

***From the Mayor’s Desk* December 2021**

As 2021 comes to a close, let’s look back on a year that despite an on-going pandemic, held numerous gains for the City of Peachtree Corners. Let’s take a look at some highlights.

The biggest news this past year was the expansion of Intuitive Surgical, a publicly traded company that makes robotic-assisted surgical systems. Intuitive announced plans to expand its presence in Peachtree Corners, investing over $500 million and creating more than 1,200 high-paying jobs. The company is demolishing two buildings and constructing a training center on what will be a 6-building campus.

Soliant, a leading provider of specialized healthcare and staffing services to hospitals and schools around the nation, expanded their Peachtree Corners headquarters at 5550 Peachtree Parkway by 25,000 square feet, bringing the total to 83,000 square feet. The company has continued to grow, employing more than 600 people.

AKESOgen, located on Northwoods Place, has built three new state-of-the art pathology labs and was named the fastest-growing healthcare company by revenue in the United States for the past three years. Currently, AKESOgen is conducting the world’s largest genetics project with the U.S. Veteran’s Administration. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, AKESOgen performed 7,000 tests per day. Its main customer was CVS.

A media-oriented company took a business catastrophe and turned it into a new—and growing— division. Music Matters Productions (MMP) had just signed a lease for 40,000 square feet of space on Green Point Parkway when the pandemic hit. The timing could not have been worse. Special events just stopped. But the company began creating “live” environments within its studio using extended reality gaming software. The company used it to produce films, music videos and commercials for clients, who couldn’t perform for live audiences. Now, MMP produces big concerts as well as in-house shows using the software. The pandemic— along with a lot of creative thinking and learning – translated into a whole new sector for them.

Along the same vein, Technicolor SA signed a lease at 4855 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., moving from a location off Sugarloaf Parkway. The company has made more than $2 million investment in the building.

Several companies acquired new, significant accounts, or were recognized in the greater Atlanta business community. NetPlanner Systems entered into an agreement with the Georgia Technology Authority to provide cable and wiring services for Georgia's executive branch agencies.

Pond & Company. a top-ranked architecture and engineering firm, racked up some awards this past year. The Peachtree Corners company was named #1 on the Atlanta Business Chronicle's "Top 25 Engineering Firms" list. Pond was also named the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers’ (GSPE) 2021 Employer of the Year for the fourth time in five years.

Technology Management company, 5Q Partners, located at 6525 The Corners Parkway, also received a 2021 Pacesetters award from the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of the metro's fastest-growing companies.

In February, T-Mobile and Curiosity Lab, in collaboration with the Georgia Institute of Technology, announced the creation of the 5G Connected Future incubator program designed to support the growth and development of entrepreneurs and startups as they work to build the next big thing in 5G. The move was combined with the announcement that La French Tech Atlanta, a French government-supported ecosystem of startups, investors, decision-makers, and community builders – will expand collaboration with Peachtree Corners as they guide companies looking to develop technologies and expand into North America.

In August, Pete Buttigieg, the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary visited Curiosity Lab, along with U.S. Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux. They discussed transportation related investments as part of the national infrastructure bill.

ASHRAE formally opened its new global headquarters building, following a ribbon cutting ceremony. ASHRAE completed a $20 million building renovation project intended to prove the economic viability of a fully net-zero-energy operation.

Valmet, the leading global developer and supplier of process technologies, automation and services for the pulp, paper and energy industries, moved into 24,000 square feet at 3720 Davinci Court in Peachtree Corners. The company moved about 110 people from Duluth to Peachtree Corners, making a capital investment of about $840,000.

Black Creek Group, which purchased 4925 Avalon Ridge for $9.3 million a little over year ago, invested $8.7 million in the building to make room for its new tenant, Amazon, which is opening a logistics center. Capstone Logistics, a provider of end-to-end supply chain solutions, earned a spot on the Q4 2020 Premier Carrier List from FourKites, the leader in supply chain visibility.

Telaid Industries (wireless, networking, cabling, telephony, etc.) moved from Norcross into a 78,000-square foot building at 2925 Courtyards Drive in the Northwoods center in Peachtree Corners. Telaid purchased the building in Peachtree Corners for $6.3 million and spent about $700,000 in renovation.

This past year, the hotel business started to recover. The City of Peachtree Corners hosted a job fair for hospitality services jobs in June, with 40 people getting jobs in the city.

Alliance Realty Partners is planning to build a mixed-use project in Technology Park that fronts Peachtree Parkway, just north of Engineering Drive. The project will include 295 multi-family apartments and 26 single-family townhomes. An existing office building will be redesigned, but several old office condo buildings will be demolished to make room for workforce housing.

Moe’s Original BBQ opened this past year on Peachtree Parkway, and so did Clean Eatz, which offers tasty, healthy food, at 3975 Holcomb Bridge Road. Norsan Restaurants invested $1 million into H&W Steakhouse at 5242 Peachtree Parkway. The culinary team is led by executive chef Charles Schwab, who previously worked with Buckhead Diner and Grace 1720, among others. It is sure to be a hit.

Kettlerock Brewing opened last spring at 6025 Peachtree Parkway. The owners, Dianna and Stephen Peet, have lived in the area for 30 years. Fly Chef Atlanta, at 4015 Holcomb Bridge Road, opened July 23. Chef Greg serves African and American dishes including its world famous Nigerian jollof to Fufu and Egusi soup. And Stage Restaurant opened at 5260 Peachtree Parkway, serving small plates, sushi, maki, pasta and entrees. They also offer unique cocktails and a broad assortment of wines.

Construction is underway on a farm in Peachtree Corners that will help people with disabilities find meaningful employment and lead more independent lives. Peachtree Farm, which will grow hydroponic tomatoes, will open in 2023 off Research Court in Tech Park.

Last, but certainly not least, the Garcia Group purchased the 53,000 square-foot building at 350 Technology Parkway next to City Hall for just under $5 million. The company, which moved from Chamblee, is a provider of year-round and seasonal decorative products for floral, events, home and business interiors.

We had a lot of positive news this year on the business front. I’m sure there has been more going on, but this is just some of the highlights. We’re happy to see all the investment in the community, and jobs created. Things are looking good as we head into 2022.

Stay Safe and Happy Holidays!

Mayor Mike Mason