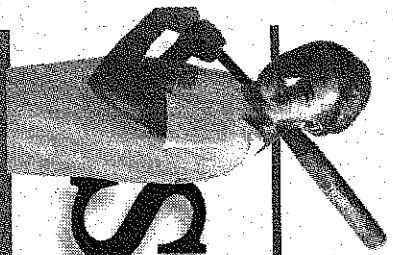


Golden Bears take second in region tournament/1c

Candidates for mayor go head-to-head at breakfast meeting/3a

Pace Academy shines light on photography/1B



# SANDY SPRINGS NEIGHBOR

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Assistant Manager of Sandpiper clothing store, Jane Brooks-Curtis, arranges a flower decoration outside of her new store in CityWalk on "Boutique Row," as shoppers cruise the new stores.

Nathan Self/Staff

## Stores open as CityWalk takes shape

By Pasha Carroll  
Neighbor Newspapers Staff Writer

Like the first tulips blooming in springtime, the "closed" signs at CityWalk Shops have slowly been turned to "open" and "now hiring" signs are flying in the breeze.

CityWalk on the corner of Hammond Drive and Sandy Springs Circle has been billed as the new downtown, the newest place for locals to spend a day shopping, dining or living.

Thirty-three retail stores and restaurants at CityWalk Shops are either open or are finishing interior construction and unpacking boxes. CityWalk Shops will encompass 180,000 square feet of retailers when it is complete.

"Boutique Row" already had its grand opening Sept. 29 through Oct. 2, to lure customers who may have been wary of the bulldozers and concrete slabs that are finishing adjacent stores. Owners of Ageless Remedies, Fabrik, Sandpiper's, Chelsea Parkes and Potpourri

named the row and put together the opening to preview the stretch of stores.

"It has been absolutely wonderful," Julie Routenberg, owner of Potpourri said as she ran around directing the carpenter, answering phone calls and helping a regular customer.

Ms. Routenberg, who also has a second location at Powers Ferry Square in Buckhead, opened in a temporary store in CityWalk about a year ago, "to get customers used to the new location." The Sandy Springs Potpourri had been located on Johnson Ferry for the past 15 years.

"This will be my local shopping destination," said Ellis Empel, a Sandy Springs resident who was shopping at Potpourri. She has been a long time customer of the specialty clothing store that specializes in personal attention.

Across the parking lot Patti Pennington, the owner of Belles Choses, unpacked boxes of all things French, including dishes and furniture and prepped her store for its opening.

Ms. Pennington owns a second location in Vinings and moved her Huff Road location to CityWalk, instead of opening a third location.

"This is the rebirth and revitalization that Sandy Springs has been waiting for for years," Ms. Pennington said. "CityWalk will be the center."

At the Huff Road location, Ms. Pennington said Belles Choses fit in with the centers antique niche, but CityWalk is better suited to the high end products. She said CityWalk, convenience, as well as the high end wares, "will bring back the whole local neighborhood."

"It is a place to shop without going to the mall, there is great parking, and people can beat the traffic by taking back roads," Ms. Pennington said.

The construction vehicles and traffic may have deterred customers from some of the shops that opened in late summer. Those owners have said that the first month has been slow, but they expect it to pick up soon.

"Once it is all finished, it will

pull together," said Christine Lord, assistant manager at Kabloom.

CityWalk including CityWalk Heights and CityWalk Towers, is expected to be complete within a year.

According to CityWalk representative Toren Anderson, CityWalk Towers will boast 309 luxury units that are 1 to 3 bedrooms. The Towers will have an additional 13,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor and are expected to be complete by summer 2007.

CityWalk Heights will include 16 upscale townhomes and a low rise building containing eight flats, which includes two penthouse units. The Heights are already under construction and are pre-selling. Two model townhomes are expected to be complete by January 2006.

Much sooner that that, CityWalk will be the place to get a hair cut, tan, eat, drop laundry, pick up a bouquet, and of course, shop.

"This is a spice kettle, with a little bit of everything," Ms. Lord

## Surplus could mean better city services

By Pasha Carroll  
Neighbor Newspapers Staff Writer

In 2006, the first year Sandy Springs will be an incorporated city, the city has about \$63 million, Oliver Porter said, the Governor's Commission on Sandy Springs said.

In 2007, those revenues are expected to be approximately \$75 million.

The largest chunk of money will go to CH2M Hill-Corporation that the Governor's Commission will propose city council to run the administrative aspects of city government will be paid almost \$2.5 million and will in turn take care of functions, such as human resources, transportation, parks and recreation, planning and code enforcement, Porter said.

The next largest bill on the Sandy Springs new budget, at about \$20 million each year, will pay for public safety, primarily police, fire and 911 services, Porter said.

He said that negotiations with Fulton County for a principal contract (it will still have to be voted in by the new city council) provide public safety services under way. Porter recognizes possibility those contracts accepted by the new city council.

"We are ramping up to with a skeleton force on Jan. 1," Porter said, referring to police, fire and 911 services. "All along we have to be ready."

The big question is whether the \$10 million surplus will be used. "We are not going to see it," Porter said. "There are a lot of things that the community wants and that is going to want to do."

Those things include police and traffic coverage.

"Ultimately, that is for council to decide," Porter said. The city council and mayor will be the ones to decide on a small piece of the pie. The city will only be paid \$12.5 million, while the city will only be paid \$12.5 million. "We are looking for public salaries are designed to pay for campaign expenses," Porter said. The specific amount of money will be budgeted by the city council.

"This is a spice kettle, with a little bit of everything," Ms. Lord

## Adventure team builds skills, confidence

By Jessica Thomas  
Neighbor Newspapers Staff Writer

The Galloway School's Galloway Outdoor Adventure Team, or GOAT, gives Galloway sophomore Robert Grant the ability to do things that he has never done before.



Galloway Outdoor Adventure Team, GOAT, members, from left, Lane Emmons,

