



CITY OF
**Peachtree
CORNERS**
Innovative & Remarkable

INSIDE PEACHTREE CORNERS

4th Quarter 2016

**Transforming Technology
Park into Innovation Hub**

**More Streetlights
Added in 2017**

**City Ranks High in
Customer Service**

**S.R. 141 Intersection
Improvements to Begin Soon**

Plus more news inside

WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV



Some 50 residents attended the final Comprehensive Transportation Plan meeting held Nov. 17 at City Hall.



From the Mayor's Desk Technology Park to Become an Innovation Hub

Since its inception in the 1970s, Technology Park Atlanta has been attracting technology-based businesses to its Peachtree Corners campus. The office park, envisioned by Paul Duke considered the founder of Peachtree Corners, continues to draw top engineers and innovators from around the country.

Duke's plan was to attract engineering firms to Georgia to keep Georgia Tech engineers in the state who were leaving after graduation because there were few engineering jobs in Georgia. Today high-tech companies with innovative ideas continue locating their businesses in the 500-acre office park.

Paul Duke's idea to attract technology-driven businesses was a ground-breaking notion and has been one of the driving forces in the city's economic development.

And now the city is looking to further enhance the well-known office park by developing a master plan to transform it into an innovation hub. The plan will incorporate research institutions, entrepreneurial training and mentors, professional networks as well as add or enhance walkability, public spaces and mixed land use.

Wayne Hodges, Vice President Emeritus, Georgia Tech and a consultant for the city summed

up the need for an innovation hub well when he said, "Innovation is not accomplished in isolation but through collaboration and cooperation. The completion of the master plan will provide a roadmap for creating a true innovation hub that will make Peachtree Corners an economic development model for others to emulate."

The city's multi-use trail system, which is part of the plan for the innovation hub, is already in the

development stages.

Additionally, Prototype Prime, the recently opened startup incubator, is also part of the vision for the city's future innovation hub.

The city has awarded a contract to

MXD Development Strategists to develop strategies for identifying and planning for innovation amenities, rebranding and promoting the area as an innovation hub.

Keeping our city vibrant and attractive is an economic strategy that will pay off for Peachtree Corners' residents and the business community by stimulating economic development and increasing property values. Watch for more news soon.



Citizens Provide Input for Future Transportation Needs

When the city began developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) earlier this year, soliciting citizen input was an important piece in creating the city's long-range plan.

Residents were invited to attend the Project Kickoff meeting on August 11, a Community meeting on Nov. 17, and to participate in an online survey. Nearly 100 residents attended the two city meetings and over 1,200 took part in the online CTP survey.

The city will use the input to help create the Comprehensive Transportation Plan which will include planning for intersection improvements, roadway widenings, sidewalks, bike facilities, trains, and other transportation infrastructure needs.

The plan will be used to develop the city's Capital Improvement Program, a document that will serve as a guide for the next 20 years. A final report with recommendations will be presented early 2017. Look for updates on the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov, then under the "Departments" tab, locate Public Works in the pull down menu and select "Comprehensive Transportation Plan" or contact City Hall at 678-691-1200.

Mike Mason

mmason@peachtreecornersga.gov



Brian L. Johnson
City Manager

Mayor and Council Appoint New City Manager

In October the Mayor and City Council announced that Brian L. Johnson had been selected as the new city manager.

Johnson, who served as city manager for the City of Anniston, Alabama for the past three years, was chosen from a number of candidates. The City Council approved his appointment on Oct. 18 during its monthly city council meeting.

“The Council and I are extremely pleased to announce that Mr. Johnson has been selected as the new city manager,” said Mayor Mike Mason. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. The city will undoubtedly benefit greatly from his experience in handling the day-to-day operations of our city.”

In addition to serving as Anniston’s city manager, Johnson was city manager for the City of Garden City in Chatham County, Georgia for six years. His background also includes over 18 years of diverse management experience at both the federal and local levels of government.

“I’m delighted to have the opportunity to serve Peachtree Corners as its city manager,” said Johnson. “While I certainly appreciated my time in Anniston, I am pleased to join the City of Peachtree Corners. My family and I are excited about moving and settling into our new community.”

Mr. Johnson replaces Julian Jackson who announced his retirement earlier this year. The new city manager reported for work on Nov. 21, 2016.

Intersection Construction to Begin Soon

Relief is on the way for commuters traveling southbound on S.R. 141 and merging onto Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. The long-awaited project to add a second merge lane will begin soon.



Construction is expected to begin within the next few months and will take approximately six months to complete. The work will be done overnight to minimize the impact on daily daytime traffic.

The project will add a southbound merge lane on Peachtree Parkway (S.R. 141) at the Holcomb Bridge Road intersection to relieve traffic that currently must consolidate from two lanes to one when traveling onto Peachtree Industrial Boulevard.

“Adding a new merge lane will significantly improve this intersection,” said Mayor Mike Mason. “It has been one of the top projects on the city’s list of traffic improvements, and we are pleased to announce that construction is about to begin.”

The new lane will continue past the existing bridge over Jimmy Carter Boulevard before tapering down near the next southbound on-ramp. Drainage improvements and new overhead signage will be constructed in conjunction with the project.

The intersection improvement is a joint effort with Georgia DOT, Gwinnett County and the City of Peachtree Corners. The \$2,114,346.56 project will be funded by the Georgia DOT at 62 percent, Gwinnett County’s 2014 SPLOST program at 31 percent and the City of Peachtree Corners at 7 percent.

More Streetlights to be Installed

When the city was formed, one of its top priorities was to improve pedestrian safety. In just four years, the new city has added a number of pedestrian-friendly features including crosswalks and sidewalks. And more new sidewalks will be installed in 2017.

And now plans are in place for street lighting to be added throughout the city. Part of the process of adding street lighting included identifying available utility poles and then contracting with Georgia Power to install the lights. Through a geographic information system (GIS) based process, the city has identified the location of every utility pole within city limits.

In the first phase of the the project, new lights on existing poles were installed on Peachtree Corners Circle, Lou Ivy and Medlock Bridge roads.

Georgia Power will also be adding lighting to the following roads that have existing poles.

- Amwiler Road
- Bush Road
- East Jones Bridge Road
- Industrial Park Drive
- Langford Road
- Peachtree Corners Circle
- S. Old Peachtree Road
- Spalding Drive

After the first phase is complete, the second phase of the program will identify where new poles and lighting can be added and lighting will be installed. The goal is to have the program completed within the next 24 months.



Weapons Discharge Ordinance in Residential Areas Approved

After hearing from residents and business owners during a public hearing at the November City Council meeting, the mayor and council approved an amended ordinance to address bow hunting and gunfire within the city limits.

The ordinance to address gunfire within Peachtree Corners allows property owners the use of guns to defend themselves and their residential property. However, the ordinance prohibits all other gunfire in residential areas due to public safety concerns.

The ordinance also gives bow hunters, who have a valid hunting license – and the written permission from the property owner — the right to hunt on private property within city limits.

“Over the past several months, we received emails and phone calls and at tonight’s meeting have also heard from a number of our residents,” said Mayor Mason. “The council has listened to everyone’s input and as a result, I believe we’ve crafted an ordinance that balances citizen’s safety with property rights. The amended ordinance is also consistent with state law.”

The ordinance does not prohibit any officer of the law from discharging a firearm in the performance of his or her duty. The law does not apply to the use of BB guns or air pellet rifles. The new law will be enforced by the Gwinnett County Police Department. Residents who wish to report gunfire or illegal bow hunting should contact the GCPD.

City Earns High Marks in Customer Service Survey

When it comes to assisting customers applying for building permits and business licenses, Gwinnett County’s newest city definitely has built a reputation for its top-notch service.



In surveys conducted this spring by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the city’s two departments received top marks. The purpose of the survey was tailored to identify the strengths of the licensing process and overall customer service as well as identifying avenues to improve service.

The survey results showed that 94 to 97 percent of those surveyed in both building and licensing responded favorably in their respective categories.

Those responding to the business license department survey were asked to provide an overall rating of satisfaction using Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor categories: 55.5 percent gave a rating of Excellent. And 56 percent of the respondents for the building department rated the overall service experience as Excellent.

Surveys for the Business License Department were sent to over 2,000 licensees with 377 completing the survey, representing a 19.69 percent response rate. And 638 recent building permit applicants received invitations to participate with 102 completing the survey, an 18.47 percent response rate.

Dr. John Barner with the Carl Vinson Institute, who presented the survey results at the September city council meeting, noted that in the decade since he has been involved in customer satisfaction surveys, he had never experienced such a high percentage of survey responses nor had he seen such a high favorable percentage rating of customer satisfaction.

Business Licensing was measured for promptness, courtesy, length of time for application processing, satisfactory service provision, and knowledge and professionalism of the staff. And the Building Department was assessed for promptness, courtesy, reasonableness of time for applications and inspections, satisfactory service provision, and knowledge and professionalism of the staff.

The survey also asked several open-ended questions, responses included:

- After all the paperwork was done, it was pretty quick to receive it in the mail. Everyone was very nice.
- Excellent information received by telephone and then easy access to the City Hall.
- I had no problems at all. Walked in, filed paperwork, out within 5 minutes.
- The entire process was handled very well.
- The staff was very knowledgeable in what I needed to fill out to make it happen.

“Providing top-level service reflects how the council and I feel about serving the community, and the survey validates that we are on track in our efforts,” said Mayor Mike Mason. “We are proud of our staff and their dedication to serving our residents and members of the business community.”

City's New Startup Incubator Officially Opens

Prototype Prime, the city's long-anticipated startup incubator, marked its official opening on Thursday, Oct. 27, during a special evening celebration held from 5-7 p.m. The new facility is located in renovated office space directly below City Hall.

The 12,500 square-foot area provides networking and event space, workshops, podcast room and a design lab with three 3D printers. In addition, two law firms and an accounting agency will provide professional services to budding entrepreneurs to assist their early startup efforts.

To help launch the new incubator, the City of Peachtree Corners teamed up with Georgia Tech's renowned Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) to provide mentorship, training and guidance to budding entrepreneurs in their early-stage efforts and also assist them in acquiring the key skills to build their companies. Sanjay Parekh, a serial entrepreneur who has started a number of successful companies, is heading up the incubator as its executive consultant.

"We are extremely pleased with how well the facilities turned out," said Mayor Mike Mason. "Our hats are off to Sanjay. His leadership in helping establish Prototype Prime is invaluable and under his direction, it will undoubtedly be very successful."

The main goal of an incubator is to produce successful firms which have the potential to create jobs and strengthen local economies. A 2008 U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) study on the impact of incubators shows that a city investment in an incubator has a significantly greater economic development impact on a community than other projects.

The October opening was the culmination of nearly two years of planning, designing and renovation of the space for Prototype Prime. Now the focus will be on supporting entrepreneurs in building software and hardware startups from the ground up. Visit Prototype Prime's website. www.prototypeprime.com, for more information.



Prototype Prime's executive consultant Sanjay Parekh along with Mayor Mike Mason and Councilmembers Weare Gratwick (Post 6), Eric Christ (Post 2), and Lorri Christopher (Post 5), join in the celebration of the opening of the new startup incubator.

Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions Now In Place

On November 17, 2016, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division declared a Level 2 drought response for Gwinnett County as well as 51 other Georgia counties. The action placed restrictions on out-door water use including limits on lawn watering and a ban on a number of other outdoor water uses.

Allowed restricted outdoor watering activities:

- Outdoor landscape watering is only allowed two days a week, determined by odd and even-numbered addresses. Even-numbered addresses and properties without numbered addresses may water on Wednesday and Saturday before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Odd-numbered addresses may water Thursday and Sunday before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.*
- Irrigation of personal food gardens at any time of day*
- Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed or turf may be done at any time of the day for 30 days after installation*
- Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses at any time of day, and hand-watering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container may be done at any time of day*

Prohibited outdoor water uses include:

- Washing hard surfaces, such as streets and sidewalks*
- Water for ornamental purposes, such as fountains*
- The use of fire hydrants, except for firefighting and public safety*
- Non-commercial washing of vehicles*
- Non-commercial pressure washing*
- Fundraising car washes*

More information is available on Gwinnett County's website "Water Resources" page.

Report Trash Pickup Issues on Smartphone or Computer

The city has added a new link on the website for filing complaints, compliments or requests regarding residential trash pickup and recycling services.

Visit the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov, click on the "Residents" tab at the top of the page then select "Trash Pickup Complaints & Requests" in the pull-down menu.

The link directs you to a web page where you will be prompted to add your contact information and the type of comment you are filing. After completing the information, click on the "continue" link and your information will be sent directly to Waste Pro for a response.

For assistance in using the online reporting system, call 770-609-8816.



Storing Trash and Recycling Containers

The city's Solid Waste Ordinance has recently been changed and a summary of the change is listed below.

Trash and recycle containers are to be stored or placed:

- In the rear yard as close to the house as possible
- On the side of the house as close to the house as possible
- In front of the house; must be on a concrete surface, and as close to the house as possible
- Inside enclosed structures, such as garages, where they are not visible from the street.

Townhome or condo units with a common wall or walls bordering the adjacent unit, which are unable to store trash and recycle containers in the rear yard or enclosed structure due to lack of exterior access, must store trash and recycle containers as close to the townhome or condo unit as possible.

This is not the code in its entirety. The complete code is available on the city's website. If you have questions, contact the Code Enforcement Department at 678-691-1200.

10 Winter Energy Efficiency Tips

By Ringo McCollum,
Building Official



As cooler weather is quickly approaching, so will rising utility bills. Following is a list of some energy saving tips.

1. Seal all leaks around doors, windows, and electrical outlets. Heat from your home escapes out of these cracks. By sealing these leaks, you can save tremendously on your heating bill, and the cost of materials to seal these leaks is very minimal.
2. Clean the chimney and get vent systems checked. Pipes must be properly connected and there should be no signs of rust or damage.
3. It's also time to remove the window air conditioners for the winter. If they must stay in place, be sure to seal them with caulking or tape and cover them with an airtight, insulated jacket.
4. If you are thinking of replacing your furnace, consider getting one that is 90% or higher in efficiency. Replacing your old furnace with a new, more energy efficient one can save up to 30% of your heating costs. Remember to look for the ENERGY STAR label.
5. Is your insulation up to par? For a minimal cost, you can upgrade the insulation in your exterior walls, crawl spaces, basements and attics. Insulation may come in batts or loose fill, which can be blown into place to get those hard to reach places.
6. If you have single-pane windows, add storm windows to cut heat loss by up to 50%. Better still, replace single-pane windows with energy-efficient double pane windows with inert argon gas fill, warm-edge spacers, and low-e coating.
7. Make sure your heating vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes and the dampers are open. Vacuum out dust and pet hair from the warm air registers and the cold air returns so your furnace runs more efficiently. Change your filter monthly or as needed.
8. It's time to take a look at your water heater. If its surface is hot or even warm to the touch, some of the energy used to heat the water is being wasted. Wrap the heater in an insulating blanket. Be sure to check your user manual and labels on the tank first.
9. If you're building a new home, make sure you place the water heater as close as possible to the kitchen, laundry room, and bathrooms. Heat is lost as it moves through long pipes, so the closer the unit is to these rooms, the more money you could save.
10. Did you know that if you never run out of hot water, then you have probably set your water heater thermostat too high? Set your thermostat between 110 degrees F and 120 degrees F.



Does Waste Pro Offer Curb Pickup for Bulk Items?

We hear this question quite often – can I place large furniture and appliances at the curb for pickup by my solid waste company? The answer is yes but there are specific

requirements for this type of pickup.

Before you place the “old” at the curb please follow these requirements:

- 1-2 large items per week allowed
- Furniture and appliances
- Call WastePro office to schedule — 770-451-9395
- Call by the Wednesday prior to your service day — advance notice needed for scheduling pickup
- Items cannot be placed at curb any earlier than 24 hours prior to the scheduled day of pickup
- The following types are some of the items that will not be picked up: construction/remodeling debris, auto parts, tires, batteries, liquid paints, and toilets.
- NOTE: To be absolutely certain the items you are wanting to dispose of by placing at the curb for pickup are allowed, CALL WastePro PRIOR to placing anything at the curb. WastePro will verify it is an allowable item and schedule the pickup date.

If you have an item to dispose of that is not accepted by WastePro, log on to Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful’s website. On the page under search, type in “landfills.” At the bottom of the page you will find a list of local landfills and the items those landfills accept.

There is also information on “Recycling” in the drop-down menu with details on “Where to Recycle.” Enter the material you wish to dispose of for a list of locations.

SIGN UP . . .

to receive important reminders and other city news. Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov and click on the link at the top of the home page labeled “Sign up for eNewsletters.”

“A nation reveals itself not by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.”

- John F. Kennedy



At a special event in November, 35 Peachtree Corners Vietnam Veterans were recognized for their service. The veterans, along with State of Georgia Veterans Service Commissioner Mike Roby (right center), Mayor Mike Mason (center) and other dignitaries joined in honoring the veterans.

Peachtree Corners Honors Its Vietnam Veterans

In a special event held Nov. 2, 2016, the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument Association (PCVMA), in partnership with NanoLumens, the Witness to War Foundation and the City of Peachtree Corners honored the community’s Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Thirty-five Peachtree Corners veterans were recognized at the event at the NanoLumens offices in Peachtree Corners. The event marked the city’s participation in the Vietnam War Commemoration, a national effort to recognize and officially welcome home the more than 9 million Vietnam Veterans who served our country.

The Vietnam War Commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense and launched by the President in May 2012, to recognize all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. As part of the evening events, State of Georgia Veterans Service Commissioner Mike Roby presented a certificate and lapel pin to each veteran.

“Too many Vietnam War Veterans never received proper recognition for their service to our country,” said Commissioner Roby. “We believe it is never too late to say ‘thank you’ to these veterans. The Vietnam War Certificate of Honor is a small token of our great respect for their sacrifices.”

Peachtree Corners is part of a grateful nation in thanking and honoring its Vietnam War Veterans, the fallen, the wounded, those who were held as Prisoners of War, and those listed as missing and unaccounted for.

Plans are currently underway to build a monument in Peachtree Corners to honor all military veterans past, present and future for their service to the United States of America and its citizens. For more information, visit the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument Association’s website, www.ptcvets.net.



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

Presrt Std
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit 3000
Tucker GA

Veterans' Monument News

By Bob Ballagh

The city's Town Center project featuring restaurants, shops and townhomes and a Town Green for events will also be home to a veterans' monument. The monument, to be located just off the Town Green, is taking shape and will help make our community even more unique.

The project is spearheaded by the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument Association (PCVMA) which is comprised of a group of volunteers who have come together to envision, plan and build a monument honoring United States veterans from all services and especially veterans who live in Peachtree Corners.

You can view plans and drawings for the monument on the PCVMA website, www.ptcvets.net, and see photos of the statues planned to honor each branch of the service.

The association has begun actively raising funds to support the proposed monument, and already has raised almost 20 percent of the \$500,000 goal.

One way you can participate is to buy one or more pavers to honor the veterans in your family or among your friends. The pavers will make up the floor of the monument and each paver can be engraved with the name of a veteran (living or deceased, resident of Peachtree Corners or not).

PCVMA will provide a printable certificate that may be customized to give to the Veterans that you have chosen to honor. Please consider supporting this worthwhile project to honor your loved ones who have served.

You may make your purchase on the PCVMA website.

For more information, contact Bob Ballagh at bob.ballagh@comcast.net or 678-618-1722.



WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV



Mayor & City Council

Mayor, Mike Mason

City Council Post 1, Phil Sadd

City Council Post 2, Eric Christ

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, Brian L. Johnson

City Clerk, Kymberly Chereck

Community Development Director, Diana Wheeler

City Attorney, Bill Riley

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: www.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