

Prevent Damage to the Sewer System

FOG enters your plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and dishwashers. FOG coats the inside of your plumbing drain pipes and then empties into the Fulton County sewer system. Think of FOG as “hardening of the arteries.” When cholesterol builds up in the human bloodstream, it causes a heart attack. When FOG hardens in the sewer, it causes a sanitary system overflow.

Don't Pour FOG Down the Drain

Fats, oils and grease entering the sewer system increase the cost of maintaining and operating water and sewer services. The increased cost is ultimately passed on to you, the consumer. Follow These Easy Steps For Disposal: Stop and Think, Not Down the Sink!

- Allow FOG to cool and place in a sealed container. Place the container in garbage.
- Wipe and scrape excess FOG from plates, pots, pans, utensils and cooking surfaces before washing.
- Put greasy paper towels in the garbage.
- Don't flush grease down drains with hot water.
- Don't unnecessarily dispose of foods in garbage disposals

Environmental Impacts of FOG

Sanitary sewer overflows not only cost residents financially, they also have a negative impact on the environment through the contamination of natural waterways. Overflowed sewage flows into storm drains and into ponds, streams and rivers. This can destroy aquatic life and cause health risk concerns for residents using these waterways for recreational activities. Backed-up sewage and accumulated food residue are perfect breeding grounds for bacteria, insects and other vermin.



Sandy Springs resident, Melanie Noble-Couchman, was named the 2011 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. Pictured (l-r) at the Sixth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration are Keynote Speaker Rep. Melvin Everson, Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos, Honoree Melanie Noble-Couchman and Councilmember Dianne Fries.

Noble-Couchman Named Humanitarian Award Winner

Sandy Springs resident, Melanie Noble-Couchman, has been named the 2011 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. This is the fifth time the City has given the award that embodies the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes an individual for his or her humanitarian contributions to society and philanthropic work. A volunteer committee made the selection.

Noble-Couchman began her career as a technical writer for a major bank in Buffalo, N.Y. As a single mother on public assistance and food stamps, she raised two sons. By realizing the importance of education, she did everything she could to obtain her bachelor's degree from SUNY at Buffalo. In 1978, she moved to Atlanta to work for a major software company, where she met her future husband, David.

As the company became more successful, the Couchmans knew they wanted to become more involved in the community. In 2003, the couple founded the Couchman-Noble Foundation to share with others less fortunate.

Melanie committed time and funds to revitalize the Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF), which supports the educational needs of youth in Sandy Springs. Melanie also brought the Geek Squad Summer Academy to Sandy Springs. It is a national program sponsored by Best Buy that teaches underserved youth the importance of technology. She was a catalyst in bringing the After School All Stars to Sandy Springs Middle School, a national program begun by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver. Since 2005, she has worked with HomeStretch and is also on the board of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta-North Fulton Fund.

The event featured choral tributes, guest choirs and keynote speaker, Rep. Melvin Everson. Everson was elected to the Snellville City Council, making him the first elected black official in the history of Snellville, and he is now the new director of the Governor's Office on Workforce Development under Governor Nathan Deal.

"Nixle"ing, continued from page 3

Currently, Sandy Springs Police Department has approximately 600 residents and businesses that receive Nixle alerts. To sign up, visit www.nixle.com, and follow the prompts. If you need assistance, contact Officer David Johns at david.johns@sandyspringsga.org.

Nixle is being used by more than 4,600 agencies in all 50 States. It is optimized for use on a broad range of mobile platforms including iPhone®, BlackBerry®, Android™, Windows Mobile and Symbian.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org
Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770-730-5600

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the ADA Compliance Officer at 770-206-1544.

A Message From the City Manager



Sandy Springs prides itself on our responsiveness to meet the needs of the community. To accomplish this goal, it is important that we receive feedback from you. Your input is invaluable. It allows us to adjust our course of action and better meet the needs of our community.

The City of Sandy Springs participated in the 2010 National Citizen Survey to assess our progress. The survey is a collaborative effort between the National Research Center, Inc. and the International City/County Management Association. The City received a \$5,000 grant to fund our participation.

Most Sandy Springs residents rated their quality of life as excellent or good and gave high rankings to our public safety services. Our ambulance service provider, Rural/Metro, ranked number one out of 47 comparable cities.

Highlights from the survey results include:

- Fire services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 94 percent of respondents making us #2 of 50 comparable cities*;
 - Of 10 percent who had contact with the Fire Department in the past year, 86 percent reported a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Police services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 89 percent of respondents (#3 of 56 comparable cities*);
 - Of 37 percent who had contact with the Police Department in the past year, 88 percent had a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Overall direction of the City: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 76 percent of respondents (#3 of 41 comparable cities*);
- City employees: 79 percent of respondents rated their overall impression of employees as either “excellent” or “good” (#6 of 53 comparable cities*);
- Cleanliness of Sandy Springs: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#8 of 27 comparable cities*);
 - Only 5 percent of respondents see rundown buildings, weed lots and junk vehicles as a “major” problem—3rd lowest of comparable cities); and
- Public trust: Overall image of Sandy Springs rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#9 of 35 comparable cities*).

As your City Manager, it is gratifying to see these positive results. The feedback we received from residents validates the direction in which the City is moving. However, we always have room for improvement, and the survey provided valuable information on areas that need additional attention.

If you participated in the survey, please accept my thanks.

If you are interested in reading the results of the survey, please visit our website at www.sandyspringsga.org/citizensurvey.

John F. McDonough

John McDonough, City Manager
City of Sandy Springs



*Comparable cities are those with populations of 70,000-150,000 that have participated in the National Citizens Survey.

District 4 Special Election Held March 15

The City of Sandy Springs will hold a special election on March 15, 2011, to fill the seat left vacant by District 4 Councilmember Ashley Jenkins. Jenkins resigned on January 21, 2011, to pursue career interests in the travel industry. If needed, a runoff will be held on April 12, 2011. Only voters in District 4 may vote in this election. Voters may cast their ballot in their regular polling places.

The Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections Voter Division (404-730-7072) handles voter registration for all Fulton County residents regardless of the city or unincorporated area where a person resides.

For more information on the upcoming election or the City of Sandy Springs, visit www.sandyspringsga.org or call 770-730-5600. For more information on voter registration, contact the Fulton County Voter Registration Office (404) 730-7072. To find out what precinct a voter votes in, contact the Fulton County Board of Elections at (404) 612-7020 or go to: www.sos.ga.gov/mvp.

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