

## WORKING ON A DREAM

Municipal Leader of the Year Mayor Buddy Dyer is transforming Orlando into more than a tourist stop

## THE NEW PUBLIC SQUARE

New York, Boston and Miami-Dade County describe how they are engaging residents through social media

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## America's Crown Communities

2010 excellence awards recognize cities and counties that pull together to protect lives, property and history

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Locals prepare for conservative shift in 2011



# America's Crown Communities 2010

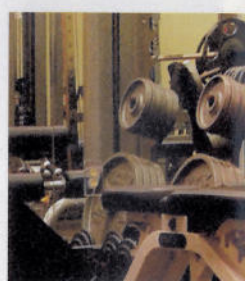
Communities pull together to protect lives,  
property and history

**T**he six winners of American City & County's 2010 annual excellence awards, described on the following pages, exhibit the qualities that build strong communities: cooperation, creativity and leadership. In some of the winning projects, necessity was the mother of invention, and in others, foresight and perseverance came together in the right formula to achieve success. Although the winning projects are in specific locations, the ideas that contributed to their successful completion could be practiced anywhere.

**The winners are:**

- The Coral Gables Museum Project — Coral Gables, Fla.
- Washington Park Stormwater Improvement Project — Downers Grove, Ill.
- 56th Avenue Public Safety Training and Maintenance Facility — Hollywood, Fla.
- Public Works Operations and Vehicle Storage Buildings — Pinellas County, Fla.
- Lakefront Park — Round Lake Beach, Ill.
- Heart Safe Sandy Springs — Sandy Springs, Ga.

By Nancy Jackson





## Sandy Springs, Ga. Heart Safe Sandy Springs

Since the Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs was incorporated in 2005, public safety and health have been a major focus of city government, says Fire Chief Jack McElfish. So, the “Heart Safe Sandy Springs” program launched by the fire department in 2006 was a natural priority for the city. Through the Heart Safe program, the Sandy Springs Fire & Rescue Department places automated external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the city and trains residents on how to use AEDs and CPR. Since 2007, the department has trained more than 4,500 residents in AED and CPR use and placed more than 150 AEDs throughout the city.

In 2009, bystander CPR was performed in 53 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest events in Sandy Springs, compared with the national average of 25 percent. Also in 2009, the survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest was 8.8 percent, well above the baseline of less than 1 percent in 2006. Since launching the program, the fire and rescue department has saved 14 lives with AEDs and CPR.

Partnering with Rural Metro Ambulance and St. Joseph’s Hospital of Atlanta, Sandy Springs Fire and Rescue recently launched an additional

“heart safe” program. Using the latest medical technology, the pilot program trains emergency medical technicians to use hypothermia treatment for cardiac arrest victims before they arrive at the hospital. The treatment helps prevent the loss of neurological function because of cardiac arrest, and the department has saved three lives with it so far.

“Our city council and mayor put great emphasis on emergency medical services and doing all we can to keep our citizens and visitors safe,” McElfish says. “We want to be as prepared as we can and save as many lives as possible. And this program helps make us a safer community.”

