



August 2021

From the Mayor's Desk

Observations from the Front

One of the benefits of being the Mayor is that I get to meet and listen to a lot of people from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances. This can provide a lot of perspective. Since we have a very capable City Staff, I'm not overburdened with day-to-day City activity. And since I'm retired, I also have the benefit of reflection. Let me share some observations.

I am struck by the amount of frustration we all share. In fact, it might be the only thing we share in this polarized world. There are lots of causes. Whether from impatience with the unvaccinated, indignation at mask mandates, or the political stalemate playing out in Washington, resolution seems just out of reach ... hence the frustration. It takes many forms including sarcastic social media posts, inflammatory media reporting, and, on a personal note, the occasional zinger email to yours truly. Here's my point.

Our City appears to have been largely bypassed. Seriously, it's not as bad here. Our economy has recovered and is expanding. Housing prices are up and climbing. People are back to work. The delta variant is a clear and present danger, but a majority of our eligible citizens are vaccinated. People, masked and unmasked, are out and about shopping and attending concerts. The mood is not so dark. My point is: our young City responded--as a **community**--during the pandemic. Neighbor helped neighbor, and we all pulled together. You know that good feeling you get watching someone's happiness at an unexpected act of kindness? I think our community is still experiencing that good feeling.

Yes, there are very real challenges out there, and bluntly put, some very real dangers--the delta variant to be specific, but as the cliché goes: attitude is everything. We, and I mean the collective we, faced the worst and we are...almost...through it. My observations are: 1) Get vaccinated if you haven't already. As a member of the Board of Health, I assure you, it is safe; 2) Don't stop helping your neighbor if they need it. It will literally make you feel better; 3) Stay positive. Yes, I am a cheerleader type, but attitude does matter; and 4) Don't hesitate to ask for help. It's still there if you need it, and despair spreads like a fog.

Final point, I was very proud of our community over the past year. I am used to some of that. As Mayor, I am on a number of Boards across the County and Region and when introduced, the reaction is immediate. They've heard good things about Peachtree Corners and are complimentary. But that's about the City persona and reflects our accomplishments presented in well written press releases. I'm not talking about that. I was proud of our collective response to the pandemic. We instinctively did the right thing. I was, and am, very proud to be your Mayor.

Stay safe,

Mike Mason