

## STAY CONNECTED!

Inside you'll find a recap of the news for the second quarter of 2015. 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](http://www.peachtreecornersga.gov), and click on the link near the top right of the home page labeled "Subscribe to Newsletter."

## CITY ADDS RECYCLE BINS

*Did you know the city is diligently working toward obtaining an ARC Green Communities Certification?*

*Just recently the city's Green Committee took another step toward that accomplishment by implementing a recycle program for non-traditional recycling materials.*

*Stop by City Hall to drop of household batteries, cellphones and ink/print cartridges. You'll find three color coded recycle bins at the front entrance of City Hall. The Recycle bins are for public use.*

*Blue - Household Batteries*

*Orange - Cellphones*

*Green - Ink/Print Cartridges*

*The bins are for the listed items only. Please do not drop other items into the bins.*



# Inside Peachtree Corners



CITY OF  
**Peachtree  
CORNERS**  
Innovative & Remarkable

*News from Around the Corners*

2ND QUARTER 2015

NEWSLETTER

## From the Mayor's Desk

### *Business Incubators – A Boom for Economic Development*

I'm excited to announce the City's plans to work with Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) to launch a business incubator study in Peachtree Corners. Incubators provide real payback for communities by creating jobs and are a driving force in economic development.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy but typically nine out of 10 start-ups fail. The success rate is much greater if these entrepreneurs have a support system. And that's where an incubator steps in by offering support for entrepreneurial companies to help them survive and grow during the early start-up period.

Facts:

- Incubators reduce the risk of failure: 87 percent of all firms that graduate from their incubators are still in business.
- Research shows that for every \$1 invested in an incubator, approximately \$30 in local tax revenue is generated.
- Young start-up companies that get their start in the community, tend to stay in the community.
- They add jobs and stimulate economic development.

Business incubators have been around since 1959 but only in recent decades has the concept really advanced. According to the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), there were nearly 1,400 programs



Over 220 entrepreneurs, business owners, investors, community leaders and citizens attended the May 14 kick-off event.



Mayor Mason (center) talks with representatives from Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), which is partnering with the city on the study.



Five local entrepreneurs participated in a panel discussion on the challenges of starting your own business.

in the U.S. as of 2006, up from just 12 in 1980.

*(continued on back page)*



Ringo McCollum,  
Building Official

## New Building Official Joins City

*The City of Peachtree Corners welcomes Ringo McCollum to the city. Ringo is the Building Official and will supervise the Building Division of the Community Development Department.*

*Ringo will supervise the construction inspection and plan review. He will also assist with guiding projects through the construction process.*

*Ringo's background spans over 20 years working for local and county government as a police officer, building inspector, building plans examiner, and building official. Ringo comes to us from the City of Johns Creek where he served as the city's Building Official.*

*Ringo is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force proudly serving 10 years.*



Eric Glick is sworn in  
by Mayor Mike Mason

## City Welcomes New Building Inspector

*With new construction steadily on the rise, the City has added a new building inspector, Eric Glick, to*

*the Building Department to assist with processing residential and commercial building permits.*

*Eric comes from the City of Roswell where he worked for the past 11 years as a building inspector and code enforcement officer.*

*He retired from the U.S. Air Force after serving our country for 24 years and lives with his wife and daughter in Roswell.*



Travis Pearson is sworn in  
by Mayor Mike Mason

## Field Services Manager Joins Public Works

*Peachtree Corners Public Works*

*Department recently added Travis Pearson as Field Services Manger for the city. Travis joins the City after over 21 years of experience in municipal operations in Powder Springs, GA.*

*He will oversee right-of-way maintenance activities such as paving, mowing, repairs of sidewalks and pot holes and roadway signage.*

*Travis is a lifelong resident of the Metro Atlanta area. He and his wife Amy have two sons, both of whom are serving in the U.S. Army.*

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## City Undertakes Study to Revitalize Holcomb Bridge Road

Those of us who have lived in Peachtree Corners for several decades can well remember Holcomb Bridge Road as a thriving, bustling area filled with busy restaurants and shopping centers.

But time has taken its toll on this gateway into the city. Today shopping centers are half-filled and many of the restaurants that we frequented are long closed. Today it's filled with commuters who use it to pass through from one side of town to the other.



The study encompasses the area along Holcomb Bridge Road between the Chattahoochee River and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.

Re-energizing this important corridor is one of the city's top priorities. Last fall we announced plans to hire a planning and design firm to study and recommend ways to connect and enhance the area for both residents and businesses.

The City Council selected Lord Aeck Sargent, an urban planning firm, to study and propose a plan to revitalize the area. The study is aimed at identifying strategies for incentivizing redevelopment of outdated commercial areas, improving pedestrian amenities and connectivity, enhancing transit amenities and access, and providing increased housing options for younger and older residents alike. The plans also include adding such elements as landscaping, street furniture and other focal point features.

This is an important and vital part of our community and the city would like to see this corridor redeveloped into a neighborhood center that serves as a main gateway into a special and valued part of the city.

The city would like you to participate in an online survey to provide your feedback. Two versions are available, one in English, one in Spanish.

Please visit the city's website, [www.peachtreecornersga.gov](http://www.peachtreecornersga.gov) and click on the link located in the top left side of the homepage marked "Holcomb Bridge Road Study Survey" to participate.

# Specialized Laser Road Surface Vehicles to Analyze City Streets

The City of Peachtree Corners currently maintains approximately 122 centerline miles of roadway. The streets, once maintained by Gwinnett County, are now maintained by the City of Peachtree Corners.



Specialized trucks designed to measure conditions of the city's streets to begin work this summer.

The city took over road maintenance in November 2014.

In order to develop an asset management database of these streets and to understand the existing conditions on a scientific basis, the Mayor and City Council entered into a contract with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS).

The company will begin analyzing the conditions of the city's roads and streets within the city limits. The data from this analysis will be used to develop a score for each mile of road, and those roads will then be ranked.

This will give the city a scientifically based picture of the conditions, as well as a comparison tool for each individual road. The information can then be used to prioritize road paving projects for each year with funding which is available through the SPLOST funded resurfacing program for the City of Peachtree Corners.

IMS will use the Laser Road Surface Tester (RST) surveys along the routes in two passes. IMS is currently scheduled to begin the field work this summer.

Contact Public Works Director Greg Ramsey at [gramsey@peachtreecornersga.gov](mailto:gramsey@peachtreecornersga.gov) with any questions.



## City Planning Veterans Memorial

Are you a veteran of the armed services - or do you have a spouse or family member who has served our country? If so, the city would like to hear from you.

Plans are underway to create a memorial to honor Peachtree Corners veterans.

Veterans, we are asking that you send in your name and contact information including the branch of service and years served. Please include a daytime phone number.

Send an email to Judy Putnam, Communications Director at [jputnam@peachtreecorners.gov](mailto:jputnam@peachtreecorners.gov), or you can mail the information to Judy Putnam, Communications Director, City of Peachtree Corners, 147 Technology Parkway, Suite 200, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092.

# Dropping Anchor in Peachtree Corners

*It's not every day we see a ship's anchor this far inland but Peachtree Corners residents traveling Peachtree Parkway and Spalding Drive have already seen the behemoth piece of cast iron in front of UASC's office.*



The 9 1/2 ton cast iron anchor sits in front of the UASC's headquarters.

*The anchor was transported by the Georgia Port Authority from Savannah to Peachtree Corners in March. Since dropping anchor at the company's headquarters, it has been sanded, primed and painted a dark marine gray color.*

*Some fun facts about the city's newest landmark:*

- Total weigh: 9.5 tons
- It measures 16 feet tall by 10 feet wide
- The anchor is bolted to a two-foot thick concrete slab

## Top Summer Code Violations: Outdoor Storage, Tall Weeds

*With so much rain, most of the incoming Code Enforcement complaints pertain to tall grass and weeds. And with the weather getting warmer, more people are hanging out in their yards, and that leads to complaints about chairs and other items left in the front and side yards and carports. Open and outdoor storage is the second leading complaint or violation that we receive.*

*Below are examples of these violations.*

*Weeds, plant growth of more than 12 inches is prohibited.*



*Outdoor storage of appliances, building materials, rubbish, etc. is prohibited for more than 24 hours.*

*To report a violation or to register a complaint, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 678-691-1200.*

## Need Help Or Know Someone Who Does?

*Did you know there is a helpline for Gwinnett residents who have a family emergency or other issue?*

*The Gwinnett Helpline, 770-995-3339, is available as a resource for information*



*and referrals for emergency shelter, health services, child*

*care, substance abuse, employment, counseling, food, legal services and other family challenges.*

*If you, or someone you know needs help, call the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services at 770-995-3339 or visit the website, [www.gwinnetthelpline.org](http://www.gwinnetthelpline.org) for more information.*

## Be Prepared for Early or Late Trash Pickup

*Just a friendly reminder to make sure to have your trash cans out to the curb by 7 a.m. on pick up days. And to help our haulers, please leave the cans out until at least 7 p.m.*

*Routes may vary week to week or unforeseen mechanical errors may happen that cause the route to change, which may affect the time you normally see the garbage and recycling trucks in your neighborhood.*

*If you have any questions please contact the City's solid waste department at 770-609-8818.*



[WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV](http://WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV)

## Landscaping, Lighting, Sidewalks Planned for Winters Chapel Corridor

More than 60 residents from the cities of Dunwoody and Peachtree Corners turned out for a follow up meeting on Thursday, April 30, to learn more about the plans to improve the Winters Chapel Road corridor which winds through both cities.

A joint study was launched last November; Pond & Company, an urban planning engineering firm based in Peachtree Corners, was selected for the project. In the initial meeting held in February, residents were asked to provide their input on what improvements they would like to see for this busy corridor.



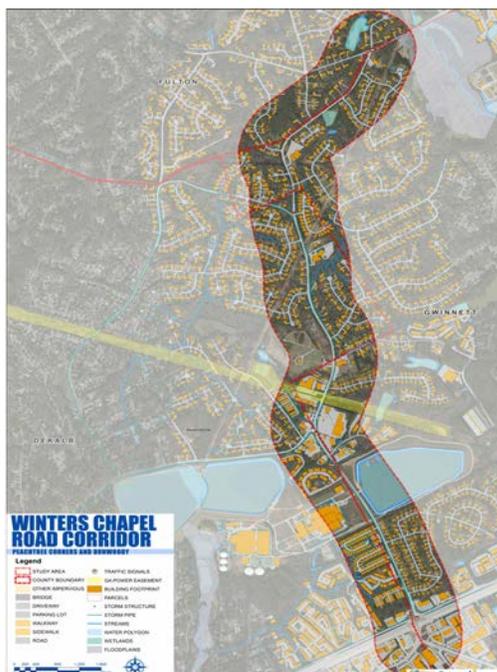
Residents from the cities of Peachtree Corners and Dunwoody attended the follow-up meeting on plans for the Winters Chapel Road corridor.

Improving pedestrian safety, increasing road safety and enhancing the appearance of the 2 ½ mile road that runs from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Spalding Drive topped residents' list.

"We've identified the issues, and worked on ways to unify the corridor," said Pond & Company's project manager Andrea Greco. "Both cities have the same vision for the area."

That vision includes adding sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and lighting to improve safety for those on foot and enhancing the area with landscaping and pocket parks. Adding curbs and gutters are also part of the project to improve drainage in some areas of the roadway.

The first phase of the project will begin with sidewalks along the north side of Winters Chapel Road between Spring Drive and Winterbrook Court said Greg Ramsey, Public Works Director for Peachtree Corners. The city will use a Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) from the Georgia Department of Transportation to pay for the construction of the sidewalks.



The study encompasses 2 ½ miles of roadway from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Spalding Drive.

"The project involves adding new curb and gutter to allow for better drainage flow and improve maintenance capabilities," said Ramsey. "The project also includes the addition of a new pedestrian island and cross walk at Spring Drive to improve safety. There will be a grassed or possibly stamped concrete strip between the curb and sidewalk," he said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of this year. "Our two cities have the same vision and both communities will benefit from all of the improvements planned for Winters Chapel Road," said Mayor Mike Mason.



## Building or Repairing Your Deck?

*Before you begin, check out this Q&A*

Decks are typically the one structure at home that sees heavy season use, but is rarely inspected to confirm that it is structurally sound. The Georgia Prescriptive Deck Details is available for download through the State's Department of Consumer Affairs. Also, the North American Deck and Railing Association (NADRA) has a great website loaded with information for homeowners to verify the integrity of their decks.

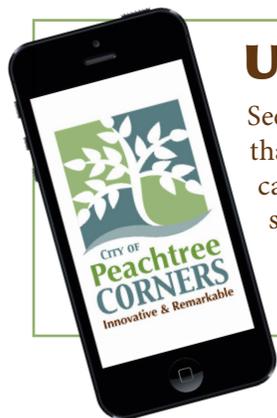
To further assist you in verifying that your deck is structural sound, the staff at the Peachtree Corners Building Division are available to answer questions here in the office or at your residence. Please call (678) 691-1207 to schedule a meeting.

Some frequently asked questions regarding decks:

- Q.** Do I need a permit to repair my residential deck?
- A.** For replacement of decking (walking surface) or stair treads we typically do not require a permit if the overall scope of work is minor in nature. If the repair is limited to 25% or less of the decking or stair treads, we treat this as seasonal maintenance and repairs. However, work involving structural support elements, stairs, handrails or guards will require a permit to verify code compliance. Please call the Building Division for guidance.
- Q.** Can I build a residential deck without a permit?
- A.** Decks built low to the ground do not require a permit, but are required to be constructed in compliance with the adopted codes, meaning, a deck constructed with a walking surface that is 30" or lower to grade is exempt from a permit, but not from the requirements of the code.
- Q.** I want to add on to my current residential deck, will you require a permit?
- A.** Yes, a permit may be required. If the deck is not exempt from the permit process, we will require a permit.
- Q.** Can I build a small deck at my business without a permit?
- A.** No, for commercial properties a permit is required.

*Ringo McCollum, Building Official*

*Email: [rmccollum@peachtreecornersga.gov](mailto:rmccollum@peachtreecornersga.gov)*



## Use City's 'Fix It' App to Report an Issue

See a pothole that needs fixing, high grass or weeds that need mowing or a broken street light - now you can report these issues and more right from your smartphone.

Use the city's "Fix It" app to upload a photo or video and location of the problem.

The free app may be downloaded to your iPhone, Android, Blackberry or Windows smartphone. Search for "Peachtree Corners" in the app store.

Don't have a smartphone? You can report problems using your computer through the "Fix It" link on the city's website: [www.peachtreecornersga.gov](http://www.peachtreecornersga.gov).

## Two New Members Appointed to DDA

*At the May 19 City Council meeting two Peachtree Corners residents were appointed to the city's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to fill two vacancies.*



*Peachtree Corners residents Aaron Kappler and Rob Binion have been appointed to the city's Downtown Development Authority.*

*Aaron Kappler, an attorney with Thompson, O'Brien, Kemp & Nasuti, P.C., replaces Dave Willey whose two-year term expired in February. Willey did not wish to be reappointed. Kappler is also a member of Leadership Gwinnett.*

*Rob Binion, a partner and associate broker with Lavista Associates, Inc., replaces Mike McLaughlin who did not wish to be reappointed after his two-year term expired in February. Binion also serves on the Wesleyan Board of Trustees.*

*The new members join current members Dan Graveline, Bob Saville, Ruth Strickland, L.C. Johnson and Gene Witkin.*

*The DDA was established in April, 2013 with seven members having staggered terms. More information about the DDA is located on the city's website under the "Government" tab.*

# The Faces of Peachtree Corners

2015 Peachtree Corners Festival



## Council Member Chosen for Gwinnett Leadership Class

Alex Wright, Council member for Post 3, has been selected as one of 40 local leaders for the 2016 Leadership Gwinnett Class. Wright will begin the nine-month program in August.

Established in 1985, Leadership Gwinnett was created to ensure that the community's most influential leaders are knowledgeable about issues pertaining to the county and region.

"We're very proud that Council member Wright was selected for this year's class," said Mayor Mike Mason. "Leadership Gwinnett has a great track record of success in leadership development. Those chosen for the class learn a tremendous amount about the many aspects of leadership as well as about our county and region. Perhaps one real benefit is the life time relationships participants develop. This can only help our city as we face the challenges of the future."

Candidates are chosen based on their occupations and qualifications and are selected to balance the class to reflect a cross section of the county explained Lisa Zaken, Executive Director for Leadership Gwinnett.

The program includes two overnight retreats, seven learning days covering topics such as leadership in a world class community, infrastructure, economics, education, health & human services, study groups, exclusive tours and hands-on experiences.

"Leadership Gwinnett has been a tremendous success in our county," said Patty Heitmuller, General Chair, Leadership Gwinnett and Director of Leadership Development, Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) in a press release. "Since the program's inception, 1038 alumni have graduated and many have taken their places in our community as decision makers and role models. Graduates can be found in every aspect of Gwinnett business, civic and cultural life."



Alex Wright,  
Council member, Post 3



The city's Public Works crew installed the city's new banners.

## New Banners Flying High in Peachtree Corners

*There is a lot of pride that comes from being part of a new city. Peachtree Corners, Gwinnett's newest city will soon celebrate its 3rd anniversary; and to help mark the occasion, banners with the message "Proud to Be Peachtree Corners" have been installed on light poles and at intersections in parts of the city.*

*It is no small feat to get a city launched and operational. And in a short time, the city has not only established and began operations to provide code enforcement, solid waste service, zoning, planning and development, and public works - it's got plans for a new town center on the drawing board and for creating a distinct downtown district.*

*Visit the city's website, [www.peachtreecornersga.gov](http://www.peachtreecornersga.gov) and click on the link on the homepage labeled "City Projects" for more on the plans for Peachtree Corners Town Center. Join the city in its "Proud to Be Peachtree Corners" campaign by using Peachtree Corners in your mailing address.*

[WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV](http://WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV)

## Lending a Helping Hand for Outdoor Classroom School Project

A group of 24 volunteers spent a recent Saturday (May 30) at Peachtree Elementary School clearing out brush and removing rotting work tables and benches at the school's Outdoor Classroom.

Volunteers from the City of Peachtree Corners (ch2m), Christ the King Lutheran Church, Peachtree Corners Baptist Church and the Iowa State University Alumni group worked for over two hours on the project.



Two dozen volunteers worked on refurbishing the Outdoor Classroom at Peachtree Elementary School recently. When complete, the space will feature an amphitheater, walking nature trail and more.

The space will be completely redesigned and eventually will feature new workstations, an amphitheater area, a walking nature trail and more.

A ribbon-cutting event is planned when school is back in session for the 2015-16 school year.

## Mayor & City Council

Mayor, Mike Mason

City Council Post 1, Phil Sadd

City Council Post 2, Jay Lowe

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

Accounting Manager/Clerk of Court, Brandon Branham

Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Davis

Administrative Assistant, Alvenease Jackson

Administrative Assistant, LaToya Goudeau

Building Official, Ringo McCollum

Building Inspector, Mike Sargent

Building Inspector, Eric Glick

Business License Officer, Furnika Dirton

CIP Manager, Melissa Schwartz

Code Enforcement Officer, Francisco Clark

Code Enforcement Officer, Hercilia Morrow

Communications Director, Judy Putnam

Field Services Manager/Land Development, Travis Pearson

Permit Coordinator, Ruby Biggers

Public Works Director, Greg Ramsey

Zoning Administrator, Johnny Lawler

## City Hall Address

City of Peachtree Corners

147 Technology Parkway, Suite 200

Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday

Website: [www.peachtreecornersga.gov](http://www.peachtreecornersga.gov)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/peachtreecornersga](http://www.facebook.com/peachtreecornersga)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PtreeCorners>

## Important Contact Numbers

City Hall: 678-691-1200

Municipal Court: 770-609-8816

**Public Safety:**

Gwinnett County Police Department: 770-513-5000

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services: 770-518-4800

## From the Mayor's Desk

(continued from front page)



They come in all shapes and sizes but most north American business incubators (about 93 percent) are nonprofit organizations focused on economic development with 37 percent focusing on technology business according to the National Business Incubator Association (NBIA).

To lay the ground work for a business incubator, the city and ATDC are conducting a community assessment to help determine if there is a solid market and find out if there is financial and community support. In the coming weeks, the study will begin by working with community stakeholders and others to learn whether the community will support an incubator.

To help roll out the initiative, the city hosted “An Evening of Entrepreneurship & Innovation” at the Hilton Hotel recently and I was delighted at the turnout. Our Georgia Tech partners hoped 50-75 would attend – instead more than 220 excited hopeful entrepreneurs, business owners, investors, community leaders and citizens attended.

Having a successful incubator is a win-win for communities. Not only is the success much greater when there is an incubator program to help support startups in their early years, those new business owners tend to stay in the same community adding jobs as their businesses grow. And for the community, successful businesses add to the local sales revenue.

Watch for more news in the coming months as the city moves forward with this exciting project.

*Mike Mason*

[mmason@peachtreecornersga.gov](mailto:mmason@peachtreecornersga.gov)

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