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WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome Virtual Peachtree's!

On July 5, 2019 – the day after 50th Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race – I remember thinking that we would never be able to deliver the 51st Peachtree in a way that could be as special, unique and memorable as the celebration we had just enjoyed.

My thoughts were surprisingly prophetic and immeasurably wrong at the same time.

As I write this on November 2, I can confirm that the preparations for the 2020 AJC Peachtree Road Race have been extraordinarily difficult. However, as a result of COVID-19, this edition of the event will likely be remembered as THE most special, unique and memorable of any of the 51 editions of the race.

As you prepare for and participate in the first Virtual Running of the World's Largest 10K, please know that Atlanta Track Club recognizes that this format was not what anyone had in mind when registration opened back on March 15. With everything that 2020 has brought us, that would be impossible, unwise and unsafe. It most certainly wasn't what Atlanta Track Club had in mind, either. But we have proudly packaged this Thanksgiving weekend event in a way that respects the traditions of the race for those of you who have known and revered it as the Atlanta treasure it has long been while at the same time giving the rest of the world a chance to see, hear and feel what the Peachtree is all about: unity, and everyone working together toward a common goal even when the physical finish lines are miles – even thousands of miles – apart.

From your finisher's T-shirt to the mayor's welcome to your official results to a shared experience with tens of thousands of your best friends, we hope you'll embrace this once-in-a-lifetime (we sincerely hope) move to a socially distanced, GPS-driven, digitally shared autumn Peachtree.

Thank you for believing in the power of this race to bring Atlanta and the rest of the world together. As we look forward to the 52nd Running of the Peachtree, please know that your commitment to the race during these most uncertain of times allows us to get ready for 2021.

Yes, we are thankful for Peachtree this Thanksgiving.

Be safe,

Rich Kenah





KEEPING AN ATLANTA TRADITION AND GIVING IT NEW MEANING

By Barbara Huebner

Grace Stephens once lived a four-minute walk from the start line of the AJC Peachtree Road Race. But she's running it this year for the first time – in London.

"There were many years I thought about running it over the past decade but, for whatever reason, it didn't work out," she wrote in an email. "I love that it has a connection for me being from Georgia, and still having a lot of family there who I won't be able to be with over Thanksgiving."

So although her "course" will feature the Tower Bridge instead of Lenox Square, the River Thames instead of Cardiac Hill, the Houses of Parliament instead of the Shepherd Center and the London Eye instead of Piedmont Park, it will have a comforting touch of home.

Yes, the Peachtree is supposed to be on July 4, as it has been for the past 50 years. Yes, we're supposed to be joining 60,000 of our closest friends through the streets of Atlanta in a joyous celebration that both influences and reflects the character of the city.

No, there's not supposed to be a coronavirus pandemic. But there is, forcing first a postponement of the Peachtree to Thanksgiving Day and then a transition to the Virtual Running.

"The silver lining is that we will be able to embrace people from around the world who normally wouldn't be able to travel to Atlanta," said Rich Kenah, race director and executive director of Atlanta Track Club. "Whether it's giving people their first taste of the Peachtree, bringing an Atlanta tradition to people from our community – runners, walkers, volunteers, spectators – who might be living overseas in these trying times or offering a way for our longtime participants to keep their streaks alive, we're glad that a Virtual Running is an option."

All 50 states, including the District of Columbia,



U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and 31 countries – from Aruba to Western Sahara – are represented among the entrants.

The decision to go virtual was not an easy one, but the discussion on whether to cancel the Peachtree entirely was quickly dismissed as a non-starter.

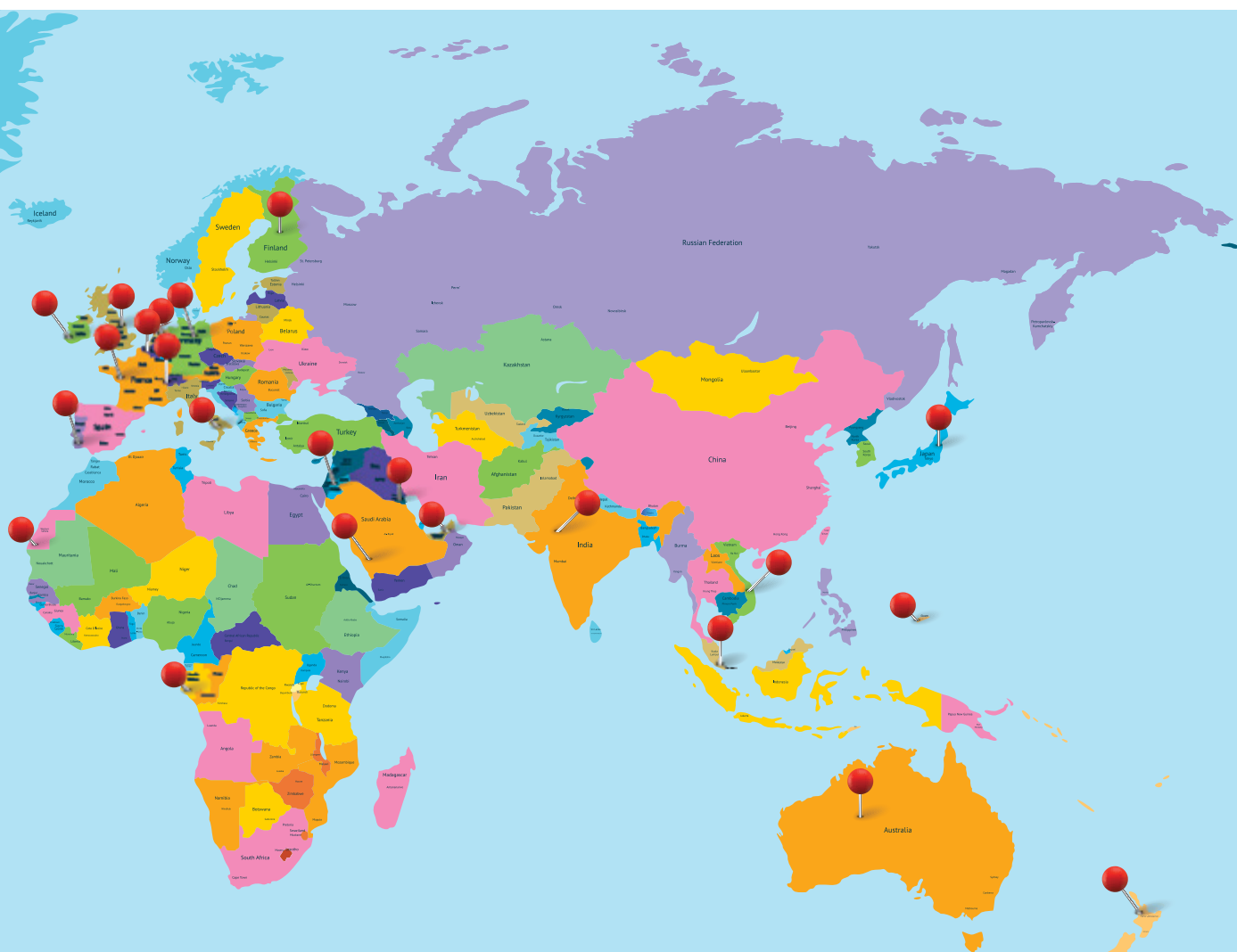
“The 45,000 people who registered [in March] hoping they would have the usual Peachtree experience in 2020 did so while the world was turning upside down, but those 45,000 people still had the interest to register,” said Kenah. “We recognize that, even though we believe the virtual event will be something special, it is going to fall short of their original expectations. I can’t tell you how much we appreciate the many participants

who understand and have stuck with the Club through these craziest of times. Just as the faithful didn’t give up on us, we didn’t give up on them and together we’ve found a way to keep the tradition alive.”

That’s not to say a few tweaks weren’t in order.

At first, organizers set the Virtual Running for Thanksgiving Day only, but expanded the window to November 26-29 after feedback from entrants. As always, there will be age-group awards and prizes for the fastest runners in the open division, but there is no invited elite-athlete field.

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VIRTUAL PIONEERS, REAL HEROES

One aspect of the AJC Peachtree Road Race has been virtual since 2004 – the military races.

The initiative began in Baghdad, Iraq, when a lieutenant colonel who had run the Peachtree back home got the idea to replicate it at Camp Victory. He called Julia Emmons, former executive director of Atlanta Track Club to pitch the idea, and at 9:30 p.m. on July 3 – 5:30 a.m. July 4 in Baghdad

– 250 military personnel in the Overseas Division took their first steps in the inaugural event.

This year, about 1,500 will participate “within the wire” on bases in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, earning a Peachtree T-shirt to go along with the respect and gratitude of Atlanta Track Club and the nation.



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THE PEACHTREE GOES VIRTUAL



Grace Stephens in London



Atlanta Track Club staff members and volunteers spent hundreds of hours assembling race packets.

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Without the time and roadway constraints of the traditional Peachtree, both the Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division and the push-assist division have been able to expand to include athletes who might not be able to meet the usual qualifying standards, making the event even-more inclusive.

“The Shepherd Center has been one of the pioneers in wheelchair-racing inclusion, and the virtual event format has opened things up for racers of all levels to participate,” said Daniel Romanchuk, three-time Peachtree winner and the course record-holder, who himself will be racing the virtual. “It’s great that beginning racers and push-assist duos are getting the chance to experience Peachtree this year.”

And then there are the T-shirts. Usually, their design is a well-kept secret until the first finisher crosses the line in Piedmont Park. This year, race organizers wanted participants to be able to wear them as they ran, to forge a stronger connection with the race and with each other. So the T-shirts, along with race bibs and sponsor gifts, were shipped – at the cost of almost \$500,000 – after weeks of labor by staff members and volunteers who assembled about 45,000 packets by hand, the old-fashioned way. Many other traditions will be delivered via the modern wonder of an app that offers almost every race experience except humidity (FAQs, Page 10).

“As the race director, I wanted nothing more than to offer an in-person Peachtree,” said Kenah. “But short of that, the next best thing is an authentic Peachtree experience, delivered through the sights and sounds of running your 10K with thousands

of your best friends, and this is that. We’re trying to deliver the elements of the usual experience so that your imagination doesn’t have to work that hard.”

Among the many features of the app will be a way to unite with those “best friends” via the images and videos everyone can contribute, which will lend evidence to being part of the largest 10K community in the world in likely the biggest virtual event of its kind ever held.

Volunteers who had already signed up to work the in-person Peachtree were given the option to become Virtual Volunteers. But those who wanted “to show the love and support they are famous for,” as Volunteer Manager Tina Sjogren put it, were urged to post encouraging messages and video on social media or be a personal cheerleader and support person for a friend or family member who is participating.

They were also urged to participate in “10K Acts of Kindness,” spending what would have been their Peachtree time volunteering for or donating to other nonprofits and then share their stories with the Club.

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THE PEACHTREE GOES VIRTUAL

Continued from Page 7

“Seeing a handful of our volunteers in person over the past month, I can tell you it’s like reuniting with long-lost family,” said Sjogren. “I’m looking forward to the biggest family reunion ever in 2021!”

Ah, next year. Without revenue from the virtual, there may have been little chance for a “next year.” With about 15,000 fewer Peachtree entrants than usual, and the Club unable to create revenue for most of 2020 from any of its other events, staff would have needed to be cut. With fewer – perhaps many fewer – staff members to plan and execute it, the 52nd AJC Peachtree Road Race would have been hanging by a fraying thread. (As it is, everyone on the staff of Atlanta Track Club is already taking a furlough of at least four weeks.)

“The Club would have been forever changed,” said Kenah. “We’ve spent a lot of money to make a virtual Peachtree happen this year to come as close to possible to having a real Peachtree event in 2021.”

As for Stephens, now working in London after earning an MBA from Oxford University, she’s still hoping to return and do the “real” Peachtree someday. But for this year, from across the Atlantic, she’ll be relying on the app to jog her memories even as she creates new ones.

“I grew up in Macon, went to Georgia Tech for undergrad and worked for a bit in Midtown Atlanta afterwards, so I grew up knowing about the Peachtree Road Race,” she said. “I literally ran Peachtree Road and Peachtree Street as my main running route after work every day for a year!”

“I think we all need something to look forward to – London is very dark, rainy, and cold right now! – and the virtual Peachtree Road Race this year is definitely providing that for me.”



Bill Thorn, the only person who has completed every Peachtree, was the first person to receive the 2020 T-shirt.

THE ART OF THE START (AND FINISH)

Whether you’re running in Atlanta, Albuquerque or Auckland, you’ve got to start and finish somewhere. So why not get creative, and maybe win a prize for your efforts?

In the Start/Finish Line Contest Built by Home Depot, participants in the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race can show off how they’re building their start and finish lines to vie for gift cards that will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Use paint, chalk and any other creative materials you can find and share your photos on social media using #prstartfinish and #ajcpr.

After narrowing the submissions down to 10, we’ll put it out to a social media vote.



GROUNDBREAKING APP IS BIG PART OF THE EXPERIENCE

By Jay Holder

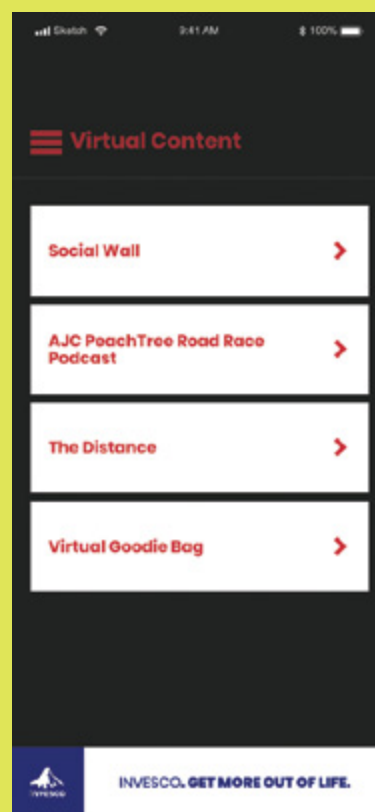
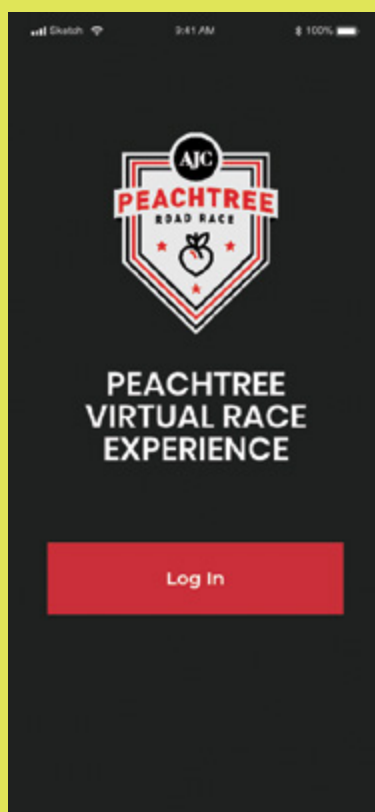
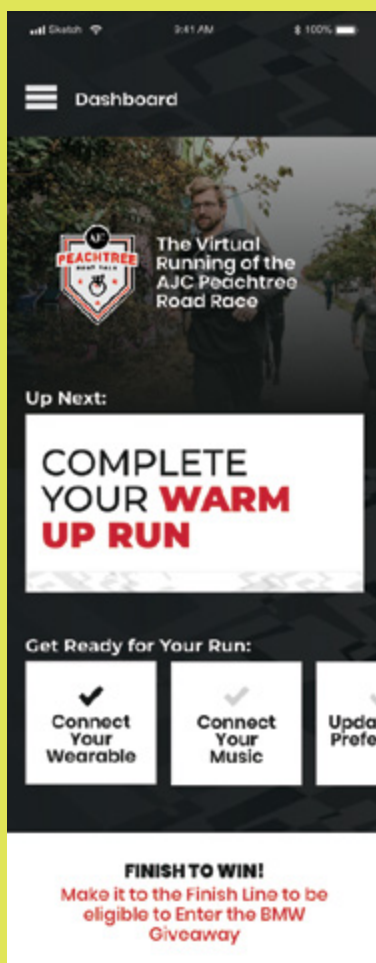
The Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race will utilize a smartphone app to deliver the authentic Peachtree experience to this year's participants no matter where they might be running. The app is accessible only to registered runners and walkers and will provide the sounds of the Peachtree, your virtual race kit including a bib, cheer signs and finish line tape, live tracking for your friends and family, the official Peachtree playlist and more. You can find the complete guide to the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race app at atlantatrackclub.org/peachtree. Here are the main things you need to know.

Where do I get the app?

Search for "AJC Peachtree Road Race" on iTunes or in the Google Play Store. It's free, but you will need to use the email address attached to your race registration to log in to the app once it's downloaded.

What can I do with it before race weekend?

Plot out your route and go for a practice run using the Michelob Ultra Warm Up Run, print out cheer signs from friends and family, check out the deals in our Virtual Goody Bag and shop for official race merchandise.



OK, so what can I expect on race day?

The Official Run function of the app will be available Thursday, November 26-Sunday, November 29. When you're ready to run, log in. Your race will start with an official welcome from Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and the singing of the National Anthem by the winners of the "Oh Say Can You Sing" contest on 11Alive. If you're ready to go, you can skip over this at any point.

Before you start, make sure location services are enabled on your phone, because the app will use your GPS.

When you start your timer, fire up the official Peachtree playlist for a mix of songs to keep your arms, legs and heart pumping!

As you begin to run or walk, the app will let you know where you would be on the actual AJC Peachtree Road Race course. Familiar voices like those of Dean Sam Candler, Olympic

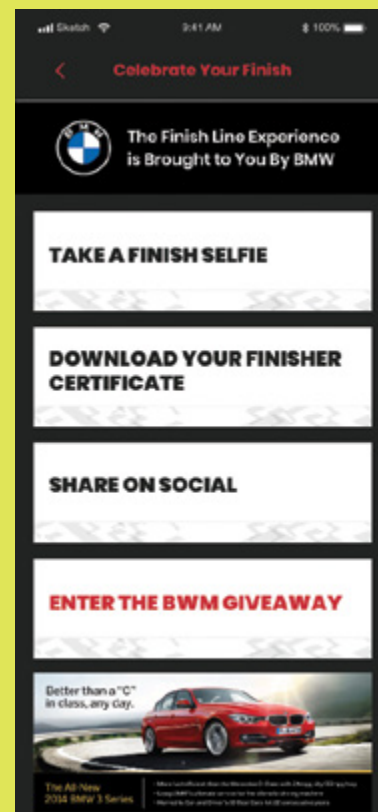
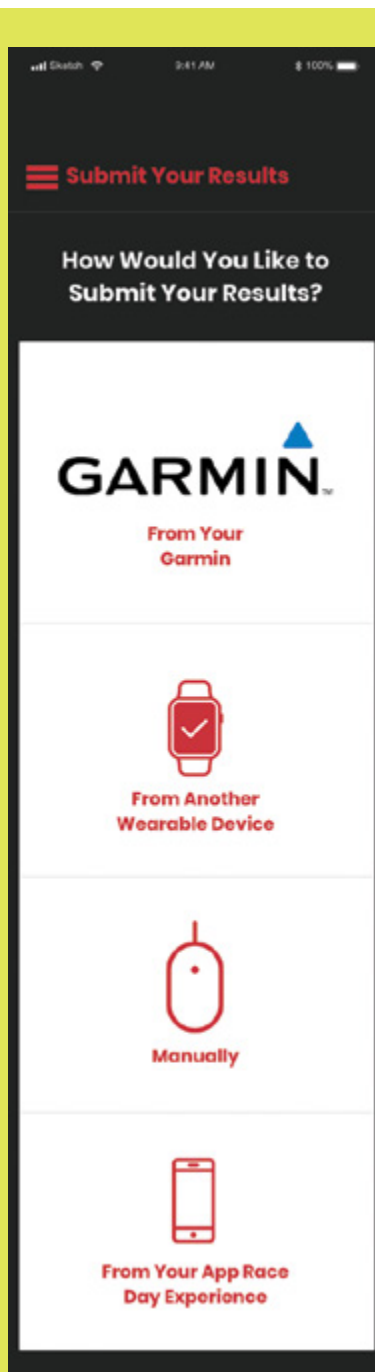
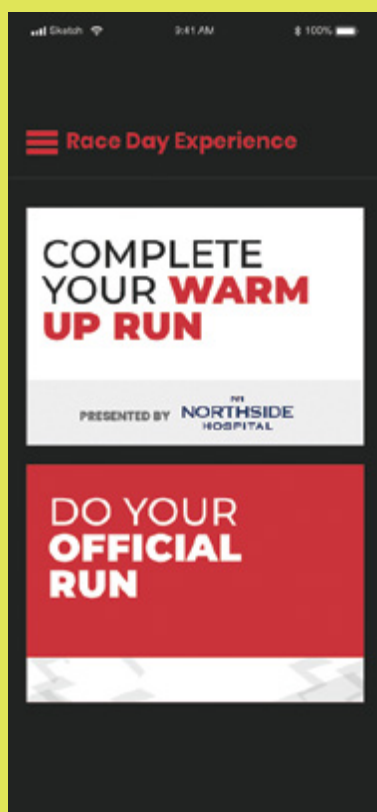
Marathon Trials Champion (and 2017 Peachtree champion) Aliphine Tuliamuk and Olympic medalist Meb Keflezighi will greet you as you pass by landmarks known to every Peachtree runner, such as the Cathedral of St. Philip, the Shepherd Center and the turn from Peachtree onto 10th Street.

When you cross the finish line, you can upload your results to the event's results page either through the app or from a GPS device. You can also manually enter your results at the web link emailed to all participants.

Make sure you download your finisher certificate and badge and snap a selfie!

How can my family and friends be part of my Peachtree experience?

Open up the "spectator tracking" tool and share with your friends and family via email or SMS text message (standard rates will apply). You can also print our cheer cards for your friends and family to use along your route.



A VIRTUAL VILLAGE, AROUND THE CORNER OR AROUND THE WORLD

By Barbara Huebner

ALONG THE SEA OF JAPAN and WACO, TEXAS

Suzu, Ishikawa, Japan. Google it. It's on the northeastern tip of the remote Noto Peninsula, a land mass surrounded on three sides by the Sea of Japan. A 20-hour flight/train/flight/drive from Atlanta, if you're lucky and you don't count layovers. With a population of about 15,000 and a breathtaking national park within its municipal border.

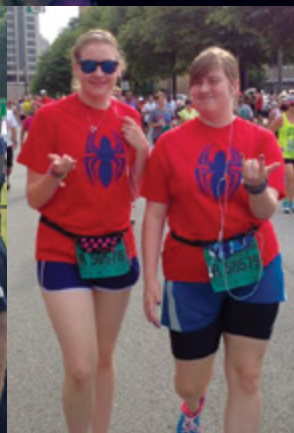
It is also, this year, the site of the AJC Peachtree Road Race.

That's thanks to Sarah Baughn, who grew up in Cumming, Georgia, but is living in Suzu, teaching English and American culture on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program. When the 25-year-old tells the locals about her hometown, she shows them a photo of her running the Peachtree with her sister, Hannah.

Her first experience with the Peachtree was watching her father run it in 2010. "My entire family went to cheer him on, and I remember how much fun it was to watch," she wrote in an email.

But maybe not so much fun to get up so early.

"I remember my two daughters sound asleep on MARTA, and sitting on the sidewalk leaning against each other," said her father, Bobby, who has run every year since.



In 2013, the whole family ran, including wife Jan in her “one and only” Peachtree. With extended family, the group totaled eight, and split themselves up according to pace. Sarah wasn’t feeling great and ended up walking with her mom. The next day, the young lady was diagnosed with mononucleosis.

It’s not the way, Sarah says, that she would recommend doing the Peachtree. Nonetheless, she bounced back to run the race a few more times and calls it one of her favorite traditions. When she saw that the event was going virtual for 2020, “I thought it would be an awesome opportunity to do the same race with my dad even though we’re very far apart.”

As it turns out, the move to virtual is what’s allowing Bobby to run this year, too, because he’ll be not in Atlanta but in Texas, visiting his wife’s family for Thanksgiving.

“I was excited to see that she wanted to do it with her dad,” said Bobby, who hasn’t seen his daughter since she left on July 27, 2019 – yes, of course he recalls the exact date – largely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. “She’s been gone a long time.”

He hopes that, logistically, he will be able to do his Peachtree in Waco at the same time his daughter is doing hers along the Sea of Japan coast, even though the 14-hour time difference means Bobby would likely be running at 2 or 3 a.m.

“One of us,” he said, “is going to have to do it in the dark, so better it be me.”

MARTA STATION TO MARTA STATION



In a normal Peachtree year, participants by the tens of thousands swarm MARTA stations as they eagerly head to the start line at Lenox Square or make their weary way home from the finish line at Piedmont Park.

Gena Major is usually one of them. But this year, the Decatur woman is taking a new track: running her Peachtree from one station to another, along a path that takes in six stations altogether.

The creative and practical route was enough to earn Major the Best Point-to-Point award in the Virtual Peachtree’s Superlative Route Contest.

“This route is an easy run,” she wrote in her entry, adding that it’s “also scalable in that you can stop at any of the stations for a shorter run and still ride the train back.” Plus, she pointed out, there’s a “smart” bathroom at the Decatur station that can be accessed with a Breeze card.



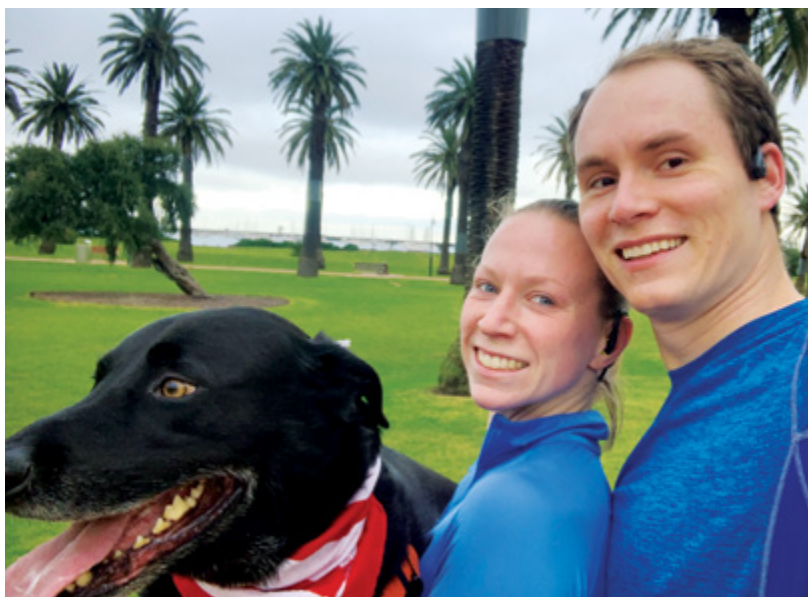
Starting at Avondale, which offers free parking, the route heads to Decatur Station (0.7 miles), Eastlake (2.0), Edgewood/Candler Park (3.8) and Inman Park/Reynoldstown (4.6) before the finish line at King Memorial – near the popular Breakfast at Barney’s, she points out.

Even before she became Assistant General Manager of Safety and Quality Assurance for the transit authority, Major was using the stations to plan routes. When she was a run lead for Black Girls Run, the group would often meet at Eastlake and then “mix it up” for destinations. A 15K Memorial Day run one year finished at Indian Creek Station, going mostly along PATH’s Stone Mountain Trail.

The Eastlake station, Major said, is her favorite from which to start a destination run. “You can head east to Decatur and Avondale, where there’s so much to do, or west to Georgia State, with plenty of coffee shops and places to get a sandwich.”

Major, who ran her first AJC Peachtree Road Race in 2011 and joined Atlanta Track Club in 2013, traditionally begins race morning at Eastlake, getting off at Lenox for the start, and then making her way with throngs of other tired finishers back to Midtown. But last year, for the first time, MARTA offered buses at 12th and Peachtree to Lindbergh Station after the race.

“THAT was awesome,” she said.



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

After Richard and Elizabeth Cornelius finished the 50th Running of AJC Peachtree Road Race, they followed their standard routine – going back to their Midtown apartment, getting cleaned up and then heading back to their traditional hangout on 10th Street for a bite to eat to watch the end of the race with other family members who participated.

“It’s really neat to see the last few people come in,” said Elizabeth. “It was strange not having Jason’s Deli on the Fourth of July this year.”

Instead, they had the sand in Melbourne, Australia, where they ran what they called “The Beachtree” with their black lab, Seeley – trading the customary Atlanta heat and humidity on July 4 for the chilly wind of an Australian winter day. They weren’t the only Peachtree alums out there, either, if the Run ATL and Peachtree T-shirts they saw on two other runners were any indication.

“Rich and I were elbowing each other, ‘look, look!’” she recalled.

The couple, who moved to Melbourne just weeks after last year’s race for Richard’s job as a management consultant, were happy to get out at all.

Until recently, Melbourne was under one of the strictest lockdown policies in the world because of COVID-19. For months, residents of the city weren’t allowed to travel more than 5K from their homes without a permit and couldn’t leave the city, subject to roadway checkpoints when they reached what was known as the “ring of steel” leading to regional Victoria. Neither could they leave the house at will, with limits of first one and then two hours a day – although Seeley’s outdoor needs did grant them some leeway.

Fortunately for the running couple, their away-from-home boundary included not only a 2K loop around a park across

the street, but also a 5K loop around Albert Park Lake and the beach along Port Phillip Bay.

“After a while, you kind of get used to it,” said Elizabeth of the extreme lockdown measures. She was, however, grateful to be sprung in mid-October and able to buy some baby books for her newborn first nephew back in Atlanta. When her brother and sister-in-law do their Virtual Running, it will likely be one of the first runs back for the new mom after giving birth.

Running last year’s Peachtree was bittersweet, said Elizabeth, knowing they would miss the race in 2020.

“Then when it came out that it was going to be virtual, we were excited,” she said, noting that they had just received their race kits in the mail with the “2020” bibs.

She pronounced that “a nice touch.”

MEXICO and GREENVILLE, S.C.

When Ron Logan learned that plans for the 2020 AJC Peachtree Road Race had been finalized, he sent the registration link to the fastest guy in his running group.

Who lives in Mexico.





Victor Malpica and Chewei

Logan, 79, will be running for the 48th time. Victor Malpica, 56, will be making his Peachtree debut. One lives in South Carolina; the other in Querétaro. The former has apparently explained T-shirt protocol to the latter.

“I think I need to finish the race to wear it,” said Malpica, who nonetheless made an exception for the photo.

The two met through Michelin, which has its North American headquarters in Greenville. That’s where Logan worked for decades before retiring, and where Malpica was assigned for about five years. A running group there has met twice a week for 25 or 30 years, and eight or nine of the members plan to do their Virtual Running on the Saturday after Thanksgiving as a 5K out-and-back on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Malpica hopes to arrange his schedule accordingly. “I’m excited to be running at the same time as my colleagues,” he said. Having driven through Atlanta, he added, “I can imagine that I am running there.”

After all these decades, Logan doesn’t need to use much imagination. He can still remember his first Peachtree, when he drove over from Statesboro, Georgia; he recalls just a single lane of traffic blocked off for the race and that he and his wife, Lauren, had a nice weekend in Atlanta.

He also remembers once postponing surgery to keep the

streak alive, and the year that he and Lauren drove the 150 miles from Greenville on July 3 and, just as they arrived at their hotel near the starting line, realized that he’d left his race bib at home.

“I left her at the hotel, turned around and drove back,” he said.

At least he didn’t leave it at Malpica’s house.

OAHU or ATLANTA

Mike Anderson is the epitome of an old-school runner who has also come to firmly embrace the current world of virtual racing.

Anderson, 62, still logs his miles – more than 135,00 of them since 1978 – in paper logbooks. In fact, he thinks that total probably sells him short, because many of the miles were covered before the days of GPS devices.

“I probably underestimated how far I was going, because I was probably running faster than I thought,” said the Atlanta Track Club Masters Team member.

Most of those miles were also logged before there was such



Mike Andrews at the Boston Marathon finish line

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Coca-Cola
zero SUGAR

Continued from Page 15

thing as virtual races. But Anderson, a lifelong competitive runner who now frequently scores age group and age-graded wins, has already run the Boston Marathon this year and is now preparing for the Peachtree – two of the biggest virtual races in the country.

When this year's Boston Marathon was moved to September and then ultimately made the transition to virtual, the human resources manager for DHL in Atlanta at first had no interest. Then, he learned that a group of teammates from the Greater Lowell Road Runners planned to safely run the famed course on Labor Day. (Anderson lives in Atlanta but keeps an active membership in the Boston-area club.)

"It's one thing to go run 26 miles at the river or something, but to go up and go run the actual course, that sounded like a blast," he said. With six friends, Anderson made his way from Hopkinton to Copley Square, taking pictures, getting water from friends and being cheered on by strangers along the way. It earned him the right, he said, to wear the finisher's shirt and medal.

Likewise, doing the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race will earn him the right to wear its shirt. So, Anderson is preparing for the Peachtree the same way he has more than 25 times, training 60 miles a week with hard efforts and cross training sprinkled in.

Now, he just has to pick a course. And a state in which to run it. Anderson plans to visit family in Hawaii for Thanksgiving and has his eye on an Oahu route (with "screaming downhills") that he will likely run if nothing intervenes. But the cooler weather of Atlanta is tempting, too, and with his return set for November 28, he's keeping his options open until the last minute.

- Jay Holder

BERLIN, GERMANY

Julie and Mark Schoen have lived all over the world – Australia, Austria, the Czech Republic and now Germany – but nonetheless have called Atlanta "home" for the past 25 years. They've run at least 15 Peachtrees between them, the most recent in 2017 before moving to Berlin for a job opportunity.

"There was no question that we would enter!" said Julie, of learning that they would have the chance to run virtually this year despite being 4,700 miles from Peachtree Street. "We've missed the race so much. This is a tough situation for everyone in the world, but this part has worked out for us."

The couple plans to run on Thanksgiving Day, starting at the Berlin Cathedral and heading to the Tiergarten, running along the banks of the Spree River, before returning to finish in front of the cathedral. Except for the slight incline on a bridge, the course is flat – as is most of Berlin.



"We'll be ashamed if we don't run our fastest times ever," Julie said. Their daughters, 9 and 12, will run the Peachtree Junior.

After being raised in Rome – Georgia, not Italy, but fittingly for the future traveler – Julie came to Atlanta to attend Georgia Tech, and it's been home ever since. After several overseas stints ("Running is a great way to explore new cities"), she and Mark spent five straight years in Atlanta and thought they were done with international living until the latest opportunity came along in 2018. But they still own a home here, with Julie saying "it's a nice situation to experience new things but also have a place where you're rooted."

She loves that the 2020 Peachtree is connected to both July 4 and Thanksgiving – two "very American holidays" the expat family will be able to experience at once this year.

EINDHOVEN, THE NETHERLANDS

A couple of months ago, Vincent Vandalon was listening to NPR over breakfast in Eindhoven when something caught his attention: Rich Kenah, executive director of Atlanta Track Club, talking about the AJC Peachtree Road Race going virtual.

Continues on Page 19



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“That interview struck a chord, and I decided to look up the Peachtree Road Race and discuss it with a couple of my American colleagues, one of whom was from around Auburn, Alabama, and was very enthusiastic,” wrote Vandalon in an email. “As [Kenah] said, maybe something good/positive can come out of this.”

So the 37-year-old Dutchman, who runs 5K every morning – “If I’m sitting in a meeting and it’s going South at least I got my run in,” he explained over the phone – decided to do his first virtual race, motivated by “the passion your president conveyed on NPR for running in general and the Peachtree Road Race in particular. This, combined with the tradition of the race, really appealed to me.”

A physicist at the University of Eindhoven, Vandalon was also intrigued by the race app, which he called “very cool” and “really adding to the experience” even though there will be no way to mimic Cardiac Hill in the infamously flat Netherlands. He’s especially looking forward to hearing the enthusiastic spectators along the Peachtree course, adding that he’s run a

few 5Ks in the U.S. while here for conferences and observed that “people really cheer you on” during races. “In the U.S., this is something people do more freely.”

He’ll need those cheers as he goes after a 10K personal best, hoping to complete the virtual Peachtree in 45 minutes.

Might this be motivation to come and run the in-person Peachtree some day?

“It’s a part of the U.S. I’ve been planning to visit,” said Vandalon, who spent six months in Colorado as a student but has gotten no closer to Atlanta than Chattanooga. “Normally, I’m in the U.S. three or four times a year for conferences. Maybe I can time things right.”

STAR-SPANGLED FAMILY

The winners of this year’s “Oh, Say Can You Sing?” contest have something in common. And it’s not just their great voices.

Mikey Jones, who will sing the national anthem for the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race, and 10-year-old Nimaya Jones, who will do the same before the Virtual Peachtree Junior, are father and daughter – a fact unknown to voters when 11Alive posted the finalists from which they could choose.

The national anthem videos will be displayed in the Peachtree app on Atlanta Track Club’s YouTube channel, giving participants the traditional patriotic send-off as they begin their races – wherever they are.



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KIDS RACE MAKES IT “A PEACHTREE FAMILY EXPERIENCE”

By Natalie Cabanas and Barbara Huebner

With the Virtual Peachtree Junior, kids 14 and under will be able to take part in the Peachtree tradition this year, just like the adults. Children will participate in the same November 26-November 29 window as the grownups, at distances of either a mile (ages 6-14) or 50-meter dash (6 and under) in their own neighborhoods.

“The idea was to create an opportunity to make the entire weekend a Peachtree family experience,” said Rob Mullett, events manager at Atlanta Track Club. “Parents can go out and complete their own Virtual Peachtree and then come home and guide their child through their Virtual Peachtree Junior.”

This marks the 33rd edition of the event, but the first for Liz McGovern.

Liz’s father, Michael, has been running the AJC Peachtree Road Race for about 20 years, and will be doing the Virtual Running this year. Her mother, Cathy, will be making her Peachtree debut – after years of being intrigued by the event but thinking she couldn’t run that far, she ran 10K with Michael on July 4 and realized that, indeed, she could.

Being home more this year because of COVID-19, Liz’s parents have been running more often, and “Liz wanted to run with us,” said Cathy. She ran her first virtual 5K in May and by all accounts seems to be hooked.

So, Liz “wanted a piece of the Peachtree, too,” said Cathy. Her goal? To run the mile “FAST,” proclaimed the 9-year-old from Kirkwood.

Virtual participants are set to receive a packet including race bib, short-sleeve Mizuno shirt and before race day.

“I really hope they enjoy the day, create positive memories around running and walking and ultimately learn to love it,” said Mullett, who offered this pre-race advice: “Good luck, and set out with purpose on event day so you get the most out of the run or walk.” Proud parents are encouraged to share their child’s run via social media; use #PeachtreeJunior.



Liz McGovern gives a thumbs up after her first 5K.



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“MY DAD’S A BIG INSPIRATION TO ME”

By Stephanie Hoppe

For Krige Schabort, 57, the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race is both a chance to uphold a long-standing tradition and the opportunity to start a new one.

Schabort has competed in the Shepherd Center’s AJC Peachtree Road Race Wheelchair Division every year since 1998, and he has won five times. This year’s event will take on additional significance: For the first time ever, he will race with his 16-year-old son, Simon.

A sophomore at Model High School in Rome, Georgia, Simon is one of the top-ranked cross country athletes in the state. In fact, so far this season he has not lost to anyone in his age group.

“I am at the end of my career ... and Simon’s at the start of it. So, I’m passing the baton over to him to keep going with it,” said Schabort.

In 1987, while serving in the South African Army, Schabort lost both legs when a bomb exploded near him. Although he had always displayed an aptitude for running, Schabort said it wasn’t until he no longer had legs that he fell in love with the sport.

“Once I had wheels, I realized there was a whole new world and what opportunity there is in my sport. So, I took it at heart, and I tried to make the best of it,” Schabort said.

In the years that have followed, Schabort has excelled in the triathlon and marathon, becoming a six-time Paralympian, two-time Paralympic medalist and two-time TCS New York City Marathon champion.

Said Simon: “My dad’s a big inspiration to me, and it’s pretty cool to try to follow in his footsteps.”

Although father and son have trained together since Simon was 6 years old, their workouts intensified during the pandemic. This spring, when Simon’s track practices were halted and he was unable to meet with his personal coach, he and Schabort started exercising together daily – Simon on foot and Schabort using wheels.

“It definitely helped me stay motivated. It helps you stay accountable, and you can push each other. It’s always easier with two people instead of one,” Simon said.



Schabort cheers on Simon, in the lead.

Now, Simon’s cross country team practices have resumed, but he and Schabort still train together at least once each week. During their workouts, they generally maintain the same pace, except when they encounter hills. Simon accelerates on the uphill portions, and Schabort blazes ahead when they go downhill. While they are not particularly competitive in workouts, they intend to bring some friendly competition to this year’s Peachtree.

“We’ll have a sprint finish,” Schabort said. “I’m not going to lose without a fight.”

They plan to complete the event in either Cedartown or Rome, and even though they won’t tackle the notorious Cardiac Hill they will still incorporate some hills into their route. And instead of the typical thunderous crowds, Schabort said, his wife, 10-year-old daughter and 18-year-old son will be there to cheer them on.

“Peachtree is a very special event, and it’s one of those that always has great memories. And we’ll try and transfer all of those over into our virtual event,” Schabort said.



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"I ENJOY IT BECAUSE IT'S FUN"

By Stephanie Hoppe

In June 2012, as Greg Smith propelled his 3-year-old daughter, Marin, across the finish line of the Summerfest 5K Road Race, neither realized how much of an impact that experience would have on their lives.

Smith, now 48, recalled Marin proclaiming that she loved going fast and wanted to do more races with him. Over the last eight years, her wish has come true. To date, the father-daughter duo has completed 25 races, including several duathlons and triathlons. Because Marin, now 12, was born with cerebral palsy, the pair competes in the push-assist division.

"I enjoy it because it's fun and something to do together. It makes me feel happy being with my dad," said Marin, who also likes horseback riding, swimming, acting, watching TV and reading.

Despite all the races they have finished together, they had never done the AJC Peachtree Road Race. Until this year.

Smith said they hadn't been able to race the Peachtree before because they didn't meet the 45-minute 10K qualifying standard (their personal best is 47 minutes). With this year's event going virtual, there are no time restrictions, meaning Marin and her dad can finally run the Peachtree with other athletes from the Kyle Pease Foundation (KPF), which was founded in 2011 by brothers Kyle and Brent Pease.

Smith, who has served on KPF's board since 2013, said one of its goals is to encourage more people with disabilities and their families and friends to take part in races. In 2012, Marin and Smith were only the second family to join KPF in the push-assist division. Since then, participation has skyrocketed, with more than 60 in-chair athletes and nearly 200 volunteers completing the 2020 Publix Atlanta Half Marathon with KPF.

"Getting to hang out with our KPF family is always fun, but this year it's that much more fun. We just haven't had a chance to see people," Smith said.

During the pandemic, Smith said, he and Marin have only run twice and, with races canceled and postponed, they have yet to compete in 2020. The Peachtree gives them motivation to start training again.

"This one's truly a fun run for us. This is [to] shake the rust off and get back at it and try to get more regular about it," Smith said.



Greg (left) and Marin Smith with a friend, Wright Mitchell, at the 2019 Publix Atlanta Half Marathon.



For Smith, another reason for completing the AJC Peachtree Road Race is to promote inclusion in sports – for athletes of all abilities.

"Before Marin was born, I had no awareness of folks with disabilities. With Marin joining us and coming into our lives, I'm

blessed because it really opened up my eyes to the gifts that people do have and the abilities that they do have, no matter what they are," Smith said.

Marin's 16-year-old sister, Lauren, advocates for acceptance and understanding, too. She wrote a book, "We Wouldn't Have It Any Other Way," about the Smith family, which also includes mom Christy and Marin's twin brother Graham, and her experience having a sibling with a disability. Published in 2017, the book is the third in KPF's "Where There's a Wheel, There's a Way" series, which celebrates exceptional KPF athletes like Marin. It's available at www.kylepeasefoundation.org.

Although Marin, a sixth grader at Pace Academy, is modest about her accomplishments, she is eager to offer advice to others.

"Do what you love. You can see things a different way, and that's what makes you special," she said.

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LEARNING TO L.E.A.D THE WAY

By Justin Gaymon

This challenging year has pushed many of us to think harder than ever about who our leaders should be and how they should lead; what changes our communities need and how these changes should be implemented. Atlanta's non-profit L.E.A.D. (Launch, Expose, Advise and Direct) program is working toward answering those questions, with a mission of empowering at-risk black boys to lead and transform the city of Atlanta.

The program's co-founders, C.J. and Kelli Stewart, use baseball as a vehicle to help the 350 yearly participants avoid crime, poverty and racism as well as develop the tools necessary to become strong agents of change in their communities. Athletics, academics, community volunteering and career prep are all pillars of the program. And this November, C.J. Stewart and six of the program's ambassadors hope to generate positive change while taking on the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race.

"L.E.A.D. is committed to partnering with our ambassadors and their families so that they can win at the game of life," said running newbie Stewart, who is also taking part in this year's In-Training for Peachtree to prepare himself for the event. "We want people to see them as valuable assets in Atlanta. We want them to experience access to the best of Atlanta, which is why we are running in this year's Peachtree Road Race. We want this experience to continue to launch us emotionally and mentally towards greatness allowing Atlanta and the world to reap the benefits."

After growing up in one of Atlanta's most dangerous apartment complexes, Stewart is an example of the phrase, "where you start doesn't determine where you finish." He graduated with honors from Westlake Magnet High School before being drafted by the Chicago Cubs. After his playing

Continues on Page 29



From left: Stewart, JaKari Wade, KeShawn Wiley, Jaylen Wade, Kendrick Wiley, Elijah Grant.

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career ended, Stewart opened his own baseball hitting instruction company, working with a roster of MLB rising stars that included Jason Heyward, Andruw Jones and Andrew McCutchen. Reflecting on the mentors and leaders who helped steer him toward success, Stewart – feeling a burden in his heart to improve the lives of African-Americans – and his wife decided to found the L.E.A.D. program in 2017.

“Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy exposes a lot of the problems that we still have in this society,” said Stewart. “Where there is a problem, there is an opportunity. I have an opportunity so long as I am alive to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. I want my own legacy.”

The L.E.A.D. legacy now extends to Peachtree for Stewart and his six ambassadors and, as with all endeavors the program pursues, Stewart expects his ambassadors to lead the way. This is evident in the way they run together. The ambassadors stay a step or two ahead of Stewart as he elects to jog from the outside of the group, allowing his athletes to take ownership of their pace and direction.

Stewart and his ambassadors plan to run the race together in the city of Atlanta. Baseball practice has them feeling pretty fit, so none of the ambassadors seems too worried about taking on the 6.2-mile challenge, even though KeShawn Wiley, who also runs track and field at Booker T. Washington High School, is the only one of the group to have run that distance.

“I want to get noticed,” said his brother, Kendrick Wiley, who attends Hollis Innovation Academy. “I know some people running the race are going to quit, but I want people to know that we pushed and didn’t give up. We don’t give up.”

The will to keep pushing is a mindset that each of the ambassadors share, whether it be in the classroom, where 100 percent of the program’s participants graduate from high school and 93 percent enroll in college, or in the Peachtree.

“L.E.A.D. helps us set goals and achieve goals down the line,” says KeShawn. We do get a lot of great things like scholarships, but most importantly it helps us find our manship in life.”

He and his teammates define manship as the process of becoming a black man who actively leads positive change in his community. When asked how they have been able to lead change so far, Kendrick is quick to speak up.

“Some people try to mess around on the computer [during virtual classes]. If I didn’t get into this program I would be right there with them, but I text them and tell them to pay attention in class. I feel like I have a purpose in helping others stay on the right track.”

Others are also quick to list leadership examples, from going out of their way to introduce kids to baseball to starting a dog breeding business, which is a goal of South Atlanta High School student JaKari Wade.



L.E.A.D AMBASSADORS RUNNING PEACHTREE

- **JaKari Wade:** South Atlanta High School, 11th Grade
- **KeShawn Wiley:** Booker T. Washington High School, 10th Grade
- **Elijah Grant:** Carver Early College, 11th Grade
- **David Wilkinson:** Booker T. Washington High School, 9th Grade
- **Kendrick Wiley:** Hollis Innovation Academy, 7th Grade
- **Jaylen Wade:** South Atlanta High School, 12th Grade

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During Peachtree, they’ll draw inspiration from Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old black man who was fatally shot in a racist attack while running in a coastal South Georgia neighborhood on February 23.

“Getting to run this race is a gift because I believe we have a big goal to achieve,” said KeShawn. “I have a dream of inspiring people who are unfamiliar with Black Lives Matter. Inspiring people to speak up on the injustices they see.”

A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE SPECIAL K'S

By Doug Carroll

Good coaches never know what they will need to fetch from their bag of motivational tricks. Whatever it takes, right?

Rebecca O'Grady is the distance-running coach for the Special K's sports program in north Fulton County. For years, the Special K's have been a haven for Special Olympics athletes, providing them with a tightknit community for activities, fun and support.

This year, with the AJC Peachtree Road Race going virtual, the Special K's have an opportunity to participate in the iconic Atlanta Track Club event for the first time. O'Grady – known to her athletes as “Coach Becky” – wanted to guarantee a sizable turnout on Thanksgiving weekend.

And so ...

“I told them I would run in a turkey suit if we got 20 to sign up.”

That's the inside story of how 22 Special K's – plus Coach Becky in feathered disguise – will participate in the Peachtree on the morning of November 27 at Riverside Park in Roswell. On October 17, the group assembled at the park to kick off a six-week training program. Because of the pandemic, it was their first in-person meeting since March, and enthusiasm was sky high. Red Special K's T-shirts were ubiquitous.

The turkey costume might be a silly touch, but the Special K's are serious about the Peachtree. Some in the group will run the full 10K. Others will run or walk shorter distances and be part of relay teams coordinated by O'Grady.



Chris Bray, in foreground.

About half of the participants will have partners to accompany them, a concept known in the Special Olympics as “unified partnering.” Atlanta Track Club is providing complimentary entries for the partners.

O'Grady, 27, of Alpharetta, is a nurse practitioner in the intensive care unit for Piedmont Atlanta Hospital who has volunteered with the Special K's for six years and the Special Olympics for much longer. She knows all of the Special K's runners and walkers and has created a three-day-a-week training plan for each one.

The usual Peachtree, with its crush of participants and spectators through the heart of Atlanta on the Fourth of July, would be sensory overload for many of the Special K's.

This version, on the other hand, will be perfect.

“Many wouldn't do great in a big crowd,” O'Grady said. “That can be intimidating for them, and it would be difficult. This is a great opportunity for us. This whole pandemic has been hard, but some really good things have come out of it.”

The Special K's array of sports also includes cycling, soccer, basketball, golf, tennis and bowling. The group's focus ordinarily is on the Special Olympics Summer Games at Emory University, but those were canceled this year because of the pandemic. Last year, Special K's runners participated in a marathon relay at the Atlanta Braves' Truist Park, raising more than \$3,000 for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.



"Coach Becky" stretches with the Special K's.

Although the Special K's have held weekly meetings this year via Zoom, trying to keep the athletes and their families engaged, things just haven't been the same socially or competitively.

Virtual fitness challenges on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends – of covering 1000K and then the distance between Atlanta and Los Angeles, respectively – both exceeded their goals. The Atlanta-L.A. challenge even received a boost by motivational videos from Olympic medalists Meb Keflezighi and Gwen Jorgensen, but the Peachtree still figures to be the highlight of 2020.

"This is awesome for us to be Peachtree Road Race participants," said Chris Bray, 51, a special-education teacher at Centennial High School in Roswell who oversees the Special K's sports program. "It's about us being active and working toward a goal."

Special Olympics Georgia, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, serves more than 26,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 121 counties.

While most Special Olympics agencies are funded at the county level and promoted through schools, the Special K's are private and receive no outside funding. One benefit of being private is that the group can offer a wider range of sports, and has also able to reach a greater range of ages. The Special K's count more than 100 athletes, from age 8 to 50, on their roster.

Serving primarily the Johns Creek and Roswell areas, the Special K's were recognized this year by Special Olympics Georgia as Outstanding Local Special Olympics Program. Martin Jelleme, soccer coach for the Special K's, was named Outstanding Coach of the Year after creating a unified league, North Fulton United, with 90 players and eight teams.

Some in the Special K's are accomplished competitors. Arjun Sharma, 20, of Johns Creek, has completed nine half marathons and several Peachtrees and also has climbed Mount Fuji in Japan and Pikes Peak in Colorado. He has been selected to carry the torch in the Special Olympics World Winter

Games in 2022 in Kazan, Russia.

"This group gives them a sense of belonging and confidence," Arjun's father, Rupesh Sharma, said of the Special K's. "What Becky and Chris do is remarkable. They give instruction every week and they make it so fun. They're tireless. I don't know how they do it."

Bray, a Special Olympics volunteer for more than 20 years, is like a pied piper to the athletes, a best friend to seemingly everyone. With his relentless good cheer and encouragement, it's difficult to imagine a better fit.

"Chris is the best thing to ever happen to the Special K's," O'Grady said. "His heart is gold, and it's always in the right place."

The secret to the group's success, she said, is an intentional focus on one-to-one relationships. Her sister was a Special Olympics athlete, and she knows that personal connection is everything.

"We love these athletes," O'Grady said. "We're like a big family, and we have the support of their families. This is where we all want to be. They feel validated and they feel seen."

"Every time we do something, we want it to feel special."

Even if it takes wearing a turkey suit to make it so.



Arjun Sharma after completing 2019 Publix Atlanta Half Marathon in 2:27:55.

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VOLUNTEER PACKS GOOD CHEER IN EVERY BOX

By Barbara Huebner

Vanessa Bennett may have received Atlanta Track Club's Clarence W. May Jr. Community Service Award back in 2014, but she certainly isn't resting on her laurels. Or on anything else.

Bennett – who cites her age as 39/62 because the former is how old she feels – is still going strong as an Atlanta Track Club year-round volunteer, always eager to lend a joyful hand to make any task lighter for others.

For the AJC Peachtree Road Race, Bennett usually chips in by taking a week off from work to help the Club oversee installation of phone lines for race-day internet at the start, 5K mark and finish line. (It's a natural assignment, given that she's worked many years for the line provider, AT&T.) She is also known to drop by the Peachtree Health & Fitness Expo during race week to see if any help is needed there, and then serves as crew chief for Start Wave X before walking the event herself, as she will this year in her Huntley Hills neighborhood.

A side note here: back-to-back foot surgeries in 2018 and 2019 kept Bennett from doing the race, but not from volunteering. When the mission statement of your life is taken from Galatians 6:10 – “Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good things to all people” – a sore foot doesn't stand in your way of helping out.

This year, the indefatigable Bennett has thrown herself into packing race kits. A lot of race kits: she timed herself at 50 kits an hour, and her hours add up to thousands of packets.

After weeks of joining six other volunteers – Marylyn Sabol, Jeanette Arroyo, David Henry, Amy Malcom, Cee Cee Johnson and Yvonne Bryant – plus Atlanta Track Club staffers in packing the kits that were sent out to all Peachtree participants, extra COVID-19 precautions eventually saw her take a load of “ingredients” home. With 15-16 items – shirts, race bib, energy bar, armband, flyers, sometimes a medal – to



Bennett with Club executive director Rich Kenah after she received the 2014 community service award.

stuff into envelopes, it takes a system. And Bennett got hers down to a T of shirt-folding, paper-stacking and envelope-labeling.

“We have turned into folding machines,” she said, with a hint of pride.

The kits are sent for shipping in bags of 50, Bennett said, and that's where the challenge comes in. “They're heavy, especially when a lot of them have medals in them. Medals make a difference. But it keeps me young and its good strength training for the

Peachtree.”

Her family was called into service, too. “They think I'm crazy,” said Bennett. “But I'm putting the option out there that if they work, they might get a home-cooked dinner.”

Back when Bennett received the Club's service award, she was volunteering for a dozen causes or organizations. COVID-19 restrictions have temporarily trimmed that list, but she is still involved in Operation Christmas Child, Red Cross blood drives, a food pantry at a friend's church, and managing a poll location for the recent election. Helping long distance, she researches hurricane aid information for relatives hit hard down in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

“I'm still volunteering as much as COVID will let me,” she said. When she learned that the Peachtree would be going virtual this year, she immediately contacted the Club “and started begging, ‘please call me!’”

Said volunteer manager Tina Sjogren: “People like Vanessa are what makes the world go round.”

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AFTER OVERCOMING COVID-19, VOLUNTEER COUPLE WILL BE ON “START LINE”

By Stephanie Hoppe

For Jerry and Debbie Douthit, the Fourth of July is synonymous with one thing: volunteering at the AJC Peachtree Road Race. Over the last 25 years, Jerry, 59, has volunteered and run in every AJC Peachtree Road Race. And after Debbie met Jerry in 2007, she began volunteering by his side.

Debbie, 60, called volunteering at the AJC Peachtree Road Race “magical. Walking onto Peachtree at 3 a.m. in the morning, it’s dark ... you see security getting set for the race, the start line is being put in place ... and you just see this atmosphere happening ... Then the sun starts coming up, the flag is raised and the Star Spangled Banner is playing ... and all around you are runners coming for this one day in Atlanta ... if that doesn’t give you goose bumps, nothing will,” Debbie said.

The couple, who married in 2009, were initially responsible for setting up the start line the day before the race and volunteering at the start on race morning. But over the years, their duties have evolved.

And in 2015, Debbie went from volunteering at the start to *starting* the race. Once the mayor of Atlanta starts the elite athletes, Douthit begins each subsequent wave of runners by dropping the flag and blowing the horn. While she is performing these responsibilities from a riser, Jerry is on the ground, ensuring that other elements at the start operate smoothly.

When the pandemic caused the postponement of the 2020 event, Debbie said, she felt lost.

“Where else would I be than at the Peachtree for the 4th of July? There was just something missing,” Debbie said.

With this year’s switch to a virtual event, race-morning volunteers aren’t needed. But the Douthits aren’t forgoing their annual tradition: They’ve still volunteered to help any way they can in a virtual capacity. They are also completing the race together, which is something they haven’t been able to do since Debbie assumed her flag-and-horn role.

Eager for the opportunity to race, Debbie said she has been training by walking around her home, but recently she was forced to stop. On October 7, the Douthits both tested positive for COVID-19.

“It’s truly a mean green monster of a virus, and I’m so ready for it to be behind me so I can get back to a normal life ... We were the sickest we have both ever been in our life, but Jerry is doing great, and I’m on the home stretch,” Debbie said in late October.

Even though she missed a lot of training, Debbie hasn’t let it impact her motivation or resolve. On Thanksgiving morning, the Douthits plan to run-walk their virtual AJC Peachtree Road Race in Debbie’s hometown of Ocala, Florida.

“I’m excited that through this craziness of a year, the Atlanta Track Club didn’t give up that hope of having the Peachtree. That they continued the tradition, because it means so much to so many people,” said Debbie.



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HIGH SCHOOLERS AIM TO ETCH THEIR NAMES IN HISTORY

By Marcus Budline

Much has been turned topsy-turvy in 2020, but the situation has also provided the chance for people and organizations across the world – including Atlanta Track Club – to experiment and offer new opportunities. Thus was born the AJC Peachtree Road Race High School Championship, which will lead to two new names from a new division being added to the prestigious Peachtree Cup.

Once the race date shifted to November, and with this year marking the 51st Running of the race, the Club wanted to use the Peachtree to highlight future stars, according to Eric Heintz, the Club's director of high performance. Anticipating that the cross country postseason would be altered, the Club decided to use the in-person Peachtree on Thanksgiving to provide a high-level competition at the end of the fall season for high school runners.

“The initial game plan had been for the elite race of the Peachtree to be made up of high school athletes and have them go off in the front, as if they were the pros,” Heintz said. When the race shifted to virtual, the Club “wanted to continue with that competition as a way of still highlighting the talent that we have here in Georgia and to tell a compelling story.”

Thus instead of running at the front of the Peachtree, high school runners across Georgia this year will have a unique opportunity to compete across the state – not just for their names on the Peachtree Cup, but also for a Mizuno prize pack, the chance to be recognized as the fastest 10K runner in the

state and a photo on the cover of Wingfoot Magazine.

So, how does it work? The competition – open to all 14- to 18-year-olds who are in high school in the state of Georgia – will allow runners to take on any 10K course they prefer. After completing the race, the runners will have to submit a GPX data file, which will allow the Club to use biometric data, plus

past performance data, to verify their race time: meaning that if they submit a 33-minute 10K but their heart rate never got above 130, they're likely to be disqualified.

Heintz and the Club hope the competition will allow young runners to engage with the Peachtree in a new way, and that it will provide a chance to cap their fall season on a fun, engaging note that they may otherwise never have had.

“I think this is a harkening back to those roots of Atlanta Track Club honoring high school track and field and cross country athletes and demonstrates our continued focus on that portion of the sport,” Heintz said. “But I also think it's an interesting opportunity for them to be exposed to longer races, and to have the opportunity to control when and where they do things. If you think about it,

particularly in the time of COVID, everything is scripted with arrival times and protocols, but here is a chance for them to say ‘I want to do my race at my park, on this day and that time,’ and it gives them ownership over their experience.”

Plus, they get their names enshrined in Peachtree history.



The names of the 2020 high school champions will go down in history with that of five-time Olympian Bernard Lagat, 2018 Peachtree winner.



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Good luck to this year's runners and congratulations on taking part in the world's largest 10k. The Home Depot associates and their families are with you every step of the way.



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SEIDEL READY TO CARVE OUT A PLACE IN TURKEY HISTORY

By Jay Holder

Molly Seidel is one fast bird.

In just her second marathon, the four-time NCAA champion-turned-pro ran 2:25:13 to finish sixth in the Virgin Money London Marathon this fall. That makes her the eighth-fastest American woman in history on a record-eligible course.

In her first marathon ever, right here in Atlanta, she finished second and made the U.S. Olympic team – the first woman in history to do so in her debut at the distance. She will revive that Atlanta connection when she “returns” to compete on Thanksgiving Day when she does the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race.

In a turkey costume.

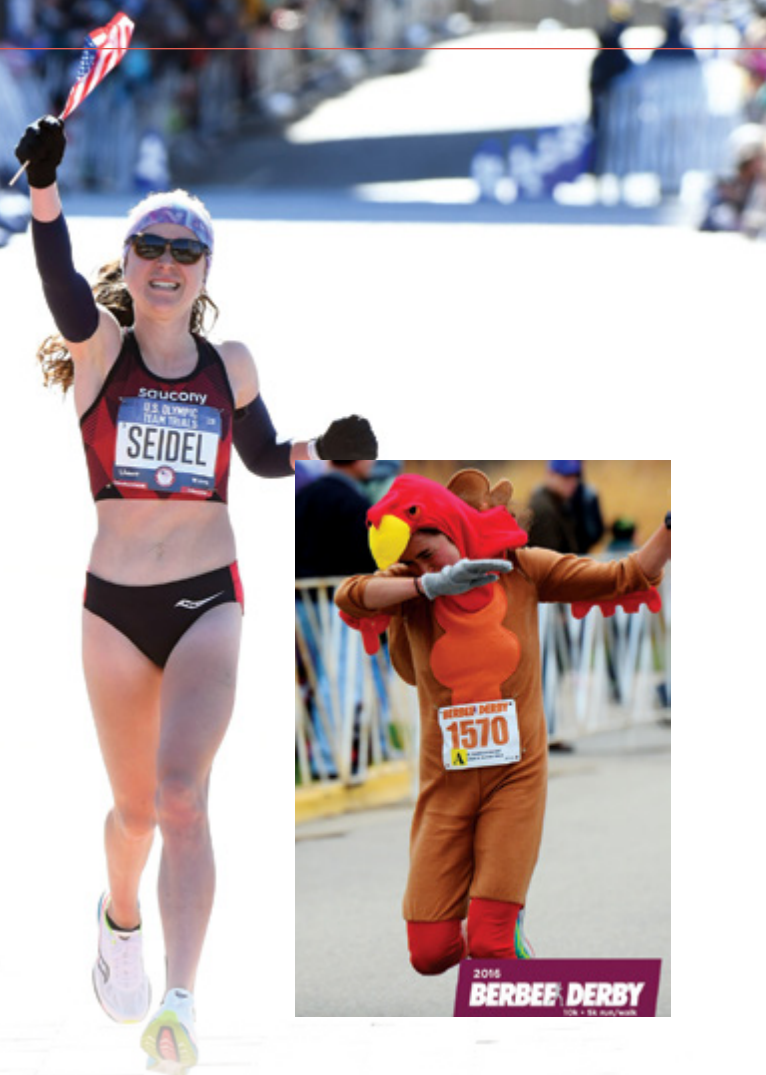
Seidel, 26, will be with her family on the appropriately named Great Cranberry Island, off the coast of Maine. On Thanksgiving morning, she’ll stuff herself into the costume and attempt to cover 10K faster than anyone in a full turkey costume ever has.

She’s calling it the FKT, or Fastest Known Turkey.

And that’s only part of the challenge. On that Sunday, she’ll don her normal running clothes and run the same course to see how much faster she can go. She thinks she’ll run at least 30 seconds faster without the costume, but is hesitant to predict a time. “I legitimately don’t know how fast I am going to be able to run this 10K coming off marathon legs,” said Seidel, who ran the socially distanced London Marathon on October 3.

Seidel has been showing up to local road races in a turkey costume since 2015. The costume, which is neither form-fitting nor aerodynamic, made its debut at a small-town Wisconsin Turkey Trot when Seidel ran with her family fresh off winning the NCAA Cross Country Championship for Notre Dame in 2015.

Since then, she’s signed a pro contract with Saucony, and the costume has mostly been reserved low-key events – although in 2016 she ran 34:29 as the turkey to win the Berbee Derby



10K on Thanksgiving Day in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The site and shock of a turkey flying by caused a visceral reaction from those left in her feathers.

“I passed this guy and somebody on the side was like ‘dude you can’t get passed by a person in a costume,’” she recalled. “And then the person next to him was like, ‘and it’s a girl!’”

Seidel wouldn’t argue if you described her run in the 2019 AJC Peachtree Road Race as a turkey. She placed 13th in 33:18, 1 minute and 15 seconds behind top American Emily Sisson and nearly three minutes behind the winner, and crossed the finish line with a flare-up of an old hip injury. So, why does she want to run it again?

“Redemption,” she said during a recent Instagram Live discussion, staring directly in the camera with a scowl that was ultimately broken with laughter. “I think it’s one of those incredible historic road races. Obviously this year is a little bit different, but it just seemed like a really fun opportunity to get back into a little bit of racing.”

Virtual spectators will have a chance to predict the spread between Seidel’s turkey and non-turkey race times in a contest on Atlanta Track Club’s social media. They’ll also be able to hear from the Olympian before and after her runs on the Club’s Instagram Live.

She’d really like to dip below 33:00.

And is hoping for a tailwind.

CHAMPIONS OF THE 50TH RUNNING HAVEN'T SLOWED THEIR WINNING WAYS

By Barbara Huebner

The champions of the 50th Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race made history with thrilling finishes, four new event records, the fastest 10K ever run on U.S. soil and first-of-their-kind bonuses of \$50,000 each – totaling \$200,000 – for their efforts.

Under normal circumstances, all four superstars would have been invited to defend their titles. Although we won't be honored with their presence for the 51st Running – the virtual race has no formal elite field – their successes over the past year are, to say the least, worth noting. Here's a look at how the Peachtree tape-breakers have been dominating the sport since July 4, 2019.



RHONEX KIPRUTO

Kenya

Winner, Men's Open Division

27:01

Fastest 10K ever run in this country, breaking the mark of 27:04 set by Joseph Kimani in 1996 at Peachtree

Kipruto came to Peachtree at the age of 19 to make history. He succeeded, but didn't stop there. After earning a 10,000-meter bronze medal at the 2019 World Championships in Doha a few months later, he demolished the 10K world record when he ran 26:24 at a road race in Valencia, Spain, in January of this year.



BRIGID KOSGEI

Kenya

Winner, Women's Open Division

30:22

Broke Lornah Kiplagat's 30:32 event record from 2002 by 10 seconds

Since edging out Agnes Kiprop in a Peachtree finish so close that both women were given the same time, Kosgei has been on fire, owning the field in two of the world's top marathons. In October 2019, she shattered Paula Radcliffe's 2003 world record (2:14:04) at the 2019 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, finishing almost seven minutes in front of her nearest competitor, and in the postponed Virgin Money London Marathon this fall defended her title there in 2:18:58, three minutes ahead of runner-up Sara Hall.



DANIEL ROMANCHUK

USA

Winner, Men's Wheelchair Division

18:11

Smashed the event record of 18:38.06 set by Saul Mendoza in 2004

If this 22-year-old isn't unstoppable, he's the closest thing to it. After winning Peachtree for the third consecutive year, Romanchuk went on last fall to win the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and the TCS New York City Marathon. Then just a month ago, he recorded the fastest time in history when he completed the 2020 virtual running of New York in 1:13:57 – a mind-boggling average of 2 minutes and 49 seconds per mile.



MANUELA SCHÄR

Switzerland

Winner, Women's Wheelchair Division

21:28

Shattered the event record (22:09.97) of her countrywoman Edith Hunkeler, set in 2009

After prevailing in a Peachtree sprint finish that saw only two seconds separating first and third places, Schär defended her title at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and three-peated the TCS New York City Marathon, both by four minutes over her nearest competitor. She also set a word record at 1500 meters on the track.



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“KEEP ON KEEPIN’ ON” ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY IN 2020

By Jay Holder

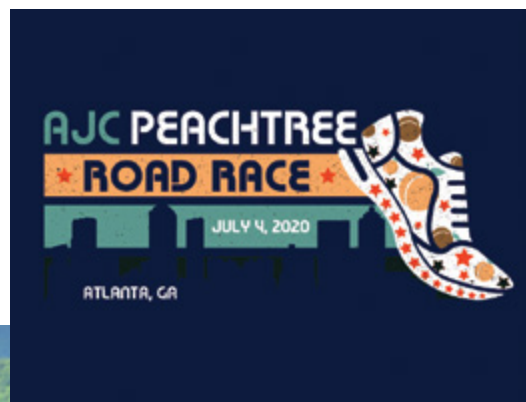
Beckie Dominick will forever be part of AJC Peachtree Road Race history – not just because she’s the winner of this year’s T-shirt contest, but also because her design is the first to be revealed before the race.

In fact, she’s the first winner to grace the pages of Peachtree Magazine, because Peachtree tradition dictates that the winner and winning design aren’t revealed until after the first person crosses the finish line on July 4.

But 2020 is not a traditional year. With race kits scheduled to begin arriving at the homes of participants on October 14, Atlanta Track Club unveiled the shirt a day earlier with a presentation by Race Director Rich Kenah to 90-year-old Bill Thorn, the only person to complete every running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race. After celebrating his 50th Running in 2019, he plans to run virtually this year.

Minutes after the special delivery to Thorn, the Club broke the news to Dominick with a Zoom call from the room where staff and volunteers were preparing race kits to go out. Said the graphic designer, who was expecting to be interviewed along with the other four finalists: “Oh my gosh, that’s so awesome! Every time I see someone wearing the shirt, I’ll think ‘oh my gosh! I did that.’”

Dominick’s design, “Keep On Keepin’ On,” was inspired by this year’s race theme, “Move Forward with Atlanta.” The shoe, she explained, represents the best way to move forward, “one step at a time,” while Atlanta is represented by a skyline adorned with stars and stripes. The design was first selected by a panel of judges as one of five finalists from nearly 200 submissions. During online voting on the AJC’s website in March, it was the overwhelming first choice.



The artist herself, however, said she didn’t vote for her own shirt. “I saw some others that I really liked,” she explained. “It really showed that there is a lot of talent out there.” As for which one she liked best, she’s keeping that a secret.

Race shirts are important to Dominick, who considers herself an avid runner, as is her husband. “It’s kind of like a wearable trophy. It’s your moment to show off: I ran this, I did this, I achieved this,” she said. Dominick tries to run two marathons a year and was looking forward to running the Peachtree in preparation for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in October. Instead her inaugural Peachtree will be run on a flat course in Florida, where she will be spending the Thanksgiving holiday with family.

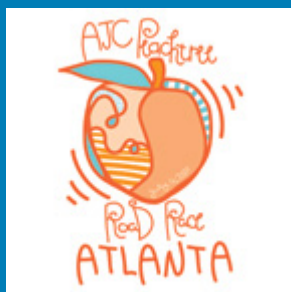
Dominick, an Ohio native who moved to Gainesville from Savannah, is excited for the Peachtree experience. Her approach to race day sums up why the shirt still says “July 4” on the front and, for the first time, features text on the back reading “Peachtree: An Atlanta Tradition 2020 Can’t Stop.”

“It’s going to be happening every year and it’s such a great tradition to be a part of,” she said. “Keeping that date is a reminder that nothing is going to keep us down. You’ve got to keep moving forward.”

THE OTHER FINALISTS



Sophia Johnson
Moving Forward with the Peach



Alanna LeBlanc
Street Peach



Stephen Mullinax
Turbo Peach



Margo Wetzel
Intersecting Energy

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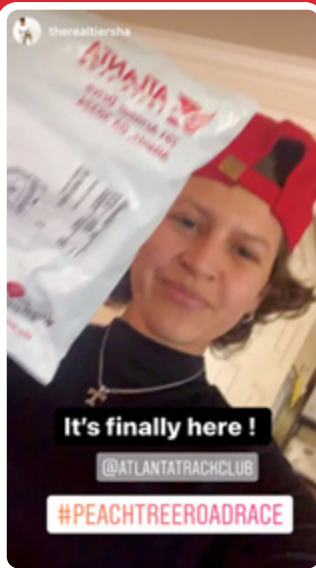
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This month:

Everyone loves a cool T-shirt and everyone loves getting a package delivered. So when it's the Peachtree T-shirt in the package ...



jwoods3810 In 2011 I ran my first Peachtree Road Race right before my last year of competition to help me cross train for @gtswimdiver. I ran it in 58:56. 2 years later I started setting goals for myself because I knew my adventure with endurance sport wasn't over. In 2018 I ran the Peachtree in 40:20, and it's been mostly thanks to the incredible work that @atlantatrackclub does! They host free events and races for members, they are involved in the community, and have support and guidance on the nutrition side. For non profits like this, COVID season is the pits and the least we can do is keep with tradition and run a 10K virtually in support of the clubs we love. So here's to this years Peachtree, on thanksgiving, that'll I'll be doing virtually in Braselton! #peachtreeroadrace #virtualrace #atc #pr #atlantatrackclub #supportnonprofits #postpartumjourney #runningstory #postpartumrunning #lets go



yaqutu_nutritionprescriptions When your package is delivered! 🤪🤪🤪 I'm excited and looking forward to seeing my run buddies at the @atlantatrackclub annual Peachtree Road Race. Things are different this year but we're still running.



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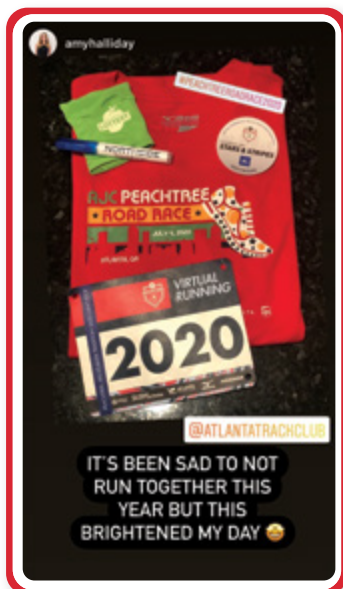


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runcoachkatie Just checked my mailbox for the first time in a week. Lesson learned. There might be goodies in there! 😊

Excited for my local @atlantatrackclub annual Peachtree Road Race. It might look a bit different this year but I'm proud to be an Atlanta runner 🏃♀️



runmeb It's here...I got my race packet for the Virtual Running of the @atlantatrackclub AJC Peachtree Road Race! Usually the race shirt is a secret, but this year we get to see it before we cross the finish line. I really like this year's shirt, but I won't be wearing mine until after I complete the race November 26 - 29. #runtowin



Connect with Atlanta Track Club





THANK YOU

Atlanta Track Club would like to thank all the people and organizations that make the Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race possible.



MEDIA PARTNERS



NEW PATHS TO PASSION FOR THE PEACHTREE

By Abby Keenan, MS, CMPC



When you heard that Atlanta's beloved AJC Peachtree Road Race was postponed to Thanksgiving Day and then was going virtual, how did you react? Some of you undoubtedly were thankful that the event would go on at all, but for many people those are the moments when our negativity kicks in. While we all have the tendency to think negatively, we can recognize when it happens and then purposefully choose our next steps.

In a year full of unexpected news, adversity and immense loss, one of the most powerful things we can do is adjust. In finalizing your preparation for this virtual race, here's how you can shift perspectives, embrace positivity and make your experience meaningful.

Find the opportunity: While we'd all love to be surrounded by 60,000 fellow runners on Thanksgiving weekend, there's still a lot of good coming our way on race day. For example, the 10K course is notoriously challenging; now you get to pick your own route. You can guarantee heat and humidity in the summer; we're looking at significantly cooler temperatures. Even though you won't see cheering sections along the course, you can use the Atlanta Track Club app to hear sounds from the race and track where you would be on the typical course. Can you think of other ways to see this event as an opportunity?

Practice gratitude: In honor of our new race date, what an opportunity to give thanks. Gratitude is about acknowledging something you've gained or a personal benefit you've experienced due to someone or something else. By intentionally practicing gratitude, we counteract our negativity bias; improve well-being, optimism, life satisfaction and social connectedness; and decrease psychological distress, burnout,

depression and anxiety. You can express gratitude through your thoughts, feelings and actions. Consider this: What have you gained because of the AJC Peachtree Road Race? How has being a part of the running community benefited you? To practice this skill, you can make a list of people, items or events you're grateful for along with what each means to you, or write a message to someone who has made a positive impact on your life through running.

Plan and prepare: As we approach race day, consider where you are now compared to your goal. Adjust your goal accordingly to head into the race with realistic expectations. If you haven't solidified your personal 6.2-mile course, now is the time! Think about how you can make race day special while keeping COVID-19 health and safety protocols in mind. Perhaps coordinate your own personal cheering sections or water stations, an "are we done yet?" photo-op or an epic finish line.

Make meaning: If you've run the world's largest 10K before, pause to think about your favorite Peachtree memory. Before you run, reflect on your experience this year: what you've lost, what you've gained and what's important to you. Running this race on Thanksgiving weekend, even virtually, could be a time where you honor all of that by literally putting one foot in front of the other. Let's keep moving forward.

Abby Keenan is a Mental Performance Consultant with Intrepid Performance Consulting, where she helps athletes master adversity, improve performance and achieve their version of success through mental skills training. For more information about online mental skills training or to schedule a free consultation, visit www.intrepidperformance.com.

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From left: Aisha Wright-Burke and Phillip Finley, Atlanta Track Club board members; Rodney Bryant, Interim Police Chief; and Dave Wilkinson, CEO of the Atlanta Police Foundation in a conversation at the foundation's At-Promise Center, posted on October 21.

In July, Atlanta Track Club launched its Common Ground initiative, a program designed to educate and inform staff, leadership and membership on issues of social justice and anti-racism. A cornerstone of that initiative is the Club's gift of benches – made from recycled water bottles used at the 50th Running the AJC Peachtree Road Race, part of its efforts on environmental stewardship – on which to have conversations about the history and impact of systemic racism in the U.S. and listening to ways in which it can be dismantled.

"Following the murder of Ahmaud Arbery and far too many others, silence and complacency is unacceptable," said Rich Kenah, executive director of Atlanta Track Club, when the initiative got under way. "As runners ourselves, Arbery's death here in Georgia undermines our core belief that no one should fear for their life when they step out the door for run. Today, we commit to being an anti-racist voice and that begins with listening."

The first listening session was held with former state representative Bob Holmes, who retired in 2005 as Director of the Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Clark Atlanta University. It was followed by conversations with Rep. Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula); Lauren Koontz, president and CEO of YMCA of Metro Atlanta; and Interim Police Chief Rodney Bryant and Dave Wilkinson, CEO of the Atlanta Police Foundation.

Many more conversations will be shared in the coming months. They will include representatives of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta; the Center for Civil and Human Rights; the Georgia High School Association; and with Keturah Orji, a 2016 Olympian and member of Atlanta Track Club Elite who founded Amara's Pride, a mentorship program for girls.

"We agree on many more things than we disagree."

– Rep. Chuck Efstration
(R-Dacula)

Running is "the most race-less activity that I've ever been involved in."

– Bob Holmes
Retired Director, Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy

"We want to be an organization that champions communities, where everyone belongs. That's a bold statement. We have to live it; we can't just say it. And that may make people uncomfortable."

– Lauren Koontz
President and CEO, YMCA of Metro Atlanta

"All of us as a community have an obligation to have those difficult conversations, to move us from the place that we are in to be in a better place."

– Rodney Bryant
Atlanta Interim Police Chief

"To me, Common Ground is about everyone coming together and listening and learning, as we're doing today, and making sure that every voice is heard."

– Dave Wilkinson
CEO, Atlanta Police Foundation



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COMING UP: PUBLIX ATLANTA MARATHON MOVES TO SPEEDWAY

By Jay Holder

Runners in the Publix Atlanta Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K won't have to climb any of Atlanta's famous and relentless hills in 2021 – because the temporary course will be pancake flat. With the uncertain future of events in Atlanta due to COVID-19, Publix Atlanta Marathon Weekend will move to Atlanta Motor Speedway and be held as a series of by-appointment races to allow for safe social distancing.

Traditionally held at Centennial Olympic Park, the weekend will remain on its scheduled date of February 27-28.

Participants in the 5K will get the chance to race under the lights of the NASCAR oval on Saturday night, February 27. The half marathon and marathon will be held the next day, utilizing the 1.5-mile track, its infield, concourse, miles of service roads and large parking lots. The Publix Atlanta Kids Marathon will be held across both days, allowing parents to schedule their children's races in conjunction with their own.

"We know runners and walkers are making their winter and spring plans," said Rich Kenah, executive director of Atlanta Track Club. "By making this decision and announcement now, we are able to provide some certainty in this uncertain time. We are building out a unique, safe experience that is not dependent on public permits."

Atlanta Track Club is in frequent consultation with infectious disease experts and follows guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control to implement safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The 2021 Publix Atlanta Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K will be a contactless experience. All participants, staff and volunteers will be required to undergo a health screening before entering Atlanta Motor Speedway, and masks must be worn by all, except for participants during the race itself.

Participants will start in waves of up to 50 people, with up to five minutes between each wave. The marathon and half marathon will be capped at 5,000 combined participants and the 5K will be capped at 3,000.



All participants will be required to carry their own hydration and fuel, with touchless refill stations available on the course. Post-race snacks, refreshments and medals will be prepacked.

Registration fees are currently \$100, \$80 and \$20 for the marathon, half marathon and 5K respectively. The Publix Atlanta Kids Marathon has a dash option for \$10 and a mile for \$15. Registration includes a participant shirt and finisher's medal. Participants can sign up and choose their time slot at atlantatrackclub.org.

Previously registered participants were offered the option to move to the new location or a full refund. If the event is canceled due to COVID-19, refunds will be offered.

Located just 25 miles south of Atlanta in Hampton, Georgia, Atlanta Motor Speedway encompasses 840 acres of private property. It holds two premier NASCAR events each year, one of which will be just three weeks after the Publix Atlanta Marathon Weekend.

Atlanta Track Club has successfully held five in-person events following the race-by-appointment format since July including the three-race Publix Summer Series, which was held at private venues throughout the summer, and the PNC Atlanta 10 Miler & 5K at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta on November 1.

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

By Meaghan Leon
Membership Manager

Due to the global pandemic, this year was about as far from a traditional year for Atlanta Track Club as you can get. Although COVID-19 forced us to make many changes to our programming and events, we worked hard to provide new, innovative ways to help members stay safe, active and connected to Atlanta Track Club during a time of social distancing. We also reorganized our event calendar to include a combination of in-person and virtual events, all while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols. We tried to roll with the punches as best we could, and that has meant a year of constant adjustments.

Let's take a quick look at the year up to this point.

We started off 2020 on a high note with our first race of the new decade, the Resolution Run 5K. Members crossed their first finish line of the year and then carried that runner's high on to the next two Grand Prix races, the Jerome Scales Southside 12K and the Hearts and Soles 5K, both in February and both free to all members.

By the end of that month, Atlanta Track Club was ready for America's Marathon Weekend. On Saturday February 29, members, volunteers and spectators from Running City USA and all over



Dylan Capwell

the country packed the streets of Atlanta for the running of the US Olympic Team Trials – Marathon. The Club combined the Trials with the Publix Atlanta Marathon Weekend, and the next day 13,000 runners crossed the same finish line as the Olympic qualifiers the day before. It was the biggest running weekend in Atlanta history, by all accounts a huge success and once again proving why we are Running City USA. Two weeks later, COVID-19 hit and everything changed.

& CREATIVITY



Like the rest of the world, we were forced to adjust our traditional programs and events to make sure we kept our members, staff and participants safe. We were quickly able to switch some in-person events, such as the Northside Hospital Atlanta Women's 5K, Singleton 5K and Decatur DeKalb 4 Miler, to virtual events, allowing members and other participants to compete from the safety of their own neighborhoods.

Of course, the hardest decision we had to make was to postpone the AJC Peachtree Road Race from July 4 to Thanksgiving, and then to make it a virtual event after consulting the best science available to assure the safety of our participants. While it won't be the Peachtree we're used to, we spent countless hours in brainstorming sessions to come up with ways to preserve as many of the traditions as possible.

We also introduced three new virtual events: the One Team ATL 5K, Virtual XC 3K and the Prepping for Peachtree 10K. In total, we organized seven virtual events, four of which were free to members. Those members who participated in the One Team ATL 5K deserve a special thank you. Through the combined efforts of the Atlanta Braves, Atlanta Dream, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta United FC and Atlanta Track



Club, we were able to donate \$51,000 to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

As we learned more about COVID-19 and explored new ways of thinking about events, we were able to make the proper adjustments to begin holding in-person,

by-appointment races. We introduced the new Publix Summer Series, which consisted of three in-person events in August, and were able to convert the PNC Atlanta 10 Miler & 5K on November 1 into a unique in-person event at the Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta.

The pandemic not only forced us to change our event schedule for 2020, it also inspired us to create a new website called "The Distance," aimed at helping runners and walkers in Atlanta and around the world stay healthy and active while spending more time at home. The Distance (thedistance.atlantatrackclub.org) provides a free online

ATLANTA TRACK CLUB



resource of running workouts, training programs, strength classes, challenges, diet and health information and more, all created by the Club's expert staff, coaches, and partners. The latest highlight on The Distance is a video series, "Miles to Motherhood," following Atlanta Track Club Elite runner Bridget Belyeu as she trains for the U.S. Olympic Trials – Track & Field while pregnant.

While 2020 was by no means a traditional year for membership, we were able to adjust to the circumstances of what was happening in the world and continue to deliver high-level programs and events, albeit in a different format. We are optimistic about what 2021 has in store and will continue to serve our members and community in every way that we can!

ON GIVING TUESDAY, REMEMBER ATLANTA TRACK CLUB

Tuesday, December 1, is Giving Tuesday across the United States. This year, Atlanta Track Club will attempt to close out 2020 by gratefully accepting 2,020 individual donations. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, donations allow Atlanta Track Club to invest in free youth programming like Kilometer Kids, build on its partnership with cross country and track and field programs in Atlanta Public Schools and improve running and walking infrastructure throughout metro Atlanta.

Your generosity also allows us to support other like-minded non-profits through the Adopt-A-Mile Program, which offers grants to groups who organize cheer stations at the PNC Atlanta 10 Miler & 5K and the Publix Atlanta Marathon, Half Marathon & 5K.

You can make a donation of any amount by visiting atlantatrackclub.org/donation throughout the day on December 1. No amount is too small. You can also find options for corporate matching, annual and sustained giving.



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What You Get

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- 2021 Member T-shirt
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- Annual subscription to Wingfoot Magazine
- Discounts at local specialty running stores
- Two (2) guest passes to be used at any of the Atlanta Track Club community events
- Group runs and walks across the city, hosted by Atlanta Track Club's Ambassador team
- Discounts at various local favorites, including Waffle House, Georgia Aquarium, and to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**Membership must be active as of February 1 at 11:59 p.m. EST to receive guaranteed entry into that year's AJC Peachtree Road Race*

Membership Levels

Individual: \$35. Membership benefits apply to the primary account holder

Dual: \$60. Membership benefits apply to two people living at the same household

Family: \$75. Membership benefits apply to two adults and up to four children ages 21 or younger living at the same household

2021 EVENT CALENDAR

Get Back To Racing



JANUARY

Resolution Run 5K, Mile & Dash
Jerome Scales Southside 10K

FEBRUARY

Hearts & Soles 5K
Publix Atlanta Marathon, Half Marathon & 5K
Publix Atlanta Kids Marathon

MARCH

Northside Hospital Atlanta Women's 5K

APRIL

Singleton 4 Miler
Spring Track Meet - Open 5000m
Spring Track Meet - Grand Prix 800m

MAY

All Comers Track & Field Series

JUNE

All Comers Track & Field Series
Braves Country 5K & Dash presented by Mizuno

JULY

Peachtree Health and Fitness Expo presented by Publix
Peachtree Junior
AJC Peachtree Road Race
Road to Gold

AUGUST

Decatur DeKalb 4 Miler
Atlanta's Finest 5K

SEPTEMBER

Wingfoot XC Classic

OCTOBER

PNC Atlanta 10 Miler & 5K

NOVEMBER

Invesco QQQ Thanksgiving Day Half Marathon, 5K, Mile & Dash

DECEMBER

Grand Prix Finale & Volunteer Awards Banquet

 FREE events for Atlanta Track Club members

 Paid events

Free virtual events held throughout the year

**DIFFERENT START LINE.
SAME FINISH LINE.
THANKFUL WE PRESS ON.
TOGETHER.**

Virtual Running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race | Nov. 26-29, 2020

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