



# Sandy Springs Reporter

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## Inside

In control

City now has more say over apartments  
COMMUNITY 2

Real Estate

How much house does \$500,000 buy?  
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## Painting their pride



PHIL MOSIER

From left, Alec Nathan, Owen McDaniel, Travis Block and Davis Vainer, Riverwood International Charter School students, show their spirit with body paint during a football game against Holy Innocents' Episcopal School on Aug. 29. The Riverwood Raiders beat the Holy Innocents' Golden Bears 34-3. More photos on page 19.

## Resident devotes time to beautifying library

BY ANN MARIE QUILL  
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Sylvia McAdam never expected to spend her summer putting down woodchips on the lawn of the Sandy Springs Library.

"I was going to lay out," she said. "I was going to get a tan."

As part of her relaxation plan and once her son graduated high school, McAdam went to the library on Mount Vernon Road to find a romance novel. Instead of finding a book, she says she found knee-high grass, weeds, trash and tree limbs on the grounds.

"It looked awful," she said. "I didn't even go inside."

Instead, she went home and told her husband, Don, "We needed to go cut the grass at the library. This was on a Saturday. On Monday, I started calling Fulton County."

McAdam got in touch with the libraries' maintenance division and discovered that due to cutbacks in library services, the library lawn was not being maintained. In January the Fulton Board of Commissioners voted to cut the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's budget by \$6 million, which resulted in a cut in hours and a reduction in staff.

They "told me, 'No, the grass hadn't been cut at the library,' and 'No, the grass wasn't going to be cut at the library.'"

McAdam and her husband now spend about 45 minutes every day working to give the library a facelift. He weeds; she lays down woodchips.

But they haven't been alone. Walking over the library's

SEE RESIDENT, PAGE 4

## City Council gives the OK for 1,000-seat performing arts center

BY ANN MARIE QUILL  
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Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul has repeatedly called it the "most important" project the city has ever undertaken. On Sept. 2, that project inched a little closer to reality when Sandy Springs City Council gave the go-ahead to developers to proceed with City Center planning that includes a performing arts center up to 1,000 seats.

Options presented by City Center master developers Carter/Selig for the performing arts center have included three sizes, ranging from 600 to 1,000 seats with varying amenities and stage sizes.

While a resolution adopted by the council gives planners approval to pursue the larger performing arts center option, it does provide flexibility.

Adopted unanimously, the resolution, an alternative version submitted by Councilman John Paulson, gives the city leeway to determine during a design phase the specific components of the arts center. The original resolution specifically favored a black-box design for the performing arts center with 1,000 seats.

Paulson said he supported a performing arts center because it will enhance citizens' quality of life.

"The eight years that we've been a city we have what I called the 'taking care of the business of Sandy Springs,'" he said. "We developed a police force, developed a fire department, paved and poured sidewalks, paved streets. We have storm water system that works in probably the first time in 30 years. "We're doing a lot of things that are fundamental to

SEE CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 20

### Timeline for City Center

2012: City adopts master plan

2013: Council approves land acquisition, infrastructure

2014: June: Carter/Selig hired as master developer

- July: City explores feasibility of performing arts center
- Aug. 27: Planners present City Center site plans
- Sept. 2: Council gives OK to 1,000-seat performing arts center



# EDUCATION



PHOTOS BY PHIL MOSIER



## Football teams in battle

The Riverwood International Charter School Raiders took on the Holy Innocents' Episcopal School Golden Bears on Aug. 29. Above, left, Riverwood cheerleaders lead the "Raider Walk," a tradition where the home team and coaches march from the locker room through the stands and onto the playing field. Above, right, Riverwood Raider Mekhi Richardson runs for a touchdown. Far left, Holy Innocents' quarterback Sim Patrick, back, gets ready to throw a pass. Left, Riverwood cheerleaders, left to right, Alexandra Bull, Morgan Ward and Alena Moore, show their support.

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