

STAY CONNECTED!

Inside you'll find a recap of the news for the first quarter of 2016. The city also distributes a monthly e-newsletter. If you'd like to keep up with what's going on around town on a monthly basis, visit the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov, and click on the link near the top right of the home page labeled "Subscribe to Newsletter."

Inside Peachtree Corners



CITY OF
**Peachtree
CORNERS**
Innovative & Remarkable

News from Around the Corners

1st Quarter 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

Walking, Bicycle Trails Coming to Peachtree Corners

There is a lot going on here in Peachtree Corners, the Town Center and the Veterans Monument are just two of the new projects that will be breaking ground this year. And another is our own beltline of multi-use trails that residents will soon be able to enjoy.

Those who attended the Multi-Use Trail workshop on Jan. 21, were able to view the concept drawings and ask questions of the representatives from Lord Aeck Sargent, the urban planners hired by the city who were on hand to answer questions and gather feedback from everyone.

We also posted a survey on the city's website and sent out notices in our e-newsletter and on the city's Facebook page inviting everyone to participate. We had a great response, over 400 people participated in either the workshop or online survey.

While most people said they would use the trail system for leisure purposes, over 200 people said they would use the

trail as transportation to get to shopping and dining destinations. Additionally 70 people said they would use the city's trails to commute to work.

We anticipate that the number of people using the trail will only grow as housing within the Technology Park area increases. We already have plans from a developer to build millennial housing overlooking a lake in Technology Park that would connect with the first phase of trails planned for that area.

Cities that have added multi-use trails have found that this kind of asset has proven to be a great economic development tool – particularly in attracting a younger workforce.

When the project is complete, there will be 11 miles of walking and bicycle trails that will crisscross through the community connecting residents with shops, restaurants and office parks.

The first portion of the proposed trail system will take advantage of
(continued on back page)

CITY RECEIVES ARC'S GREEN COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION

Although it's just 3 ½ years old, the City of Peachtree Corners has earned a certification that only 20 other communities in the entire Atlanta metro 10-county area have achieved – the Atlanta Regional Commission Green Communities certification.

This is the city's first certification in the ARC's Green Communities program. The award is in recognition of the city's efforts to conserve energy, reduce waste and protect natural resources. Peachtree Corners was honored at ARC's January 27 board meeting for becoming a Bronze-certified Green Community.

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WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV

Elected Officials Earn GMA Certificates

During the 2016 Georgia Municipal Association's annual Mayors' Day Award Luncheon in January, Councilmembers *Jeanne Aulbach* (Post 4), *Lorri Christopher* (Post 5) and *Weare Gratwick* (Post 6) received certificates of achievements.

Lorri Christopher was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Excellence from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute. To receive a Certificate of Excellence, a city official must complete a minimum of 120 units of credit, including at least 54 hours from a required list and the Robert E Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute.



Jeanne Aulbach
City Council Post 4



Lorri Christopher,
City Council Post 5



Weare Gratwick,
City Council Post 6

Jeanne Aulbach and *Weare Gratwick* both were awarded Certificates of Achievement from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute. To receive this prestigious award, a city official must complete a minimum of 72 units of credit, including at least 36 hours from the required list.

The Georgia Municipal Training Institute, a cooperative effort of GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provides a nationally recognized series of training opportunities for elected city officials. The training program consists of a series of more than 50 courses.

City Receives Tree City USA Recognition

Peachtree Corners, was among 25 Georgia cities recently honored as one of the state's newest "Tree City USA" communities.

The city was recognized February 17 during the 2016 State Arbor Day celebration at Trees Atlanta for its commitment to caring for and managing its public trees. Residents *Lorrie Backer*, *Hilary Wilson*, Councilmember *Lorri Christopher* (Post 5), and city staff members *Jennifer Howard* and *Diana Wheeler* represented the city during the event.

"We are very pleased to receive this recognition," said Councilmember Christopher. "Our citizen committee has worked diligently throughout the year to become a Tree City USA community, and I know everyone is very proud of this achievement."

To earn a Tree City USA designation cities must meet certain requirements that include:

- Establishing a tree board or department
- Establishing a community tree ordinance
- Meeting specific spending levels for urban forestry
- Planning an Arbor Day celebration.

Visit www.GaTrees.org for information about the Georgia Forestry Commission. And for more on the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org



Georgia Forestry Commission Director, Robert Farris congratulates Community Development Director Diana Wheeler, residents Lorrie Backer, Hilary Wilson and Councilmember Lorri Christopher (Post 5), for helping Peachtree Corners become a Tree City USA community. Photo by Jennifer Howard, Volunteers Administrator for the city.

Sidewalks, Street Furniture Installed on Winters Chapel Road

The city's first capital project is now complete. New sidewalks, gutters, drainage improvements, pedestrian crosswalks and street furniture have been installed along a portion Winters Chapel Road.



There are also two additional capital projects currently under construction.

1. The addition of sidewalks along both sides of Technology Park from S.R. 141 to Westech Drive.
2. New sidewalks added on Crooked Creek Road between Jay Bird Alley and Kiveton Drive. This is a county project.

You can view a complete list of city, county and state road and sidewalk projects on the city's website. Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov, select the Departments tab, then Public Works in the pull down menu.

For questions contact the Public Works Department at 678-691-1200.

Meet Peachtree Corners' Municipal Judge

Most of you will never have the occasion to meet Judge Charles L. Barrett, III, the city's municipal judge who oversees city ordinance violations that end up in court.

Judge Charles L. Barrett III was appointed as the Peachtree Corners Municipal Judge on September 17, 2013. He has been a Gwinnett resident for the past 32 years and also serves as municipal judge for several other Gwinnett County cities including Duluth, Lilburn and Berkeley Lake.

Judge Barrett is a graduate of Georgia State College and holds a Bachelor of Arts (A. B., 1967) degree. He also holds a Doctor of Law Degree (J.D., 1971) from the Emory University School of Law.

We sat down with Judge Barrett recently to learn more about him and what he does for our city.

How long have you been a municipal judge?

I have been serving as a municipal judge since 1999, when I began serving as a part time associate judge in Duluth.

Did you practice as a lawyer before becoming a judge?

I practiced law prior to becoming a full-time judge. In Georgia, by statute, all municipal court judges must be active members, in good standing, of the State Bar of Georgia. Cities may have additional requirements as set out by local Charter.

What type of cases do you hear for the city?

Our municipal court hears cases involving city ordinances (property maintenance, zoning, alcoholic beverage regulation, to name a few). We do not hear cases involving alleged traffic violations.

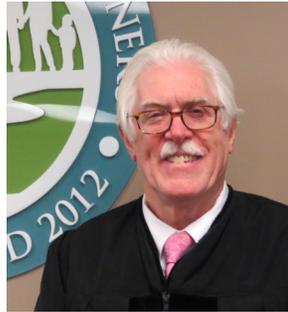
What advice would you give residents and business operators on how to avoid a court citation?

Although I cannot provide legal advice, I would suggest that our citizens and business operators familiarize themselves with our ordinances pertaining to anticipated activities or operations. The City maintains the Code of Ordinances on its website, and city staff are available to respond to questions. In matters of code enforcement, in my experience, cities are interested in compliance, not punishment.

What is the most unusual or amusing case you've heard in the years since you've been a judge?

One of my memorable moments involved a wedding ceremony at which I officiated. Both parties had been married before. A couple of weeks after the wedding the new husband appeared at my office in a visibly agitated state. He angrily announced that his new bride was being unfaithful, and he wanted me to "undo" the wedding ceremony. I had to tell him that I couldn't do that and that he would need to go to the Superior Court to pursue the matter further. I never saw him again, and I don't know whether he was able to "undo" the marriage.

Municipal Court is held monthly in the Council Chambers at City Hall. View the City Calendar on the Peachtree Corners website for a court date schedule.



City Launches Newly Designed Website

The City of Peachtree Corners has launched a new website at peachtreecornersga.gov. The site includes a completely new layout and design as well as several features aimed at making it easier for users to access government services and information.

Planning for the new site began over a year ago. The city's goal for the new website was to offer a site that would be easy to navigate and would provide convenient online access for everything from finding forms, paying bills to city news. The new site offers new content, better navigation, more photos and an entirely new look and feel.

Users can look up FAQs and submit requests for services like pothole repair, code enforcement, who to call for drainage problems and much more. Visitors have easy access to a list of public works projects and also the ability to keep up with city projects such as plans for the Multi-Use Trail, the city's new Town Center and the meeting agendas and minutes for the City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Downtown Development Authority.

Additional features of the site include the ability to access to the city's calendar of meeting and events, maps, easy access to forms, who to call, city staff and contact details and much more.



Chief Code Enforcement Officer Elected to GACE Board of Directors



Russell Moody, 1st VP, Philomena Robertson, 3rd VP and Alayne Hightower, Treasurer were sworn in by GACE President, Angie Tkacsik.

Peachtree Corners would like to congratulate, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Philomena Robertson, who was nominated for and elected to the Board of Directors for the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE), as their 3rd Vice President, term 2016-2018.

The primary responsibility of the 3rd Vice President is to appoint and chair the Membership Committee. This position maintains a continuous effort and drive throughout the year to accomplish a larger capacity of active and associate membership.

GACE is a Professional Organization dedicated to establishing responsible Code Enforcement throughout local Governments in Georgia and professional development of its members. The GACE Code Enforcement Officer Certificate Program is sponsored by GACE in cooperation with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, and the Georgia Municipal Association.

The Code Enforcement Officer Certificate Program (CEOCP) is administered by the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The program is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of those persons responsible for enforcement of city, county and state codes in Georgia.

Posting Political Signs and Other Signage in Right of Way is Illegal

As elections draw near, please be aware it's illegal to post signs in the public right of way. To determine public right of way, a rule of thumb is to identify the area between the edge of the street and utility poles.

Prohibited Signs

- Signs placed in street right of ways, in medians, or on any public property, such as a park, library, post office, etc.
- Signs attached to traffic control devices such as speed limit or stop signs, portable trailer, curb or A-frame type signs and streamers.
- Roof signs
- Moving signs
- Signs placed on private property without the owner's permission.

This is not the sign ordinance in its entirety. If you have questions, contact the Code Enforcement Department at 678-691-1200.

Reporting a Code Observation/Violation

How do I report a violation?

There are a number of ways to report an observation/violation.

- Access the city website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov – click on the “How Do I” tab at the top and then select “Report an Issue” in the menu and follow the prompts.
- On your smart phone, access the App Store and download our city app – it is free – just search Peachtree Corners. You will find the “Peachtree Corners Fix-It” app. After you download the app – just follow the prompts.
- Call City Hall directly – 678-691-1200.

What happens when a complaint is received?

Our Code Enforcement Officers will answer questions and investigate complaints from citizens on a wide variety of issues. Depending on the nature of the complaint and the results of the inspection, the Officer visits the reported property and works with the property owner/resident to correct any issues found. Depending on the type/size of the violation, there may be more than one follow-up inspection required.

From the date the Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued, the owner/resident is given a specific time frame in which to correct violation(s) and come into compliance. A NOV can be verbal, a door hanger, a written notice and, at times, a phone call.

What should I do if I receive a notice of violation?

Correct the violation either before or by the corrective action date given. If for any reason you are unable to come into compliance within the time frame given or have questions, please call the Code Enforcement Officer who issued the NOV to discuss the violation/resolution.

For questions, call 678-691-1200.

Do I Need a Permit to Install New HVAC System?

The answer is “yes,” and there seems to be a growing trend of licensed HVAC contractors violating state law by insisting that a permit is not required to install a new HVAC system.

Recently some states have set up sting operations to catch these HVAC contractors. These stings invited HVAC contractors to bid on jobs and asked if a permit was needed, surprisingly as much as 40% of these contractors told undercover investigators that a permit was not needed, despite this being wrong and illegal.

Reasons why a permit is required:

1. **It is the law.** You are required by law to have a permit for the HVAC work done in your home. The HVAC contractor is required to be licensed by the state of Georgia.
2. **It helps ensure your HVAC system stays in good working order.** A permit ensures that your new HVAC system will have inspections to ensure it was installed properly and that it meets all current legislation, including the State Energy Conservation Code and the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) requirements.
3. **It could get your insurance policy cancelled.** A homeowner’s insurance policy could be cancelled if their insurance company finds that work was done on the property without a permit.
4. **You shouldn’t use dishonest tradesman.** Typically if a HVAC contractor tells you a permit is not needed, they either don’t know (which is unlikely) or they are being untruthful. If the contractor is simply misinformed and doesn’t know the law regarding HVAC installations, then they should not be trusted to correctly do work on your HVAC system.

Here are some tips to follow before hiring anyone to work on your home or property:

1. Hire only licensed contractors and ask to see their license and a photo ID to verify their identity.
2. Get at least 3 bids.
3. Get 3 references.
4. Get it in writing, but before you sign the contract, make sure you understand it completely.
5. Do not make final payment until you have received a Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion and you are satisfied.
6. **Have the contractor apply for the required permits.**

For questions, contact the Building Department Help Line at 470-395-7027 or send an email to Ringo McCollum at rmccollum@peachtreecornersga.gov



A View of Your City from the Sky



Did you notice a drone hovering over your neighborhood or passing over your office in recent months? It was all part of a video shoot of the city.

Howell Upchurch, a Peachtree Corners resident, shot the three minute video. To get a bird’s eye view of Peachtree Corners, view the video on the city’s website. Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov, locate the “Visitors” tab then “Videos” to view.

Check Out Plans for Veterans Monument



Have you seen the plans for the city’s Veterans Monument? Renderings and other details are posted on the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument Association (PCVMA) website, www.ptcvets.net

If you are interested in donating to the Monument Fund, you will find information on the website. All contributions will support the design, engineering and construction of the monument, ceremonies and long-term maintenance of the monument and administrative costs.

The PCBMA is a non-profit tax exempt organization, 501(c)(3), so all donations are tax deductible. On the website are details on how to buy a paver and much more. The monument will be located on the city’s new Town Green which is expected to be complete in the fall of 2017.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 1,654 veterans of our country’s armed forces living in Peachtree Corners. So if you are a U.S. Veteran or have a family member who has or is serving, and haven’t sent in your service information, send an email to the PCVMA at pcvma@comcast.net with the veteran’s full name, branch of service, dates of service, mailing address and daytime phone number. Those who would like to know how to contribute, please send an email to pcvma@comcast.net.

Arbor Day in Peachtree Corners

On Saturday, March 19, the city celebrated its first Arbor Day, a day set aside for schools, civic clubs, and other organizations, as well as individuals to reflect on the importance of trees in our state and across the nation. The city's first event was held at 11 a.m. at Simpsonwood Park.

Festivities included the recognition of the first Peachtree Corners Heritage Tree, a white oak, and the city receiving "Tree City USA" status. The city's Green Committee was instrumental in obtaining Tree City USA recognition. Participants also received a Dogwood seedling for planting.

"We are proud of our Green Committee's efforts to make a lasting difference to the city's environment and quality of life," said Councilmember Jeanne Aulbach (Post 4).



Susan Granbery of the Georgia Forestry Commission presents the "Tree City USA" plaque to Mayor Mike Mason and Councilmember Jeanne Aulbach (Post 4).



Green Committee member Hilary Wilson



Green Committee member Lorri Backer



Dogwood seedlings were handed out during the event.



Residents gather at Simpsonwood Park for the city's first Arbor Day celebration.



Mayor Mason thanks the Green Committee for their efforts as Councilmembers Lorri Christopher (Post 5) and Jeanne Aulbach (Post 4) look on.



Attendees received information on how to care for the seedlings.



A plaque recognizing the city's first Heritage Tree was unveiled.

Do I Need a Permit to Remove a Tree?

Homeowners are required to obtain a tree removal permit if the tree is located in a required Zoning Buffer, Conservation or Open Space, the Chattahoochee River Corridor or designated Tree Save Area or if it is a specimen tree. Otherwise homeowners may remove live trees from their property without a permit.

If you do remove live trees from your property, you are required to keep at least two (2) live trees and any specimen trees located on your lot.

For information on removing trees, visit the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov, then under the "Residents" tab, select "Useful Residential Info" then "Tree Removal Information (Homeowners)." For a permit to remove a tree, click on the link labeled "Tree Removal Permit." For any questions, contact the Planning & Development Manager at City Hall by email at mschwartz@peachtreecornersga.gov or by phone: 470-395-7022.



Green Communities Certification

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"Being environmentally responsible and providing leadership in sustainable practices is a top priority for Peachtree Corners," said Diana Wheeler, the city's Community Development Director. "This award represents our long-term interest and commitment to the well-being of our community."

On hand to receive the Bronze Certificate were Councilmember Lorri Christopher, Green Committee members Emily Finn and Lorrie Backer, city staff members Diana Wheeler, Jennifer Howard and Alvenase Jackson.

To gain the certification the city:

- Now provides a public drop-off location for cell phones, household batteries and ink cartridges. The city's Green Committee also provides an updated database of local recycling opportunities for residents.
- Encourages businesses, such as Global Aviation, to redevelop aging buildings within the existing Technology Park and other under-utilized locations rather than build on undeveloped land.
- Encourages the recycling of a wide range of items by providing incentives for businesses to locate recycling facilities in the city limits. The city's zoning code allows recycling in areas zoned "light industry," the most common zoning district, resulting in a large number of properties suitable for this use.
- Adopted a 'night sky' ordinance to reduce excess light pollution and conserve energy. The city also provides incentives for sign lighting that is controlled by timers and uses high-efficiency LED lamps.
- Installed electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall.

The Green Committees Program was developed by ARC in 2009 to recognize local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The ARC program offers certifications in 10 categories, ranging from energy efficiency and green building to transportation and water efficiency.

Earn Prizes for Recycling

By recycling you can earn discounts at local merchants and be eligible for quarterly drawings to win prizes such as barbecue grills, flat screen TVs and other items.

All you need to do is enroll by registering on the Waste Pro Rewards website (<https://www.wasteprousa.com/>) using an email address and a password. Then once you have registered, call the city's trash pickup line 770-609-8816 to obtain your bar code sticker.

That's all there is to it. The Rewards for Recycling program is open to all Peachtree Corners citizens who are Waste Pro customers.



Glass Containers OK for Recycling Bin

Please note Waste Pro will continue accepting unbroken glass containers among the items it collects for recycling.

Other items include:

- Paper, magazines, newspapers
- Phone books, soft and hardback books
- Cardboard, file folders, brochures, cards
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic containers (1-7)



Mayor & City Council

Mayor, Mike Mason
City Council Post 1, Phil Sadd
City Council Post 2, vacant
City Council Post 3, Alex Wright
City Council Post 4, Jeanne Aulbach
City Council Post 5, Lorri Christopher
City Council Post 6, Weare Gratwick

City Staff

City Manager, Julian Jackson
City Clerk, Kymberly Chereck
Community Development Director, Diana Wheeler
City Attorney, Bill Riley
Finance Director/Clerk of Court, Brandon Branham
Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Davis
Administrative Assistant, Alvenease Jackson
Business License Officer, LaToya Goudeau
Building Official, Ringo McCollum
Building Inspector, Mike Sargent
Building Inspector, Eric Glick
Building Permit Coordinator, Ruby Biggers
Program Coordinator, Furnika Dirton
Planning & Development Manager, Melissa Schwartz
Code Enforcement Supervisor, Philomena Robertson
Code Enforcement Officer, Francisco Clark
Code Enforcement Officer, Hercilia Morrow
Communications Director, Judy Putnam
Field Services Manager/Land Development, Travis Pearson
Public Works Director, Greg Ramsey
Volunteers Administrator, Jennifer Howard
Zoning Administrator, Johnny Lawler

City Hall

City of Peachtree Corners
147 Technology Parkway, Suite 200
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
City Hall: 678-691-1200
Municipal Court: 770-609-8816
Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday
Website: www.peachtreecornersga.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/peachtreecornersga
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PtreeCorners>

Public Safety

Gwinnett County Police Department
Non-Emergency: 770-513-5700
Emergency: 911
Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services
770-518-4800

City of Peachtree Corners City Hall
147 Technology Pkwy NW Ste 200
Peachtree Corners GA 30092

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From the Mayor's Desk

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the Colonial Pipeline easement that runs through Technology Park and neighborhoods and businesses on the west side of Peachtree Parkway. The trail that runs through Technology Park will be used as a framework for the future trail system and a component of the bigger picture as we expand the trails throughout the city.

You can view the plans on the city's website. Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov, locate the button near the bottom labeled "City Projects," select "Project Studies" then click on the linked marked "Multi Use Trail Study."

Mike Mason

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