



CHAMBLEE Signal

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Official Newsletter of Chamblee, Georgia

chambleega.gov

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Learn How the City Works Chamblee 101 Series Returns in April

Want to learn more about local government and how it operates? Then Chamblee 101 is for you. The seven-week program begins in April and is designed to educate residents and business owners on how our city's government works, who's responsible for what and what steps you can take to make a difference. It includes discussions and interactive activities on topics such as Chamblee's history, form of government, city services, finance and development.

Classes are set for 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 1-May 14. The graduation ceremony will take place at the City Council meeting in May. Please register by Friday, March 20 by contacting Teresa Taylor, 470-395-2309, or ttaylor@chambleega.gov.

Graduates of Chamblee 101 Class of 2014

Front: Lou Alvarado

Front row, from left: Steve Wrenn, Jay Stogner, Mary Robinson, Barbara Barber, Lewis Newmark, Aurora Santana, Jeff Carlyle, Kristi Green, Martin Johnson, Kathy Underheim, and Sansida Stovall

Back row, from left: John Mesa, Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson, Debbie Newmark, Bob German, Matt Sitter, and Paul Stovall

Not shown: Jim Lyle, Tammy Lyle, Gary Meinken, Laura Bentley, Lindsey Bryant, Carol Fischer, Tim Holmes, and Adrianne Holmes

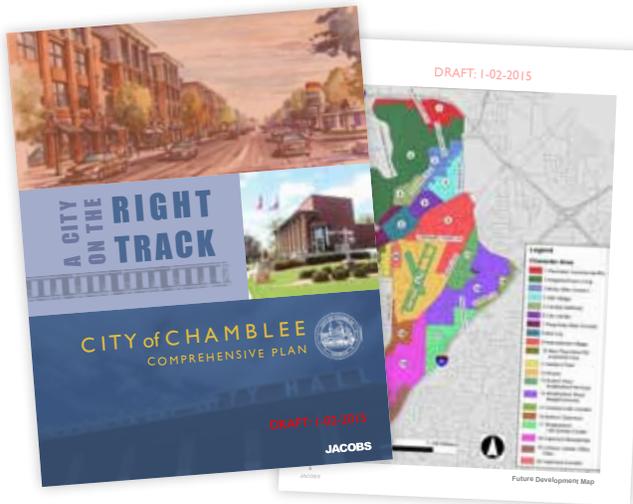
Development Department:

Special Projects Underway

Chamblee’s Development Department has three special projects in the works: an update of the city’s Comprehensive Plan, a new Unified Development Ordinance, and a Downtown Parking Study.

Comprehensive Plan Update

When Chamblee annexed a new area south of the PDK Airport into the city in 2013, an update to our Comprehensive Plan was needed. The plan is our guide for zoning decisions as well as planning for better transportation, parks, neighborhoods, and economic development.



Chamblee hired Jacobs consultants to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan to embrace the newly annexed portion and incorporate the latest ideas about development trends and public improvements. Jacobs held public meetings followed by a series of stakeholder committee meetings last year to get public input.

The City Council approved the draft plan last July and sent it for review to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). We made adjustments to the plan based on comments from these agencies. The revised draft is posted on the Chamblee website.

When we receive final approval of the plan from ARC we will hold another hearing for the public, mayor and council to consider making this the official Comprehensive Plan for Chamblee. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for March.

Unified Development Ordinance

Because of new trends in infill growth and redevelopment in the city, the current Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations and Development Regulations are outdated and in need of revision. Last summer Jacobs consultants created a new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), bringing these codes up to date and coordinating conflicting provisions. The new document is better organized and contains graphic standards that help clarify the content.

The draft ordinance can be viewed on the city’s website.

Downtown Parking Study

For anyone coming to Chamblee to dine, shop or do business, a key concern is “Where will I park my car?” To address this question for all visitors, the Development Department recently completed an inventory of parking spaces in the downtown area. We divided the city into parking zones within an easy 700-foot walk. Now we are comparing the availability of parking in different parts of downtown with the need for parking in

City of Chamblee
5468 Peachtree Rd.
Chamblee, GA 30341
770-986-5010
Fax: 770-986-5014
chambleega.gov

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor R. Eric Clarkson
District 1 John Mesa
District 2 Leslie C. Robson
District 3 Thomas S. Hogan II
At-large Dan Zanger
At-large Brian Mock

CITY STAFF

City Manager Marc Johnson
City Clerk Emmie Niethammer
Chief of Police Donny Williams
Finance Director Travis Sims
Parks & Recreation Jennifer Rackley
Public Works Reginald Anderson
Economic Development Adam Causey

CONTACT INFORMATION

City Hall 770-986-5010
Public Works/
Animal Control 770-986-5040
Development 770-986-5024
Parks & Recreation 770-986-5016
Police Department 770-986-5005
Municipal Court 770-986-5004
Code Enforcement 770-986-5005
code_enforcement@chambleega.gov
Police Emergency 911

The Signal is the official publication of the City of Chamblee. It provides the citizens of Chamblee with timely information on events, activities and news related to the city.

GOT NEWS? Send press releases, announcements and other materials for consideration to thesignal@chambleega.gov. All material provided is subject to editing.

continued on page 8

New Trash Schedule:

Once-a-Week Pickup + New Trash Bins

The City of Chamblee is committed to providing sanitation services in a professional and efficient manner, as cost-effectively as possible.

In keeping with that goal, beginning in April, sanitation services will change to once-a-week pickup.

Public Works is finalizing the new routes and details now. Residents will receive wheeled trashcans for both garbage and recycling. The cans will be delivered to each resident's home along with a flyer containing information on pickup days, routes and answers to frequently asked questions.

We will begin serving the most recently annexed area, currently being serviced by DeKalb County, on July 1.

Pickup Program Highlights

- Trash, recycling and yard trimmings will be collected once a week on the same day.
- Standardized containers will reduce loose trash and ensure that neighborhoods are cleaner and neater.
- The wheeled containers will increase the safety of city employees and eliminate most heavy lifting.
- New one-man leaf vacuum trucks will run year-round, servicing each neighborhood once a week. They will vacuum the curbs in addition to picking up leaves and yard trimmings



These changes will result in a significant increase in efficiency and enable the current sanitation rate to remain the same. For more information visit chambleega.gov.

Main Street Update:

We Knew It! Chamblee Is a Classic

Chamblee was recognized at the annual Georgia Main Street Luncheon in January as one of 17 communities to receive the national designation of a Classic Main Street Community in 2015. Our city was selected in 2013 to participate in the largest Main Street start-up class in the history of the Georgia Main Street program. Since then we have worked closely with the Office of Downtown Development at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to prepare our community, downtown business owners, volunteers and elected officials for the journey ahead.

Through downtown development training sessions, community visioning ses-



From left: Jessica Reynolds, Georgia Department of Community Affairs; Adam Causey, Chamblee Economic Development manager; Ronnie French, Chamblee DDA member; and Billy Peppers, director of the Office of Downtown Development, Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

sions and capacity building activities our newly designated Main Street program is now ready to meet and exceed the guidelines for the ten national standards for accreditation, designated by the National Main Street Center.

#TrafficThursday Offers Tips and More

In January, the Traffic Division of the Chamblee Police Department introduced #TrafficThursday. On the department's Facebook page, the Traffic Unit now releases weekly tips and answers to frequently asked questions to inform drivers of the rules of the road. Submit questions to jwiley@chambleega.gov.

Business License Renewals

Business license renewals for 2015 are due March 15 and will be considered late after April 15. If you didn't receive a renewal form or have questions, call City Hall, 770-986-5010.

Chamblee Police Department

Gearing Up for New Challenges

Promotions and New Officers

The Chamblee Police Department is proud to announce two promotions in January: Mike McKeithan to sergeant and Gerald Thomson to lieutenant.

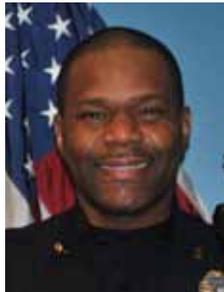
The department also welcomes four new officers: Jamall Caroll, Andrew Clark, Sam Curry and Javed Narrain.



Mike McKeithan



Gerald Thomson



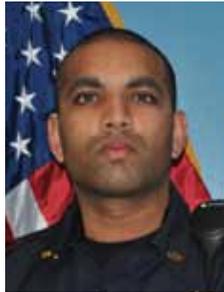
Jamall Caroll



Andrew Clark



Sam Curry



Javed Narrain

Tough Cops Take Top Honors

Once again the Chamblee Police Department takes first place! This time it was during one of the toughest classes taught at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Macon, Georgia. On

Jan. 20, officers Val Khoshtariya and Mike Orlando (both C team) joined 12 other law enforcement officers from around the state to participate in a four-day semi-auto pistol level III class.

This class consists of classroom and intensive field instruction. Over the four days of training officers are exposed to advanced firearms techniques that put to test even the best marksman.

The class turned out to be too much of a challenge for five officers who did not pass. I'm proud to announce that both of our officers passed, and officer Val Khoshtariya was the winner and "top shooter" with the highest overall score. Way to go, Val and Mike!

– Sergeant Mike Pearson, C Team.



Gerald Thomson – A Soldier's Story

by Cpt. Ernesto Ford

Gerald Thomson was promoted to lieutenant on Jan. 7 with the Chamblee Police Department and in his new assignment he will be the watch commander for C Team. A watch commander is the most senior ranking officer on a team.

Gerald is a local who grew up on Dresden Way, attended Dresden Elementary and graduated from Tucker High School. After graduating from Tucker he briefly attended Georgia State University and UGA; however, he soon realized that serving his country and community was his true calling.

He joined the Army in 2001 and joined the war on terrorism by deploying to Iraq twice. He left the active Army in 2005 and joined the Chamblee PD as a police officer. While a member of the Chamblee PD, he joined the Georgia Army National Guard and joined the war on terrorism once again by deploying to Afghanistan.

Lt. Thomson's military accomplishments:

- Combat Infantryman's Badge
- Jump Wings
- Army Commendation Medal x 3
- Army Achievement Medal x 4
- Georgia Commendation Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star
- NCO Professional Development Ribbon x 2
- NATO International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan Medal
- Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon x 2
- Overseas Service Ribbon x 3
- Army Reserve Medal with M Device
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Combat Patches from the 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, 1st Armored Division, 10th Mountain Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 25th Infantry Division and the 48th Infantry Brigade
- Currently serves in the Georgia Army National Guard and holds the rank of staff sergeant.

Gerald is married to Kora and they have two children, 6-year-old Ashleigh and 1-year-old Tye. Gerald also has an 11-year-old step daughter, Kasia. He played in the band Crossfire as the guitarist, with Steve Harris and Brady Ends and his brother James Thomson. At the age of 17 he earned a first-degree black belt in Korean-style martial arts Tang Soo-do.

Smart911.com™

A Free Service That Can Save Lives

Sign up for Smart911 and create a Safety Profile for your household. The information – about you, your family members, your home, pets and even vehicles – will be stored in a secure database and will automatically display on a 9-1-1 dispatcher's screen when you make an emergency call. Relayed to first responders, it helps them provide faster, more effective assistance to you and your family.

Smart911.com, a free service provided by the City of Chamblee, is private and secure. You control what information is in your profile – information that can save seconds or even minutes of response time and assistance during an emergency.

Seconds count when:

- A child goes missing
- There's a fire
- You have a medical emergency
- An accident occurs at home or on the job
- You are involved in a car wreck

With Smart911, first responders are made aware of critical medical information like a heart condition or a potentially fatal allergy. Police can have immediate access to a missing child's photo and firefighters can know important household details like bedroom locations or if there are pets in the home.

To create your free Safety Profile go to smart911.com and click Sign Up to get started. The process is quick and easy.



We encourage residents to sign up for DeKalb County's high-speed emergency notification system, CodeRED. This system is a key tool the county uses to reach people directly in an emergency. It can quickly deliver time-sensitive messages via voice, email, and text to targeted areas.

To sign up for CodeRED, visit chambleega.gov and follow the link to the CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page. If you don't have Internet access call DeKalb Emergency Management, 770-270-0413, Monday-Friday, 8-5 p.m., to register by phone.

Required information includes first and last name, physical street address, and primary phone number. To receive weather warnings, be sure to select the Severe Weather Warning link.

Businesses are encouraged to register for CodeRED as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, or who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number.

Chamblee PD Supports Special Olympics GA

The Chamblee Police Department has been a proud supporter of Special Olympics GA since the late '90s. The nonprofit organization serves more than 26,702 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 120 counties, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults.

Special Olympics GA offers participants continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

To raise money for Special Olympics GA, Chamblee PD is selling Law Enforcement Torch Run merchandise. T-shirts are \$15 and hats are \$12. You can purchase a shirt from the records division on the first floor of the Police Department.



Hobby / Recreational Flying

What Can I Do With My Model Aircraft?

Having fun means flying safely! Hobby or recreational flying doesn't require FAA approval but you must follow safety guidelines. Any other use requires FAA authorization.

AVOID DOING ANYTHING HAZARDOUS TO OTHER AIRPLANES OR PEOPLE AND PROPERTY ON THE GROUND.

- ✓ **DO** fly a model aircraft/UAS at the local model aircraft club
- ✓ **DO** take lessons and learn to fly safely
- ✓ **DO** contact the airport or control tower when flying within 5 miles of the airport
- ✓ **DO** fly a model aircraft for personal enjoyment
- ✗ **DON'T** fly near manned aircraft
- ✗ **DON'T** fly beyond line of sight of the operator
- ✗ **DON'T** fly an aircraft weighing more than 55 lbs unless it's certified by an aeromodelling community-based organization
- ✗ **DON'T** fly contrary to your aeromodelling community-based safety guidelines
- ✗ **DON'T** fly model aircraft for payment or commercial purposes



MODEL AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS LIMITS

According to the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 as (1) the aircraft is flown strictly for hobby or recreational use; (2) the aircraft is operated in accordance with a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization; (3) the aircraft is limited to not more than 55 pounds unless otherwise certified through a design, construction, inspection,

flight test, and operational safety program administered by a community-based organization; (4) the aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft; (5) when flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft provides the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower...with prior notice of the operation; and (6) the aircraft is flown within visual line of sight of the operator.

For more information about safety training and guidelines, visit www.modelaircraft.org

For more information, visit www.faa.gov/go/uas



Federal Aviation Administration

Spring Break Camps

Camp Chamblee

April 6-10



Available for children ages 6-12, Camp Chamblee offers sports, games, arts and crafts, and a variety of other activities. Camp is held in the Community Building in Keswick Park and campers have all the amenities of the park available throughout the week.

Camp Hours

Drop off: 7:30-9 a.m.

Scheduled activities: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pick up: 3:30-6 p.m.

Fees: \$75 for residents, \$100 for nonresidents. Parents will be charged \$5 for each 15 minutes they are late picking up their child, starting at 6:01 p.m.

Space is limited to 30 campers for spring break and reservations must be made in advance. For more information, call Parks and Recreation, 770-986-5016.

Jon Akin Soccer Camp

April 6-10 ■ For Children 6-14

This half-day camp, 9 a.m.-noon, is



JON AKIN
SOCCER CAMPS

provided by the Oglethorpe University men's coaching staff and Oglethorpe University college players. Children will be divided into two age groups, 6-9 and 10-14. Fee: \$115.

The first hour will be dedicated to foot skills and the basic techniques needed to be proficient in soccer: dribbling, passing, shooting. The second hour will be dedicated to 2 v 2, 3 v 3, and 4 v 4 games to apply skill sets worked on during the first hour.

The final hour of camp will be games in which players can express themselves and enjoy the freedoms of full matches with coaching support. This camp is a great option for younger beginning players or for older players looking for extra technical training. Coach Jon Akin is a U.S. National team scout for the U.S. Soccer Federation.

Summer Break Camps



Camp Chamblee

May 26-June 26 and July 6-Aug. 7

Available for children 6-12, Camp Chamblee offers sports, games, arts and crafts, nature walks, swimming, and field trips. Camp is held in the Community Building in Keswick Park and campers have all the amenities of the park available throughout the summer. Each week will have a theme and a field trip or special guest. Children are divided by age to ensure their activities are appropriate and enjoyable for all.

Camp Hours:

Drop off: 7:30-9 a.m.

Scheduled activities: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pick up: 3:30-6 p.m.

Fees: \$75 for residents, \$100 for non-residents. Parents will be charged \$5 for each 15 minutes they are late picking up their child starting at 6:01 p.m.

Space is limited to 60 campers each week and reservations must be made in advance. Sign up early – we sell out each summer! A \$20 deposit is due for each week you sign up with the remaining balance due each Friday preceding the registered week.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation, 770-986-5016.

Camp Chamblee will not be offered June 29-July 3. Try one of these options in Keswick Park: Forefront Arts 'Frozen and Friends' Camp or British Soccer Camp.

Forefront Arts 'Frozen and Friends' Camp

June 29-July 3

Calling all campers who love to sing, dance and act! We'll learn warm-ups, play lots of theatre and improv games, and work on our triple-threat skills. Campers will learn material from favorite fairytale musicals including *Frozen*, *Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, *Tangled* and *Cinderella* in preparation for the Friday Showcase for parents.



Campers can audition for small ensembles and solos in addition to participating in the large group musical numbers. Besides rehearsing for the show, campers will receive instruction in many aspects of live theatre including movement, music, blocking, theatrical makeup, and set and costume design. Campers will be grouped by age and experience. All levels of experience are welcome.

Camper Details:

Rising 1st-8th graders

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

\$225 (additional siblings save 10 percent)

Performance: Friday, July 3, at 3 p.m.

Early drop off at 8 a.m. and aftercare until 5:30 p.m. are available. Register at ForefrontArts.com/Camp. Call 770-864-3316 for more information.

British Soccer Camp

June 29-July 3

Presented by Challenger Sports. Children 4-14 can learn from professional British soccer coaches.



Camper Options:

9-10 a.m. • Mini Soccer • 4-5 yrs • \$105

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. • Mini Soccer
4-5 yrs • \$105

9 a.m.-noon • Half day • 6-14 yrs • \$145

9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Full day • 8-14 yrs • \$200

Campers will be divided into groups based on age and ability. If you would like to be a host family and provide lodging for one of the coaches, your child will receive an \$80 discount on registration. Contact Neil Lynch, 770-434-5226, or nlynch@challengersports.com, for more details. Register by May 15

to receive a free jersey. All campers will receive a ball and T-shirt.



Farewell to Lt. Parks

Members of the Chamblee Police Department gathered together for a farewell luncheon on Jan. 16 to recognize Lt. Brendon Parks' 14 years of service. Lt. Parks came to the department in 2001 and brought experience from having served in the MARTA Police Department. He progressed quickly through the ranks and was known for his loyalty to his officers and his team. We wish Brendon the best in all his endeavors and thank him for his service to the citizens of Chamblee.



Left to right: Chief Donny Williams, Lt. Parks, City Manager Marc Johnson and Assistant Chief Mike Beller



The Chamblee Police Department recognizes Lt. Brendon Parks for his 14 years of service.



Special Projects Underway continued from page 2

each of those areas.

The study takes into account more than what is needed today. It considers the amount of empty space in buildings that might fill up one day and generate more parking needs. The results will give us an idea of how serious the parking issues are now, how these issues may change in the future, where the city should add parking spaces to downtown, and how much additional parking is needed where. A discussion of the preliminary findings of this study was conducted in the February City Council Work Session meeting in the Civic Center.

The Chamblee Development Department's key responsibilities include building permits, sign permits, land development permits, variances, and Planned Unit Developments.

What's Going On?

Besides what you read in the *Signal*, how do you know what's going on? Here's where to look:



Chamblee Website

Check out chambleega.gov for:
News Flash – news
Media Center – press releases
Calendar

Social media accounts

Please, go online and “like” the Chamblee Facebook page!

- City of Chamblee
- Chamblee Police Department
- Chamblee Parks and Rec
- @chambleega
- @chambleeparksandrec
- @ChambleeGA

Hashtags

#chambleega
#chambleeliveswell

Chamblee Gallery



Scenes at the Daddy-Daughter Dance



The Chamblee Police Department hosted Bear Den Troop 268 of the Chamblee Methodist Church. Officers showed the third graders how to detect and lift fingerprints at a crime scene, discussed with them who to call in an emergency, and asked them if they knew their home addresses and phone numbers in case of an emergency.



The Development Department is getting some help working on its vacant land inventory. A capstone group from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at GSU will work with the department this semester.

Share Your Photos!

Calling for all news and announcements from Chamblee's residents and businesses.

Got a grand opening? Special event? Get the word out about anniversaries, announcements, and honors too. We want to know what you are doing in Chamblee!

Send in your news and photos to thesignal@chambleega.gov.

Council, Boards, and Commissions

Who's in Charge Here?

Chamblee operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor and City Council provide the legislative and policy-making functions of the city, setting policies and enacting local laws. They are responsible for the adoption of an annual budget and the levying of taxes necessary to finance local government operations. The mayor and five council members are elected in nonpartisan elections for over-lapping four-year terms.

Mayor

All City Council meetings are presided over by the chief elected officer, the mayor, who does not have a vote except in the case of a tie. The mayor signs all contracts for Chamblee. Mayor Eric Clarkson was first elected to the council in 2001 and has served as mayor since 2005.

City Council and City Manager

Day-to-day operations of Chamblee's various departments and implementation of policies set by the city council are the responsibility of the city manager, who is the chief executive officer and is appointed by the mayor and city council. The mayor and council also appoint the municipal court judges, city solicitor and city attorney as well as the various building inspectors.

Council meetings: Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., Civic Center

Council work sessions: Thursdays prior to council meeting, 6 p.m., Civic Center

Boards and Commissions

The City Council appoints members of the Chamblee Downtown Development Authority, the Architectural Review Board and the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Chamblee Downtown Development Authority (CDDA)

The CDDA promotes business and employment opportunities in Chamblee's central business district. Its goals are facilitated by the pursuit and creation of various programs, both public and private, that encourage redevelopment and growth within the district. Their website is downtownchamblee.com

CDDA meetings: Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m., City Hall Conference Room

Board Members: Van Pappas, chair

David Carter, vice chair

Paige Perkins, secretary/treasurer

John Boggs

Ronni French

Leslie Robson

Chamblee Downtown Development

Authority Board: David Carter, Paige Perkins, Leslie Robson, Van Pappas, Ronni French, and John Boggs.



Mayor and Council

Back row (left to right): Council Member John Mesa, Mayor Pro Tem Dan Zanger, and Council Member Brian Mock

Front Row: Council Member Leslie Robson, Mayor Eric Clarkson and Council Member Thomas Hogan



Architectural Review Board (ARB)

This board consists of six members appointed by the mayor and council. Special qualifications of the members include an understanding of and skills in architectural design, landscape architecture, urban planning, real estate or engineering. The ARB is responsible for hearing and reviewing the exterior architectural design of all planned unit development (PUD) and development of community impact (DCI) applications.

ARB meetings: First Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m., City Hall Conference Room

Board members: Lou Alvarado
Andrew Amor
BeJai Johnson
Darron Kusman
Paige Perkins



Architectural Review Board: David C. Hamilton, Paige Perkins, Lou Alvarado Jr., Darron Kusman, and BeJai Johnson. Not pictured: Andrew Amor

Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)

The Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) serves the Chamblee Parks and Recreation Department through bringing in ideas from the community as well as disseminating information to the community. RAC members also serve as first-string volunteers when planning and implementing community events. Each RAC member serves a two-year term that is eligible to be renewed at the end of two years if there are no others waiting to join the committee at that time.

RAC meetings: First Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Chamblee Civic Center

Board Members: Lou Alvarado
Adam Booher
Janelle Foy
Maria Holbrook
Leslie Freymann
Verle Van Hoozen



Recreation Advisory Board: Janelle Foy, Adam Booher, Lou Alvarado, Verle Van Hoozen, Maria Holbrook, and Leslie Freyman



Jim Ellis Celebrates Grand Opening of New Audi Atlanta Store

Jim Ellis Automotive Group celebrated the grand opening of Audi Atlanta at the store's new location on Peachtree Boulevard in Chamblee. A Grand Opening celebration was held on Tuesday, Dec. 9, following the actual opening of the store on Nov. 3.

The new state-of-the-art, 70,000-square-foot store is one of Audi's largest dealerships and the first commercial building in Chamblee built to LEED standards. The beautiful interior includes in-house dining in the Quattro Café, which serves Starbucks coffee, sandwiches and items hot off the grill.

Other amenities include a family-friendly children's play area, a four-lane indoor service drive, a giant video wall, a design center, an indoor delivery center and a 14-car showroom. The new Audi Atlanta also boasts the largest loaner fleet in the United States and the largest inventory of Audis in Georgia.

Audi Atlanta is a full-service new-and-used Audi dealer that has been in business since 1983. The dealership is part of the Jim Ellis Automotive Group and carries the largest inventory of both new and used Audis in the south. Audi Atlanta service technicians are trained on Audi cars and SUVs. A knowledgeable parts staff proudly serves the Metro Atlanta area. Visit the new building at 5805 Peachtree Boulevard or online at AudiAtlanta.com.



City of Chamblee Mayor Eric Clarkson participates in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Audi Atlanta with Jim Ellis Automotive Group Chairman Jim Ellis, President/CEO Jimmy Ellis, Audi Atlanta General Manager Tracie Maloney, Audi of America President Scott Keogh, and other Audi of America executives.

Peanut Butter in Chamblee: Hand-Crafted, Locally Produced

After achieving national success during the past two years with Chamblee-based NaturAlmond Almond Butter, Jaime Foster has launched Georgia's first hand-crafted, small batch peanut butter. Her brand, Georgia Grinders Peanut Butters, is available in regional Whole Foods, Sprouts, Farmers Markets, Central Market Stores and hundreds of gourmet specialty shops, as well as online at natur almond.com/buy-it.

"Living in the peanut capital of the world, I was surprised that there weren't any other nationally distributed, hand-

crafted, small-batch peanut butter companies based in Georgia," reflects Foster. "During the past few years we learned a lot about producing the highest quality nut butters with our NaturAlmond Almond Butters and we are excited to adapt these same principles in making a wonderful product representing the state of Georgia."

The media preview was held at Southbound, where Executive Chef Ryan Smith will showcase Georgia Grinders premium pea-

nut butter in several fabulous dishes and desserts.



Chamblee High National Finals in April:

'We the People'

Chamblee Charter High School has once again been selected as the sole representative from Georgia in the Center for Civic Education's annual competition on the United States Constitution: "We the People." The national finals will be held April 24-28 in Washington, D.C.

The team is composed of Mr. Rubino's Advanced Placement Government class and is charged with researching and developing arguments on such topics as "What rights do the Bill of Rights protect?" and "What are the historical foundations of the American political system?" In addition,

the students must have extensive knowledge of court cases and current events. They must convincingly present their arguments to a panel of constitutional scholars operating as a simulated congressional committee.

Due to budget cutbacks in civic education, the team will also have to fund their trip to the finals. Anyone interested in assisting these students in their endeavors can make a tax deductible donation to Chamblee Charter High School with "We the People" in the memo section of your check.

Congratulations, New RAC Members

In the last *Signal* we put out a call for people interested in becoming Recreation Advisory Committee members and got results. We are proud to announce three new members: Adam Booher, Janelle Foy and Maria Holbrook.



Adam Booher



Janelle Foy



Maria Holbrook

Call GA 811 Before You Dig

Georgia law mandates that, before beginning any mechanized digging or excavation work, you must contact Georgia 811 by using eRequest on Georgia811.com or by calling 1-800-282-7411 at least 48 hours but no more than 10 working days in advance to have utility lines marked. Georgia 811 is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to preventing damage to Georgia's underground utilities and promoting public safety.



Smaller Projects, Too

Although Georgia Law does not require that Georgia 811 be notified if a smaller, non-mechanized digging project is planned, we encourage residents to do so to ensure personal safety and the safety of those around them. These projects can include installing a fence, deck, swing set or mail box, planting trees or landscaping.

The notification system provides Georgia 811 members an opportunity to locate and identify any underground facilities they may have in an area where digging is planned.

Art Update

Building the Future of Arts and Culture in Chamblee

I appreciate everyone's continued support in keeping the arts and cultural community alive in Chamblee. There is a lot of focus on Chamblee at the moment. We want to make sure the Arts and Cultural scene here is one of the attractions that make our city an even more desirable community.

As most of you know, Arts Chamblee has gone through a few changes. After discussion and consultation, we have decided to keep looking for a larger space that will accommodate all our future events. This will be a permanent location for our gallery and cultural events including music, theatre, film, and workshops here in Chamblee.

We have recently partnered with Discover DeKalb. This will provide us the foundation and resources to establish Chamblee as a hub for the arts and cultural events in DeKalb County.

We are also forming partnerships with our cultural communities. This will position us to become the city with the most diverse, exciting art and cultural movement in the state. The arts unite us all.

We have established quite a following in our short time, from our successful art parties to our commitment from volunteers. People are paying attention. With your continued support the evolution of our organization will position us as one of Chamblee's most exciting ventures.

We hope you will join us in building the future of Arts and Culture in Chamblee.

– Kris Green, executive director,
Arts Chamblee

Chamber News from the President: Moving Chamblee Forward. Together

Thanks to Victoria and Mark Schutter and Ronni French for hosting our January Business After-Hours meeting at the Consignment Furniture Depot. Forty-six members and guests enjoyed a great evening of networking and laughter.

Our February Business After-Hours was held at Hello Gorgeous Boutique, providing a great opportunity to buy a "Gorgeous" gift for a valentine.

At the January breakfast meeting, we had more than 46 chamber members and business professionals in attendance. We introduced the new Business Card Exchange and Connect Time. Ed Zito gave a great presentation about practical principles that helped make him successful. The February Breakfast meeting featured Chamblee's own Economic Development manager, Adam Causey.

What Is Our Board Doing?

Between Christmas and New Years, the executive committee and E.D. met to develop a strategic initiative for new membership. We are getting ready to embark on a serious membership drive. Marketing and branding were the focal points of the first of two lengthy meetings. The second focused on establishing the Emotional Touch Point (ETP).

The Chamber's new tagline is the answer to the question: "Why Join the Chamblee Chamber of Commerce?" Answer and Tagline: Moving Chamblee Forward. Together.



We are proudly flying the Chamblee Chamber flag in and out of our community.

– Lou Alvarado, Jr., 2015 Chamblee Chamber President



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Keep Chamblee Beautiful

Logo Contest

The recently revitalized Keep Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) has announced a citywide logo contest. The organization is seeking a logo that embodies its new mission: to organize, educate, support and inspire the Chamblee community to invest time, talents and resources to make Chamblee a cleaner, greener and more beautiful place to live, work, and play.

To see what logos have been submitted and to vote for your favorite, visit KCB's new website: keepchambleebeautiful.org.



Legacy Benches

KCB has also launched a fundraising campaign to establish legacy benches for Mary Goldenburg, Kay Packard and J.R. Gibson. The new Legacy Bench Program is something near and dear to the heart of KCB's past president, Patti Lankford.

"These benches will provide an opportunity for people to contribute to a local cause that honors wonderful individuals who dedicated their lives to serving and improving our community," says Lankford. "At the same time, everyone who donates will also know they've played a very important role in helping to improve our parks and provide new places for people to gather and relax. That's very important to our mission." Visit the KCB website to learn more, see photos and/or make a donation.

Bag-a-Thon

KCB will bring back the Bag-a-Thon for

Keep Chamblee Beautiful has launched a fundraising campaign to establish Legacy Benches for (left to right above) Mary Goldenburg, Kay Packard and J.R. Gibson.



their Earth Day cleanup in April. Neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools and other local community groups will be challenged to collect the most amount of litter in a single day. Prizes will be awarded. KCB volunteers will also give away free tree seedlings and organize an

Arbor Day tree planting.

Visit the KCB Facebook page, [facebook.com/keepchambleebeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/keepchambleebeautiful), for additional updates.



National Wildlife Federation Notes

National Wildlife Federation's mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Chamblee is part of a tri-city area including Dunwoody and Brookhaven that has a dedicated coordinator, Tom Reilly, who focuses on outreach and programs. Most of Reilly's educational work is done through the school system, where the most significant changes take place.

The *Signal* is launching a monthly column from the National Wildlife Federation that will offer information on animal and plant characteristics, tracking techniques, how to observe not just see nature, and ways to build your own "at home" habitat. It will showcase small ways we can easily enhance our nearby natural world. For example, placing two pennies minted before 1982 in a birdbath will kill any algae in the water – without harming any of the animals that drink the water.

Chamblee Adds Up

26,801
residents

7.85
square miles

 tons of recycling **418**

1,708
chamblee businesses

50
acres of
greenspace

 little free libraries **4**

88,910
website visits

Last year was a busy one for Chamblee! The year began with the welcoming of some **12,000 new residents** into the city in the newly annexed area Dresden East Civic Association (DECA), making Chamblee DeKalb's third largest city. To accommodate the new area the city expanded the Development Department, hired 22 police officers, and refurbished a number of buildings to accommodate more staff.

The city also welcomed new faces to its senior management team. In April, Reginald Anderson joined us as Public Works director and Assistant Police Chief Donny Williams was promoted to chief of police. Teresa Taylor was selected to fill the new position of assistant to the city manager. Jennifer Rackley, a former Chamblee Recreation coordinator, returned as the director of Parks and Recreation. Adam Causey joined the team as Chamblee's first Economic Development manager in September. In the January Council work session, two new council members, John Mesa and Brian Mock, were sworn in.

City Awards

In 2014, the city was in the spotlight! Chamblee officers won a toughest cop competition. The city received an award for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and was featured in the "This is DeKalb!" monthly tourism update. In August, Chamblee 101 had the largest class since its inception – 25 residents.

Communications

Chamblee worked to better communicate with its residents this past year. The city joined Nextdoor.com to reach out to residents about events, crime and general news; we have 1,482 Nextdoor.com participants so far. The city's newsletter, the Signal, marked its 15th anniversary and got a refresh on its design. Residents came and learned about the city's Comprehensive Plan "Chamblee Next" at a number of public meetings.

Grand Openings and Ground Breakings

The year 2014 was marked with many developments and ribbon cuttings. It began with Chamblee Charter High School's ribbon cutting in January. Two large developments, City Farmers Market on Buford Highway and Keswick Village, broke ground. ICT had a ground breaking for a new parking structure. The Audi dealership held its grand opening and the Kia dealership

Vision Statement

The City of Chamblee will be a community where people can live, work and play in an environment that provides an enriched quality of life.

Mission Statement

The government of Chamblee is committed to excellence through progressive leadership, quality services, community activities, and innovative planning in partnership with our residents and businesses.



November's Art Party



Informational Site Visit of the City Farmers Market



Finance Director
Travis Sims with
CAFR award

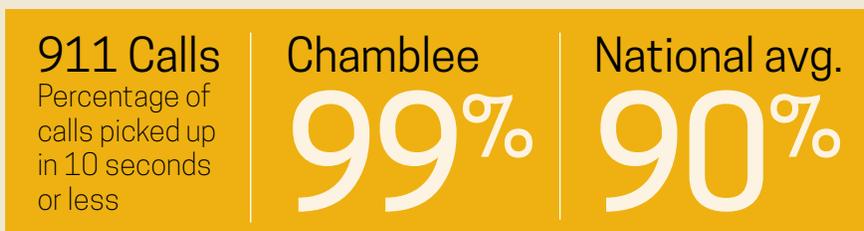
broke ground. Both dealerships were built using sustainable practices. Hands on Wellness and Hello Gorgeous opened their doors. The long-awaited Olmsted mixed-use development held its groundbreaking and the Shallowford Lodge, which had become a magnet for crime, was demolished.

Community Projects

The Arts Alliance and Keep Chamblee Beautiful returned. Both have events and activities in which residents can get involved in their community. Multiple little free libraries sprouted up in the city.

2015 — Full Steam Ahead

We anticipate 2015 to be an even bigger year for Chamblee. The city has several mixed-use developments in the works and will begin a Parks Master Plan. The Comprehensive Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance will be adopted to provide more guidance on what residents want the city to look like. The Public Works Department will take over sanitation services in the most recently annexed area in July. We project a Business/Arts incubator forming as well.



43
agendas published

135 city employees 

2,120
code enforcement cases

1,091
development permits issued

2 sidewalk repairs

Note: Numbers illustrated here are from 2014.

Chamblee Summer Concert Series



Chamblee Fourth Friday Concerts are coming back with a new name and a new attitude. This year we are proud to present the Chamblee Summer Concert Series on these dates:

- May 22 – City Hall Park
- July 4 – Keswick Park
- July 24 – City Hall Park
- Aug. 28 – City Hall Park

Bands and more details will be in the May issue.

chamblee
SUMMER
CONCERT
series

Sponsors Wanted

The City of Chamblee invites your business to take part in our popular concert series. We seek locally minded corporate sponsors to help us provide these cultural arts opportunities free to the community.

When you sponsor Chamblee's Summer Concert Series, your organization has the opportunity to put its brand in front of thousands of residents, families and music lovers throughout the year. The concerts, held in Peachtree Park next to our city hall, feature live music free to the community.

Our July 4th concert is held in Keswick Park and draws crowds of up to 5,000 people. In addition to event exposure, your logo can be present in ongoing Parks and Recreation marketing and you can receive booth space at other Parks and Recreation events all year long. We have a sponsor level for every marketing budget.

For details contact Jennifer Rackley, 770-986-5016, or jrackley@chambleega.gov.

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Calendar

CHAMBLEEGOV MARCH 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	2 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba Toning, 5 pm	3 Architectural Advisory Review Board, 7-9 pm, City Hall Conference Room Insanity Fitness Class, 7:30-8:30 pm	4	5 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Recreation Advisory Committee, 7 pm, Community Building Senior Breakfast Club, 10 am, Civic Center	6	7
8 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	9 Zumba Toning, 5 pm	10 Chamblee Chamber Business-After-Hours Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm Insanity Fitness Class, 7:30-8:30 pm	11 PRIDE Driving Class, 6-8 pm, Civic Center	12 City Council Work Session, 6 pm, Civic Center	13	14
15 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	16 Zumba Toning, 5 pm	17 City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Civic Center	18	19 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Mtg. 7:30-9 am, Civic Center	20	21 Compost and Electronics Recycling Day, 8 am-noon, Public Works
22 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	23 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba Toning, 5 pm	24 Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm, City Hall	25	26 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center	27	28
29 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	30 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba Toning, 5 pm	31				NOTE: Zumba, Yoga, Insanity Fitness, Fitness Circuit and Theatre classes meet at the Community Building, 3496 Keswick Dr.



Calendar

CHAMBLEE.GOV APRIL 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTE: Zumba, Yoga, Insanity Fitness, Fitness Circuit and Theatre classes meet at the Community Building, 3496 Keswick Dr.</p>			1	2 Court , 6 pm, Civic Center Recreation Advisory Committee , 7 pm, Community Building Senior Breakfast Club , 10 am, Civic Center	3	4
5	6 Spring Break Camp , 7:30 am-6 pm, Community Building	7 Spring Break Camp , 7:30 am-6 pm, Community Building Architectural Review Board , 7-9 pm, City Hall Conference Room	8 Spring Break Camp , 7:30 am-6 pm, Community Building	9 Spring Break Camp , 7:30 am-6 pm, Community Building	10 Spring Break Camp , 7:30 am-6 pm, Community Building	11
12 Fitness Circuit , 3:30-4:30 pm	13	14 Chamblee Chamber Business-After-Hours Mtg , 5:30-7:30 pm	15	16 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Mtg , 7:30-9 am, Civic Center City Council Work Session , 6 pm, Civic Center	17	18 Compost and Electronics Recycling Day , 8 am-noon, Public Works
19 Fitness Circuit , 3:30-4:30 pm	20 Court , 6 pm, Civic Center	21 City Council Meeting , 7:30 pm, Civic Center	22 PRIDE Driving Class , 6-8 pm, Civic Center	23 Court , 6 pm, Civic Center	24	25
26 Fitness Circuit , 3:30-4:30 pm	27 Court , 6 pm, Civic Center	28 Downtown Development Authority Meeting , 6-8 pm, Chamblee Chamber Commerce Office	29	30 Court , 6 pm, Civic Center		

Inaugural Chamblee Fun Mudder to Benefit CMS Education Foundation



5K Run Will Feature Obstacles, Mud, and Fun for All Ages

Chamblee Middle School (CMS), the City of Chamblee and the DeKalb County Fire Department have announced plans for the inaugural Chamblee Fun Mudder event, scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. Presented by Ed Voyles Family of Automotive Dealerships, the event will be a 5K fun run with obstacles involving mud. All proceeds will benefit the Chamblee Middle School Education Foundation (CMSEF).

The race will begin and end at CMS, with the course winding through the Keswick and Sexton Woods neighborhoods. Participants will complete five different obstacles throughout various locations in Keswick Park that will involve simple challenges in the mud.

Register at chambleefunmudder.com. The cost is \$25 plus processing fees. The event is open to the community and is appropriate for children ages 8 and up, as well as older kids, teens and adults of all abilities. There will be a 3K (1.85 mile) Muddy Buddy race immediately following the Chamblee Fun Mudder, in which participants can still complete the mud obstacles but will run a shorter course.





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Bring One for the Chipper a Success

The City of Chamblee and Keep Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) held their annual “Bring One for the Chipper” event on Jan. 3. Despite the cold and rainy day, dozens of Christmas trees were once again kept out of the DeKalb County landfill and instead were converted into reusable mulch.



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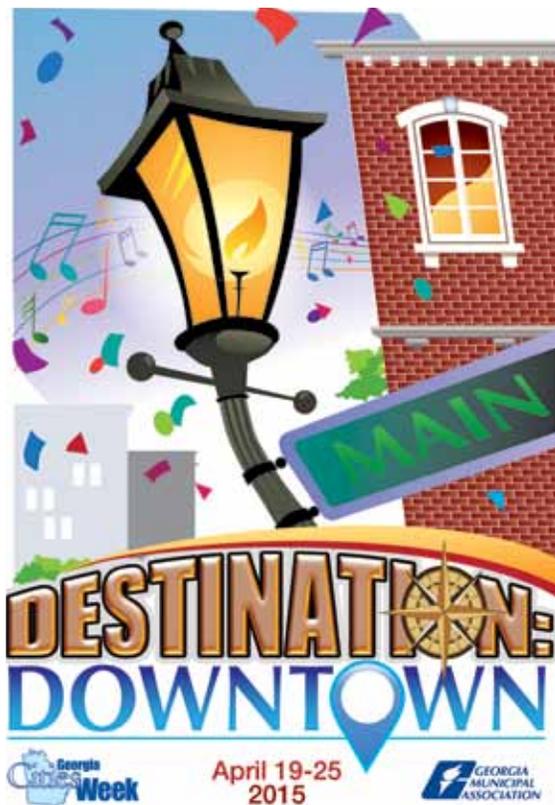
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Georgia Cities Week

Chamblee is celebrating Georgia Cities week April 19-25, with the theme "Destination Downtown." Georgia Cities Week gives cities an opportunity to share information about the valuable services cities provide to residents and how cities positively impact their quality of life. The week is also an opportunity to celebrate community achievements and recognize volunteers and city employees.

The week will include tours of city buildings, fun fact trivia contests on the city's Facebook page, and a Touch-A-Truck on April 25. Please look out for more information on the city's Facebook and Nextdoor.com



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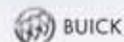


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