



From the Mayor's Desk

December 2020

Despite the health crisis, and economic problems facing our country, Peachtree Corners is still strong. We are considered a regional job hub with a host of technology and life sciences companies. Companies are attracted to our innovation and investments we are making in quality-of-life areas. As we head into 2021, let's look back on our economic "wins."

The investments that these companies have made are important. This community was founded around Technology Park. As such, it is central to the city's vitality. Allow me to share some of the economic development activity we have seen in the last couple of years.

Mass Mutual, a Fortune 500 wealth management company, moved its 110 employees to Davinci Court. They liked the location and many of their employees live in the area. CarMax, a Fortune 100 company, opened its customer experience center, creating more than 300 jobs. They recently announced they are hiring 230 more. This is all part of a national expansion. They selected a building on Ga 141 for its easy access.

Representatives from Crawford & Company, the world's largest independent claims management company with offices in 70 countries, liked what they saw in Peachtree Corners. They toured various places in Atlanta. Crawford opened its new corporate headquarters a 5335 Triangle Parkway, a \$15 million capital investment that created 500 jobs. They moved from Perimeter Center. The CEO said he liked the pro-business environment in Peachtree Corners and that the city offered a good value, quality of life, and convenient access to major roads.

ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, are bringing 120 employees to 180 Technology Parkway and spending \$15 million on renovation. They expect to open this spring. The leadership liked the pricing, amenities, the setting with the lake and the amount of land for the money. They also liked the pro-technology mindset of the city, as they are creating a "Net Zero Energy" building, using solar energy and other new technology.

You may remember United Arab Shipping Company, which merged with Hapag-Lloyd, one of the largest shipping companies in the world. Hapag-Lloyd expanded its operations on Spalding and Peachtree Parkway after the merger. The company invested \$4.5 million in the building, creating 363 new jobs and retaining 178 jobs.

Mizuno moved its operations from Avalon Ridge to Northwoods Parkway. They opted to stay in Peachtree Corners, which we were so glad to hear. This opened up some space for a potential logistics operation, which we will provide more detail on shortly.

Fleetcor, unfortunately moved their operation to Buckhead. But they did keep about 200 employees in Peachtree Corners. They relocated from Spalding Ridge to Peachtree Parkway.

Parkside Partners came in and repurposed 125 Technology Parkway, a project known as “The Bureau.” They attracted Brightree Software company, which makes cloud-based software for healthcare. Parkside Partners saw the positive development happening here. They saw an established business community, attractive demographics, good access and a building that could be repositioned. Brightree, the first tenant, was very interested in Curiosity Lab, and the CEO called the Peachtree Corners business community a “hub of strong technology leaders.”

Soliant, a healthcare staffing business, moved its national headquarters to 5550 Peachtree Parkway this year bringing more than 400 employees. They signed a 10-year lease. The CEO stated that the new headquarters, “will put us in close proximity to progressive tech resources.” Siemens moved people from two buildings on Triangle Parkway to 3617 Parkway Lane, putting \$6 million into renovation. They kept a building on Triangle. There are more than 400 people who work out of the Siemens offices here.

Intuitive Surgical, which makes robotic, surgical systems, is spending \$1.2 million to renovate space at 5655 Spalding Drive. The company also has three properties in the 3700 block of Data Drive.

There have been other projects, but you get the idea. On the retail front, things are hard. The small business grants, as well as federal loans have helped a lot of businesses. And we’ve been thankful for the funding. The Forum has a list of open spaces. Some of these stores were struggling before the pandemic, but the crisis dealt the final blow. We are working to get these spaces filled. There are two open spaces at the Town Center. If there are businesses you would like to see, let us know. We can make some calls.

A large shopping center at 7050 Jimmy Carter Blvd. sold this year to Skyline Seven, which has been signing some new leases. There will be an American Deli, Ultimo Tax Pro, Black Autumn Painting, and a medical supply company. We are keeping in touch with the owners of various shopping centers around town and trying to keep them filled as well.

Overall, it has been a tough year, as well all know, personally and economically for a lot of people. We are grateful for the large companies that recognize what the city has to offer. I hope this recap has given you some information about the state of business in Peachtree Corners and perhaps some encouragement that the city is in good shape.

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