



CITY OF
**Peachtree
CORNERS**
Innovative & Remarkable

INSIDE PEACHTREE CORNERS

1st Quarter 2018

Stay Connected with New App,
'Corners Connect'

Get the Latest Update on
Town Center Restaurants

City Receives 3rd 'Tree City USA' Honor

Sign Up for Free Photo, Video Workshops

City Earns Distinguished Budget
Presentation Award

Plus more news inside...

WWW.PEACHTREECORNERSGA.GOV

New Schedule for City Meetings

Just a friendly reminder... the city has implemented its new calendar schedule for City Council meetings, Work Sessions, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meetings.



Work Sessions

2nd Tuesday of the month

Council Meetings

4th Tuesday of the month.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday of the month

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

3rd Wednesday of the month.

Keep in mind that both the Planning Commission and ZBA meet on an “as needed” basis so please check the City Calendar on the website to confirm meetings will take place for the ZBA and Planning Commission.

The 2018 Meeting Calendar is posted on the city’s website. Locate the “Government” tab, then select “City Clerk” in the pull-down menu, then click on link marked “2018 Meeting Calendar.”

SIGN UP TODAY. . .

**Keep Up with News,
Community Events, Meetings**

Sign up today to receive email reminders and information on events going on in your community, city news and meeting reminders.

Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov and click on the link at top of the home page labeled “Notify Me!”



From the Mayor’s Desk Use New App to Stay Connected with Your Community

Find events, restaurants, report a concern and more using your smartphone

Many of us use our smartphone apps every day to keep up with news, handle banking transactions, shop, and for a myriad of other uses. Now I’m happy to report our city has launched an app that you can use to keep up with all things going on in your city.

We expect the new app, *Corners Connect*, to be the go-to place. Residents, visitors, and those who commute here every day for work or school can find events, dining and entertainment, bus routes, city information and news.

Much of this information is located on the city’s website, but we all know apps have become the preferred way for smartphone users to locate information (Statistics show that apps account for 89 percent of mobile media time, while the other 11 percent spend their time on websites.) You will find the city’s app easy to use and a great resource for all things Peachtree Corners.



Here are features you will find on *Corners Connect*:

Dining & Entertainment: View the best places to dine or for entertainment in the city. On the app you can search from the list of restaurants, view details like cuisine, hours of operation, location and contact information. Ratings are also included in the listing, which are provided by Google.

Resources Contacts: Use this function to report a non-emergency police issue, traffic problem, or abandoned vehicle. You will also find links and phone numbers to pay your water bill, county property taxes or to register to vote.

City Info: Find information about the city, public parks and other attractions.

PC Fix It: With the new app you can also report issues such as garbage collection, a pothole that needs fixing, a streetlight that is out, etc. You can also review status as the issue is resolved. Many of you are already using the city’s PC Fix It app, which will now also be accessible through the *Corners Connect* app.

Events: One unique feature will be the Events section where you can view and find details on the happenings in the city. You find the events listed by date. Once the Town Center is open and events are planned for the Town Green, this will be an especially useful feature.

News: Stay up to date with the latest city news. The feature allows you to view the latest news posted on the city’s website. There is also a search function to

Town Center Construction Updates

Work is well underway on the 21-acre tract of land, located on the 5200 block of Peachtree Parkway, that will be the site of the city's new Town Center.

Along with restaurants, shops, office space, and entertainment venues, the plans include a town green which is designed to be the heart of a community gathering area. This 2+ acre spot will feature an open-air pavilion, amphitheater, fire pit, open lawn, café tables and a community garden.

The plans also feature a botanical garden and over 70 upscale townhomes, some overlooking the town green. It will also be the site of a veterans' monument which will honor our men and women who served or are serving our country.

Restaurants that have committed to date:

- Chronic Tacos
- CineBistro
- Duck Donuts
- Farm Burger
- Feed Fried Chicken
- Firebirds Wood Fired Grill
- First Watch
- Kremo Ice Cream
- Marlow's Tavern
- Revelator Coffee
- Salata Salid Bar
- Steel City Pops
- Thai Express
- Vintage Pizzeria
- Willy's Mexicana Grill

Find a list of retailers, photos of the construction project and additional details on the city's website. Visit www.peachtreecornersga.gov, then click on the link located near the top right side of the homepage labeled "Town Center News." Be sure to check back regularly for updates on the Town Center progress.

City Earns 3rd 'Tree City USA' Recognition

During a recent State Arbor Day celebration, the city was honored for the third year in a row at Trees Atlanta for being one of the state's "Tree City USA" communities.

Peachtree Corners (incorporated July 1, 2012) was among 34 cities in Georgia recognized on February 15 for its commitment to caring for and managing its public trees. Residents Lorrie Backer and Hilary Wilson represented the city during the event.

Tree City USA provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America that meet certain requirements.

The event also recognized Tree Campus USA colleges and Tree Line USA utilities. There are 150 Tree City USAs in Georgia and nationwide there are more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities. Visit www.GaTrees.org for more information about the Georgia Forestry Commission. And for more on the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org.

This year the City of Peachtree Corners will celebrate Arbor Day on April 27 at Pinckneyville Middle School during an after-school event.



Peachtree Corners residents Lorrie Backer and Hilary Wilson accept the city's "Tree City USA" recognition from Chuck Williams, Georgia Forestry Commission Director.

Join City Manager for Live Q&A Podcasts



Brian Johnson, City Manager

Do you have a question about the new Town Center, future development plans, or other city-related topics? Each month Brian Johnson, the City Manager, spends an hour providing information and answering residents' calls about the city during a live podcast show.

The monthly Q&A show is hosted by Peachtree Corners Life, which broadcasts shows on various topics each week. Tune in at 12 p.m. on the Thursday following the monthly city council meeting for Johnson's Q&A show.

The live shows are broadcast from Prototype Prime's podcast booth and are streamed live on Peachtree Corners Life's website or via Peachtree Corners Life's Facebook page.

The shows are archived and available on Peachtree Corners Life's website and Facebook page.



The city would like to extend a big 'thanks' to each of the dedicated poll workers for their commitment in ensuring Peachtree Corners residents received prompt service during the fall election season. Pictured left to right (front row) Jenny Shell, Carole Hays, Sue Bailey and Carol Carvell, (back row) Bill Carvell, Gary Hays, Robert Stedford, Julie Sukenik, John Vail and Julie Vail. Missing from photo: Alsie Churchman.

Finance Department Earns Distinguished Budget Presentation Award



The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently announced that the City of Peachtree Corners has been honored with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in recognition of its outstanding budget preparation.

The award represents a significant achievement by the city's Finance Department and its Finance Director. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff in meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. It is the five-year-old city's first time applying for the award and signifies the city's commitment to transparency in its budget process.

To receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a city's budget serves as a policy document; a financial plan; an operations guide; and as a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional organization serving the needs of more than 19,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Presentation Award is the only national awards program dedicated to governmental budgeting.

Merge Lane, Pedestrian Crossing, Sidewalks Among 2017 Improvements

Public Works had a great 2017 year completing various construction projects as well as studies. Below is a list of major accomplishments and projects completed by the City of Peachtree Corners' Public Works team.

- Intersection Improvement at S.R. 141 and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- Intersection Improvement at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Holcomb Bridge Road
- Intersection Improvement on Technology Parkway at S.R. 141
- Completed and adopted the S.R. 141 Corridor Study
- Completed and adopted the Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Pedestrian Crossing on Peachtree Corners Circle near Eastman Trail
- Addition of over 15,000 Linear Feet of Sidewalks

For more information on these projects as well as past, current, and future projects, please visit the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov then click on the "Capital Improvements Projects" link located under the "Government" tab or call City Hall at 678-691-1200 and ask for the Public Works Department.



The intersection improvement at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Holcomb Bridge Road was one of the Public Works Department's projects completed in 2017



Jones Bridge Park Renovations Complete

City and business leaders along with dignitaries from Gwinnett County celebrated the completion of the renovations of Jones Bridge Park on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Pictured from left to right are: Gwinnett Recreation Authority Chairman Steve Flynt; Hunter Hyde with Wolverton; Recreation Authority Member Jack Bolton; County Administrator Glenn

Stevens; Peachtree Corners Councilmember Jeanne Aulbach (Post 4); District 1 Commissioner Lynette Howard; Peachtree Corners Councilmember Weare Gratwick (Post 6); Peachtree Corners Councilmember Phil Sadd (Post 1); Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash; Shang Yang, architect with Pieper O'Brien Herr; and Farid Termei, Principal with Archimetric Design and Construction.

City's Incubator Offers First-Rate Education Choices

The next great business may be under development right here in Peachtree Corners.

The city's non-profit incubator, Prototype Prime, has become a satellite location for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's Startup 101 course as part of its Kauffman FastTrac education series.



The Kauffman Foundation is a private non-profit organization dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs with the education, tools and resources necessary to create their own businesses. It is one of the largest organizations in the world devoted to entrepreneurship and has approximately \$2 billion in assets.

Startup 101 is being offered as a 10-week, in-class course at Prototype Prime on Wednesdays during lunch. The next class begins in May.

With the classroom component, participants receive 1-on-1 office time, specialized lectures, and a peer group with which to collaborate in addition to the traditional course material.

After course completion, the City of Peachtree Corners will waive the business license fees for graduates wishing to launch a business. To qualify for the business license fee waiver, the new business owner must be enrolled in an incubator and conducting technology-based work. The waiver may be extended up to three years, providing certain criteria are met.

“Our city motto is ‘Innovative and Remarkable’ which is exactly what we are accomplishing by bringing Kauffman Foundation into the fold,” said Peachtree Corners Mayor Mike Mason. “The course provides tools to ensure entrepreneurs succeed and Prototype Prime delivers the ideal environment for their businesses to flourish.”

For additional information, email info@prototypeprime.com. For more details on the Kauffman Foundation courses or to schedule a tour or book a podcast session, please send an email to info@prototypeprime.com.

About Prototype Prime: The 501c3 non-profit hardware and software startup incubator is located in Peachtree Corners, GA and houses a design & development lab with multiple 3-D printers and a number of startups ranging from single founders to established teams. The facility also boasts a podcast room and event space, which are both available to the public for rent.



Homeowners Responsible for Exterior Maintenance, Landscaping

Spring has finally arrived. Soon we will start to see our grass and vegetation beginning to grow as the weather changes.

Homeowners and business owners are responsible for providing regular maintenance of their property's landscaping.

Front, side, and rear yards should be well maintained, mowed regularly and free from trash, weeds and overgrown vegetation.

All residents are responsible for ensuring that their property is free from all litter and debris for health and sanitation reasons. Having your property on a routine maintenance schedule is one way to guarantee your property will not have any code violations.

For additional information, contact Code Enforcement at 678-691-1200.



Calling All U.S. 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. The monument will be located on the Town Green of the city's new Town Center and is expected to be completed next year. View the plans for the Peachtree Corners Veterans Monument at www.ptcvets.net.

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. E-mail info to Judy Putnam, Communications Director at jputnam@peachtreecornersga.gov or call 678-691-1200.



Do you have photos of Peachtree Corners from years back?



The City of Peachtree Corners has retained the services of Carole Townsend, who is a well-respected author and long-time Gwinnett resident, to write the history of the city. She is currently in the process of conducting interviews.

Now the city is asking anyone with historical photos—color or black and white—that they are willing to share, to submit them for publication in the new history of Peachtree Corners book.

Those of you who have lived in the city for a long time may have photos showing East Jones Bridge Road when it was unpaved or other scenes from the city's past. The city has a great story to tell and historic photos are critical in telling PTC's story.

To arrange submission of your photos, contact Judy Putnam at jputnam@peachtreecornersga.gov or 770-609-8821.

How to Unclog the FOG

Did you know that Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) can cause serious problems for our sewer system? Fats are derived from meats, cheeses, ice cream and butters. Oils include vegetable, canola and olive oils, as well as oil-based salad dressings.

Grease is melted fat from cooking meats that becomes solid again at room temperature. If you dispose of FOG down your sink drain, it will solidify and cling to the walls of the indoor plumbing, as well as the public sewer pipes outside.



Eventually, FOG accumulation can completely block these pipes and cause sewage to backup into homes or overflow from manholes and discharge into local streams. These overflows can cost you and the city money, and pose a serious threat to the environment.

The good news is that prevention of FOG-related blockages is incredibly easy! All you need to do is make sure fats, oils and grease don't go down your drain.

- Absorb small volumes of liquid food wastes such as milkshakes and sauces with paper towels or newspaper, then dispose of it in the trash.
- Pour used oil and grease into a container with a lid and place it in the trash for disposal.
- Wipe FOG from pots, pans and plates before washing to reduce the amount of residue going down the drain.

Remember that hot water and detergents do break up FOG, but it will recombine when temperatures drop in the underground pipes and when the detergent is diluted by rinse water. In other words, hot water and detergents DO NOT prevent FOG clogs!

For more information, visit the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov and click on "Stormwater," under the "Government" tab.



Free Photography and Video Classes Offered to Residents

Did you know free photo classes are available for residents or anyone who works in Peachtree Corners? The city is working with Tytan Pictures, an Emmy-award-winning company, to provide instruction on a variety of photography and video classes.

The photography classes cover everything from camera basics, lighting techniques, landscape photography to tips for advanced photographers. Classes for video and film-making are also offered along with the basics of Photoshop and other editing software options.

Check the city calendar on the city's website for upcoming classes and information on how to register for the classes, location and times. For questions, contact Judy Putnam, Communications Director, jputnam@peachtreecornersga.gov or 678-691-1200.

Tips on How to Hire a Contractor

Are you thinking of finishing a basement, renovating the kitchen, updating the bathroom, or doing some much-needed repairs? Finding a good contractor to do the work can be a very difficult process. Many times, a home improvement project goes wrong and ends up costing the homeowner. How can you protect yourself and minimize the chance of getting ripped off? Tom Silva, general contractor on the popular TV show “This Old House” shared eight tips for selecting a qualified contractor. Included are additional tips from the Peachtree Corners Building Department.



1. Get Recommendations

Start with family, friends, and neighbors, Home Depot or Lowe’s Home Improvement stores for recommendations. You can also check with the City of Peachtree Corners Building Department at 678-691-1207.

2. Do Phone Interviews

Once you have a list of contractors, make a call to each of your prospects and ask the following questions.

- Do they take on projects this size?
- Are they willing to provide financial references from suppliers or banks?
- Can they give you a list of previous clients?
- How many other projects would they have going at the same time?

The answers to these questions will reveal the company’s availability, reliability, how much attention they’ll be able to give your project and how smoothly the work will go.

3. Meet Face to Face

Based on the phone interviews, pick three or four contractors to meet for estimates and further discussion. A contractor should be able to answer your questions. Also check with the Atlanta Better Business Bureau to make sure the contractor does not have a history of disputes with clients or subcontractors.

4. Investigate the Facts

Call up former clients to find how their project went and ask to see the finished product. But Tom says you shouldn’t rely on results alone. Even more important, visit a current job site and see for yourself how the contractor works.

5. Get Bids

To compare bids, ask everyone to break down the cost of materials, labor, profit margins and other expenses. Generally, materials account for 40 percent of the total cost; the rest covers overhead and the typical profit margin, which is 15 to 20 percent.

6. Set a Payment Schedule

For large projects, a payment schedule usually starts with 10 percent at contract signing, three payments of 25 percent evenly spaced over the duration of the project and a check for the final 15 percent when you think everything has been completed. For work that requires a permit, I always recommend waiting until the Peachtree Corners Building Inspector has signed off on the final inspection before making the final payment.

7. Don’t Let Price Be Your Guide

Throw out the lowball bid. The single most important factor in choosing a contractor is how well you and he communicate. All things being equal, it’s better to spend more and get someone you’re comfortable with.

8. Put it in Writing

Draw up a contract that details every step of the project including a payment schedule, start date, projected completion date, specific materials and products to be used, and a requirement that the contractor obtain lien releases (which protect you if he doesn’t pay his bills) from all subcontractors and suppliers. Insisting on a clear contract isn’t about mistrust, Tom assures us. It’s about ensuring a successful renovation. Always ask to see the contractor’s license, business license, and insurance policies. Just because the ad on the truck says licensed and insured does not always mean they are.

Finally, remember that as soon as a change is made or a problem uncovered, the price just increased and the project just got longer. The four most expensive words in the English language? “While you’re at it...”

Mike Sargent, Building Official
msargent@peachtreecornersga.gov

*From the Mayor's Desk,
continued from page 2*

help locate a specific news item.

Weather: Get the real-time weather forecast for our city. The feature includes hourly and daily weather forecast information.

Transit: The app has a feature that provides information for the Gwinnett Transit bus service that serves our city. You will find information on bus routes and details on bus stops. The feature allows you to search a bus route by name or route number.

Parking: This feature will be activated when the Town Center opens. You will be able to find a parking spot at the various locations within the Town Center and even find assistance navigating to the available parking spots.

The **Corners Connect** app is free and available for both iPhone and Android users.

We think the new app will be a valuable tool for residents and visitors alike. After you've downloaded the app, please give it a test drive and send your feedback via email to app@peachtreecornersga.gov.

Mike Mason, Mayor



Did you know...

Gwinnett County will celebrate its 200th anniversary on Dec. 15, 2018? It was named for Button Gwinnett, one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. Year-long events to commemorate its bicentennial celebration are planned. Contact Gwinnett200@gwinnettcounty.com or call 770-822-8862 for more information.



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310 Technology Pkwy NW
Peachtree Corners GA 30092

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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 Johnson
City Clerk, Kymberly Chereck
Community Development Director, Diana Wheeler
Administrative Services Director, Brandon Branham
Public Works Director, Greg Ramsey

City Hall

City of Peachtree Corners
310 Technology Parkway
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
Non-Emergency: 678-518-4800
Emergency: 911