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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## City Receives \$26,000 Donation from UPCCA

*The funds will be used for a beautification and landscaping project*

**PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA, Feb. 11, 2015** – Tuesday turned out to be a proud day for United Peachtree Corners Civic Association (UPCCA). The organization’s president, Scott Hilton, its director, Debbie Mason, and past board member Gay Shook were able to hand over a check in the amount of \$26,000 to the City of Peachtree Corners. The funds represented are what remained from contributions collected over the 11-year period when the Peachtree Parkway Improvement Project, a UPCCA committee, maintained the 17 medians on Peachtree Parkway from the split at Peachtree Industrial Boulevard all the way to the Chattahoochee River.

The money has been earmarked for a beautification project on the north end of Peachtree Parkway as you enter the City heading southbound.

Until recently, it was up to the volunteers of the Peachtree Parkway Improvement Project (PPIP) committee to collect contributions from businesses along the busy artery to fund the upkeep of Peachtree Parkway. The committee, founded by long-time resident Gay Shook, decided in 2003 that the maintenance of this major roadway through town needed a lot more attention than just being mowed twice a year by the state.

“We had weeds growing in the grassy area of Peachtree Parkway (S.R. 141) that reached three feet high,” said Shook who decided something had to be done to improve the area. She proposed reaching out to businesses along S.R. 141 for contributions for landscaping and maintenance of the grassy medians.

That eventually led to the creation of PPIP. Along with the help of Technology Park Atlanta, properties were measured and invoiced for “your fair share” were sent to adjoining businesses. Ms. Shook’s leadership continued through 2008 when she retired and left the project in the hands of Debbie Mason, who has led it until now. “The committee has always had a desire to make our community look great and was always supported by not just the businesses but the residential community as well,” said Ms. Mason.

After over a decade of UPCCA managing the project, the civic organization is proud to hand off the responsibility to the City. "If you could have seen this area before PPIP took over, you would understand just how much the medians have improved," said Ms. Mason. "It was a tremendous amount of work, I don't know if most of the residents who live in the city were even aware that Peachtree Parkway looks as good as it does because of the efforts of a group of volunteers," added Ms. Mason.

The volunteers' efforts involved countless hours contacting businesses, collecting money, bidding out the landscaping work and following up to ensure the work was done properly. "It was a lot of work, but it was important to have Peachtree Parkway look its best," she added.

Since the City of Peachtree Corners took over public works last fall, the volunteers were at last able to turn over the task of maintaining the medians to the City. The \$26,000 represent monies collected over the years through special fundraising efforts lead by Ms. Mason.

"We are extremely thankful for the dedication of the PPIP committee over the years," said Mayor Mike Mason. "Since 2003 we've all been able to benefit from their efforts and we are extremely proud of the work they did for the community."

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