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Gwinnett Opinions: MY VIEW: Gwinnett Place area proud of upgrades

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The busy holiday season brings with it a heightened interest in finding that perfect gift or the right location to hold an extra-special family or corporate gathering.

The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District has been busy making changes and upgrades just in time for the holidays. We've been removing illegal signs and collecting trash in the public right of ways. We've been maintaining area landscaping and planning for long-range traffic upgrades — including replacing the Pleasant Hill Road/I-85 bridge. We've also been crafting a redevelopment strategy to transform the area into Gwinnett's urban center. The Gwinnett Place CID is working full time to support the vibrant and energetic community, which has its center in the Pleasant Hill Road retail district.

We believe this year's holiday season will be one of the most exciting in the history of Gwinnett Place as families visit our retail stores, hotels, restaurants and other attractions. Just a short drive from your home, you can choose from thousands of shopping venues at this impressive Gwinnett retail super center, and you are sure to find something for everyone on your holiday list.

While you are shopping, we hope you will treat yourself to one-of-a-kind dining, from the grand to fast food. And, if you have guests coming in town for the holidays, be sure to check out one of Gwinnett Place's hotels, with first-class amenities, great location and value.

Those coming to Gwinnett Place will find many new stores as well as renovated establishments that you have enjoyed for years. Our area is benefiting from millions of dollars in reinvestments being made by commercial property owners and business leaders that realize the strength of Gwinnett's retail super center. Businesses are finding success at Gwinnett Place and are making a reinvestment back into the area.

The CID itself is meeting the communitywide enhancement needs of the district. Among the improvements that area commercial property owners have funded are streetscape enhancements such as colorful "welcome" banners along all of our major roadways. There are new gateway monuments, along with new sidewalks, to make the area more pedestrian friendly. We have added enhanced landscaping along the roadways and at the ramps along Steve Reynolds Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. Of

course, we continue to plan for the complete reconstruction of the Pleasant Hill Road/I-85 interchange into a new single-point urban interchange.

Business leaders are eager to share in the excitement of everything taking place in greater Gwinnett Place. At the forefront of the CID's efforts are the members of its board of directors: Marcy Adams of the Atlanta Marriott-Gwinnett Place, Casey Coffey of Gwinnett Place Ford and Gwinnett Place Nissan, James "Nick" Nicolosi of Simon Property Group/Gwinnett Place, Tom Wheeler of Wheeler/Kolb Management Company, Leo Wiener of Glenwood Development Company LLC and Glenn Wisdom of J.C. Penney.

And our board of directors invites you to let us know what you think about the Gwinnett Place District. We invite you to visit GwinnettPlaceCID.com to participate in an on-line survey that will help guide our efforts as we take Gwinnett Place to even greater success in the heart of Gwinnett County.

Once again, the Gwinnett Place CID invites you and your friends to join us this holiday season and rediscover just how much excitement awaits you this close to home.

Mark Williams is chairman of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District board of directors.

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