



City of Sandy Springs 2006 Annual Report

Charting the Course



SANDY SPRINGS
GEORGIA





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CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Eva Galambos, Ph.D.



David Greenspan
District 1



Dianne Fries
District 2



Rusty Paul
District 3



Ashley Jenkins
District 4



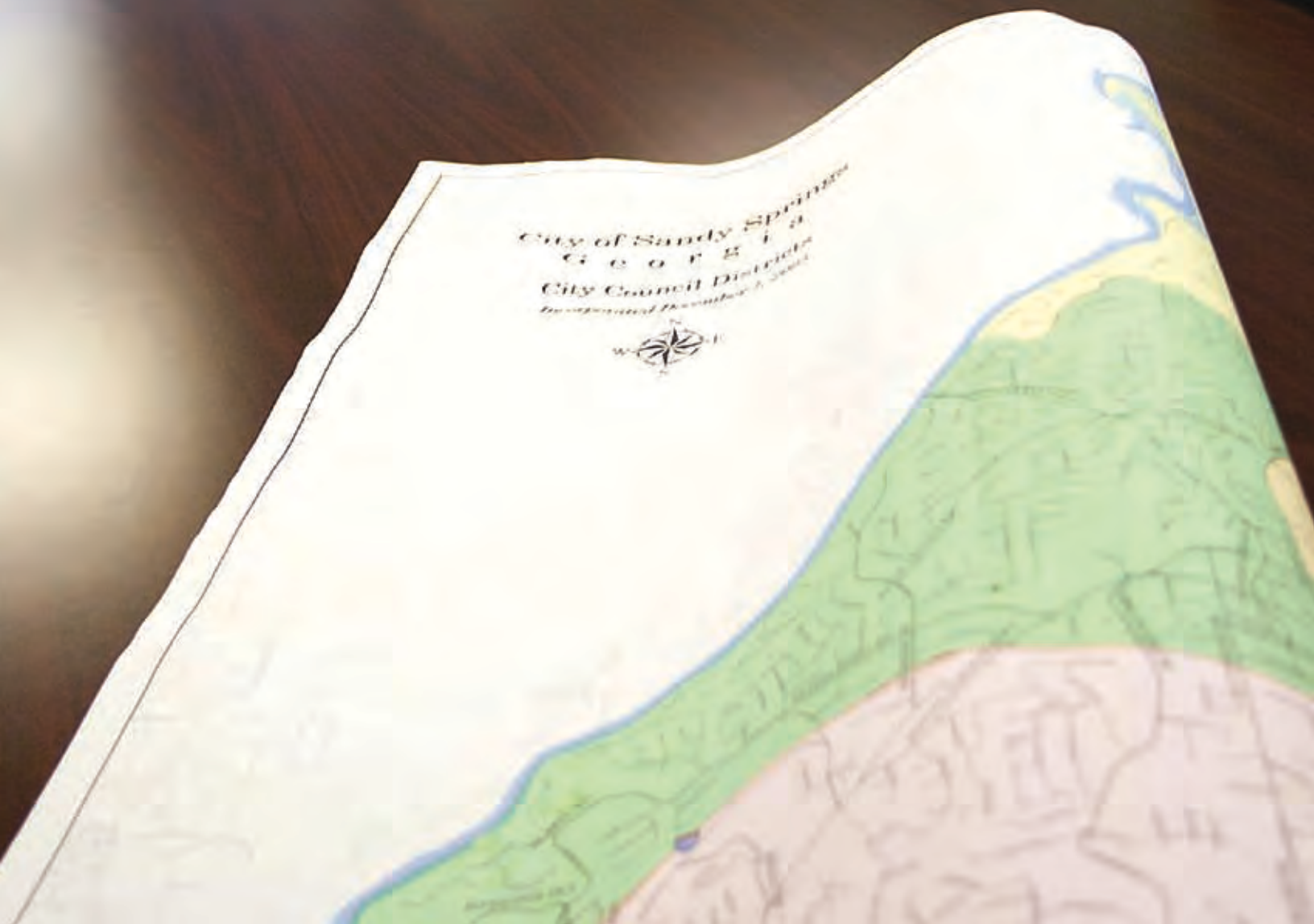
Tiberio "Tibby" DeJulio
(Mayor Pro Tem)



Karen Meinzen McEnerny
District 6

The Mayor and Council
have approved a
\$1.5 million Capital
Improvement Plan for
transportation for FY '06.

*City of Sandy Springs
Georgia
City Council Districts
Revised December 3, 2008*







Eva Galambos, Ph.D., Mayor

Greetings!

Tennessee Williams said in *The Glass Menagerie*, "For time is the longest distance between two places." It is hard to believe 12 months have passed. And what a difference we have made!

Changes abound. On December 1, 2005, we did not have a single ordinance to guide our affairs in the City of Sandy Springs, and we were totally dependent on Fulton County for fire and police protection. Additionally, we were behind to begin with on building permits, as we inherited a huge backlog from the county.

More than a year later, things are completely different. Except for the Police Department, our entire staff is united in our City Hall at 7840 Roswell Road. We have our own Police Department, and residents are astounded to see patrol cars in neighborhoods where they had seldom seen one before. The City's own fire department started in December, and all the other departments within the purview of the City are fully functional and started on time.

When residents compare notes from one area to another, they point with pride to the number of potholes that have been fixed on their streets—more than 1,300 tons of asphalt has been poured for this. Code enforcement officers have been busy to make sure our tree and sign ordinances are obeyed. They have investigated approximately 2,700 cases this year. We are listening to all parties, and the ordinances are being reviewed to make sure they reflect the views of the entire community—both neighborhoods and businesses.

We have a clear view on development objectives, having adopted changes to the existing land use plan. We want to see Roswell Road redeveloped. The plans call for mixed-use nodes at certain key intersections of this corridor, as well as an invitation for regional, high-rise development at I-285 and Roswell Road and at the North River shopping area. While higher densities are envisaged for some portions, the compensation will be more green space at ground level. When ground level trees and landscaping give a human scale, the surrounding buildings may go somewhat higher. Another important aspect of this area is listening to our residents. Your input in this area is crucial to the future direction of the City.

As you know by now, the City of Sandy Springs takes a novel approach to solving problems. We've come up with an innovative idea regarding traffic congestion at Roswell Road and the I-285 bridge. Since the Georgia Department of Transportation does not have plans to rebuild our bridge until a decision is made about what to do with I-285 (maybe three years from now), we are studying a way to bypass the bridge bottleneck by extending Sandy Springs Circle with a tunnel under I-285. Keep looking for innovative ideas from Sandy Springs. We are continuing to work on the traffic light synchronization along Roswell Road. The timing of the lights will be monitored to make sure that east-west movement can be balanced with the need to move north-south traffic.

One more notable event transpired at the end of the year. The Fulton County commissioners and the City of Sandy Springs reached an agreement on the acquisition of the parks from the County. Through efforts by Commissioners Tom Lowe and Robb Pitts, the final agreement enabled us to acquire our park sites for a total of about \$16,000. This is a great outcome to this issue and allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy our parks for generations to come.

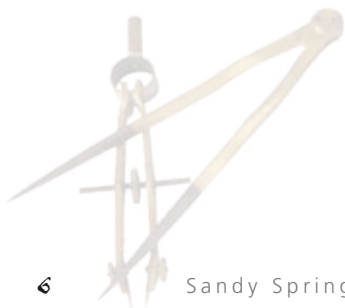
For 30 years, as we pursued the right to vote for the City of Sandy Springs, we were unable to attract national media attention. What a change we've seen, even attracting international media attention. This fall, Sandy Springs was featured in USA Today and The Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times and on major television networks, including ABC, NBC, FOX News, CNBC and Fuji TV from Tokyo. The press is interested in our birth for two major reasons:

1. Our government is operated primarily by private enterprise through a contract with the City. We have put competition into the equation of providing local government services.
2. It is highly unusual for a new city to be born with 87,000 inhabitants. Cities usually start as babies and grow. As I stated during my inaugural address, "In Sandy Springs we gave birth to an adolescent, and you know how ornery that can be."

A year after the birth of Sandy Springs, I can truly say this adolescent is developing into a mature and delightful entity of which our residents are extremely proud.



Mayor Eva Galambos, Ph.D.
City of Sandy Springs





Sandy Springs is a 37-square-mile area. It has:

- 355 miles of streets and roads.
- 20 bridges.
- 22,000 taxable parcels.
- Four major hospitals.
- Five Fortune 500 headquarters.
- The most desirable commercial/office properties in the nation – nearly \$1.5 billion worth of commercial real estate holdings.







John McDonough, City Manager

Dear Residents of Sandy Springs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the staff that works diligently to make Sandy Springs a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family and enjoy our heritage and culture. We are pleased to present to you our first annual report, which focuses on our major accomplishments for the past year and highlights our priorities for the year ahead. As we look back on our first year, we have much to be proud of as a city. We hope you will agree that Sandy Springs is not your typical government organization. The goal is to provide our residents, businesses and visitors with an unmatched level of customer service. To reach this goal, the City entered into a ground-breaking contract with CH2M HILL OMI for all general government services and approved an ambitious plan to start its own Police and Fire Departments. Based on estimates from the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, this innovative partnership with the private sector helped save the City in excess of \$20 million compared to traditional government service models.

While we always have an eye toward the future, we have stayed focused on our priorities: public safety, transportation improvements and planning and zoning. With public safety at the top of the list, the Sandy Springs Police Department began serving you on July 1, 2006. Since that time, there has been a dramatic increase in police presence in our neighborhoods and a corresponding decrease in serious crime. On December 29, 2006, the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department became operational with a focus on pioneering emergency medical services. More than half of our firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians or paramedics. In keeping with our commitment to public safety, our City Council allocated more than 90 percent of the additional resources available during the mid-year budget review toward hiring 20 additional police officers and enhancing our Fire/EMS program.

In the area of transportation improvements, there are many projects in the planning and design stages. In the past year the City allocated \$6.5 million in local funding for capital projects. Your local dollars are being used to leverage \$95 million in additional federal and state funds for 15 capital projects slated to begin in 2007.

Our Community Development planning efforts are also well underway. The City of Sandy Springs Interim 2025 Comprehensive Plan is based on Focus Fulton, a 20-year policy plan designed to implement a vision of how our City will grow in ways that support our community's vision. While utilizing the Interim Comprehensive Plan, the City has embarked on the drafting of its own Comprehensive Plan, which is further discussed in this report.

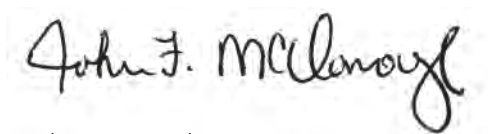
I would like to thank our Mayor and City Council for their outstanding leadership during this past year, as well as the many citizen volunteers who have given their time and resources to chart the City's course.

While we have made tremendous progress during 2006, we still have much work to do. In 2007, we will continue make improvements to public safety, our transportation infrastructure and our ability to respond promptly to your requests for service. We hope that we have earned your stamp of approval as a responsive, honest and open government.

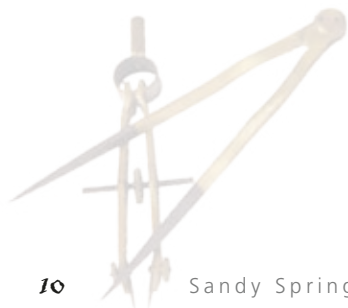
On behalf of the 330 employees of the City of Sandy Springs, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Being new has been enjoyable. We thank our Mayor and Councilmembers for a wonderful year of policymaking and guidance and our citizens for voting overwhelmingly to make this happen. Our future looks incredibly bright.

Sincerely,



John McDonough, City Manager
City of Sandy Springs



Sandy Springs is the
7th largest city in Georgia
and the 2nd largest in
the metro Atlanta area.



SANDY SPRINGS
G E O R G I A

City Hall



Al Crace, Assistant City Manager

Open. Honest. Transparent. The three hallmarks of Sandy Springs government. When the City began more than a year ago, these three words were at the forefront of City leaders' minds. With this in mind, they wanted to create the model government of the 21st century, where the core value is people working with people.

Our Citizen Response Center has answered the call—more than 69,000 in the past year to be precise. The volunteer group that worked to form the City and subsequently the Mayor and Council wanted people answering calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Although intensive and expensive, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the demand continues to grow. The system even allows for tracking calls and providing follow-up if necessary. We want to get information into the hands of the public.

The permit counter also provides one-on-one service. Specialists are on hand to sit down with members of the public to discuss cases. During these opportunities, the two parties have a chance to talk about permit application, how to come to a consensus and how to resolve any issues expeditiously. All ordinances, requirement and forms are listed on the Web site as well, just another way to bring more information and the staff closer to the public.

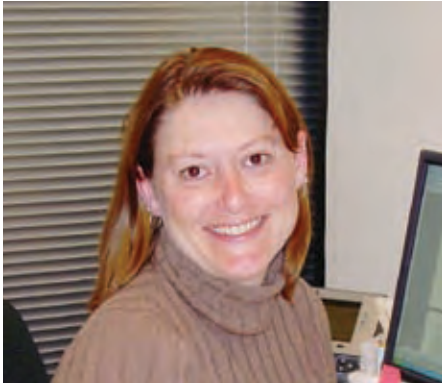
Over the next six months, Sandy Springs will be awarded and conveyed the designation "City of Ethics." This is apparent in all that is done, from operations to court proceedings to the financial health of the city. Honesty and transparency in the government can be seen on many levels from the open records requests to the collection and depositing of monies on a daily basis. The partnership between CH2M HILL OMI is a trusted one. The company acts very carefully as a service agent on behalf of the City. High standards have been set, and they are upheld daily.

The City has a great civic wealth. Residents fight traffic to attend meetings; they are good problem-solvers; they have wonderful community values; and there is a great spirit of good will. These things, coupled with the first-rate staff that have been assembled, will bring this partnership into maturity. The basis of it was already here; a formal government breathed life into it. We are thankful to be a part of this and look forward to what the future holds.



The City has received
1,900 new permit
applications and has
eliminated the backlog
of 900 permits inherited
from Fulton County.





Christina Rowland, City Clerk

City Clerk

The City Clerk is appointed Clerk of the City Council and is entrusted with maintaining, processing, and recording all proceedings and other records of the City Council and the City to include minutes, contracts, deeds, grants, ordinances and resolutions.

Since incorporation, the clerk's office at the City of Sandy Springs has kept abreast of the administrative side of the offices of the City. The staff is in regular contact with the Mayor and Councilmembers and maintains the flow of information to them and through the City Manager's office and other City Departments.

This year, the Council held 63 meetings and had 412 agenda items. From those agenda items, there were a total number of 692 pages of minutes. This year, the Council passed 115 ordinances and 135 resolutions.

This office is also tasked with Open Records requests. The City of Sandy Springs is committed to conducting City business in a manner that complies with all legal requirements, fosters citizen confidence in City government and promotes efficient and effective governmental operations. The City cooperates and supplies requested information that is considered a matter of public record. To that end, more than 261 Open Records Requests were made and more than 12,601 pages were copied in those requests.

Also under the auspices of the Clerk's office is the newly established Page Program. Begun in July 2006, the Page Program has been an overwhelming success. This program gives City of Sandy Springs students currently enrolled at middle or high school level an insight into local government and an opportunity to meet their Mayor and City Council members. They assist the City Clerk by distributing agendas, public comment cards and other related documents at the City Council meetings. Students get an exciting first-hand look at the inner workings of a council meeting. Approximately 15 students have participated so far.





Judy Parker, APR, Communications Director

Communications

Sandy Springs, from its first days of cityhood, has strived to provide an open and honest model of government that listens to, learns from and reports back to its residents, business owners and visitors. The Communications Department works with City officials and departments to make effective two-way communication with these various publics a reality. Whether developing the City's award-winning Web site, writing news pieces about upcoming transportation projects, planning and coordinating public input sessions or managing creative design projects, our department is working to fulfill its mission of providing timely, factual information about Sandy Springs

Our new City's communications department takes pride in its first year accomplishments. We continue to build sound relationships with major media. By helping them understand our unique story, we play a proactive role in allowing them to inform audiences about the city of Sandy Springs. Our department has responded to hundreds of media calls from local, regional, national and international media outlets. Within the first year, television news segments on our city aired on CNN, CNBC, FOX News and the Tokyo Evening News. Print articles appeared in USA Today, The New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Sandy Springs Neighbor. Our communications staff wrote trade magazine articles such as "Building A City," published in the Georgia Engineer magazine (October/November 2006). We reported on our history, our mission and staff and helped media do the same, arranging interviews, answering important questions and offering "inside" looks into our City operations. The result of our media relations efforts in 2006, in sum, was a great deal of positive media coverage and heightened public awareness, knowledge and understanding.



To further tell the Sandy Springs story, Communications produced four quarterly newsletters that were distributed throughout the City to keep the public informed about a wide range of topics. We developed the first tourism brochure for the City, a brochure for the Friends of Sandy Springs foundation and a schedule of programs to help promote our Recreation and Parks Department's offerings. Another publication that we made available as a handy reference to residents and business owners in the City was our "Short-list of Services Guide," an alphabetized and cross-referenced manual to help readers, at-a-glance, know how to apply for a business license, report an abandoned vehicle or contact local hospitals, schools and parks, for example.

We were proud to unveil our new City logo in March 2006. Along with the full-color, professionally designed logo, we launched a branding campaign to make the city name and logo recognizable and omnipresent at City meetings and functions and instill civic pride. We have planned special events and welcomed special guests, including leaders from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships (NCPPP) and the International City-County Managers Association (ICMA). We have proudly introduced all visitors to Sandy Springs, sharing our story and learning from theirs.





The International Association of
Business Communicators (IABC)
awarded the City of Sandy Springs Web
site a Bronze Flame Award at the annual
2006 Golden Flame Award ceremony.

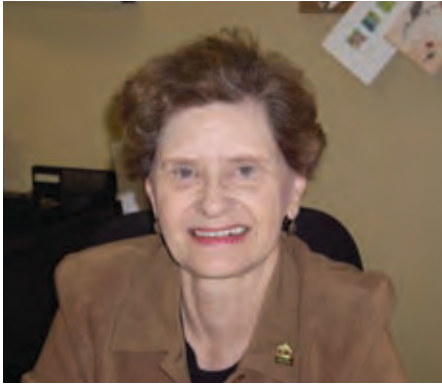


A communication plan, in the 21st century, is not complete without a timely, up-to-date Web site. Our staff worked extensively with all City departments to build a user-friendly and information-packed City Web site at www.sandyspringsga.org. For our efforts, we were recognized, in August 2006, with an award from the International Association for Business Communicators. We created our award-winning site based on superior models from other cities with comprehensive, beneficial and easy-to-access content. Our staff took extensive photos for the site, carefully drafted all content and created electronic forms. Pages are continually added and revised to keep content fresh and information accurate, and the online City calendar lets visitors know what is planned for every day of the City's operation. Visitors to sandyspringsga.org can also click on Community, then Photo Gallery to see highlights from monumental events and activities throughout the year.

The department has also launched Sandy Springs' E-blasts, a monthly feature that provides residents with current information on the happenings in the community. Sign up for the E-blast by visiting www.sandyspringsga.org.







Nancy Leathers, AICP, Community Development Director

Community Development

The Department of Community Development is responsible for working with the residents of Sandy Springs and its development community, the Planning Commission, boards and the elected officials, while managing current and long-range planning, permitting, inspections, code enforcement and other activities in support of the City's vision, mission and goals.

The department is responsible for providing comprehensive land-use and environmental planning, zoning and permitting services, development review and enforcement of building, zoning, development and environmental codes. The department accomplishes these tasks through its three divisions: Building and Development, Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement.

The Department of Community Development also is responsible for the administration of the City's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Through a partnership with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the department will use its annual allocation of federal funds to support initiatives that are eligible for CDBG assistance.

Community Development continues to be one of the most active areas of the City of Sandy Springs. Top priorities this year were citizen input through the Comprehensive Plan that will shape the City's future. Also, on December 1, 2005, the City had no ordinances, and now, the Mayor and Council have passed a host of ordinances, such as adult entertainment, storm water management, tree conservation, noise, nuisance abatement, signs, floodplain and the international property maintenance code. Also, the staff has worked on a variety of procedures such as local issuing with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the river corridor and the Atlanta Regional Commission and expediting permits for small projects. Major department initiatives included apartment sweeps and the Citizen Deputy program.



Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is the focal point of citizen involvement. Beginning in July 2006, the Community Development Department initiated the planning process to meet the state of Georgia's requirement for a local Comprehensive Plan. Preparation of the plan is also a prerequisite to the adoption of an Impact Fee Ordinance. To that end, the department engaged three professional consulting firms to ensure the City meets this requirement according to state regulations and timelines. The Recreation and Parks and Comprehensive Transportation Master Plans are independent, specialized plans, and are being developed concurrently. They are considered vital to the development of the Capital Improvements element of the Comprehensive Plan. The interim plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council on June 20, 2006, and planning efforts are underway until approval is received from the State of Georgia for the Comprehensive Plan currently under development.

The Community Development Department scheduled public meetings to solicit comments on the progress of developing the Comprehensive Plan in November 2006. Citizen input is and will continue to be critical to the success of this effort to ensure that the plan accurately and sensitively reflects the community's values and its desire for quality of life.

A 27-person Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was appointed to ensure active participation of city residents and stakeholders in the development of the Community Assessment element. Also, individuals were appointed to subcommittees within the CAC to serve in specific advisory roles for the areas of recreation and parks, transportation planning, community facilities and land use and the development of future impact fees.

A facilities inventory for recreation and parks is complete and currently available for use in planning for recreation needs of the City's residents.







Two of the most traveled
arteries in metro Atlanta cross
Sandy Springs: I-285 and
Georgia 400.



Planning and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Division is committed to achieving a livable City by maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens. The division works to achieve these goals through its management of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, review of zoning applications and procedures and implementing policy by ensuring compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan in partnership with the Design Review Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission.

The City of Sandy Springs Planning and Zoning Division was officially operational on December 1, 2005. However, staff was in a position and working toward establishing the division well before the official incorporation of the City. Much of the early Planning and Zoning Division work involved ensuring the transfer of files from Fulton County, meeting with City attorneys to discuss necessary ordinance revisions, converting the Fulton County zoning resolution to the City of Sandy Springs Zoning Ordinance and the creation of Planning and Zoning applications and schedules. The staff of the Planning and Zoning Division works with staff of other divisions in the conversion of codes and ordinances, the creation of forms and applications and the drafting of resolutions for consideration by the Mayor and City Council.

Here are some of the highlights in the Planning and Zoning Division: assisted in drafting an adult entertainment ordinance, adopted a City of Sandy Springs Zoning Ordinance and Interim Land Use Map, held the first Sandy Springs Design Review Board meeting; held the first Community Zoning Information Meeting, February 2006; held the first Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, held the first Planning Commission meeting, held the first Community Developer Resolution meeting, March 2006; the Board of Zoning Appeals considered its first cases, held the first City of Sandy Springs Redevelopment Tour, April 2006; adopted the Interim 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Interim 2025 Land Use Map, June 2006; and received the approval of the Flag Lot ordinance, August 2006.





Building and Development

The Building and Development Division oversees plan review, permitting and enforcement of City building, development and environmental codes and ordinances. The division ensures compliance with local and state laws through a comprehensive inspections program based on the technical expertise of staff, combined with active community involvement.

The Building and Development division adopted a Post Development Stormwater Management Ordinance Based on the North Georgia Metropolitan Water Planning District Model Stormwater Management Ordinances. This is important to the City of Sandy Springs because the ordinance is based upon a model ordinance that reflects the standards of the Georgia Stormwater Management manual. The design standards inherent in the ordinance include the Georgia Stormwater Manual design standards for water quality, channel protection and overbank flood protection, and apply to Sandy Springs Land Disturbance permits.



The June 21, 2005

referendum for

City hood passed

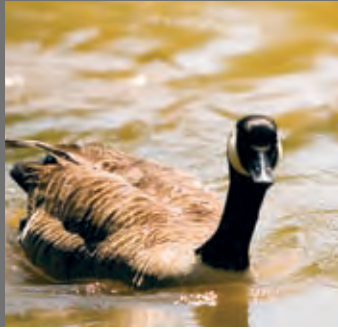
94% to 6%.



The Simple Project Designation (SPD) process, was instituted to prioritize simpler projects for permit reviews and issuance of building permits acceleration. The Building and Development Division created eligibility criteria for permits for demolition, pools, fences, retaining walls, decks less than six feet in height, minor home interior renovations, minor home additions and minor commercial interior finishes. The SPD Process allows the homeowner with a minor project, or the contractor with a smaller commercial project, to receive permit reviews and/or building permits within three to five business days, instead of their projects being commingled with larger projects that require lengthier reviews.

Achieving Local Issuing Authority status was granted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources on January 17, 2006. This designation allows the City of Sandy Springs to process Land Disturbance Permit applications and issue permits. This was achieved by assembling a plan review and inspection staff with exceptional qualifications, determining workload and inspection frequency, initiating a complaint investigation process and adopting a soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance that exceeds the standards set by the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975.





In Sandy Springs, there are 16 miles of shoreline of the Chattahoochee River, part of the National Park Service.



A River Corridor review process was established with Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) where all land disturbance activity within 2,000 feet of the Chattahoochee River is reviewed for compliance with the Chattahoochee Corridor Plan and ARC requirements. This resulted in weekly correspondence with ARC planning staff concerning ongoing and future projects within the City of Sandy Springs.

The department has also hosted Tree Ordinance Advisory Committee meetings twice monthly to provide technical expertise associated with enforcement of the current Tree Preservation Ordinance and solutions for the new proposed tree ordinance.

A Flood Ordinance was adopted so the City could participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Community Development Department revised the Sandy Springs Flood Ordinance to comply with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Model Floodplain Management/Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and used that as the Model Ordinance. It was revised in February 2006, in order to meet the requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.





The City continues Code
Enforcement sweeps of
aging apartments.



Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Division promotes and maintains a safe and desirable living and working environment. It helps maintain and improve the quality of our community by administering a fair and unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of municipal codes and land use requirements. Officers also work with residents, neighborhood associations, public services agencies and other City departments to facilitate voluntary compliance with City laws and codes; empower community self-help programs; develop public outreach programs; and establish community priorities for enforcement programs.

The Code Enforcement Division of Community Development adopted the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code to include language that incorporates the vision of the City of Sandy Springs regarding Property Maintenance on property within the City limits. Based on this language, Code Enforcement was successful in bringing more than 1,700 properties into compliance either through voluntary means or through the Municipal Court system.

Ten full sweeps of apartment/condominium complexes were conducted by the Code Enforcement Division beginning in January 2006. This included the coordination and assistance of the Building and Development Division, the Fire Department and both Fulton County and Sandy Springs Police departments. All complexes were inspected based on property maintenance issues, building and fire codes and zoning issues. Each sweep resulted in a comprehensive report that included Notices of Violation, photographs of all violations and required steps necessary for compliance. As of October 1, 2006, four of the 10 complexes are in full compliance. Code Enforcement Officers continue to inspect the remaining complexes on regularly scheduled dates to monitor the progress of each Notice of Violation and to ensure the properties are moving toward compliance in a reasonable length of time.

The Citizen Deputy Program was established in August, 2006. This program gives concerned residents of Sandy Springs an opportunity to be involved directly in the protection and preservation of the City. They have assisted Code Enforcement in the removal of signs from rights of way, informing this department of property maintenance and zoning issues, as well as helping identify areas where tree preservation is being violated.

The division enforced the Fulton County Noise Ordinance and was instrumental in its incorporation within the City limits of Sandy Springs. Code Enforcement Officers are on duty from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on weekends to ensure construction sites are in compliance. Approximately 100 Notices of Violation and Citations have been issued.







Tony Day, Municipal Court

Court

The Municipal Court of the City of Sandy Springs is a multifaceted department. There is a strong relationship between this department and the Police, Community Development and the Fire departments. Duties include working with the Police Department on tracking arrests and coordinating the transportation of prisoners, issuing subpoenas and courtroom security. The department is solely responsible for adjudicating cases on behalf of the Police Department and Community Development. They are required to maintain the records of civil and criminal cases heard in court as well.

The Mayor and Council have approved a court processing fee that helped offset the cost of court operations with additional personnel and technology enhancements. Examples include the addition of a judge and solicitor and the interface of our court software with the Police and Finance departments. Municipal Court handled more than 2,000 citations, more than 300 arrests and transports some 150 prisoners to court on an average monthly basis.

Soon after the City's opening, Municipal Court held the first court session in December 2005.

Shortly thereafter, the Court took several steps to ensure the system was effective and in compliance with all state requirements. Court staff implemented a private probation program, established an Indigent Defense Council and contracted with a permanent interpreter to overcome language barriers. Also, Court Services is working with the City Attorney to create and implement the Community Service Program. This program takes youth first-time minor offenders and, under the supervision of their parents and partners them with nonprofits, such as Morgan Falls Recycling, to work off their fines so their cases can be dismissed.

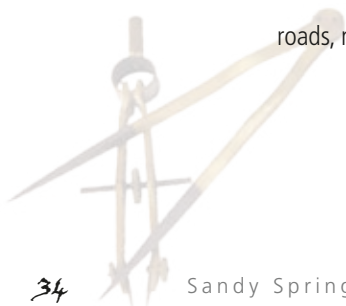


In direct connection with the implementation of the Sandy Springs Police Department in July 2006, Court Service's duties and responsibilities multiplied. Staff established a Traffic Violations Bureau that allowed the public to handle certain infractions without a court appearance. The Court set up an alternative payment system allowing fines to be paid with MasterCard or Visa via the World Wide Web (online) or in person. Municipal Court gained capabilities to accept personal checks (in person only) as an electronic conversion.

Court Sessions have gone from one environmental hearing per week to two arraignments, one trial and three jail sessions weekly. Community Development and Code Enforcement have been so effective, environmental court is now in session only twice a month, thus lightening the court docket greatly.

As a newly established City, the Court was challenged with housing individuals who had been arrested. To meet this need, the City of Sandy Springs entered into an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Irwin County for long-term sentencing of defendants. This cut the City's jailing expense drastically. Another cost-effective measure was signing the IGA with the City of Doraville to book and temporarily hold defendants arrested by our Police Department.

Finally, the Court has established a working relationship with the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) in an effort to enforce the traffic laws on Interstate 285 and Georgia 400. GSP averages 100 violations per month within the City limits. Court staff also work closely with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office to handle certain criminal cases where the City of Sandy Springs has jurisdiction. While these relationships increase the overall workload of the Court Service, it also provides the City of Sandy Springs with additional law enforcement in our communities and on our roads, making them safer places.





MUNICIPAL COURT
ENTRANCE



The median household
income in Sandy Springs
is \$77,800.





Steve Rapson, Finance Director

Finance

Fiscal fitness is a priority for the City. The Finance Department has established policies that will guide the City, and has used innovative ideas to capture revenue that might otherwise be lost. Look for upcoming discussions that will guide the budget process, as well as other opportunities in the new year to have your voices heard on financial issues. The four main categories the department has worked within this year are startup, funding, fiscal management and daily operations.

On the startup front, the City deployed a non-traditional approach to government services and enjoys one of the largest scalable contracts held by a municipal government for outsourced services and operations. The City also obtained its first tax-exemption certification and IRS designation and is implementing Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) for revenue collection with the Fulton County Tax Commissioner for the collection of property tax, business license, alcoholic beverage licenses and Motor Vehicle Tax, bringing important revenue into the City. The department also helped to set up Sandy Springs' first Police Department within a six-month period, the fastest ever in the state.

A truly unique element of the partnership between the City of Sandy Springs and CH2M HILL OMI is the cost savings to our residents. Valued at \$29.7 million in Year 1, the contract saved the City \$20 million per year as compared with traditional municipal management, according to estimates by the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Funding for the City came in many forms. We received approval of a \$10 million dollar Tax Anticipation Note. The City received approval of emergency financing and procurement for police vehicles, fire engines and other related equipment. The department implemented a master lease agreement of \$4 million for police vehicles, telecommunications, radios, radars, computers, cameras, weapons, body armor and uniforms that will aid officers in doing their jobs.

Future job growth in
Sandy Springs is more
than 14 percent,
which is higher than
the national average.



Strides in fiscal management included developing and approving financial policies for accounting, auditing and financial reporting, budgetary, capital assets, cash and investment management, debt management, elected officials expenditures, expenses, grant management, purchasing, record retention, revenue administration and travel and meal expenditures. Also, computer programs that interface with the financial system were completed: Court-ware with Court Services, RecWare with Parks; and Blackbear with Community Development. The department implemented comprehensive payroll services using ADP for reporting and record-keeping for City employees; implemented cross-departmental procedures for cash receipting and cash handling; started a revenue enhancement program for the collection of business license revenue; fast-tracked alcoholic beverage and business license rollout three months ahead of schedule; and obtained a fixed assets listing for streets, signalization, culverts and sidewalks infrastructure in compliance with GASB requirements two years ahead of schedule.

Finance held public budget workshops/hearings for adoption of three separate budgets during the first six months of cityhood. This required the City to operate under several financial systems: a manual system, a test environment, and an online financial system before becoming fully operational three months ahead of schedule. Staff also spearheaded building operating leases that were approved for police facilities, City Hall and City departments. They implemented an IGA for jail services contract for inmates and created non-profit intergovernmental contracts with local non-profits for tourism activities, and streamlined expenditures with establishing an online E-Payables program with more than 20 vendors participating.





More than half of Sandy
Springs residents have
college degrees and
consider themselves
very involved citizens.





Connie Jacobs, Human Resources Director

Human Resources

The Human Resources department has sourced, interviewed and hired all employees for the City of Sandy Springs. This was an enormous task that required the department to fill multiple key positions within a short-time frame. Currently, more than 335 people serve the City.

Since the City was founded last December, the department successfully held recruiting open house meetings for police and fire applicants. These meetings were beneficial in delivering information to applicants on department start dates, salary information, staff numbers and benefit information. By holding open houses, the City showed an innovative approach to recruiting. It also took the direct approach to be one-on-one with applicants, as well as an initiative to recruit a high caliber of applicants.

The department developed and implemented the hiring processes for the Fire Department as well. This process included creating the application booklet online, lead negotiations and researched the assessment test.

The department also created job descriptions for all positions in Sandy Springs including contractors and subcontractors. There are currently a total of 106 job descriptions. This furthers the forward-thinking principles that show both employers and employee moving in the same direction to accomplish common goals.

Staff assisted with the development and implementation of the City benefits plan, including health, life, disability and retirement plans. In order to recruit and retain the best, the City had to make the benefits competitive.

The department created and distributed two separate employee manuals—one for the contract staff and the other for the City of Sandy Springs employees.





**S.S.P.D.
TURTLE
SQUAD**

87,000 citizens
call Sandy
Springs home.



Public Safety

Public Safety is one of the top priorities for the City of Sandy Springs. The Mayor and City Councilmembers continually focus on public safety and how to improve upon it to make our City a safer place for our residents. Getting not one, but two departments up and running is a major feat. Here's what has been accomplished with the Police and Fire Departments during the past year.







Gene Wilson, Police Chief

Police Department Accomplishments

On January 3, 2006, the Sandy Springs Police Department started with a staff of three. Within a month, eight lieutenants were hired followed shortly thereafter by a major. With only a six-month window for putting the Department together, Chief Wilson and his staff of 11 assumed the responsibility of developing a Police Department unlike any other. At the end of the year, 86 officers patrolled the streets of Sandy Springs.

One of the top priorities was finding out what the citizens wanted from their Police Department. Countless hours were spent attending town hall meetings, public hearings and neighborhood association meetings to hear the public's concerns and incorporate them into our planning.

To provide the best possible service, we hired the best employees. In order to do this, we made the department competitive in its pay and employee benefits package. Through much research, the City ensured employees of the Sandy Springs Police Department received a pay and compensation package with area agencies. This resulted in our being able to hire the "best of the best" as our force.

In addition to the having first-rate employees, the department needed a set of policies and procedures to guide its operation. The policies and procedures of the Sandy Springs Police Department are modeled on standards set forth by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Many hours of research were devoted to finding and acquiring the best supplies and equipment. We are proud of the fact that the City's police force is well equipped to serve the community.

The department operates under the Computer Statistics (COMPSTAT) and Community Oriented Policing (COPS) models.

COMPSTAT focuses on department accountability. By aggressively analyzing data and using computer mapping, the department shows crime trends and patterns, in addition to citizen complaints and calls for service. This information is then used to aid commanders in deploying resources in the most efficient manner.

COPS focuses on community involvement by soliciting the community's involvement through hearing the concerns of residents and learning what is important to them in order to help identify and solve problems.

The department answers in excess of 6,000 calls per month, a number that has been steadily increasing since the department opened on July 1, 2006. On the streets are three shifts (watches) working 10-hour days. This squad system allows overlap in manpower six hours each day. Both squads work together one day each week, allowing directed patrol or details.

Fire Department Accomplishments

The Sandy Springs Fire Department steadily rolled toward its launch on December 29th. Department employees were recruited from across the metro area and cross-trained to perform varied jobs duties. All firefighters are Class B licensed and their trucks are outfitted with GPS units.

One of the main goals of the department is to provide a state-of-the-art first response system for medical emergencies. The system being established uses the newly updated evidence-based recommendations set by the American Heart Association for treating acute myocardial infarctions (heart attacks), sudden cardiac death and stroke care. An analysis of responses by Fulton County in 2005 shows that more than 60 percent of all calls entail medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrests or strokes. Rapid response is essential.

The Sandy Springs Fire Department is working with emergency physicians from Emory Hospital to take the lead in providing a comprehensive community-wide program for the treatment of sudden cardiac death. Implementation of programs are in place for AEDs in all City emergency vehicles (including police vehicles), a public access to a defibrillation program throughout the community and citywide CPR training. Our goal is for the Sandy Springs Fire Department to become the preeminent first response fire department in the metropolitan Atlanta region.

Ambulance transport from within the City of Sandy Springs will remain with Rural/Metro Ambulance who has provided ambulance service to North Fulton County for many years. Recently, Rural/Metro Ambulance joined a consortium of hospitals and ambulance services committed to the early detection of acute myocardial infarctions by performing 12-lead EKGs in the field.





Jack McElfish, Fire Chief

More than 100 candidates for firefighter positions completed the required agility testing. A group of 18 was selected to participate in a five-week training program leading to Georgia certification in firefighter I, hazardous materials and CPR 34. Candidates have also submitted to background checks, drug screening and have been scrutinized by three assessment boards. Positions the department filled included deputy chief of operations, fire marshal, assistant chief/training coordinator and fire protection engineer.

The department also purchased and prepared firefighting equipment. Small equipment to furnish the Fire Department vehicles, including the Jaws of Life, hoses, defibrillators and other emergency equipment was approved. The radios were programmed to the three frequencies that Fulton County Communications has assigned to Sandy Springs. These radios are capable of communicating with other jurisdictions as well. The City's fire engine manufacturer, Pierce Fire Trucks, delivered two heavy-duty pumper trucks and one quint, a multi-task machine that carries water, in November. Three more quints were completed in December.

Properties the City acquired for fire stations include 1425 Spalding Drive (Station 6, Renumbered Station 1), 139 Johnson Ferry Road (Station 2), 6025 Heards Road (Station 22, Renumbered Station 3). The City will lease the property at 4697 Wieuca Road (Station 39, Renumbered Station 4).







Angelia Parham, PE, Public Works Director

Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for the street transportation system which includes road and right of way maintenance, traffic engineering, transportation planning and capital improvement implementation. Public works also contributes to the Morgan Falls Recycling Center and will implement a franchise system for private waste management services in Sandy Springs. To ensure prompt response to reports from residents, the Public Works Department has a Citizen Response Coordinator whose responsibility is to administer all citizen responders in the area of Public Works. The department is divided into three divisions: Transportation Planning, Field Services and Traffic Services.

The Public Works Transportation Planning Division is responsible for the City's Capital Improvement Program for Transportation. The Mayor and City Council have endorsed this program that currently includes 26 transportation projects in various stages of design or approved for preliminary design. The City has accepted sponsorship for projects previously requested through Fulton County and is working with Sandy Springs Revitalization Initiative (SSRI) to advance projects that it has sponsored. Additionally, a Transportation Master Plan is under development to identify future programs for the roadway networks, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, intersection improvements and other major transportation improvements. Through mid-October, the staff reviewed and made transportation comments on 50 rezoning cases, more than 100 variance requests, 65 land disturbance permits, 10 final plat applications and 20 building permit applications.

The Field Services Division oversees the day-to-day maintenance of the City's streets and rights of way, including repairing potholes, cleaning catch basins and trimming foliage to improve safety. This division also responds to emergencies related to the same situations. Through mid-October, work included installing in excess of 1,300 tons of asphalt for roadway repairs; placing more than 160 cubic yards of concrete for sidewalk and catch basin repairs; cleaning 700-plus catch basins and drainage structures; removing 20 downed trees; and acting as an advocate to help resolve more than 30 cases of outstanding Atlanta waterline issues.

The Traffic Services Division maintains the City's traffic-control devices including traffic signal, traffic signs and pavement markings. Through mid-October, the division has installed approximately 25 linear miles of striping within the City; completed 36 work orders for other striping requests; completed 976 work orders for traffic sign maintenance issues and installed more than 300 new signs; completed 90 requests for graffiti removal; established a program for installation of Sandy Springs sign toppers and a sign maintenance program; responded to five road closure requests after normal business hours; participated in the annual Sandy Springs Festival by providing the road closures and the pedestrian barricades for the event. The division also has replaced 50 vehicle loop detectors, installed brighter LEDs at 14 intersections, inspected three new traffic signal installations, completed 948 traffic signal work orders and replaced more than 415 traffic signal bulbs and LEDs. It has worked with the Perimeter Community Improvement District (PCID) to improve traffic signal timing at 42 intersections for better coordination and to upgrade video detection at seven intersections through projects sponsored by the PCID.









Brad Chambers, Recreation and Parks Director

Recreation and Parks Division

The Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department operated as a division of the Public Works Department during the City of Sandy Springs' first year. The City utilized a recreation center, tennis center, youth athletic complex, two specialty parks, green space and passive parks through an Inter-Governmental Agreement with Fulton County.

In June 2006, the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department was accepted as the newest member of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association.

The Recreation and Parks Division offered a variety of athletic and recreational activities, educational classes and special programs for youth and adults.

At the end of 2006, the City acquired 130.46 acres of parkland from Fulton County through a cash donation from the Sandy Springs Society.

- Hammond Park provided facilities and year-round youth recreation activities registering more than 2,000 youth ages 18 months to 17 years in such programs as artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, karate, basketball, summer camps and special programs.
- More than 60 teams registered and participated at Hammond Park in adult volleyball and basketball leagues offered throughout the year. More than 250 regular-season games and 40 tournament games were played this year.
- Staff scheduled field and gymnasium rentals at Hammond Park and issued permits for groups to conduct a World Adult Kickball Association league, a Liga Latina de Futbol program and group volleyball practices for a church league.
- Staff scheduled 139 pavilion rentals (through mid-October) at Hammond Park for groups to hold family reunions, corporate gatherings and birthday parties with participation numbers topping 5,250.
- Sandy Springs Youth Sports provided athletic programs at Morgan Falls Park, including baseball, softball, football and cheerleading for 900 youth ages 5-17.
- Charlie Cochran at Big Trees Forest Preserve and other volunteers at Heritage Sandy Springs provided educational classes, tours and volunteer opportunities for visitors and participants through collaborative partnerships at both sites.
- The City's Communications department created, published and distributed the first Schedule of Programs guide on recreation facilities and ongoing program information.



The 11 parks include:

[Abernathy Park](#)

254 Johnson Ferry Road
404-252-6310

[Allen 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](#)

East Conway Drive at Mt. Paran Road

[Hammond Park Gymnasium](#)

705 Hammond Drive
404-705-9154

[Hammond Park Offices](#)

Community Building
6005 Glenridge Drive
404-252-6310

[Island Ferry Park](#)

Roberts Drive at Island Ferry Road

[Johnson Ferry Road Greenspace](#)

254 Johnson Ferry Road

[Morgan Falls Park/Bull Sluice](#)

450 Morgan Falls Road

[North Fulton Tennis Center](#)

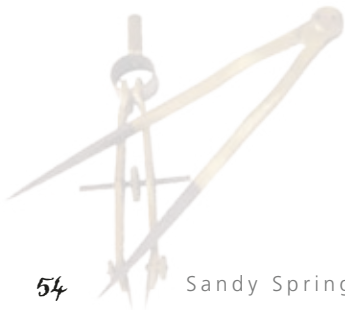
500 Abernathy Road
404-303-6182
www.northfultontennis.com

[Sandy Springs Historic Site and Park](#)

6075 Sandy Springs Circle
404-851-9111
www.heritagesandysprings.org

[Ridgeview Park](#)

5200 South Trimble Road
404-252-6310





Sandy Springs, in partnership
with CH2M HILL OMI, was the
2006 recipient of the Annual
Public-Private Partnership
Innovation Award from the
National Council for
Public-Private Partnerships.







Ruben Burch, Safety Director

Safety

Working under the principles of high performance, the Safety Department in Sandy Springs is committed to creating an environment that places the highest value on the health, safety and welfare of our residents and employees. The Safety Department is also committed to coordinating citywide emergency planning, to ensure a rapid response to a disaster or other emergency.

Since December 1st, the Safety Department has had several notable accomplishments. In conjunction with Sandy Springs police, fire, communications and public works departments, it conducted a mock emergency weather-related exercise to test the City's ability to respond to a simulated event. The goal of this exercise was to increase the City's proficiency in responding to an actual emergency, evaluate readiness, identify critical shortfalls and to assess the skill level and knowledge of the departments involved in the exercise. A City Operation Center was established for command and control and as a central point for information to be exchanged and disseminated to City officials, the public and the media. These exercises will be held periodically to continue to hone the skills of our leadership team.

The first element of a comprehensive safety program is training. The Safety Department launched an aggressive electronic training campaign. The goal of this program is to keep safety at the forefront of the staff's mind.



A set of Field Safety Instructions (FSI) was written for each job activity where employees were exposed to possible hazards. The FSI details procedures for conducting day-to-day operations and ensures City employees are aware and understand the health and safety requirements applicable to their job. The FSI covers all possible hazards from slips, trips and falls to stinging insects. These guidelines are housed in each department and in City vehicles.

The first line of defense in an emergency is a well-trained staff. To prepare for an actual medical emergency, the Safety Department conducts ongoing American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training classes. After demonstrating competency in the skills and written tests, staff are certified by Red Cross in First Aid/CPR/AED for a period of one and three years. Our goal is for our staff to be able to provide basic lifesaving skills.

The Safety Department conducts regular safety inspections of contractors, utilities and other subcontractors performing work within the City of Sandy Springs. These inspections are designed to identify possible hazardous conditions that might exist as a result their work. The safety director also looks for any obvious safety hazards or unsafe conditions that poses a hazard to the residents of Sandy Springs.





Sandy Springs' Citizen
Response Center has
answered 69,000 calls
since December 1st.





Financials

Governmental Funds June 30, 2006

| | General Fund | Hotel/Motel Fund | Total Governmental Fund |
|---|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 1,632,882 | \$ 867,972 | \$ 2,500,854 |
| Investments | 3,507,836 | - | 3,507,836 |
| Taxes and Receivables | 3,533,286 | 453,712 | 3,986,998 |
| Due from Other Funds | 274,891 | - | 274,891 |
| Total Assets | 8,948,895 | 1,321,684 | 10,270,579 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,597,743 | 819,768 | 2,417,511 |
| Deposits Payable | 192,869 | - | 192,869 |
| Accrued Liabilities | 445,887 | - | 445,887 |
| Due to Other Funds | - | 274,891 | 274,891 |
| Tax Anticipation Note Payable | 10,000,000 | - | 10,000,000 |
| Total Liabilities | 12,236,499 | 1,094,659 | 13,331,158 |
| Fund Balances Other Financing Sources (uses) | | | |
| Reserved for Capital Project | 2,468,031 | - | 2,468,031 |
| Unreserved, Reported In: | | | |
| General Fund | (5,755,635) | - | (5,755,635) |
| Special Revenue Fund | - | 227,025 | 227,025 |
| Total Fund Balances | (3,287,604) | 227,025 | (3,060,579) |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | 8,948,895 | 1,321,684 | |

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

57,830,813

- Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.
- Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore are deferred in the funds.
- Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore are not reported in the funds.

(4,507,409)

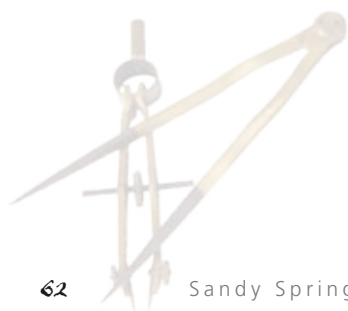
Net Assets of Governmental Activities

50,712,825



Governmental Funds Fund Balances for the Seven Months Ended June 30, 2006

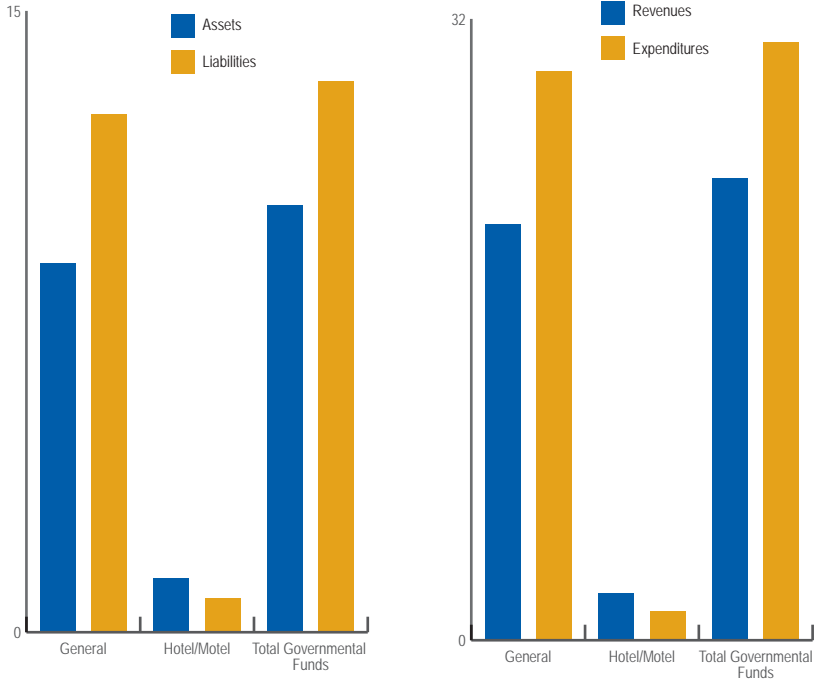
| | General Fund | Hotel/Motel Fund | Total Governmental Fund |
|---|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Taxes | \$ 18,986,488 | \$ 2,349,053 | \$ 21,335,541 |
| Licenses and Permits | 1,744,329 | - | 1,744,329 |
| Charges for Services | 70,618 | - | 70,618 |
| Fines | 401,377 | - | 401,377 |
| Donations | 70,000 | - | 70,000 |
| Interest Earned | 101,641 | 12,105 | 113,746 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,898 | - | 2,898 |
| Total Revenues | 21,377,351 | 2,361,158 | 23,738,509 |
| Expenditures (Current) | | | |
| General Government | 9,374,455 | - | 9,374,455 |
| Judicial | 328,008 | - | 328,008 |
| Public Safety | 11,332,550 | - | 11,332,550 |
| Public Works | 4,353,238 | - | 4,353,238 |
| Culture and Recreation | 1,250,074 | 1,463,244 | 2,713,318 |
| Housing and Development | 2,697,519 | - | 2,697,519 |
| Total Expenditures | 29,335,844 | 1,463,244 | 30,799,088 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | (7,958,493) | 897,914 | (7,060,579) |
| Other Financing Sources (uses) | | | |
| Issuance of Long Term Liabilities | 4,000,000 | - | 4,000,000 |
| Transfers In | 670,889 | - | 670,889 |
| Transfers Out | - | (670,889) | (670,889) |
| Total Other Financing Sources (uses) | 4,670,889 | (670,889) | 4,000,000 |
| Net Change in Fund Balances | (3,278,604) | 227,025 | (3,060,579) |
| Fund Balances, Beginning of Period | - | - | - |
| Fund Balances, End of Period | (3,287,604) | 227,025 | (3,060,579) |



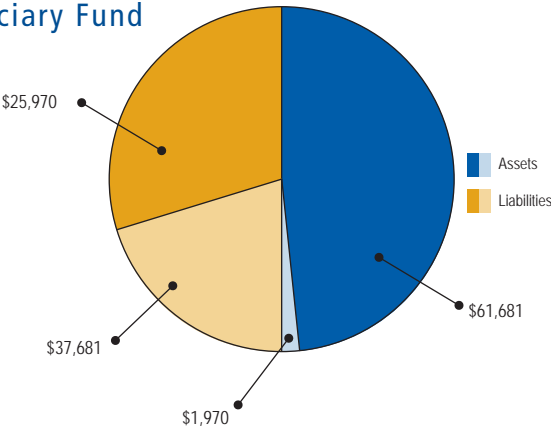
Fiduciary Fund Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets June 30, 2006

| | Agency Funds |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash | \$ 61,681 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,970 |
| Total Assets | 63,651 |
| Liabilities | |
| Cash Bonds Held | 25,970 |
| Claims Payable | 37,681 |
| Total Liabilities | 63,651 |

Government Funds (millions)

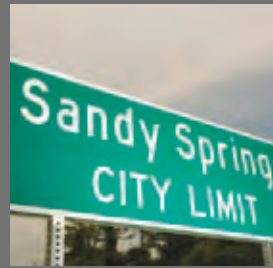


Fiduciary Fund



Sandy Springs Fast Facts

- Sandy Springs is the second largest city in Metro Atlanta, with a population of 86,698 in 2005.
- Of the City's civilian workers, 52 percent are in management, professional and related occupations and 28 percent are in sales and office occupations.
- More than 80 percent of Sandy Springs residents live within three miles of the Downtown Sandy Springs Business District.
- The median home value in Sandy Springs is just more than \$345,000, and the average per capita income is \$45,494.
- As of 2004, 35,333 homes in the City were located within three miles of the Business District.
- A total of 18,276,826 square feet of office space already exist in the City.
- Five Fortune 500 headquarters (UPS, Newell Rubbermaid, Cox Communications, Beazer Homes and Mirant) are located within our City limits.
- Sandy Springs has the largest concentration of major health care facilities in metro Atlanta.
- The City is served by five public elementary schools, two public middle schools and two public high schools. Residents also have easy access to 41 private schools.
- Three MARTA rail stations within the City offer a direct route to the Atlanta airport, and most areas of metro Atlanta are accessible within a short drive.





*A year after the birth of Sandy Springs, I can truly say
this adolescent is developing into a mature and delightful
entity of which our residents are extremely proud.*

— Mayor Eva Galambos, Ph.D.
City of Sandy Springs

7840 Roswell Road, Building 500, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350
www.sandyspringsga.org

