

STAY CONNECTED!

Inside you'll find a recap of the news for the third 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, 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

3RD QUARTER 2015

NEWSLETTER

From the Mayor's Desk

City's Future Looks Bright

On July 24, I presented the state-of-the-city address which gave me the opportunity to talk about our current accomplishments in the context of our future vision for the city. For those of you who were not able to attend the event, I'll recap some of the highlights.

Peachtree Corners has bounded out of the gates since incorporating in July 2012. Building permits have doubled from 2013 (637 permits) to 2014 (1,218 permits) and 2015 is on track to succeed last year's number.

The unemployment rate is second lowest in all of Georgia (for cities with populations of 24,000 or more), and office and retail vacancy rates are declining. The office vacancy rate was 19.2 percent in the first quarter of 2014, compared to 16.3 percent for the same period in 2015. And the vacancy rate for retail was 16.3 percent in the first quarter of 2014 compared to 13.6 percent for the first quarter of 2015.

And the city is on track to create a business incubator which will further enhance the city's economic development. After an impressive number who turned out for the kick-off event in May and following a Georgia Tech readiness study, Peachtree Corners is poised to launch an incubator to support entrepreneurs and their endeavors.

To give you some idea on how ready this community is for an incubator, we teamed up with Georgia Tech's incubator folks for the kick off, they were expecting about 50 and we had well over 200 attend!

Let me take a moment to highlight some of accomplishments over the past year:

- The city held its first election
- Supported a crime free multi-family housing initiative
- Adopted a zero millage rate again this year
- Approved Town Center development

(continued on back page)

LIGHTING, LANDSCAPING ENHANCES CITY'S GATEWAY SIGN

The city's iconic gateway sign now has new lighting and enhanced landscaping. The stone-based sign that sits at the Peachtree Parkway/ Peachtree Industrial Boulevard split was erected in 2008 by the United Peachtree Corners Civic Association.

Some 55 native trees, shrubs and lighting were added in recent months making the city's only gateway sign more visible to northbound motorists driving along Peachtree Industrial Boulevard before it splits off to S.R. 141.

United Peachtree Corners Civic Association's Peachtree Parkway Improvement Project funded the lighting of the sign and a Georgia Department of Transportation grant of \$50,000 helped fund the landscaping for the project.



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Green Committee Wins 2015 Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful Award

The city's Green Committee, formed in 2014, is the proud winner of this year's Great American Cleanup-Gwinnett Challenge's "Do A Water Walk" award.

The top honor was awarded to the group which spent 24 man hours assessing the habitat of a portion of Crooked Creek, which meanders throughout much of the city, to determine the stream's overall health.

Headed by Green Committee member, Bob Howard, the group had specific parameters for completing the complex survey which measured such items as water quality, water supply and habitat health.

The outcome – the portion of Crooked Creek that was examined is healthy with no evidence of pollution and little runoff. "It's in pretty good shape," said Howard, who also works for the Environmental Protection Agency. "There was some sediment coming into the stream," added Howard. Runoff from the nearby parking lots was the likely cause he said but was not significant to the overall health of the creek.



Bob Howard, Debbie and Mike Mason, Lori Howard, Steve Jones, Nancie and Bob Allen, and David Carr participated in the "Water Walk" tour this past May.

Holcomb Bridge Road Corridor Workshop Draws Large Crowd

The room at the Brunswick's Bowling Alley was filled to capacity Thursday (Aug. 20) evening with residents and business owners eager to participate in the second workshop as part of the city's Holcomb Bridge Corridor Study.

All were there to provide feedback on future growth strategies for the approximately 1,200 acres along Holcomb Bridge Road spanning from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Spalding Drive.

"This is an important project for the city," said Mayor Mike Mason. "We were very happy to see so many participated in the workshop."



Over 1,000 people participated in the city's online survey.

Urban planners, Lord Aeck Sargent, have spent the past six months studying market conditions, collecting traffic counts and analyzing land-use patterns within the area. The planners have also gathered an extensive amount of public input to date - from a booth at the two-day Peachtree Corners Festival in June to an online survey throughout June and July.

"We have been continually astounded by the amount of people interested to see this area improve," said Matt Cherry, an associate with Lord Aeck Sargent who is managing the study. "Over 1,000 people took the online survey alone - probably

the most we have ever seen for a study like this. This is going to be a great example of a true community-driven masterplan."



Residents and business owners attended the workshop to provide their feedback for future growth strategies.

Residents and business owners/operators will have one more opportunity for public comments which will be scheduled in the coming months. The study is expected to be finalized in November.

How to Prepare Recyclables

To ensure cardboard boxes are collected each week, be sure to breakdown and flatten all boxes and place in recycle bin.

For other recyclable items:

- RINSE all bottles and cans, lids and labels may remain on.
- FLATTEN plastic jugs and plastic bottles
- BREAK DOWN and FLATTEN corrugated cardboard

Set your recyclables at the curb by 7 a.m. on Mondays.



City Council Approves Building Elevations for Town Center

At the July City Council meeting the Mayor and City Council voted to approve the Town Center building elevations giving the go-ahead for Fuqua Development to move forward with the city's signature project.



With the council's approval, Jeff Fuqua and his team will now move forward with the construction of the mixed-use development on the 20.6 acre tract of undeveloped land located on Peachtree Parkway across from The Forum.

"We are excited to have the plans finalized and look forward to celebrating the city's fifth anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new Town Center," said Mayor Mike Mason.

At least 10 restaurants, retail shops, office space, a theater and townhomes - and a two+ acre town green for community gatherings are planned.

The plans feature two restaurant outparcels and 16 townhomes overlooking the green. John Wieland Homes, developer for the three- and four-story townhomes, plans to build a total of 70 townhomes on the Town Center.

"It's taken awhile to get to this point," said Councilmember Alex Wright. "We wanted to make sure the plans would fit our community's needs and help showcase the city. I believe we've accomplished our goal."

Jeff Fuqua, owner of Fuqua Development said he expects to break ground on the project in second quarter of 2016 and anticipates the Town Center to be ready to open in July 2017.

Community Resource Committee News

In June the city announced plans to form a Community Resource program to aid those in the community seeking family or financial help and asked for volunteers to help organize the new program. Just two months later the newly formed Community Resource committee held its first meeting.

"We're delighted that we will be able to offer this service to our community," said Councilmember Jeanne Aulbach (Post 4). "This is a wonderful way to get involved, and we thank the volunteers who have stepped up to help launch this very important program."

The committee's first project is to develop a resource guide, a document that identifies the programs and services available to Peachtree Corners residents.



PEACHTREE MARKETPLACE
PEACHTREE CORNERS, GEORGIA



Peachtree Parkway Shopping Center Gets New Look

Work is underway for major improvements to the shopping center located on Peachtree Parkway and Holcomb Bridge Road.

Among the plans for the 80,000 square-foot retail center is updating the facade, adding new lighting, signage and landscaping. The shopping center will be renamed Peachtree Marketplace.

Several new tenants including NCG Cinema will open in the retail center. The 600-seat theater will feature luxury seating and multiple theaters showing new releases. Also planned is a new grocery store and fitness center.

The work, done in several phases, is expected to be complete in early 2016.

The final phase will include re-configuring the parking lot to make it more pedestrian friendly and adding electric car-charging stations.

County Property Taxes Due Oct. 16

By now Peachtree Corners property owners have received their annual tax bill from Gwinnett County.

However, as the City Council voted again this year to maintain a zero millage rate, there will be no separate property tax bill from the city.

For questions about your Gwinnett County tax bill, contact the Tax Commissioner's office by email at tax@gwinnettcountry.com or by phone, 770-822-8800.

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Council Adopts 2016 Budget

The Peachtree Corners City Council approved the FY2016 budget at its June

16th meeting. The city's general fund budget of \$8.6 million represents an increase of \$2.9 million from the FY2015 budget. The reason for the budget increase is that this is the first year the insurance premium tax revenues have been included.

Business licenses, insurance premium tax and franchise taxes paid by utility companies make up the vast majority of total revenue. There were no increases in any user fees in the budget. The tax millage rate will remain at zero (0). The city received a grant of \$242,023 from the Georgia Department of Transportation. The Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) will be used for sidewalk construction along Winters Chapel Road.

"The city continues to be fiscally responsible," said Mayor Mike Mason. "Peachtree Corners is one of the few cities in the state with a zero millage rate. We are happy to pass along this news."

A copy of the budget is available on the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov or by calling the Finance Manager, Brandon Branham at 770-609-8818.



What is Your Mailing Address?

The U.S. Post Office announced last year that it now officially recognizes Peachtree Corners as a City.

What does that mean for residents and businesses in Peachtree Corners? It means if your ZIP code is 30092, 30096, 30097 or 30071 and your home or business is within the city limits, you should now use Peachtree Corners as your mailing address.

However, Peachtree Corners residents and businesses with a 30360 ZIP code will have to wait a bit longer due to limitations by the USPS.

Peachtree Corners is now three years old. Join the city in its "Proud to Be Peachtree Corners" campaign by using Peachtree Corners in your mailing address.

WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV

Accounting Assistant Adds Deputy City Clerk to her Responsibilities



Jennifer Davis, Deputy City Clerk

Jennifer Davis, who joined the city as Administrative Assistant in 2013, has recently taken on the duties of Deputy City Clerk.

She will be responsible for assisting the City Clerk with a number of duties including preparing monthly meeting agendas, packets and minutes as well as helping with city elections.

Jennifer also supports the Finance Manager with accounts payable, general ledger reconciliation and other accounting functions.

Prior to joining the city, she worked at the cities of Brookhaven and Sandy Springs issuing alcohol and business licenses. She is a native of Savannah, GA and graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Finance. She lives in nearby Johns Creek.

Elected Officials, City Clerk Earn GMA Certificates

During the 2015 Georgia Municipal Association's annual convention in June, Mayor Mike Mason, Councilmembers Phil Sadd, Lorri Christopher, Weare Gratwick and City Clerk, Kym Chereck received recognition in achieving certificates in their fields.



Councilmembers Phil Sadd (Post 1), Lorri Christopher (Post 5), Mayor Mike Mason, City Clerk Kym Chereck and Councilmember Weare Gratwick (Post 6) received GMA certificates.

Phil Sadd (Post 1) and Lorri Christopher (Post 5) were awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement

from GMA's training institute. To receive a Certificate of Achievement, a city official must complete a minimum of 72 units of credit, including at least 36 hours from a required list of courses.

Mayor Mason and Weare Gratwick (Post 6) received the prestigious Certificate of Recognition from the Georgia Municipal Training Institute. To receive a Certificate of Recognition, a city official must complete a minimum of 42 units of credit, including at least 18 hours from a specific list of courses.

City Clerk, Kym Chereck was awarded the prestigious Municipal Clerks Masters Certificate. The Georgia Certificate Program for City and County Clerks is designed to establish minimum standards and professional goals. The program was initiated in 1970 by the GMA, the Georgia Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association, and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

GMA, based in Atlanta, is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, research, training, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its over 500 member cities.



Finishing Your Basement? 10 things to know before you begin

The following is a list of items to consider when designing your basement layout for new habitable space:

- 1. Permit Requirements:** A building permit is required when finishing a basement. A floor plan with dimensions, showing the layout of the entire basement is required. Label the use of all areas and rooms. Show electrical outlets, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms, lighting, fans, plumbing, furnace, and water heater
- 2. Ceiling Heights:** If the finished ceiling height is less than 7 feet, please consult the Peachtree Corners Building Department.
- 3. Emergency Escapes:** All basements and sleeping rooms must have an emergency escape window or exterior door meeting the requirements of the code.
- 4. Smoke Detectors:** Smoke detectors are required in all basements. If the finished basement contains a sleeping room, a smoke detector must be installed in the sleeping room and in the immediate vicinity outside the sleeping room. Newly installed smoke detectors must be hard-wired with battery backup, and interconnected with existing smoke detectors.
- 5. Carbon Monoxide Alarms:** Carbon monoxide alarms are required on each floor with bedrooms. They are recommended to be located no farther than 15 feet from any bedroom entrance.
- 6. Fireblocking:** Fireblocking must be installed in concealed spaces of wood-furred walls at the ceiling level, at 10-foot intervals along the length of the wall and at all interconnections of concealed vertical and horizontal spaces such as intersection of stud walls and soffits or dropped ceilings.
- 7. Insulation:** All exterior walls are required to be a minimum of R-13 insulated.
- 8. Space Under Stairs:** If access to the area under the basement stairs is provided for storage or other uses, the walls and ceiling of this enclosed space must be protected on the inside with ½ inch gypsum board.
- 9. Bathrooms:** Toilets must be provided with a minimum of 21 inches in front of the toilet and 15 inches from the center of the toilet and any sidewall or other obstruction. An exhaust fan is required in toilet rooms and bathrooms with unopenable windows. The fan must be vented to the exterior of the building and not terminate within 3 feet of any opening.
- 10. Structural Modifications:** On your floor plan identify modifications to the existing structure such as posts, beams and floor joists. Supply any engineered stamped drawings for any engineered lumber components (i.e. I-joists, laminated beams, etc.).

Questions? Contact Ringo McCollum, Building Official; rmccollum@peachtreecornersga.gov or by phone at 678-691-1207.

Calling All United States Veterans

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces - 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 to create a monument to honor Peachtree Corners veterans are underway and we would like to document their stories and honor them at the upcoming dedication.

Veterans, we are asking that you send in the following information:



- Full Name
- Branch of Service
- Dates served
- Address
- Daytime phone number

Send an email to Judy Putnam, Communications Director at jputnam@peachtreecornersga.gov or call 770-609-8821. You may also mail in the information to Peachtree Corners City Hall, 147 Technology Parkway, Suite 200, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092.

Sidewalk Planned for Crooked Creek Road

A new sidewalk will be added to the east side of Crooked Creek Road from Jay Bird Alley to the existing sidewalk at the entrance to Mary Our Queen Catholic Church.

Gwinnett County will use 2005 SPLOST funds to pay half the cost of pedestrian improvements - the city will pay the remaining portion.

Curb, gutter and drainage improvements are also included. CMEC LLC was the lowest of seven bidders at \$198,779. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Questions: Contact Public Works Director Greg Ramsey at gramsey@peachtreecornersga.gov.

The Faces of Peachtree Corners

2015 Light Up the Corners



Burn Ban Ends September 30

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) imposes a total ban on outdoor burning in Gwinnett County annually from May 1 to September 30.

Once the Burn Ban has been lifted on October 1, please be advised that if you are planning on burning you **MUST** first check with Gwinnett County Fire Marshall as to whether or not it is an allowable burn day.

Many factors come into play that affect whether or not you can burn and this can change on a daily basis. A few of these factors are - prevailing winds that are predicted to be, or are, in excess of 15 miles per hour, air pollution episodes, the National Weather Service issues a "Red Flag Warning" or a "Fire Weather Watch," when there is fog, rain, or a cloud base that is diffused or ill-defined - these are just some of the factors taken into consideration as to whether it will be an allowable burn day or not.



No burning of solid waste or household garbage is allowed. Burning is **NOT** allowed on Sundays or nights.

Remember **BEFORE** burning, check with Gwinnett County Fire Marshal first at either of the two contacts below.

Burn Information Line 678-518-4979 or www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com
The Burn Information line and website are updated daily by 9:00 a.m. If you suspect someone is improperly burning, please report it by calling 770-513-5700.

Recycling at City Hall

Earlier this year, the city began a recycle program for non-traditional recycling materials. At City Hall you can drop off 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.

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



Green
Ink Print Cartridges

Orange
Cellphones

Blue
Household Batteries
(Cellphone, Rechargeable AA,
AAA, C & D and Laptop)
**NO ALKALINE BATTERIES
ACCEPTED**



Sidewalks, Landscaping Installed Along Buford Highway

The Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District recently announced that a \$1 million construction project to install sidewalks and landscaping on a stretch of Buford Highway between Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Peachtree Corners and the DeKalb County line has been completed.

The project also includes work on the curb and gutter and crosswalks at four intersections along the section of Buford Highway according to an Aug. 14, 2015 Gwinnett Village CID news release.

The project, designed to improve pedestrian safety along the busy corridor, was funded through a combination of Gwinnett County, Georgia Department of Transportation and CID funds.

"We're delighted that Gwinnett Village CID worked to have the new sidewalk and landscaping installed on this portion of Buford Highway which is an important gateway to our city," said Peachtree Corners Councilmember Phil Sadd (Post 1). "The addition improves safety, walkability for pedestrians and aesthetics for the area."

For additional information, please contact Gwinnett Village CID Communications Director Joel Washer, via email at joel@gwinnettville.com or by phone, 770-449-6542.

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 Supervisor, Philomena Robertson

Code Enforcement Officer, Francisco Clark

Code Enforcement Officer, Hercilia Morrow

Communications Director, Judy Putnam

Field Services Manager/Land Development, Travis Pearson

Building 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

Facebook: 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)

- Adopted Livable Centers Initiative plan identifying the city's central business district
- Approved a resolution to accept Georgia Tech's community readiness assessment study
- Established a veteran's monument committee
- Approved Winters Chapel corridor improvement plan
- Added public works to manage SPLOST construction projects
- Supported the county in its purchase of Simpsonwood property by contributing \$2 million

Future city plans:

- Partner with Georgia Tech's ATDC to provide program management for the city's business incubator
- Strive to bring higher education to complement the city's high schools
- Add housing options for millennials and empty nesters
- Study ways to improve Holcomb Bridge Road corridor to revitalize and redevelop the area
- Improve traffic and transportation throughout the city
- Construct gateway monument signs at key locations

And lastly, we should constantly strive to create a city that's unique, interesting and welcoming. The Town Center will do a lot for that but let's visualize crossing from The Forum to the Town Center on a unique, iconic pedestrian bridge over S.R. 141 and seeing it open onto walking trails along a creek, botanical gardens and an amphitheater, or walking along trails that interconnect with the other trails that crisscross the city.

It's not that hard to imagine, nor, at all unattainable, especially if we share the same vision.

Mike Mason

mmason@peachtreecornersga.gov
www.peachtreecornersga.gov

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

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