

March 2019

From the Mayor's Desk

Town Center Update, New Planning Commission, ZBA Members and More News

Town Center

Construction on our new Town Center continues. As some of you have probably already discovered, a number of restaurants and several retail shops are already open including the newly-opened Cinebistro. And there are more to come: You may find a complete list on the city's website here. Work on the Town Green and Veterans Monument is underway, but the exceptionally rainy winter has delayed the progress. We do expect both to be complete in the next 6 weeks.

Our Town Center will be a wonderful gathering place for the community. The Town Green will include two open air pavilions, large oval-shaped lawn, performance stage, large screen TVs and café tables.

Be sure to check next month's e-newsletter for a save-the-date announcement with details on the grand opening celebration.

New Planning Commission, ZBA Members

Members who serve on the city's Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) are all residents who volunteer their time and talent to these important municipal bodies of our city government.

At our last city council meeting, we announced and welcomed several new members. Joining the Planning Commission is **Jim Blum**, (who moved from the ZBA board). Also joining as a new Planning Commission member is **Shanga White.** Blum and White are replacing **Mark Middleton** and **Italia Metts** who have served on the Planning Commission for the past seven years. We thank Mark and Italia for their service to the City. **Lance Campbell** and **Joseph Collins** will serve as alternates on the Planning Commission.

The new ZBA members are **James Kucik** (replacing Jim Blum) along with **Jed DeLong** and **Sherry Ferguson**, both who will serve as alternates. Our thanks to Jim Blum, who served on the ZBA for the past seven years (and now serving on the Planning Commission).

Prototype Prime Grant

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration announced recently that it would award a \$1.8 million grant to the city to expand <u>Prototype Prime</u> in recognition of the economic impact of a startup incubator in launching new businesses and creating new jobs.

This is exciting news for the city. This grant will allow the city's incubator to further enhance the impact of economic development in Peachtree Corners. The grant will fund the acquisition of the property which, in turn, will allow Prototype Prime to further develop and attract early stage software and hardware startup companies.

Looking ahead

We have much to look forward to in the coming year, the opening of the Town Center, the continued work on the multi-use trails, and this month we expect to begin construction on Technology Parkway to convert the 1.5-mile road to accommodate the Curiosity™ Lab at Peachtree Corners, an intelligent vehicle test track that will be used to develop and test self-driving shuttles.

New businesses continue to open and relocate in Peachtree Corners. <u>CarMax</u> just announced it will open a Customer Experience Center bringing over 300 new jobs to our city and <u>Brightree</u>, a cloud-based software company, is relocating its headquarters to Technology Park. The company will move from Lawrenceville into the former Honeywell property which is being completely renovated into trendy loft office spaces.

The City Council and I thank you for your continued support. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Our contact information is located on the city's website, www.peachtreecornersga.gov – just click on the link at the top of the page labeled "Contact Us."

Sincerely

Mike Mason, Mayor