



August 2018

## *From the Mayor's Desk*

### **City Progress Report: A look back, a look ahead**

Long-time residents may recall a different community: acres of undeveloped land, unpaved streets, the old Simmons Factory on East Jones Bridge Road and the thick stand of trees where The Forum is now located.

But change is inevitable, it is how we manage the change that's important.

It is the responsibility of your city leaders to envision, guide and manage the inevitable changes to our community. It's been six years since Peachtree Corners incorporated. Let's look at the numbers, at our key projects – and at our future.

#### **The numbers:**

	2012	2017	% Change
Population	39,623	43,268	9% Increase
Jobs	36,272	41,646	15% Increase
Business Licenses	2,240	2,357	5% Increase
Restaurants	115	142	23% Increase
Residential Building Permits	182	629	245% Increase
Commercial Building Permits	473	660	39% Increase
Code Enforcement Cases	568	1,695	198% Increase
Right-of-Way Work Orders	155	1,361	720% Increase

These are impressive increases, and there is more good news:

- 6.35% increase in the number of Housing Units, 16,055 (2012) vs. 17,062 (2017)
- 4.8% increase in our Median Home Prices: \$278,600 (2012) vs. 291,900 (2017)
- 216% increase in Building Permit Revenues: \$193,054 (2013) vs. \$610,939 (2017)
- 22% decrease in Office Vacancies: 25.1% (2014) vs. 19.6% (2017)

And since 2012, the city has invested:

- \$1,786,596 to build 4.5 miles of sidewalks
- \$6,412,000 to build or resurface 14.5 miles of roads (not including the Town Center)

Additionally, our city is home to 49 technology companies, 18 bio-tech businesses and 84 international companies.

### **Key Projects:**

Town Center – without vision – the 21-acre site in the heart of our community would have been developed into 267 garden-style apartments. Instead residents and visitors will enjoy a community gathering spot with a town green that will feature a performance stage, large outdoor screen, children's play area and a veteran's monument, a Cinebistro dinner theater, restaurants, including Firebirds and Marlowe's Tavern and 74 high-end townhomes, some that feature rooftop decks.

The city has also recently purchased a 5.762 tract of land adjacent to the Town Center which could be used to add a performing arts facility, expanded town green, events space, gallery space and offices.

As the city strives to become a more walkable community, we will also incorporate a safe means to cross over Peachtree Parkway. The traffic count on this busy state road is over 40,000 vehicles per day and that number is expected to increase to 50,000 within the next five years. The city has budgeted funds to build a pedestrian bridge that will lineup with the path of the multi-use trail at the Town Center.

The city's Town Center plans also inspired others. Currently plans for the property next to the Town Center includes a boutique hotel and a trendy urban-style midrise. And Echo Lakeside, a 267-unit complex under construction in Technology Park, is near completion. The complex is designed to attract millennials who work in Tech Park.

Work on the city's multi-use trail system continues; by the end of the year, you will be able to enjoy a leisurely stroll around a portion of Technology Park Lake. The 15-acre lake is located behind the office buildings fronting Technology Parkway and Technology Parkway South. Work is expected to begin this fall and the new section will tie in with the newly installed multi-use trail on Technology Parkway. Eventually the multi-use trail will link neighborhoods with the Town Center, office parks, retail shops and restaurants.

Green crosswalks have been added along Technology Parkway for pedestrian crossings and new pedestrian crossings have been added to Winters Chapel Road and East Jones Bridge Road.

### **Our future:**

In April, the City Council took its first steps into the driverless age by adopting a resolution approving \$2 million for the Autonomous Vehicle Project which will include the installation of a 1.4-mile test track to be installed on Technology Parkway.

Technology Parkway was selected as the ideal setting for its relative ease in reconfiguring an existing roadway to allow both passenger cars and autonomous vehicles to safely co-exist with minimal disruption.

The goal of this initiative is not ridership, but economic development. The economic implications of investing in advanced vehicle technology is far reaching. Self-driving vehicles will eventually employ sensors, cameras, radar, high-performance GPS, light detection and ranging (LIDAR), artificial intelligence undoubtedly attracting new and existing AV companies to our city.

Prototype Prime, the city's startup incubator, continues to expand at an impressive rate. Now home to 15 startup companies, Prototype Prime will be the headquarters for a new autonomous vehicle accelerator, the Advanced Vehicle Accelerator in conjunction with the new AV test track. And beginning in January 2019, the city's incubator will also offer a coding boot-camp through a partnership with Georgia Tech.

**Other future projects:**

- Begin the process of designing the next phase of the Town Center
- Begin construction of a traffic circle at Medlock Bridge Road and Peachtree Corners Circle
- Incentivize redevelopment of the Holcomb Bridge Road corridor
- Investigate the development of a trail along Crooked Creek
- Promote the establishment of additional educational facilities in the city
- Continue to enhance and add amenities to Technology Park with transportation, recreation, dining, housing and education

The City Council and I are committed to envisioning, guiding and managing the growth of our community. Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

I will end here with a quote from a famous American that is certainly apropos:

"The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress." (Charles Kettering)

***Mike Mason, Mayor***