

THE SIGNAL

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www.chambleega.com



A Publication of the
City of Chamblee

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Chamblee Mayor Delivers 2013 State of the City

A reduction in crime, the city's millage rate, a Fourth Friday concert series and the hiring of a new city clerk were among the issues covered during the 2013 State of the City address by Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson. Clarkson presented the address during the February meeting of the Chamblee Business Association at the Chamblee Civic Center.

The mayor reports that the city maintained a millage rate of seven-point-four mills despite a decline of \$50 million in property values. The 2013 total revenue for all funds of \$14,089,138 doesn't include an estimated one-million-dollar check from Georgia Power. Total expenditures for 2013 reached \$12,641,539, while an unaudited un-appropriated fund balance of \$4,292,478 remains from 2012.

The city saw a decrease of six-point-eight percent in part-one crime (violent and property) from 2011, including a 35 percent drop in business burglaries.

Clarkson, first elected mayor in November 2001, also spoke of the hiring of Emmie Niethammer as city clerk. Additionally, he announced plans for the city's first Fourth Friday concert series in downtown Chamblee to take place in May, June and August.

Other items highlighted include:

- The start of full-time leaf collection in the annexed Huntley Hills area by the Public Works department
- In 2012, police officers responded to 19,900 calls for service
- Police officers made 10,040 traffic stops in 2012
- Police Department employees completed 4,892 hours of training
- The success of the fifth-annual Taste of Chamblee and of other events, including the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance and Breakfast with Santa, Summer Day Camp and athletic programs such as youth soccer and T-ball — all hosted by Parks and Recreation
- First time in five years to reach more than 200 participants for Parks and Recreation's Chamblee 5K Run and Rotary Roll
- Parks and Recreation's addition of two new instructional programs in 2012, including adult/senior yoga and Keswick Park Boot Camp fitness classes
- Plans for another Chamblee 101, during which participants learn about local government and how the city operates
- New city website to launch in 2013



A City on
the Right Track

Special Recognition for Chamblee Employees

Chamblee employees enjoyed an evening out and time in the spotlight during the city's annual Employee Appreciation Dinner. Chamblee recognized a number of employees who've completed five years of service or more to the city. The city also presented departmental awards during the February event at the Chamblee Civic Center.

Employee service awards include:

FIVE YEARS

Brady D. Ends
Libby Galvin
Thann E. Hadden
Tillman J. Hannon

15 YEARS

Michael J. Beller
Eric Dwayne
Stephens

25 YEARS

George S. Harris

10 YEARS

Andrew W. Ends
Teddra Hall
Jason Alan Jones
Tong T. Ngo

30 YEARS

William T.
Hannon



City of Chamblee
5468 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341
(770) 986-5010
Fax: (770) 986-5014
www.chambleega.com

Mayor — R. Eric Clarkson

District 1 — Mark Wedge

District 2 — Leslie Robson

District 3 — Tom Hogan

District 4, At-Large — Dan Zanger

District 5, At-Large — Scott M. Taylor

City Manager — Niles R. Ford, PhD

City Clerk — Emmie Niethammer

Chief of Police — Marc Johnson

Finance Director — Travis Sims

Parks & Recreation — Joel Holmes

Public Works — Tillman Hannon

City Hall

(770) 986-5010

Public Works/Animal Control

(770) 986-5019

Development

(770) 986-5010

Parks & Recreation

(770) 986-5016

Police Department

(770) 986-5005

Municipal Court

(770) 986-5004

Code Enforcement

(770) 986-5005

code_enforcement@chambleepd.com

Police Emergency — 911

The Signal is the official publication of the City of Chamblee and serves to provide timely information on events, activities and news related to Chamblee. Press releases, announcements and other materials submitted for potential publication are subject to editing.

Chamblee's newest business, Fresh2Go Market — owned by Alexis Payne — opened its doors in February. For more on this story, see page four of this issue of *The Signal*.



Go Paperless

The *Signal* is going paperless! In an effort to cut costs on both the city and taxpayers, the City of Chamblee will make *The Signal* newsletter and calendar available online only for viewing and downloading. If you'd still prefer a hard copy, please send an email to Libby Galvin at lgalvin@chambleega.com or call 770-986-5010; option 0.

Reminder:

2013 Occupational Tax License renewals are due March 15, 2013.



SIGNAL SPOTLIGHT

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: The Elaine Clark Center

On this night, it takes just minutes for one dessert after another to go for as much as \$50 or more. That's because this group knows it's bidding for a good cause. The Elaine Clark Center held its annual Dessert Auction, attracting dozens of supporters to the event that includes a chance to bid on sweet treats during a live auction, take home student artwork from a silent auction and learn more about the center through an open house.

Since the 1960s, The Elaine Clark Center has been serving children with special needs. "We will take kids wherever they are and work with them through their abilities and their skills

and help them reach their maximum potential," says Beth Schmeehling-Cook, executive director.

The nonprofit focuses on addressing individual needs of children from birth to 22 years old. It all started with Sister Robert Therese of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Atlanta. Therese tutored children with special needs and, in the late 1960s, incorporated The Elaine Clark Center. She'd name it for one of her students who was profoundly deaf, but, with Therese's help, learned to read and communicate. The student would die tragically at seven years old when struck by a car, but it's her spirit of learning that

remains at the core of the center.

"When we think about her story, we really think about who we are as a school and what our mission is and what we want to give to the community through her memory," says Schmeehling-Cook, who has served for 12 years as executive director.

At roughly 12,000 square feet, The Elaine Clark Center has been in Chamblee since 1976. The center is funded through program fees (including \$100- to \$235-per-week tuition), fundraising, donations, corporate grants and some state support. Fundraisers include the Dessert Auction, run by the parents and staff; a golf tournament and An Exceptional Evening, a casual cocktail party that serves as a fundraiser and

thank-you to volunteers, and includes a silent auction, food and dancing.

In 2009, it merged with Heart of Hope Academy, another nonprofit that served children with developmental challenges. Heart of Hope Academy now serves as the name of the center's program that focuses on five to 22 year olds with moderate to severe developmental



Beth Schmeehling-Cook (far right), executive director of The Elaine Clark Center, serves as auctioneer during the nonprofit's Dessert Auction, a fundraiser run by parents and staff.



Continued on back cover

MORE INFO:

The Elaine Clark Center
5130 Peachtree Boulevard
Chamblee, GA 30341
www.elaineclarkcenter.org
770-458-3251

Children at The Elaine Clark Center get plenty of play time, including outdoors. Additionally, the center offers after-school care until 6 p.m. weekdays and, on Saturdays, care to allow parents time for respite and travel.



SIGNAL SPOTLIGHT

Ribbon-cutting Ceremonies for New Chamblee Businesses

FRESH2GO

Short on time, but need a quick and healthy fix? Chamblee's newest business, Fresh2Go Market, is serving up greek yogurt, granolas, grab-and-go sandwiches and more. Fresh2Go Market is located inside 5300 Lofts at 5300 Peachtree Road, Suite 1304. In February, the establishment celebrated with a grand opening. That same month, the Chamblee Business Association hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the business.



(left to right): Sarah Liz Buckley, Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation; Kerry Mitchell, Kerry Mitchell State Farm Agency; Ronni French, Consignment Furniture Depot; City Council Member Leslie Robson; 2013 CBA President Van Pappas; Fresh2Go Owner Alexis Payne; Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson; Chantalle Soganich, LegalShield; Lori Harris, CBA marketing vice president; City Council Member Dan Zanger; Greg Barner, CFO, The Bubbling Creek Company; Beth Pickens, WellPet Humane; Jason Wade, CBA board member and CBA Board Member Brent Morris

First-time business owner Alexis Payne says she grew up in the retail industry. Her mother, brother and sister operated convenience stores in California and Missouri respectively.

"The concept was for me personally — the type of shopper that I am: no kids, no family, so I don't go to the grocery store that often," says Payne, "and really just spend a lot of unnecessary money at some of the other locations." She adds, "As I interact with a lot of single people, they don't go to the grocery

store that often and they also might have a little more disposable income where convenience outweighs price. Fresh2Go is an amenity you'd only get in the downtown Atlanta area, but everyone doesn't want to stay downtown, but you still may want the

amenity of being able to run downstairs and grab a couple of items. That's really how it all came together."

Fresh2Go Market carries items such as Larabars, Back to Nature granolas and Boar's Head grab-and-go sandwiches made fresh daily. Payne, who works the store with help from her mom, Joann, also stocks goodies from La Petite France Bakery in Marietta and Arden's Garden in East Point.

"Most people are being more health conscious," she says, "so I really wanted to focus on adding a lot of healthy products." She's also mindful of offering a more modern ambience. "Some convenience stores look a little scary," says Payne, who previously worked at an office in Dunwoody and spent time in corporate America. "They're dark and dim and we really want a fresh, more welcoming approach."

ZAXBY'S

The Chamblee Business Association hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Zaxby's, located at 4906 Peachtree Boulevard near Lowe's. The quick-casual establishment is operated by Sheila Cobb-Williams and is open daily starting at 10:30 a.m.

MORE INFO:

Hours: Sunday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday to Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
770-451-6447



(left to right) City Council Members Dan Zanger and Tom Hogan; Greg Barner, CFO, The Bubbling Creek Company; Ronni French, Consignment Furniture Depot; Jason Wade, CBA board member; Kerry Mitchell, Kerry Mitchell State Farm Agency; Lori Harris, CBA marketing vice president; Tim Jackson, CBA board member; City Manager/CEO Niles Ford; Operator Sheila Cobb-Williams; CBA Board Member Brent Morris; Reta Cobb; Zaxby's team members Harrell Cobb and Shea Benton; 2013 CBA President Van Pappas; City Council Member Leslie Robson; Beth Pickens, WellPet Humane; and City Council Member Scott Taylor

MORE INFO:

Hours: Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
On Facebook: Fresh2Go Market
678-580-2068
Fresh2gomarket@gmail.com

A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Parks and Recreation

CHAMBLEE DAY CAMPS

Spring Break Camp – April 8 to 12

Summer Camp – May 27 to August 2
(registration will open by mid-March)

Cost per week: \$75 for residents and \$100 for non-residents

Camp takes place at Keswick Park Community Building at 3496 Keswick Drive.

Chamblee camps are open to children ages six to 12. Campers participate in arts, crafts and games. Camp opens at 7:30 a.m. each day and closes at 6 p.m. Space is limited and all registrations must be made in advance. In addition to the activities listed above, Summer Camp includes pool days, field trips and special programs. To register, visit www.chambleega.com or call 770-986-5016.

CHAMBLEE RUN & ROTARY ROLL

April 27, 8 a.m., DeKalb-Peachtree Airport

The City of Chamblee is proud to offer its road race event for all abilities! Starting and finishing at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport, participants have a choice of a 5K route through Chamblee's downtown and Mid-City District or a 1K route around one of PDK's runways! All entrants receive a colorful race shirt, and can enjoy the family fun finish area!



A portion of proceeds for this year will go to Huntley Hills Elementary and the North Atlanta Rotary Club.

Entry Fees: Early entry fee is \$20 for 5K participants. This year 1K participants may take advantage of a \$5 discount, for a price of \$15 for early entry.

Registration after Monday, April 22 or on race day is \$25 for 5K participants and \$20 for 1K participants. Register online at www.chambleega.com or at Active.com (Active.com registrations will include an additional fee).

5K Award Divisions: Awards to the overall male and female and the top three finishers in the following age groups: 10 and under, 11 to 19, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 to 69 and 70 plus.

1K Awards: Awards to the Fastest Child, Fastest Manual Chair, Fastest Power Chair and Chair Spirit Award. For more information, contact Loren Roberts at lroberts@chambleega.com or 770-986-5016.

AARP SAFE DRIVER CLASS

**Thursday,
March 14 from
9:30 a.m. to
4 p.m.**

Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive

Cost: \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members

This class is offered for those wanting to take a driver safety class for insurance discount purposes, for those mandated by the court to take the class or for anyone looking to improve their awareness of driver safety skills.

You must sign up in advance for this class. You can register at www.chambleega.com. Payments are due on the day of the course. You also may register by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 770-986-5016.



YOGA CLASSES

When: Wednesdays from April 3 to May 22

Where: Chamblee Civic Center

Cost: \$70 per participant

Instructor: Maggie Anderson with Atlanta Real Yoga (www.atlantarealyoga.com)

Level I-II Vinyasa Class, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Wednesday

The vinyasa yoga class is appropriate for most; some yoga experience is recommended.

Beginner/Level I: 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. each Wednesday

This class is for beginners to yoga or those who want a less intense class. The focus will be on learning proper alignment in basic poses as well as breath work and gentle stretching.

Please bring a yoga mat and a pillow or blanket to use for seated poses if desired.

To register, visit www.chambleega.com or call 770-986-5016.

March drop-in classes at Keswick

Try out a basic vinyasa yoga class at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 and Wednesday, March 27. You don't have to register in advance. Cost is \$10 per class (cash or check only; correct change appreciated). A few yoga mats are available for you to borrow.

For more information about yoga classes, please email Maggie at info@atlantarealyoga.com or call 404-392-0398.



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A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Parks and Recreation,
continued from page 5

MEDITATION WORKSHOP

When: Saturday, March 16 at 1 p.m.

Where: Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive

Cost: \$10 per participant

Instructor: Maggie Anderson with Atlanta Real Yoga

In this one-hour workshop, learn about the mental and physical benefits of meditation plus explore several different meditation styles, ending in a 15-minute meditation of your choice. Please bring a cushion or blanket to sit on; chairs also are available. To register, go to www.chambleega.com or call 770-986-5016.

BOOT CAMP CLASSES



This is your last chance to take advantage of the new year pricing for Boot Camp.

This pricing is good only through the month of March.

Try two weeks for free before you decide to commit!

Location: Keswick Park (meet at the Community Building)

\$127 for one month

\$198 for two months

\$250 for three months (lock in for the year at this quarterly price)

Pro-rated pricing is available for late registrants.

Class Schedule

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Charles Palmer and Franklyn Brown, local certified instructors, offer the boot camp classes. Your monthly boot camp experience includes 12 boot camp workout sessions, four assessment appointments, a food journal and guaranteed results!

"SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL" – A FOREFRONT ARTS CLASS

When: Mondays through May 20 (no class on April 8) from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Where: Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive

Who: Boys and girls, first through eighth grades

Cost: \$195 for 12 weeks of classes

Develop your singing, acting and dancing skills while rehearsing for a showcase performance of "Seussical the Musical." Join Horton the Elephant, Mayzie la Bird, the tiny Whos from Whoville, the Cat in the Hat, Sam I Am, the Grinch and all your other favorite Dr. Seuss characters in this magical, musical extravaganza!

In addition to rehearsing for the show, students will play theatre games, learn warm-ups, review theatre terms and more!

Forefront Arts instructors are professional actors, singers and dancers with years of experience teaching kids and teens. For more information or registration, go to www.chambleega.com or call 770-986-5016. Auditions for parts

will not take place until after registration, which closes the first week of March.

Chamblee Seniors Breakfast Club

The Chamblee Seniors Breakfast Club will meet on Thursday, March 7 at the Chamblee Civic Center at 10:30 a.m. More info: Evelyn Kennedy, 770-451-4891; Becky Craven, 770-457-3834

Chamblee Business Association

For its March 21, 2013 meeting, the Chamblee Business Association welcomes David Henzlik, a managing partner for TRINITY Development Group, which owns and manages retail centers and student housing communities throughout the Southeast and West. Henzlik will provide an overview of redevelopment plans for Chamblee Plaza.

Chamblee-based TRINITY Development Group (www.TRINITYDevelopment.net) acquired the 20-acre Chamblee Plaza in 2012 with a mission to redevelop the property that opened in 1960 into a city center that will connect people with local businesses.

A September 2012 town hall meeting by TRINITY resulted in the formation of a Blue Ribbon Panel of seven area residents to assist TRINITY with redevelopment plans for Chamblee Plaza. This group has provided valuable input into the design of a retail center with high-quality local, regional, and national retailers, mixed with family entertainment and dining.

Also during its March meeting, CBA expects to hear plans regarding another major redevelopment project for the city.

CBA business meetings are open to the public and take place on the third Thursday of each month at the Chamblee Civic Center at 3540 Broad Street. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by the 8 a.m. meeting. Cost is free for first-time guests; \$10 for returning guests and \$5 for members.

Also, on March 12, join the CBA for its monthly Business Networking Event (held the second Tuesday of each month). The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn at 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road. www.chambleebusinessassociation.com

MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
3 Improv ABCs* 2:30 p.m.	4 "Seussical the Musical," 4 p.m.* Court, 6 p.m. Recreation Advisory Committee,* 7 p.m.	5 Boot Camp,* 6 p.m.	6 Yoga,* 6 p.m.	7 Chamblee Seniors Breakfast Club, 10:30 a.m. Keep Chamblee Beautiful,* 6 p.m. Boot Camp,* 6 p.m. Court, 6 p.m.	8	9 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m.
10 Improv ABCs* 2:30 p.m.	11 "Seussical the Musical," 4 p.m.*	12 Chamblee Business Association, Business Networking Event 5:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Boot Camp,* 6 p.m.	13 Boot Camp,* 6 p.m.	14 AARP Safe Driver Class,* 9:30 a.m. Boot Camp,* 6 p.m. Public Hearing and Work Session, 6 p.m. Chamblee Civic Center	15	16 Compost and Recycle, 8 a.m. to noon 3210 Cumberland Drive Boot Camp,* 9 a.m. Baseball Opening Day,* 9:30 a.m. Meditation Workshop,* 1 p.m.
17 Improv ABCs* 2:30 p.m.	18 "Seussical the Musical," 4 p.m.*	19 Boot Camp,* 6 p.m. Chamblee City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.	20 Yoga,* 6 p.m.	21 Chamblee Business Association Meeting 7:30 a.m., Chamblee Civic Center Boot Camp,* 6 p.m.	22	23 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m.
24 Improv ABCs* 2:30 p.m.	25 "Seussical the Musical," 4 p.m.*	26 Boot Camp,* 6 p.m.	27 Yoga,* 6 p.m. Court, 6 p.m.	28 Boot Camp,* 6 p.m. Court, 6 p.m.	29	30 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m. Youth Sports Picture Day*
31 Improv ABCs* 2:30 p.m. 						

All meetings will take place at the Chamblee Civic Center, 3540 Broad Street, unless otherwise noted.

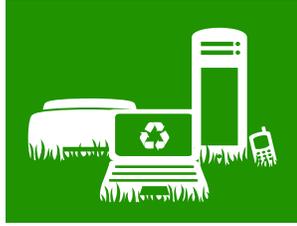
* Location for those events that appear with an asterisk is Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive.

COMMUNITY NOTES

From Public Works

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Reminder: The Public Works Department will no longer take electronic recycling during the week. The department accepts those items on the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. It also only accepts flat panel televisions and no other types of TVs.



To recycle fluorescent or regular light bulbs, please visit Lowe's in Chamblee, where you'll find a drop box near customer service.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Here's a great idea on how to reduce waste from Chamblee resident Jenneke. She suggests that having a compost bin in the yard saves quite a bit of garbage — at least 30 percent. She mixes her kitchen waste with grass and leaves and uses it in her vegetable garden. How cool is that?



THE SIGNAL

City of Chamblee
5468 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341

The Elaine Clark Center, *continued from page 3*

disorders, including autism and communication delays.

Most children at the center come from DeKalb County, followed by Fulton, Gwinnett and Cobb counties. With a maximum student-teacher ratio of one to five, the largest class size is around 10 students. Staffing at the center is typically between 32 and 35 employees, which includes mostly teaching staff and a nurse. In addition to Schmehling-Cook, the center's administrative staff includes a development coordinator and front desk receptionist.

Looking forward, The Elaine Clark Center plans to complete an expansion within the next year — doubling the size of the building and doubling the size of the program. Schmehling-Cook says the center always could use additional volunteer support, including for community service projects.

“Our ultimate goal for the children is that they're progressing developmentally,” says Schmehling-Cook, “that they're happy, that they're learning, they're socializing and they are seen as part of the community rather than separate from the community.”

Circus Fun

Children with special needs, including from The Elaine Clark Center in Chamblee, enjoyed a bit of circus time for DRAGONS!, presented by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey.

Gas South, the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association and the Georgia Municipal Association hosted more than 400 local children for free admission to the circus.