the back. I know my money has gone to good use. It keeps me and my wife safe. We can see the results of his work—how could you do something more satisfying than that?"

Mrs. Gilner agreed, "What I think is so special about this is you see the results of Shane's work. Sometimes with other gifts you may not know where the money goes. With this gift, you can clearly see his motivation."

TRANSPORTATION

The most basic definition of transportation is moving an item from one place to another. In the City of Sandy Springs, transportation is much more than that. It is one of the priorities of the Mayor and City Council and has been from the inception of the City. Residents want improved roads, fewer traffic backups, better coordinated traffic signals and cleaner rights-of-way, and the Mayor and Council support those needs. Changes are constantly being fine tuned based safety research and customer response. The Sandy Springs Public Works Department, under which transportation is housed, not only performed their routine work during fiscal year (FY) 2008, they had numerous accomplishments, which keep motorists moving and pedestrians safe.



Stormwater Maintenance Program

The water collected in the transportation system flows into the city stormwater system. One of the primary objectives of the Stormwater Maintenance Program this year was the initial development of a system database that will allow quick access to system conditions and capital improvement needs. The initial entries into the database were projects identified through resident and council inquiries and staff observations. An estimated 75 inquiries were evaluated and ranked based on an overall "impact ranking." Projects were then entered into the active (or "ready" mode) once the design scope was finalized and easements and access documents were secured.

The program was funded with a budget of \$250,000 to perform engineering studies and construction projects. As of June 2008, the City had completed two engineering designs and completed one of these projects.

Traffic Services

The 2008 fiscal year saw the creation of the Sandy Springs Traffic Management Center (TMC). The TMC was constructed and began to operate in less than six months. Construction began in February 2008, five cameras viewed traffic along Roswell Road by the end of June. Special features of the TMC include a Web page that allow the public access to real time traffic conditions and voice activation controls.



Several minor intersection improvements were completed in 2008. Items such as pedestrian facilities, increased capacity, signal heads, striping alignments and new detection were completed at the following intersections:

Intersection Improvements

1. Peachtree Dunwoody Road and Windsor Parkway:

This project included building a new signal span to help raise the intersection, keeping larger trucks from hitting the signals. The vehicle detection was also replaced at this intersection.

2. Glenridge Drive and Mabry Road:

The project scope included rebuilding the roundabout at the intersection, which helped slow vehicles as they approached the roundabout. The intersection was also resurfaced, and pedestrian improvements were added.

3. Roswell Road and Johnson Ferry Road:

This project included converting an existing left-turn only lane into a shared through lane, increasing the capacity for westbound traffic. Additionally, a No Right Turn blank out sign was installed to alert motorists not to turn right on the red light. Pedestrian facilities were also upgraded.

4. Glenridge Connector and Johnson Ferry Road:

This project converted a through lane to an additional left-turn lane. The overhead street name signs were upgraded, and the pedestrian signals were converted to LED lights.

5. Glenridge Drive and Johnson Ferry Road/Glenair Road:

This project included upgrading of the signal span, signal indications, pedestrian facilities and overhead street name signs in addition to the removal of some sight obstructions.

6. Mt Vernon Highway and Dupree Road:

All of the signal heads, pedestrian facilities, overhead street name signs and vehicle detection were upgraded during this project.

7. Spalding Drive and Dalrymple Road:

A new left-turn phase, overhead street name signs, No Left Turn blank out sign and new signal wiring were installed in this project.

8. Dunwoody Place and Hightower Trail:

The split-phased traffic signal operation was removed from the intersection, providing more efficient movement of traffic. Additionally, a No Left Turn blank out sign was installed for the northbound traffic.

9. Dunwoody Place and Hope Road:

Pedestrian facilities were upgraded.



Transportation Planning Division

The City, along with other regional and state agencies, is working diligently to find solutions to our regional transportation problems and to improve the planning process for future transportation networks. The Transportation Planning Division has also worked to coordinate the overall master transportation plan as part of the City Comprehensive Plan. To this end, various studies were implemented to help produce a transportation system that will help meet the needs of our fast-growing community. Here are the highlights for 2008:



- The Division participated in approximately 97 development permit reviews (land disturbance plans, final plats and other miscellaneous permits), 35 zoning cases and seven zoning variance requests. These reviews are conducted to ensure compliance with the overall transportation plan as part of the overall City Comprehensive Plan and to ensure that City construction details are implemented into proposed designs.
- The Division continued its relationship building and planning coordination with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and others. This cooperative effort is carried out to seek out funding sources for capital improvement projects and to ensure that the City's transportation needs are being communicated to the highest levels within the state. The City received two Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grants this year totaling \$800,000.
- The Division oversees approximately 30 projects that make up the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). One of these projects is road enhancement and the Abernathy Linear Park, which will be a signature amenity for the City in the coming years. This project is being constructed in conjunction with the widening project for Johnson Ferry/Abernathy Road, which will improve the traffic flow from Johnson Ferry along Abernathy Road. Other projects include the River Valley Road sidewalk and bike lane project, which began construction in November 2008, the Mount Vernon traffic calming and sidewalk program, and numerous other projects that are in the initial study phases and design. All of these projects are in coordination with the overall master transportation plan and are an effort to reduce traffic congestion "hot spots," improve mobility within the City and extend alternative transportation options to our customers.

The Transportation Department installed 11 miles of fiber along Highway 9 (Roswell Road) and Abernathy Road to allow traffic signals to "talk" to one another or synchronize and allow the Traffic Management Center to come online.

Transportation Field Services



Twenty-three miles of roads were resurfaced as part of the Pave On program. The goal of the program is to bring all of the roads paved in the program up to "good" condition. This year's program focused on arterial and collector streets that were in need of

resurfacing. In addition, 4.1 miles of streets were resurfaced in partnership with GDOT in the Local Assistance Roads Program (LARP). The bridge maintenance program was initiated from a review of the State's mandated bi-annual bridge inspection. The program started with an in-depth inspection of 11 of the City's lowest rated bridges from the state inspection. The inspection generated a detailed list of maintenance activities recommended to address minor deficiencies in the bridge structures to prolong the life of the bridges. Funding has been approved for the repair program as well as inspection of the remaining 10 bridges in the City.

Sidewalk Program

For Fiscal Year 2008, the City established a Sidewalk Program with an initial budget investment of \$500,000. Recognizing numerous and significant gaps in sidewalk connectivity throughout the City, the City Council established a priority on delivering sidewalks on one side of major streets within a one-half mile radius of public schools. With the first year's investment, the City was able to construct more than 12,000 feet of sidewalk in the areas surrounding Sandy Springs Middle School and Dunwoody Charter Elementary School. In addition, the City began designing sidewalks supporting access to the recently constructed Lake Forrest Elementary School.

Stormwater Permits

Stormwater permits meet the regulations required to maintain the system and keep the transportation system moving at its best. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit was successfully submitted and accepted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. This included writing nine procedures and updating the Notice of Intent. A Stormwater Advisory Team was developed and meetings were held to help educate the public and to receive input from the public. Several public education activities were performed including a stormwater Web page, a brochure, an award-winning video, newspaper inserts, City open house meetings and e-blast articles.

A Resident's View



"Oftentimes we complain, so I thought it a counterbalance to what we usually do," said Early Muntzing, Managing General Partner of The Muntzing-Sattelle Company, located in Sandy Springs. "I appreciated what the City did in paving Hammond Drive. My offices have been here more than 20 years and I have seen the partial repairs done year after year [prior to the City's inception]. The road has been fixed correctly."

Muntzing added that he has approximately 25 tenants, many of whom have remarked that the paving is more attractive and safer. Their offices sit just east of Peachtree-Dunwoody Drive. "I believe this paving has made the journey from the Concourse eastward much safer. There is a curve in the road and it goes downhill. Trucks and buses regularly pick up speed there. It was torn up regularly," Muntzing said. "It was difficult to repair. Now it is done right. So, along with our office and retail tenants, we say, thank you."

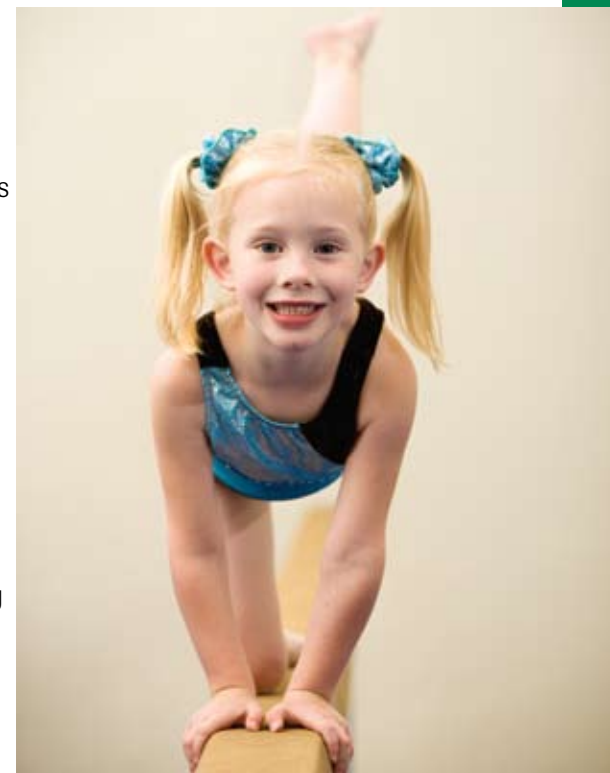
Public Works continues its street-resurfacing projects with its LARP program, which included eight roads. A total of 4.1 miles were paved with this project that is done in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Studies have shown that those who take part in even moderate daily physical activity can live longer, healthier lives. So a simple stroll amongst the tress can have benefits. But if you're into more strenuous exercise, there are options too. In 2008, the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department continued to implement park improvements and deliver extended program offerings. Another record number of youth and adults participated in programs at various facilities enhanced with improvements and staff additions.

Achievements and Improvements

- To better inform our customers of the recreation activities and parks that are available, a newly formatted and streamlined Recreation Guide was created. It was distributed throughout the community and at local elementary and middle schools. New programs were added at Hammond Park such as Drama Kids, Tai Chi and Caribbean Cardio, while popular programs continued to thrive including gymnastics, karate, youth basketball and soccer, adult volleyball, basketball and kickball leagues, summer camps and the annual spring and holiday shows. The summer camp program participation increased more than 40 percent and provided summer fun for 350 youth ages three-17. Artsy smartsy, cheerleading, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer and tennis camps were held throughout the summer at Hammond Park.
- The installation of monument signs at the entrance of all parks was completed and new signage was installed system-wide posting park rules at all 13 existing parks in the City system.
- Approximately \$200,000 was spent for outdoor upgrades at Hammond Park and to convert the Hammond Park gymnasium into a fully equipped gymnastics center. Upgrades included new surfaces for the two outdoor courts and new gymnastics equipment that included a full size spring floor, balance beam, parallel bars, vaulting table and a tumble track. The Recreation and Parks staff hosted an Open House, which showed off the new equipment, provided demos and offered an overview of their programs and offerings. Gymnastics program enrollment increased more than 40 percent and had in excess of 550 students to participate in classes during its first fall session in the newly equipped facility. Facility improvements also included the installation of an upgraded emergency and fire alarm system and air conditioning.
- The planned design renovations for the Sandy Springs Tennis Center's administration building were completed and improved its interior layout and visual appeal. Renovations included new signage, new carpet, new furniture, relocation of two walls in the Pro Shop along with the installation of a new registration counter and flat screen TVs to provide information on daily activities, court assignments, upcoming events and video clinics. New gutters and ground cover in the parking lot were also installed. More than \$700,000 was spent to complete this project.



Looking at long-term improvements, the City began the Master Plan process in 2008 for several of its parks:



- The Morgan Falls Park master plan prepared by Lose and Associates began in January and completed in late June 2008. The plan included a set of Sandy Springs Streetscape and Development Standards, upgrades for the Youth Sports Complex, new park facilities for dogs, as well as a new River Park and vehicle turn-a-round area. Improvements at the Morgan Falls Sports Complex moved ahead of the final master plan and a contract for lighting four of the athletic fields was awarded in June of 2008. The

contract called for the northern cluster of fields to receive a new set of steel poles and 1,500 watt metal-halite fixtures.

- Progress continued for the forthcoming Abernathy Greenway Linear Park. Asbestos abatement activities began on 11 homes located on both sides of Abernathy Road, between Brandon Mill Road and Wright Road. Of the 40 houses to be demolished to make way for the park, 39 have been demolished. GDOT has also completed the mulching for the 66' water oak and plans to begin construction of a fence around the tree. The master plan for the greenway park includes a plaza, patio, gardens and lighted trails and playgrounds—features that will offer options for youth and adults and for active and passive recreation.

- The City also acquired and added a 22-acre tract of land to its parks inventory in 2008. Lost Corner Preserve was purchased for use as an interpretive park. Plans for development will include walking trails and picnic areas. The land is located almost entirely within 2,000 feet of the Chattahoochee River and is home to native perennials and pristine specimen hardwoods—some of which are 200 years old. The City of Sandy Springs worked with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit land conservation organization, the Sandy Springs Conservancy and the Georgia Land Conservation Program (GLCP) – which provided grant funding from the state of Georgia to acquire the parcel, which formerly belonged to Peggy Miles.



Sandy Springs recreation and parks staff value residents' input and know they value their park space and time for recreational activities. They are hard at work to expand recreational offerings and strive to make our facilities the best they can be.

The 13 parks include:

Abernathy Park

254 Johnson Ferry Road
404.252.6310

Allen Road Park

5900 Lake Forest Drive
404.252.6310

Big Trees Forest Preserve

7645 Roswell Road
770.673.0111
www.bigtreesforest.com

East Conway Pocket Park

(approximately) 4811 East Conway

Hammond Park Gymnasium

705 Hammond Drive
404.705.9154

Hammond Park Offices

Community Building
6005 Glenridge Drive
404.252.6310

Island Ferry Park

8850 Roberts Drive (incomplete)

Johnson Ferry Road Greenspace

254 Johnson Ferry Road

Lost Corner Preserve

Riverside Drive and Brandon Mill Road
(undeveloped)

Morgan Falls Park/Bull Sluice

200 Morgan Falls Road

Morgan Falls Athletic Fields

450 Morgan Falls Road

Ridgeview Park

5200 South Trimble Road
404.252.6310

Sandy Springs Tennis Center

500 Abernathy Road
404.303.6182
www.northfultontennis.com

Sandy Springs Historic Site and Park

6075 Sandy Springs Circle
404.851.9111
www.heritagesandysprings.org

A Resident's View

RECREATION AND PARKS

"I cannot say enough good things about the gymnastics program at Hammond Park," said Ann Feldman, mother of four-year old twin daughters who participate in the program. "I thought it would just be tumbling and stretching because of my daughter's young ages, but it is so much more, they work on the uneven bars, the balance beam, all of the equipment."

Feldman continued by stating how impressed she is with the program and the staff at Hammond Park. "The teachers are so knowledgeable, patient and

energetic with their students." Feldman's daughters have been enrolled in the Hammond Park gymnastics programs since September of last year. They found out about the programs by one of their close friends who also participates in the program. "Hammond Park and its gymnastics programs are so incredible; I almost don't want to tell others about them for fear of limited space in the programs. Hands down, Hammond Park has a great program that is totally affordable; you get more than your monies worth."

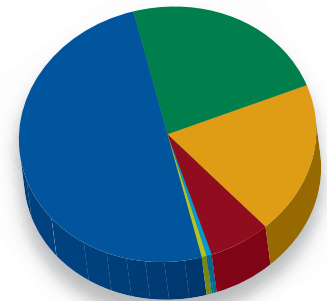
FINANCIALS

The Finance Department is responsible for financial accounting and reporting, treasury management, preparing the City budget, preparation of an annual audit with the City auditor, administering the processing and preparation of the City's payroll and payments to City vendors.

General Fund

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008

Assets, \$38,305,876	■
Unreserved Fund Balance, \$17,758,978	■
Reserved for General Fund-Restricted, \$14,601,840	■
Liabilities, \$5,130,055	■
Reserved for Capital Projects, \$462,989	■
Reserved for Prepaids, \$352,014	■

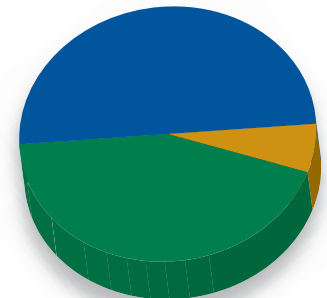


Unreserved Fund Balance Note: Reflects \$9M requested by City Council as part of FY09 Capital Budget to expedite capital projects

Capital Projects Fund

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008

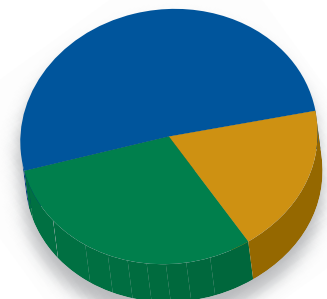
Assets, \$13,039,260	■
Reserved for Capital Projects, \$11,389,465	■
Liabilities, \$1,649,795	■



General Fund

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance as of June 30, 2008

Revenues, \$90,011,955	■
Expenditures, \$52,852,619	■
Ending Fund Balance, \$33,175,821	■

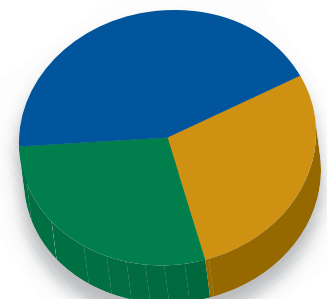


Note: Ending Fund Balance is net of other financing uses and beginning fund balance.

Capital Projects Fund

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance as of June 30, 2008

Revenues & Other Financing Sources, \$17,456,596	■
Expenditures, \$11,555,482	■
Ending Fund Balance, \$11,389,465	■



BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2008

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$32,208,836	\$12,674,143	\$741,897	\$45,624,876
Accounts receivable	96,988	200,156		297,144
Taxes receivable	5,507,539		343,238	5,850,777
Intergovernmental receivable	0	149,961	76,074	226,035
Due from other funds	775,168	15,000	81,760	871,928
Due from component unit	0		213,044	213,044
Prepays	352,014			352,014
Total assets	\$38,940,545	\$13,039,260	\$1,456,013	\$53,435,818
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$3,315,329	\$974,528	\$506,367	\$4,796,224
Accrued liabilities	399,587	64,844		464,431
Deferred revenue	1,200,110	149,961	28,728	1,378,799
Due to other funds	96,760	460,462	314,706	871,928
Due to component unit	118,269		432,169	550,438
Total liabilities	\$5,130,055	\$1,649,795	\$1,281,970	\$8,061,820
Fund Balances				
Reserved for:				
Capital projects	\$462,989			\$462,989
Prepays	352,014			352,014
General fund-Restricted	14,601,840			14,601,840
Unreserved, reported in				
General fund	18,393,647			18,393,647
Special revenue fund			196,465	196,465
Capital Projects Fund		11,389,465	5,124	11,394,589
Debt Service Fund			(27,546)	(27,546)
Total fund balances	33,810,490	11,389,465	174,043	45,373,998
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$38,940,545	\$13,039,260	\$1,456,013	
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:				
Capital assets used in government activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.				91,266,860
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.				(9,049,265)
Some revenues are not available in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.				1,378,799
Net assets of governmental activities				\$128,970,392

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

For the twelve months ended June 30, 2008

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$29,432,372			\$29,432,372
Sales and use taxes	24,992,061			24,992,061
Hotel/Motel Taxes			4,375,173	4,375,173
Franchise taxes	8,227,077			8,227,077
Business taxes	17,174,622			17,174,622
Licenses and permits	2,796,509		419,517	3,216,026
Intergovernmental	363,741	179,136	441,668	984,545
Charges for services	402,823	43,299	8,973	455,095
Fines and forfeitures	5,273,492		237,592	5,511,084
Contributions	0	193,678	42,448	236,126
Interest earned	1,384,424		10,614	1,395,038
Miscellaneous	599,503			599,503
Total revenues	90,646,624	416,113	5,535,985	96,598,722
Expenditures				
Current				
General government	13,685,050	45,066		13,730,116
Judicial	955,759			955,759
Public safety	20,948,029	1,672,968	396,165	23,017,162
Public works	9,844,729	7,979,571	192,630	18,016,930
Culture and recreation	1,136,275	1,818,227	3,377,656	6,332,158
Housing and development	6,282,777	39,650		6,322,427
Debt service:				
Principal			2,830,523	2,830,523
Interest			371,671	371,671
Total expenditures	52,852,619	11,555,482	7,168,645	71,576,746
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	37,794,005	(11,139,369)	(1,632,660)	25,021,976
Other financing sources (uses):				
Issuance of long term debt		1,500,000		1,500,000
Proceeds from sale assets	103,270			103,270
Transfers in	1,249,543	15,540,483	3,215,213	20,005,239
Transfers out	(18,330,209)		(1,675,030)	(20,005,239)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(16,977,396)	17,040,483	1,540,183	1,603,270
Net change in fund balances	20,816,609	5,901,114	(92,477)	26,625,246
Fund balances, beginning of period	12,993,881	5,488,351	266,520	18,748,752
Fund balances, end of period	\$33,810,490	\$11,389,465	\$174,043	\$45,373,998

The accompanying notes are integral of these financial statements.

As attested to by the financial data in this Annual Report, the Mayor and Council of Sandy Springs subscribe to a conservative approach in running the City. We project revenues by taking into account all possible scenarios: will the economy grow or shrink and how will this affect our various revenue sources. For expenditures, the City budget includes some leeway, because it is better to end with excess funds in various categories, than to have overspent.

These policies resulted in a fund balance of \$17 million in 2007-08, with a one-time expenditure of \$9 million capital outlay for the next year. In this way we are not encumbering operating departments with ongoing costs that might present a problem in coming years.

It is prudent for a city to operate with a reserve to accommodate unforeseen events. The reserve for the fiscal year is \$14,601,840, which represents 16 percent of the total budget. If there is a sudden change in economic conditions, this reserve is the cushion that prevents sudden cuts in services or the need for tax increases. Neither of these outcomes is acceptable in Sandy Springs.

Judicious spending on operating costs has enabled Sandy Springs to undertake capital projects and to acquire a site for an eventual city hall. It is heartening that these investments can be made without borrowing or new taxes. The elected officials of Sandy Springs are keenly aware that they are spending the taxpayers' funds, requiring the utmost prudence in their decisions.

The top 10 employers in the City employ 9,500 people.



SANDY SPRINGS

During the fiscal year 2008, the Sandy Springs Web site logged 557,179 visits from more than 276,000 Web surfers, 63,832 of whom visited more than once.

During the fiscal year 2008, the Call Center fielded 164,360 phone calls, up from 101,800 the previous year.

Sandy Springs received the 2008 Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Sandy Springs is a Certified City of Ethics as designated by The Georgia Municipal Association. The designation means Sandy Springs has agreed to hold itself to a strict set of ethical principles and conduct.

Public Works Director Angelia Parham was named Public Works Director of the Year by "American City & County" magazine. It was the first time a woman had ever received this honor.

The City's Communications Department won an International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Bronze Flame, an IABC regional Silver Quill, a national 3CMA Savvy Silver Circle and an international MarCom award for its 2007 Annual Report.

According to the US Census, 72 percent of the households in Sandy Springs contain one or two people, and the median age for a Sandy Springs resident is 34.

Sixty percent of the residents of Sandy Springs have earned a bachelor's degree and/or a master's degree.

The elevation of the City of Sandy Springs ranges from 754 feet at the lowest point to 1,178 feet at the highest.



Pride
of
Place



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Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350
770.730.5600
www.sandyspringsga.org