

THE SIGNAL

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City of Chamblee

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Marking a Milestone: Chamblee Chief of Police Celebrates 40 Years

In today's working world, it's not every day that you hear of milestones such as the one Chamblee Chief of Police R. Marc Johnson is marking. In October, Johnson celebrated 40 years with the City of Chamblee. That same month, the Chamblee City Council appointed him as City Manager, a position he'd held on a number of occasions on an acting basis.



dougsmithphotos.com

The city paid tribute to Johnson during a surprise celebration at the Chamblee Civic Center. Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson, City Council Member Thomas S. Hogan II and retired longtime city employee Barbara Daniel spoke during the gathering. On hand to celebrate with Johnson were his wife Jill and members of the Chamblee Police Department and City Hall staff.

A graduate of Marist High School who studied at Georgia State University, Johnson lives in Cherokee County with his wife; the couple has two adult daughters. Here, he shares more about his tenure with the city.

Did you ever imagine you'd make it to 40 years?

Not really. In the early years retirement was too far off to really think about. When I did begin to look ahead I learned I was going to be eligible for retirement upon 30 years of service and wasn't thinking about working beyond that. However, when the 30-year period arrived, I still enjoyed the job too much to consider retirement.

What other positions have you held with the city?

I started working for the police department

as a dispatcher when I was 19 and in college. I was sworn in as a police officer in late 1974 and was promoted to a full-time patrol officer in late 1975. My first assignment was midnight shift. In 1980 I was promoted to sergeant and served as an assistant shift commander. In 1987 I was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to command a newly created administrative division, which eventually included communications, records, court operations, purchasing and budget. I was promoted to captain in 1989 and major in 1993. I served as acting chief from January to April of 1994 and was appointed chief in April 1994.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

It started out about being in public service — helping and protecting the public. As I moved up in rank and assumed management responsibilities, it was about facilitating and empower-

ing others to do the same. I recognized the importance of setting the ethical and professional tone for the agency. I embraced technology early in my career, and it became sort of a second love. From the time I was first assigned to the administrative division, I pushed advancements in technology as a way for the department to be more efficient and effective — to do more with less.



During a surprise gathering, City Manager/Chief of Police Marc Johnson — with his wife Jill on hand — celebrated his 40th anniversary with Chamblee.



A City on
the Right Track

Public Works Director Retires, City's New Hires

The city of Chamblee would like to thank Tillman Hannon for his years of service. The Public Works director retired in October after 31 years with the city.

He joined the city in February 1982 as a sanitation worker. He says he couldn't imagine reaching nearly three decades when he first started.

With his wife Denise, the Flowery

Branch resident has five children — Jeremy, 29, Ethan, 26, Austin, 22, Sidney, nine, and two-year-old Willow. He says he held all positions within Public Works before becoming director.

The city has added four new employees since August. These include three full-time officers in the Chamblee Police Department and a part-time Parks and Recreation employee.

City of Chamblee
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Mayor — R. Eric Clarkson

District 1 — Mark Wedge

District 2 — Leslie C. Robson

District 3 — Thomas S. Hogan II

District 4, At-Large — Dan Zanger

District 5, At-Large — Scott M. Taylor

City Manager — Marc Johnson

City Clerk — Emmie Niethammer

Chief of Police — Marc Johnson

Finance Director — Travis Sims

Parks & Recreation — Joel Holmes

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

2013 Taste of Chamblee Draws and Raises Thousands

Thanks to approximately 5,000 attendees and more than \$24,000 raised during the 2013 Taste of Chamblee, more of Georgia's uninsured and underinsured now can receive much-needed vision, surgery and hearing services. For the second consecutive year, proceeds from Taste of Chamblee went to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

The sixth Taste of Chamblee (www.tasteofchamblee.com) took place September 28 in the streets of downtown Chamblee. Presenters for the event with the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation were the Chamblee Business Association and the City of Chamblee.

Attendees got to sample local and multicultural food and sweet treats from more than 20 area establishments.

Festival newcomers Red Hare Brewing Company of Marietta and wine sponsor Vino Venue Atlanta Wine School filled more than 1,000 cups with beer and wine.

The festival offered live entertainment, an antique car show, an Art Walk showcasing works in a variety of media, and Kid Zone.

Entertainment took place on two stages. It included performances from Korean Drum Group, the Chamblee High School jazz band, R&B artist Shetera Reaves and SugarFoot, the funk rock group introduced by Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson who acknowledged city staff, the Chamblee Business Association and sponsors while greeting the crowd. City Council Member Thomas S. Hogan II also addressed the diverse group that included Carmen

Robinson of Decatur. Robinson says she was attending for the first time after learning of Taste of Chamblee online. Her first such experience came through Taste of Colorado. Robinson came out to Taste of Chamblee with her seven-year-old son Jalen.

Continued on page 5



Lyle Photos

A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Union Hill Kitchen Brings New American to Chamblee

Serving up New American cuisine, Chef Alexis Hernandez has opened doors to his new restaurant, Union Hill Kitchen, at 5336 Peachtree Road.

New American, says Chef Hernandez, “basically encompasses a lot of familiar things that people would know, but sometimes with a little twist. I believe the American palette is one of the most sophisticated palettes in the world. The reason I say that is the American population is not eating the same food every day. Monday, they’re eating Thai food. Tuesday, it’s Mexican, Wednesday, it’s Italian, Thursday, it’s German, Friday, it’s sushi.”

In October, the Chamblee Business Association hosted a ribbon cutting at Union Hill (www.unionhillkitchen.com), within days of the restaurant’s opening.

Union Hill, explains the New Jersey native, is the name of his high school alma mater, where he developed a fascination with food while taking a home economics class.

Union Hill Kitchen serves lunch daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and has plans to serve dinner. Some of the items on the lunch menu include sliders, salads, sandwiches, vegetarian options and lasagna. Desserts made on-site also are available.

A season-six finalist on “Food Network Star” who studied at



Sullivan University’s National Center for Hospitality Studies, Hernandez says he chose to open his 1,800-square-foot establishment in Chamblee because he considers it the next “hot spot for the food scene.

“It’s accessible from the expressway,” says Hernandez, who owns a 65-acre farm in Indiana, “it has a built-in base of locals in Chamblee who know what good food really means and may be tired of traveling out of Chamblee to find it. Chamblee is also a stone’s throw from Buckhead and Brookhaven. So Chamblee was a logical choice.”



Leslie Robson; Marc Johnson; Brent Morris; Scott Taylor; Thomas S. Hogan II; London Channing; Marty Dean; Chef Alexis Hernandez; Tim Jackson, Van Pappas; Barbara Barber; Lou Alvarado; Dan Zanger with his sons; and Ronnie French

Chamblee Holds First Public Workshop for Town Center

Chamblee held its first of two public workshops to collect input for a Chamblee Town Center. The plan involves updating the vision for Chamblee’s Downtown and MARTA Station areas, with a focus on, among other things,

enhancing the city’s sense of place and providing a higher quality of life.

To help fund the project, Chamblee received a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The city has plans to build on the original



LCI — completed in 2001 — as well as a recent five-year update.

During the October 2 public workshop at the Chamblee Civic Center, residents and business owners heard from representatives with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson. More than two dozen participants, including City Council Member Leslie C. Robson, divided into groups for planning exercises, such as identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

Strengths included well-maintained business properties and Chamblee’s City Hall and Police Department. Some of the weaknesses were dilapidated buildings in the Chamblee Town Center area and lack of a central gathering place downtown. Opportunities included redevelopment of Chamblee Plaza and the vacant lot next to Walmart.

Following the October workshop, city leaders and key stakeholders will receive plan concepts for the Chamblee Town Center LCI 10-Year Update. A second public workshop is slated for November 20.

For more information, contact Gary Cornell, Chamblee’s development director, at 770-986-5010; ext. 223.

SIGNAL SPOTLIGHT

Captain Michael Beller: Helping Others Matters Most

The head of the Chamblee Police Department's investigative unit, Captain Michael Beller believes in helping his fellow man. Raised by Christian missionaries in Mexico, Beller wanted to help not just one, but as many people as he could through a kidney transplant chain. The chain started with Beller donating a kidney to an anonymous recipient in Wisconsin and ended with three recipients.

"I benefited from the surgery by the feeling of accomplishment and meaning that it brought to my life to help change three people's lives in a lasting and significant way," says Beller. "A lot of people are looking for purpose and meaning in

life and the only thing I find that gives real fulfillment is helping others."

Beller, who says he's fully recovered, explains that a chain through

the National Kidney Registry "ends by donating a kidney to a recipient who does not have someone arranged to donate on their behalf."

His story of giving has been spotlighted on WAGA-TV (FOX 5) and the Brookhaven Patch. "My hope with the news stories is that they will inspire someone else to follow my lead and start an altruistic donor chain."

Part of the Chamblee Police Department since 1997 — following time in the military — Beller spent his first 12 years in uniform patrol before progressing to field training officer (FTO), followed by sergeant and lieutenant. He is the Defensive Tactics instructor for the department as well as a firearms instructor. In 2009, Beller replaced the retiring captain then in charge of the Investigative Division.

Beller, who is on call for major events such as homicides, shootings and rapes, has been married for 16 years to his wife Molly, whom he met in Columbus, Ga., while he was stationed at Fort Benning. The two have four daughters: Callie, 14, Sarah, 12, Katy Joy, nine, and Jessica, six, and a seven-year-old son, Luke.

He says there's only one thing he regrets about his kidney donation experience. "My only regret about the donation is I can't do it again!"



Captain Michael Beller

Chamblee Celebrates Opening of breathe. Yoga Studio

Having taught group and private yoga classes for nearly 15 years now, Cherri McCallister turned to yoga following a back injury from an automobile accident. She's been a fan since. So much so McCallister opened breathe. Yoga Studio with her husband, Ed Tyioran, in June. The studio, offering classes in yoga, tai chi and pilates, is next to Goodwill and Wing Factory at 5071 Peachtree Boulevard, Suite 250, in Chamblee.

breathe. Yoga Studio owners Cherri McCallister and Ed Tyioran

"The benefits of yoga, tai chi and pilates include core strength, stress reduction, increased flexibility and balance — all which lead to a healthier lifestyle," says McCallister. "I wanted to share these health benefits with others."

McCallister teaches several classes, including traditional hatha, vinyasa, gentle and prenatal yoga. She also has three other teachers on staff.

In October, the Chamblee Business Association held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for breathe. CBA President Van Pappas, Chamblee City Council Member Thomas S. Hogan II and CBA Board Member Brent Morris were among those on hand.

October ribbon cutting



MORE INFO:

www.breatheyogastudioatlanta.com

404-673-0415

Email: breathe.yogaatl@yahoo.com

A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Taste of Chamblee, *continued from page 2*

“He gets a kick out of the kids’ [zone],” she says. “I love the live music. Seeing the local vendors is nice.”

The event attracted support from two dozen sponsors, including Chamblee Connoisseur Sponsor Jim Ellis Automotive, which had six cars on site.

The 2013 Taste of Chamblee awards — based on votes from visitors — went to the following participating vendors:

- Host with the Most — Vintage Pizzeria
- Chamblee Favorite — Galla’s Pizza, Wings, Subs & More
- Best Bite — Kaleidoscope Bistro & Pub
- Overall Ticket Sales — The Mad Italian
- Best Sight to Bite — High Road Craft Ice Cream & Sorbet

Winners received plaques to hang in their places of business.

More info: www.tasteofchamblee.com

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation assists uninsured and underinsured Georgians by providing low-cost eye exams, eyeglasses and digital hearing aids.

www.lionslighthouse.org



Lyle Photos

Chamblee’s Antique Row to Hold Holiday Open House

Chamblee’s Antique Row will host its 35th-annual Holiday Open House Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 with free refreshments and special sale prices. Open House hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Chamblee’s Antique District is the largest and most distinctive antiquing community in Georgia — with more than 250 dealers and 300,000 square feet of antiques and collectibles.

During Holiday Open House, shoppers enjoy holiday refreshments as they browse from shop to shop. The variety of merchandise includes American and European furniture, ’50s modern and retro, radios and phonographs, toys and dolls, paintings and prints, watches and clocks, estate and costume jewelry, medical and scientific instruments, postcards and ephemera, cameras and old photography, sports memorabilia, art deco, Black Americana and more.

This year, Chamblee merchants will give away \$200 in gift certificates to a few lucky shoppers. Entry forms are available at these shops on Antique Row: Antique Factory, Atlanta Vintage Books, Attic Treasures, Blanton House, Broad Street Antique Mall, Chamblee Antiques & Collectibles, Chamblee Antique & Interiors, Consignment Furniture Depot, Global Gems Jewelry, Rust & Dust Antiques, The Estate Gallery and The Treasure Mart. The more stores you visit, the greater your chance of winning. The drawing takes place December 17; you don’t have to be present to win.

More info: 770-458-6316; www.antiquerow.com



dougsmithphotos.com

Carmen Robinson of Decatur and her son Jalen attend their first Taste of Chamblee.



Around 100 students and parents turned out for a P.R.I.D.E. class where members of the Chamblee Police Department were on hand to assist the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office. The class took place in September. The free national class is for new or soon-to-be drivers 15 to 18 years old. It addresses driver attitude, knowledge and behavior of both parent and the new teen driver. Members of the P.R.I.D.E. team include Lt. Jim Wiley (from left to right: second from left) and Officer Jason Jones (kneeling).

A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Parks and Recreation

For additional information on Parks and Recreation events, email jholmes@chambleega.com or call (770) 986-5016.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Saturday, December 14

Reservations required; no walk-ins admitted. Reservation times: 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m.

Location: Chamblee Civic Center, 3540 Broad Street

Cost: \$5 per child (includes photo and breakfast); Additional photos: \$5 each

Activities include:

- Live reindeer!
- Arts and Crafts
- Pictures with Santa
- Story time
- Breakfast
- Coloring

ZUMBA CLASSES

Mondays at 7:30 p.m. until December 16

Keswick Park Community Building
Instructors from ZumbaAtlanta.com

Class Pricing:

- \$80 for the eight-week series beginning October 28
- \$12 per class in advance
- \$15 per class for walk-ins

Want to get a great aerobic workout in a fun-filled environment? Look no further. Zumba is a great cardio exercise that

moves to Latin-inspired music. More info: ZumbaAtlanta.com

BOOT CAMP CLASSES

Try a month for free before you decide to commit!

Location: Keswick Park (meet at Community Building)

Cost:

- One month — \$89
- Two months — \$167
- Three months — \$250

Schedule:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m.

Classes are led by Charles Palmer and Franklyn Brown, local certified instructors.



AARP SAFE DRIVER CLASS

When: Saturday, November 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive

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

The class is offered for those wanting to take a driver safety class for any of the following reasons:

- insurance discounts
- court mandated to take class
- improvement of driver safety

Sign up in advance. You may register online at www.chambleega.com or by calling the Parks and Recreation office at (770) 986-5016. Payments for this course are due day of the class.

YOGA

Level 1-2 Hatha Yoga Class
Six-week series

Wednesdays, October 30 to December 11 (no class on November 27), 6:30 p.m.
Keswick Park Community Building

3496 Keswick Drive
\$50 for the series or \$10 per class for walk-ins

Instructed by Marlene Bogoslawsky

The class is appropriate for most (including beginners) and consists of gentle stretching combined with standing poses for strength and a moderate vinyasa (flow) practice for stamina.

CHAMBLEE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Chamblee Business Association will hold its **Business after Hours** networking event from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **November 12** at Wing Factory on Peachtree Boulevard. CBA's Business after Hours networking events take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at different locations.

Also, join CBA for its monthly meeting from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on **November 21**. MARTA General Manager/CEO Keith Parker will serve as guest speaker.

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.

www.chambleebusinessassociation.com

CHAMBLEE SENIORS BREAKFAST CLUB

For its November meeting, the Chamblee Seniors Breakfast Club welcomes the Assistance League of Atlanta for a November 7 fashion show. Meetings take place at the Chamblee Civic Center at 10 a.m. Cost of breakfast is \$2. More info: Evelyn Kennedy, 770-451-4891 and 404-226-7843 and Becky Craven, 770-457-3834 and 404-405-6719.



NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4 Creative Dramatics* 3-15 p.m. Musical Theatre* "Aladdin," 4 p.m. Court, 6 p.m. Zumba class* 7:30 p.m.	5 Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m. Architectural Advisory Review Board, 7 p.m. City Hall	6 Yoga,* 6:30 p.m.	7 Chamblee Seniors Breakfast Club, 10 a.m. Court, 6 p.m. Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m.	8	9 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m. AARP Safe Driver Class,* 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
10	11 Veterans Day; City Offices Closed Creative Dramatics* 3-15 p.m. Musical Theatre* "Aladdin," 4 p.m. Zumba class,* 7:30 p.m.	12 Chamblee Business Association, Business after Hours, 5:30 p.m. Wing Factory Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m. Recreation Advisory Committee,* 7 p.m.	13 Yoga,* 6:30 p.m. Court, 6 p.m.	14 Public Hearing and Work Session, 6 p.m. Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Compost and Recycle 8 a.m. to noon, 3210 Cumberland Drive Boot Camp,* 9 a.m.
17	18 Creative Dramatics* 3-15 p.m. Musical Theatre* "Aladdin," 4 p.m. Zumba class* 7:30 p.m.	19 Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	20 Yoga,* 6:30 p.m.	21 Chamblee Business Association meeting 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Court, 6 p.m. Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m.
24	25 Creative Dramatics* 3-15 p.m. Musical Theatre* "Aladdin," 4 p.m. Zumba class* 7:30 p.m.	26 Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m., City Hall Boot Camp,* 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Thanksgiving Holiday City Offices Closed	29	30 Boot Camp,* 9 a.m.

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

* Location for these events: Keswick Park Community Building, 3496 Keswick Drive.

A Reminder from the Public Works Department

Leaf season is almost upon us. Please remember to place rocks, limbs, logs, garbage, and leaves in separate piles for pickup. All these items are recycled and have different end users and are collected by different trucks. Therefore, they must be piled separately to ensure proper handling without impeding service times. Do not mix construction debris with yard trimmings. Any of the above items mixed with leaves

will damage the impeller inside the leaf machine and this could jeopardize collection times and create unsafe conditions for the workers. Leaves are to be placed in loose piles on the ground on the residents' side of the curb. The leaf machine runs through the entire city once a week. Because of the volume, there is no set day when the leaf machine will be in your area. Public Works rotates the starting point of collection each week to ensure that everyone gets equal pickups.

All trash should be bagged, tied, and put out at the street before 8 a.m. Contact Public Works at 770-986-5019 with any questions or concerns.



City of Chamblee
5468 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341

News from Public Works

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

The Public Works Department, located at 3210 Cumberland Drive, has firewood for sale! For those wishing to pick up at the Public Works facility, a pickup truck load is \$65. If you would like it delivered, the cost is \$105. Public Works only delivers to Chamblee residents inside the city limits. Firewood is available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have questions, please call 770-986-5019.



HOLIDAY SANITATION SCHEDULE

Veterans Day – Closed Monday, November 11

Week of Nov. 11: Monday and Thursday pickups will take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday and Friday pickups will take place on Wednesday and Friday.

Thanksgiving – Closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29

Week of Nov. 25: Monday and Thursday pickups will take place on Monday only; Tuesday and Friday pickups will take place on Tuesday only.

Recyclable materials will be collected on your last pickup day of the week.
