



From the Mayor's Desk

December 2019

The Year in Review – Another Banner Year for Peachtree Corners

2019 has been a great year for our city. We have yet to reach our 10th anniversary but have accomplished much since 2012 when Peachtree Corners was incorporated.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the city's many accomplishments over the past 12 months.

Before I begin a look back – I want to remind you of the **upcoming 2020 U.S. Census** that will begin April 1. This will be the first time our city has been involved in a Census. The last one was held in 2010, two years before we became a city. Please be sure to participate, it takes only a few minutes to complete. The data collected is used to help local governments determine where school and public safety funds should be directed, where federal funding is distributed to cities like ours and reapportion your representation in Congress. Watch for more information in the coming months.

- **Town Center Grand Opening:** Our long-awaited Town Center officially opened on April 27 to great fanfare. The all-day celebration featured a ribbon-cutting, a parade led by the Norcross High School Marching Band, a Children's Plaza dedication and recognition of the city's Veterans Monument. The afternoon was filled with strolling musicians, stilt-walkers, balloon sculpture artists, food and drink, a live concert and a remarkable drone show. Since its opening just seven months ago, it's become a wonderful gathering place for our community.
- **Curiosity Lab Debuts:** Our second big grand opening took place in September when Curiosity Lab at Peachtree Corners made its debut. The 1.5-mile 5G enabled autonomous vehicle and smart city test track, which runs along Technology Parkway, has already started to attract new technology-based businesses to test robotics, artificial intelligence, intelligent mobility and other applications to test in real-world conditions. Curiosity Lab is a major step forward in the city's continued efforts to revitalize Tech Park which is an important driver of economic development for our city.
- **Veterans Monument Dedicated:** On June 15 the community gathered at the Town Green to celebrate the dedication of its new veterans' monument. It was a culmination of a years-long dream that began in 2015. The city will be forever grateful to the dedicated board members led by Peachtree Corners resident Bob Ballagh, a retired

Army colonel, and the nearly 50 volunteers for the countless hours they spent overseeing the monument and sculpture design, fundraising and outreach efforts.

- **City Street Resurfacing:** Over 7 miles of city streets were resurfaced this year, and more residential and subdivision streets are scheduled for resurfacing in 2020.
- **New Sidewalks Installed:** Nearly 2.5 miles of sidewalks have been installed in the community, with additional sidewalks planned for 2020.
- **Intersection Improvement:** This year the traffic roundabout on Medlock Bridge Road and Peachtree Corners Circle was completed. The intersection was reconfigured to reduce traffic backups and keep traffic moving. The roundabout was chosen over a traffic light primarily for safety reasons. The roundabout also allows for a greater volume of traffic through the intersection while minimizing delays.
- **Pedestrian Bridge Construction Begins:** At last, construction is underway on the pedestrian bridge. When complete, it will provide safe passage over S.R. 141 for residents and visitors walking from The Forum side of the street to the Town Center. Work is scheduled to continue for the next 12 to 14 months. The bridge is a steel, thrust arch bridge, its design is intended to be a tribute to Jones Bridge, which for nearly a century stretched across the Chattahoochee River.
- **Fiserv Property Sold for 55+ Community:** The 115 acres located on East Jones Bridge Road that was once occupied by Fiserv sold just recently and will be developed as a home development for residents age 55 and over. The new age-restricted development is expected to break ground in early 2020 and will offer condominiums, townhomes and single-family homes. This is important for our community. As our population ages, we want to make sure that housing is available for our citizens.
- **Economic Development News:** A strong, thriving business community ensures that our property values continue to rise as the city prospers with robust economic development activity. This year two Fortune 500 companies, **CarMax** and **Mass Mutual** opened offices in our city bringing a combined 400+ jobs here. Additionally, **Brightree**, a cloud-based software company announced it would move its headquarters from Lawrenceville into the former Honeywell building in Technology Park. **Hapag-Lloyd** announced it would invest \$5.5 million to expand its offices here and **ASHRAE** announced it would move its world headquarters to Technology Park, occupying the former Recall building. The company plans to invest \$15.7 million to retrofit the 1970s-era building. This is excellent news for our city as we continue our efforts to reinvigorate Technology Park and attract top-tiered businesses to Peachtree Corners.
- **Tree City USA Recognition:** For the fourth consecutive year, our city was honored as one of the state's "Tree City USA" communities. The award recognizes the city's commitment for caring for and managing its public trees. Our citizens who make up the city's Green Committee are to be commended for their efforts.
- **Name-the-Trail Winner Announced:** When we began the plans for the city's multi-use trail, we also wanted to give it a special name. We solicited ideas from the community

and received over 150 entries. Resident Randy Gilbert came up with the winning name, "Corners Connector." We will soon be opening a new portion of the trail that partially rings Technology Park and will hold a ribbon-cutting to celebrate.

- **City Receives Distinguished Budget Awards:** Peachtree Corners was honored to receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second straight year. Presented by the Government Finance Officers Association, the award represents a significant achievement by the city's Finance Department.
- **New Peachtree Corners-Focused Magazine Debuts:** There is a lot going on in our community, so we were excited when we learned last year that a bi-monthly print publication focused on our city was going to begin publishing in 2019. The Peachtree Corners Magazine is mailed to every home in the city and is also distributed at points around the city.
- **New Waste Hauler Begins Offering Service:** After learning that the former hauler would be raising its rates beginning in 2019, the city put the contract out for bid and found a new service that would provide garbage pickup and recycling service to our citizens. Waste Management's bid was the lowest and offered upgrades such as new garbage trucks and technology to ensure there would be no missed pickups.

We are fortunate to live in a flourishing city. As 2020 approaches, the City Council and I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year. Together, we will ensure our city remains one of the best communities to live, work, play and learn.

Happy Holidays

Mike Mason, Mayor