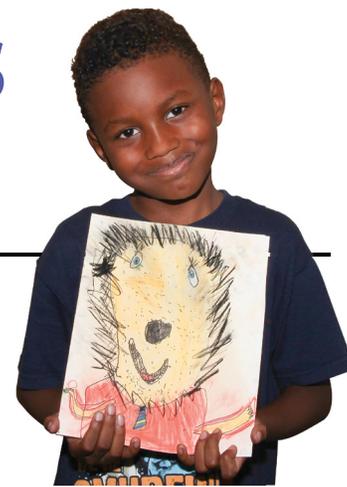


# SUMMER CAMPS IN SANDY SPRINGS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Opportunities for keeping your children active during the school summer break. - Page IV



## The Springs-Times

Spring 2014 • Issue 31

# STATE OF THE CITY DELIVERED BY SANDY SPRINGS MAYOR RUSTY PAUL

It is a very distinct honor to be the mayor of Sandy Springs and write my first letter to you, my fellow Sandy Springs neighbors.

All of us in politics go through some type of trial by fire, but I never thought I would go through trial by ice within the first month of being mayor. I was downtown at the state capitol when I walked out and saw this white stuff falling down, and thought to myself, "This doesn't look good." What should have been a relatively short commute, three and a half hours later, I finally made it home. Before long, we were in the throes of a real issue. Staff did a phenomenal job of getting streets cleared, and we all know about the baby that was born making national news. With storm number two, I want to thank everybody for staying home and making our lives a little easier. We were able to get the roads cleared that much sooner. Now with the days getting longer and warmer, we can look forward to spring in beautiful Sandy Springs.

In my State of the City, I talked about priorities, and downtown development is at the top of that list. Our council is fully dedicated to doing something special in downtown. Sandy

In my experience as assistant secretary of HUD, I can tell you that cities are not always as resilient and tough as this community. A community as tenacious and committed as Sandy Springs

we are thinking long term, so one day our kids and grandkids will look back and say, "Job well done."

Our city is comprised of many wonderful neighborhoods, but they tend to exist as islands with everyone living within their own neighborhood enjoying their wonderful lifestyle and wonderful quality of life. With the development of the City Center, we can bridge these islands and create community. If you have been to the concerts at Heritage Springs, community is happening there. The Farmers Market is another example with people walking around and talking with each other. That is something we want, and that is what we want to build in the downtown area. A place where we, as a community, can come together, talk with each other, enjoy a meal together or enjoy an event together. We want the City Center not just to be the heart of Sandy Springs, but its heartbeat. Another major objective is a focus on economic development.

*Continued on Page II*



**Mayor Rusty Paul picture with wife Jan at his swearing in ceremony on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at Sandy Springs City Hall.**

Springs went through a 35-year process of becoming a city, and demonstrated a very unique perseverance and tenacity.

deserves only the best. And that is what we are going to focus on. We want something that we can be proud of and

# ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION HONORS DAVID EVANS



Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul, along with members of the Sandy Springs City Council, planted a Willow Oak Tree at Morgan Falls Overlook Park on Friday, February 21, 2014 to commemorate Arbor Day and to honor the memory of longtime Sandy Springs resident David Evans. Evans, who passed

away in December 2013, was among the early champions to make Sandy Springs a city. He was a past President of the Chamber of Commerce and served on its Foundation Committee to create Leadership Sandy Springs. Evans was instrumental in starting Sandy Springs Revitalization and the

Sandy Springs Business Association. The U.S. Navy Veteran helped create the Sandy Springs Civic Roundtable which brought together numerous city government and civic organizations to collaborate and promote community activities.

# DON'T MISS THE 4TH ANNUAL KIDS TO PARK DAY AT HAMMOND PARK



Children in Sandy Springs can take part in a grassroots movement to reclaim America's parks through play on Saturday, May 17, 2014 commemorating the fourth National Park Trust's (NPT) National Kids to Parks Day. Sandy Springs and other cities across the nation are committing to a simple motto: "active kids are healthy kids," and National Kids to Parks Day encourages residents to use local parks and recreation sites to develop more active,

healthy lifestyles. The event, produced by Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks, will feature games, field day activities, contests and races, PlayBall games, inflatables, water slides, face painting, entertainment, raffles and more!

#### Mark your calendar:

Saturday, May 17, 2014 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hammond Park Turf Field

Cost: Free

*Continued from Page I* - We had a good year in 2013 in our quest to become a corporate and regional headquarters location. Companies like AirWatch and State Farm bring much to the area in terms of jobs and economic stimulus. While State Farm is just across the border, it benefits the city. These companies are utilizing rapid transit bringing people without necessarily adding to traffic congestion. We will continue to encourage that type of growth.

I traveled with the Metro Chamber to Silicon Valley last year where they told us about the ecosystem that is required for technology. One of the things we want to be able to do here is help our startup companies thrive. We have a lot of angel investors, investment capitalists, startup companies—one goal is to put all those together in a comprehensive way to continue that ecosystem and build the city's reputation and infrastructure needed for the city to be known as a place to locate technology companies.

A lot of you know my history. I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama in the 1960s, a very turbulent time in our country. One of the reasons I got involved in public service was because I watched Atlanta, which is where my dad's older sister lived, and Birmingham, where I lived, and the differences in political decisions. The difference between Bull Conner, George Wallace, Ivan Allen and Paul Sanders, now 50 years later, is a tale of two cities. Birmingham is just now beginning to recover, from 50 years of bad political decisions. Atlanta is thriving because of wise decisions.

Our region has not always been

perfect. We have a lot of divisions: economic, racial, and geographical. Fulton County is so large, so diverse, so many different needs that you can't have "one size fits all." And we've allowed those divisions, those differences, to sometimes divide us. Instead of thinking about diversity as a problem, we need to think about diversity as something that provides a real opportunity for our community and region. I imagine the cities in our region akin to Lego blocks of service delivery. We can attach and detach in these services, working on things together where it makes sense. We've got a 9-1-1 collaboration with Dunwoody and Johns Creek, and

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***"We want the city center not just to be the heart of Sandy Springs, but its heartbeat."***

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we are talking with Brookhaven. We have fire mutual aid with all of the communities around us. We work on projects together that require this critical mass. Atlanta is not our adversary. Dunwoody is not our adversary. Johns Creek and Smyrna; they are not our adversaries. They are our collaborators. We all sink or swim together.

Using these Lego blocks to represent service delivery, our next big challenge is how do we attach the blocks to ensure everybody receives the level of service that they deserve, and some of this should be done on a regional basis. Every city has its own little economic development

initiative, but we have to work together to bring businesses to this area. Whether someone locates in Dunwoody, or they locate on the boundaries of Buckhead and Sandy Springs, or in Roswell or Smyrna, we all benefit.

While the Braves move is a loss for the city of Atlanta, the move will create some challenges for us too. There is going to be traffic, and we have to work together regionally to solve some of these issues. Transportation is not a Sandy Springs problem it's a regional one; the recent snow storms taught us that lesson.

As we start to figure out all the nuances of this model we now have, we have to figure out also how we work together to make things happen across the region and make it good for all of us. We are all one community. We are all one group of people having the same needs and objections and goals – to leave our community a little better than it has been. Let's work together to figure it out.

So I'll close my first letter to you with a question, "Why did I become mayor?" I'm the first to admit, I had a great life outside of politics. But the reason why I wanted to be mayor of this great city is best answered by my wife, Jan. She said "you need to do this because you have the opportunity to do something amazing," and that's what I want to do. I want to make this place better than how we found it, so that our kids and grandkids will be really proud. And I ask you to join me to create this legacy.

- Mayor Rusty Paul

## WALK ON

Sandy Springs residents will soon have new paths to walk with the addition of multiple sidewalk projects in the works.

#### Recently completed projects:

- Sidewalk along Hammond Dr. from Mitchell Rd. to Lake Forrest Dr.
- Sidewalk along Hightower Trl. from Roswell Rd. to Dunwoody Pl.
- Sidewalk along Happy Hollow Rd. from Dunwoody Club Dr. to Spalding Dr.
- Streetscapes along the north side of Abernathy Rd. from Glenridge Rd. to Glenlake Dr.

#### Upcoming projects include:

- Sidewalk on Mt. Paran Rd. from Roswell Rd. to Long Island Dr.
- Sidewalk on Hammond Dr. from Barfield Rd. to Glenridge Rd.
- Sidewalk on Roswell Rd. south of Long Island Dr.
- Installation of streetscape on Roswell Rd. from Northridge to Roberts Dr.
- Roswell Rd. streetscape from Johnson Ferry Rd. to Abernathy Rd.



# MARSH CREEK WATER TREATMENT PARK

In the next couple of years, Sandy Springs will have its very own water treatment plant. It won't be your typical facility with large pipes, pumps and three-story water storage tanks. This one will filter contaminated stormwater runoff with natural plant life and a water fountain.

The Marsh Creek Headwaters, located downstream from the City Center development, will help reduce flooding in the surrounding neighborhoods and improve water quality by treating stormwater runoff before it flows into Marsh Creek, the tributary leading into the Chattahoochee River.

Marsh Creek is listed by the Environmental Protection Department as an impaired water body for not meeting the state's water quality standards primarily due to urban stormwater runoff. Working with the Georgia Environmental Protection Department (EPD), this City project should not only improve water quality for Marsh Creek, but could also become a model for regional detention facilities.

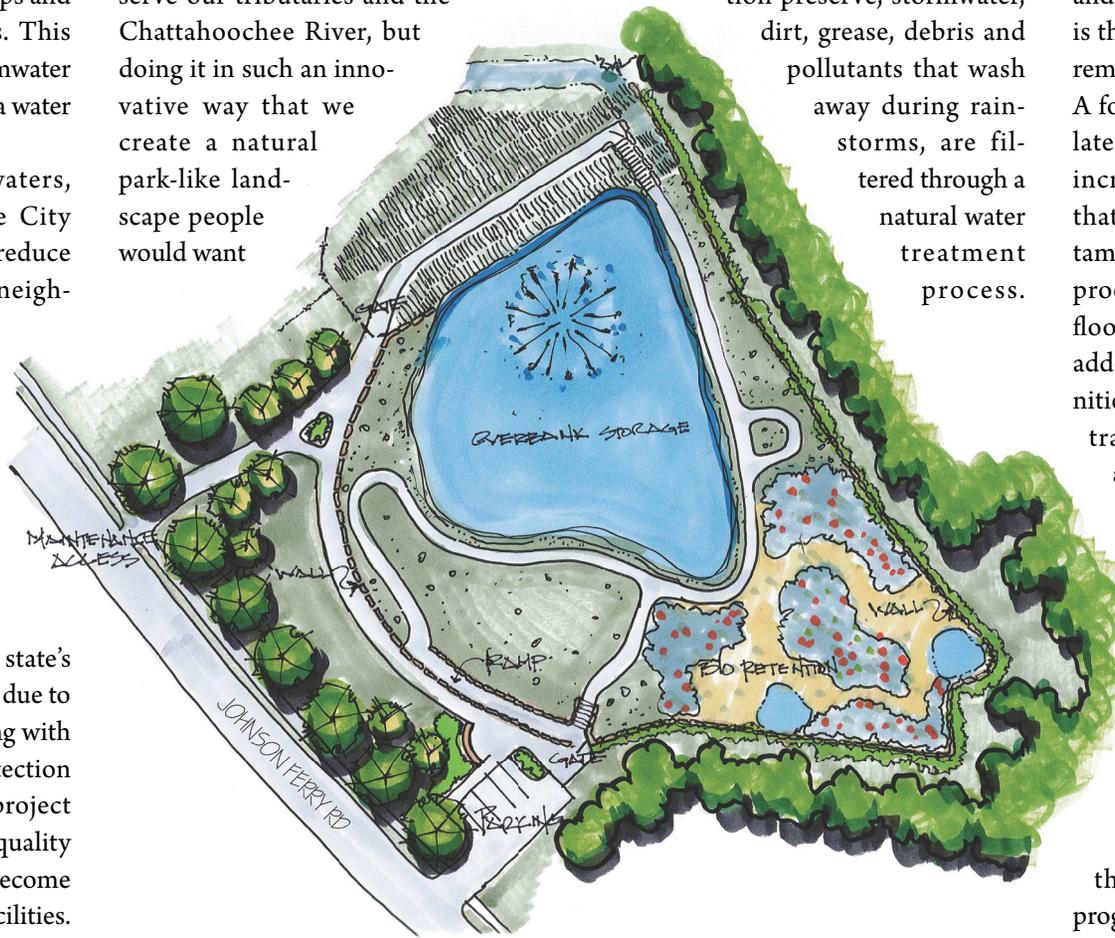
"We are bringing water treatment into public view; not only in terms of doing what is needed to preserve our tributaries and the Chattahoochee River, but doing it in such an innovative way that we create a natural park-like landscape people would want

to visit," said Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul.

Through this regional detention preserve, stormwater, dirt, grease, debris and pollutants that wash away during rainstorms, are filtered through a natural water treatment process.

Stormwater runoff will flow through a bio-retention area that cleans and treats the water with aquatic native vegetation and specially designed soils. The water is then channeled into a wet pond that removes pollutants and sedimentation. A fountain in the wet pond will circulate and oxygenate the water, which increases the number of organisms that consume and break down contaminants. In addition to the cleaning process, the project will also reduce flooding and stream bank erosion. An added feature is esthetics. Project amenities will include greenspace, walking trails, and extensive landscaping, as well as educational signage to explain the stormwater treatment process.

The City and the EPD, through the Nonpoint Source 319h Grant program, fund this project jointly. Water quality monitoring for this project pre- and post- construction will allow EPD to measure its effectiveness with hopes of replicating the successes in future detention programs.



## FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY – NEW NAME AND NEW LOCATION

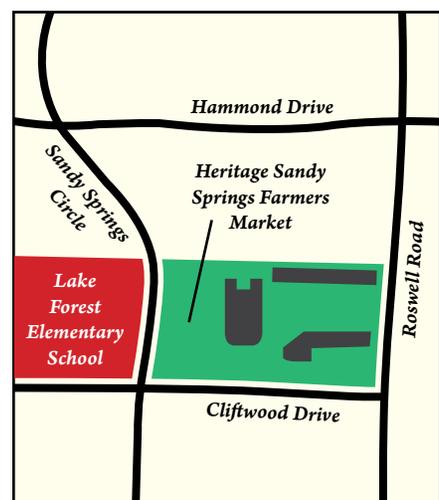
The Heritage Sandy Springs Farmers Market will open for the 2014 season on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at its new location at the lower level of the Parkside Shopping Center on Sandy Springs Circle, across from Lake Forest Elementary School. The new name, to include "Heritage," reflects Heritage Sandy Springs' new role as presenting organization. Carol Thompson, executive director of Heritage Sandy Springs

said, "We are proud to continue the success of the Sandy Springs Farmers Market. Sandy Springs was originally founded as a farming community, so in many ways this wonderful weekly community event will celebrate the roots of our community's history."

This location is easily accessed by MARTA bus lines and offers a centralized location not far from the market's original site, the parking lot of the recently demolished Target store.

The Heritage Sandy Springs Farmers Market will run every Saturday, April–November, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Each Saturday market features live music and nearly 50 vendors offering an abundance of fresh local produce, along with pasture-raised meat and pork products, farm fresh eggs and dairy products, and a wide variety of prepared foods.

For further information about the Farmers market, visit their website: [sandyspringsfarmersmarket.com](http://sandyspringsfarmersmarket.com)

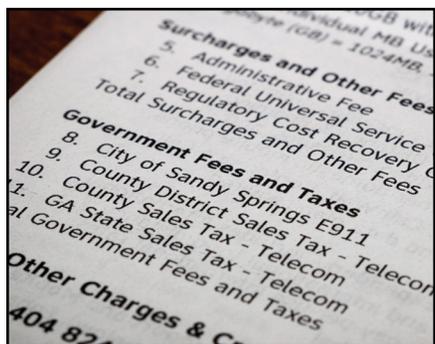


## BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL DEADLINE

Are you a business owner in Sandy Springs or want to start a new business? Businesses located in Sandy Springs are required to obtain a Business Occupational Tax Certificate. Often referred to as a Business License, the Certificate is valid for a calendar year and must be renewed annually. The deadline for renewal is fast approaching, so be sure to mark your calendar and file your renewal application with us by close of business on **March 31, 2014**.

## KEEP YOUR 9-1-1 DOLLARS AT HOME

Please check your monthly phone bill, home and cell phone, to make sure the \$1.50 Emergency service (E9-1-1) charge is designated to support Sandy Springs ChattComm 9-1-1. If Sandy Springs is not listed as the recipient city, please call your phone service provider and have it changed. ChattComm provides the 9-1-1 emergency call service for the City, covering you during an emergency.



## LET'S BE MORE SOCIAL

Each month, the City connects with the Sandy Springs community through its email newsletter. Whether you live or work in Sandy Springs, this publication will keep you up to date on city news and community events. Signing up to receive the newsletter takes just a few seconds at [sandyspringsga.gov/signup](http://sandyspringsga.gov/signup).

For those looking for instant news, the City has a bustling Facebook community. You can "Like" the City's Facebook page at [facebook.com/SandySpringsga](http://facebook.com/SandySpringsga) to begin receiving City posts in your Facebook feed.

You can also follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/sandyspringsga](http://twitter.com/sandyspringsga) to receive breaking news and traffic alerts.

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# HAPPY CAMPERS, HAPPY PARENTS

Summer should be about ice cream, watermelon, poolside fun (and sun-block) and great activities! Long considered one of the best kept secrets for being affordable and fun, the summer camps offered through

Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks are a wonderful way for children to spend the long, lazy days of summer with old friends and making new ones. Whether your child is an artist, an athlete or both, there is

something for everyone through the City's camp program.

For more information and a full listing of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Camps, visit our website: [sandyspringsga.gov/camps](http://sandyspringsga.gov/camps)

## FEATURED CAMPS

**Youth Soccer Summer Camp:** Activities will include soccer technique drills, game and intramural tournament play.

**Super Summer Sports Day Camp:** Fun filled camp of daily sports activities.

**Youth Tennis Camp:** Games and activities based on tennis will include racquet skills, playing skills and movement drills. The games are designed to develop speed, strength, stamina, strategy and effective, efficient thinking.

**Kidz Art:** This summer camp is all about creativity as kids use a variety of techniques and experiment with a wide range of mediums using artist quality supplies.

**Music and Art Camp:** Children ages 6-8 years will learn to play familiar songs on the ukulele and keyboard.



## SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPS

New this Year: The Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department is proud to offer programming for children with special needs. There will be a number of camps available covering swimming, theater, sports, arts and more. All camps will be

under the instruction of adaptive PE and Special Education Teachers and Para-Pros.

You can find more information about special needs camps online: [sandyspringsga.gov/specialneeds](http://sandyspringsga.gov/specialneeds)

## DELEGATION FROM JAPAN VISITS SANDY SPRINGS

A recent visit by a delegation from Japan is just one of many by the international community seeking to better understand the city of Sandy Springs unique government structure featuring public-private partnerships. In Sandy Springs, with the exception of the fire and police departments and City Manager's senior staff, contracted companies carry out general city services. This includes public works, planning and zoning, finance and even our municipal courts. The driving force behind this arrangement is to improve efficiencies and accountability. The visiting delegations are most interested in how the contract system provides better services for the residents while maintaining costs. The efficiencies are a result of incorporating a

business model that provides incentivizing employees through the competitive nature of the contract renewal process. Mayor Paul likes to explain, "Other cities may claim to run their cities like a business, we run our city with business."

