

THE SIGNAL

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www.chambleega.com



A Publication of the
City of Chamblee

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'A New Chamblee' MAYOR DELIVERS 2014 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS



Creating a new Chamblee — that was the tone of the fifth-annual state-of-the-city address by Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson. Clarkson presented the address during the February 20 meeting

of the Chamblee Business Association at the Chamblee Civic Center.

In his address, the mayor reflected on 1954, comparing Chamblee 50 years ago — a time when work was being created and a new Chamblee was being shaped — to today. He spoke of days of full employment, families who had cash to spend on purchases of new cars and homes and low property taxes. He invited the community to join the city in bringing “good jobs back to the City of Chamblee.” This includes creating jobs in downtown Chamblee; attracting IT sector companies and companies in the fields of bio tech and life science. Growing the number of jobs in the city by 1,000 before 2016 is another of the mayor’s goals. “I want to bring back the work part of live, work, play,” says the mayor.

He pointed to Chamblee’s millage rate, which is down to 6.4 from 7.95 in 2011. The final millage for 2014, he says, will be set in May/June this year.

Clarkson, first elected mayor in November 2001, also spoke of

Chamblee’s second substantial annexation in three years; the appointment of Chamblee’s long-term Police Chief R. Marc Johnson to city manager; plans to hire an economic development manager as well as an assistant — who also will serve as communication coordinator — to the city manager. The city plans to hire a new Public Works director and, in March, appoint a new police chief.

Streetscape improvements to Chamblee Dunwoody Road and continuing improvements along Peachtree Road were other topics of discussion, along with the need to reduce Chamblee’s rental housing rate from 65 percent, considering the national average is 40 percent. He also pointed out that he’d like for the city to create an economic development plan — making it a priority focus for the first part of 2014.

Other items highlighted include:

- As a result of the 2014 annexation, Chamblee will add 22 police officers and two communication officers
- In 2013, Chamblee started a Downtown Development Authority
- The city completed a 10-year update to the LCI Study

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*A City on
the Right Track*

Chamblee 101

Want to learn more about local government and how the city operates? The city's popular Chamblee 101 series returns April 2 and ends with a May 20 recognition. During the May 20 City Council meeting, Chamblee 101 participants will receive a certificate of completion. Classes are set for Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on these dates:

- April 2
- April 9
- April 16
- April 23
- April 30
- May 7
- May 14

Chamblee 101 includes discussions and interactive activities on topics to include Chamblee's history, form of government, city services, finance and development.

Please register by March 21 by contacting City Clerk Emmie Niethammer at 770-986-5018 or ENiethammer@chambleega.com.

Corey DuPree: Parks and Recreation Coordinator

As the new recreation coordinator for Chamblee Parks and Recreation, Corey DuPree oversees the youth athletics program, coordinates the spring, summer and winter camps hosted by the department and, among other things, assists in the planning of special events.

DuPree joined Parks and Recreation in January after spending six years as a program coordinator at Mulberry Creek Community Center for Hall County Parks and Leisure Services.

Some of the events he'll assist with planning for Chamblee include the annual Daddy Daughter Dance in February, Chamblee 5k and Rotary Roll, and Fourth of July celebration in April.

The husband and father of two says he most enjoys "the satisfaction on peoples' faces when they are having a good time at an event" that's coordinated by the Parks and Recreation team.

"I really enjoy putting together recreation/leisure activities for people of all ages," adds DuPree, who received a bachelor of science degree in health, physical education and recreation from Langston University in Oklahoma. A Lilburn resident and native of Cleveland, Ohio, DuPree, with his wife, Renee, has two daughters, Asia, 12, and Coree, two. In his down time, he enjoys "a good round of golf any day of the week."



New Hires

The City of Chamblee has added several new employees in recent months. The list includes:

Police officers

Julieann Garcia	Johnny Blain
Oliver Dukes Jr.	Scott Stern
Ralph Jackson Jr.	Wayne Gatlin
Gaetano Antinozzi	Melissa Bolden
Jermaine Felder	Roy Collar
Michael Orlando	

Corey DuPree, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
 Phillip Farr, Public Works
 Jose Mora, Public Works
 Jesse Bloodworth, Public Works
 Kristi Clark, Communication Officer (911 Dispatch/Jailer)
 Jamar Patterson, Communication Officer (911 Dispatch/Jailer)

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

Reminder:

Occupational Tax License renewals for 2014 are due March 15, 2014. If you didn't receive a renewal form or have questions, please call City Hall at 770-986-5010.

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.

SIGNAL SPOTLIGHT

Chamblee Welcomes New Council Members, Holds Swearing-in Ceremony

At its January City Council work session, Chamblee swore in its elected members, including two new Councilmen and re-elected Mayor R. Eric Clarkson, who ran unopposed. Voters elected Brian Mock to fill the at-large seat previously held by incumbent Scott Taylor. John Mesa fills the District One seat held by Mark Wedge.

Mock, general manager of Hampton Inn Atlanta Northlake, and Mesa, who is employed with two Chamblee-based companies, Team Octopus Mixed Martial Arts and Atlanta Closet & Storage Solutions, share more about their top priorities in their new roles and more.

BRIAN MOCK, AT-LARGE

What sparked your interest in serving on the Chamblee City Council?

While I've always had an interest in the political process, I really just wanted to give our citizens a choice. In fact, I waited until the last hour of qualifying to see if there would be any contested races, and seeing none I decided to be that choice.

I have a long list of items that I would like to accomplish during my tenure. These include: downtown revitalization; creating a downtown that's a destination of choice; better communication with and responsiveness to our citizens; annexation area services, setting our new citizens up for success; being a business-friendly city, a model city for business development.

Tell us about any previous experiences in public service.

While this is my first time holding elected office, I've always believed in giving back to the community.



Please share more about your professional life and info regarding any boards, committees, etc., on which you serve.

I've been in the hospitality industry for more than 20 years. Hospitality is more than a career; it's a way of life. My hotel consistently ranks in the top 10 of the 200 hotels in metro Atlanta in customer service; it's all about the way you treat people.

A volunteer opportunity that I enjoy the most is serving as a court-appointed special advocate in DeKalb Juvenile Court. There is nothing that compares to changing the lives of at-risk youth caught up in the court system. I also serve as chairman of the DeKalb Convention and Visitors Bureau, chairman of the DeKalb Sports Commission, and on the boards of the DeKalb Police Alliance, Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association, Northlake Community Alliance and Tucker Business Association. I'm a founding member of the Tucker/Northlake CID and Northlake Business Association.

Please share more about your personal life, including family, city of residence, personal interests.

In my free time, I enjoy cultural exchanges with my students from around the globe, which I host yearly. I have a dog and a cat that are both rescues and the best part of coming home each day.

JOHN MESA, DISTRICT ONE

What sparked your interest in serving on the Chamblee City Council?

Several years ago I was asked to come to City Council meetings that involved the old Great Gatsby site on Peachtree



Chamblee City Attorney Joe Fowler swears in re-elected Mayor R. Eric Clarkson (center) and new Council members (from l to r): John Mesa and Brian Mock.

Boulevard. Seeing how the process worked was fascinating. In 2013, when the opportunity presented itself I wanted to step up by running for office.

What are some of your top priorities?

To make the City of Chamblee a place where we can live, work and play for many years to come. I want to help businesses to come and thrive here; to benefit current residents as well as attract new residents which I hope will then attract more businesses to come and so on.

What are goals you've set to accomplish while serving on the Council?

Downtown Chamblee redevelopment, and continuing the Rail Trail Park

Tell us about any previous experiences in public service.

I have worked on and with several recreational leagues that taught me a lot about group dynamics and working with lots of different personalities, but this is my first experience in public service.

Please share more about your professional life and info regarding

Continued on page 8

SIGNAL SPOTLIGHT

Chamblee Annexation: What You Need to Know

With the recent annexation, the City of Chamblee has grown in population to 27,350, adding on roughly 12,000 new residents. The city's square mileage expands from 4.81 to 7.85. Following approval by 61 percent of voters during the November 2013 general election, Chamblee adds the Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) area that stretches south along Clairmont Road to I-85. It now reportedly is DeKalb County's third largest city.

The expansion means changes in some services residents receive from the city and county. Below, you'll find more on what you need to know as it relates to Chamblee's annexation.

POLICE ISSUES IN GENERAL

In the City of Chamblee noise cannot exceed 70 dBA during daytime hours (7 a.m. to 11 p.m.) and for nighttime hours (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) limits are capped at 60 dBA. For apartment dwellers the levels are even less: 55 dBA daytime and 45 dBA nighttime. The sound is measured at the property line of the location receiving the noise.

Please bring your pets indoors after dark to avoid disturbing your neighbors. Domesticated animals may not make any vocalizations (including barking, baying, howling, crying or making any other noise) for more than 10 minutes without interruption or more than 30 minutes if intermittent.

If a police officer is called to your location for noise violations, the city will issue a warning for the first occurrence, but repeat calls may result in a citation.

Restaurant and club owners: Please take steps to prevent noise from disturbing nearby residents. Between the hours of 12 a.m. and 7 a.m., late-night establishments are prohibited from allowing noises and/or sounds from their places of business that are plainly audible more than 50 feet beyond the building or structure from which the noises and/or sounds emanate.

CODE ENFORCEMENT — PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Code Enforcement section of the police department addresses quality of life, property maintenance and zoning issues in the city by canvassing neighborhoods, apartment complexes and businesses to point out code enforcement violations and other problems. Code Enforcement responds promptly to service requests and complaints from citizens and property owners; it also offers Neighborhood Watch, Apartment Watch and Business Watch meetings. When violations are discovered, officers generally issue a warning notice spelling out the corrective action required and providing a reasonable period of time for completion. If corrective action is not taken officers will issue citations to Municipal Court. In most instances, a new citation can be issued for each

day a violation continues. The following are some of the more common violations:

- Tall grass and weeds
- Trash, litter and debris
- Prohibited signs
- Outdoor storage
- Junk vehicles
- Unpermitted construction
- Graffiti
- Parking on grass

OTHER CITY SERVICES

Sanitation service, including garbage, recycle and yard waste, will continue to be handled by DeKalb County for at least one year. Chamblee will begin to vacuum leaves in the fall.

All occupational tax certificates (business licenses) will be issued by Chamblee. You can download the required forms from the city's website, www.chambleega.com.

All building permits and trade permits, such as electrical and plumbing, must be obtained from the Chamblee Development Department.

Animal control services will be provided by Chamblee. More info: 770-986-5019

HOUSE CHECK PROGRAM

If you're planning a vacation that will cause you to be away from home for an extended period of time, you may request the Chamblee Police Department to perform periodic checks of your house while you are away. This service is provided as a courtesy and for the convenience and benefit of Chamblee citizens. You can sign up through the city's website or call the police department.

ALARM SYSTEMS

The City of Chamblee considers excessive false alarms a nuisance and waste of valuable police resources. Chamblee enacted a false alarm ordinance in 1999 that requires all alarm systems, with the exception of fire and auto alarms, to be registered with the police department. The registration is free; however, it is unlawful to operate an unregistered system. A permit application can be obtained from the police department or online. The police department will issue you a decal that must be prominently displayed at the front entrance so that it will be visible from outside. Each alarm system is allowed two false alarms per year without penalty. Additional false alarms result in a civil penalty ranging from \$50 to \$300 as the number increases. You'll find more information on the city's website.



AROUND CHAMBLEE

Chamblee Charter High Celebrates with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Chamblee Charter High School students rang in the new year with a return from their winter break to their new academic building.

The four-story building, at 3688 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, includes 21st century technology and equipment. Chamblee Charter High held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in its new building on January 22.

Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson, along with City Council Members Leslie C. Robson, Dan Zanger, Brian Mock and John Mesa were on hand for the ceremony. City Manager Marc Johnson and other city officials also attended.

“This is a great school that’s always ranked very high state-wide and nationally for academic and athletic achievements,” says Mayor Clarkson. “They were able to do that in an aged facility. Now they have a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility with new classrooms, new science labs, new athletic facilities; it’s going to be very exciting to see where they take those



Spotlighting Chamblee Employees

Chamblee employees enjoyed a dinner and a bit of recognition during the city’s annual Employee Appreciation Dinner. Chamblee honored 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:

40 YEARS R. Marc Johnson	10 YEARS Lela H. Hayes John D. Carel	Christopher L. Smith Eddie C. Mosley Rodolfo Ruiz Tamila Bufford
25 YEARS Paul Klerlein	FIVE YEARS Tesfamariam G. Bekle Joel Holmes	PART-TIME, FIVE YEARS Le Essie Walker Lori Meyers
20 YEARS B.H. Stone	15 YEARS Kevin M. Taylor	

academic and athletic programs now that they have a facility to match the excellence that already exists with the academic and athletic programs.”

Construction is complete on the academic building, natatorium and gymnasium. The next phase of construction,



set to be complete this summer, will include an auditorium, fine arts classrooms and athletic fields.

(from l to r): State Rep. Mike Jacobs; Chamblee Mayor R. Eric Clarkson; Karen Carter, DCSD board of education member; Lisa Kinnemore, state BOE member; Michael Thurmond, superintendent, DeKalb County School District; John Coleman (behind Thurmond), DCSD BOE member; Dr. Rochelle Lowery, Chamblee Charter High School principal; Marshall Orson, DCSD BOE member; Dr. Martha Reichrath, deputy state superintendent and first CCHS principal; Chamblee City Council members: Brian Mock (behind Reichrath); Dan Zanger, Leslie C. Robson; John Mesa

A ROUND CHAMBLEE

Parks and Recreation

For additional information regarding Parks and Recreation activities, contact Joel Holmes at jholmes@chambleega.com or (770) 986-5016.



SPRING BREAK CAMP

April 7 to 11, 2014

Keswick Park Community Building

Class Pricing:

- \$75 (Chamblee residents) for the week
- \$100 (non-residents) for the week

A daily camp offering activities such as arts and crafts, sports, games, nature walks and much more! Drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m. and children must be picked up by 6 p.m.

BOOT CAMP CLASSES

Try a month for free before you decide to commit!

Location: Keswick Park (meet at Community Building)

Schedule: **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m.**

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



ZUMBA CLASSES

Mondays at 7:30 p.m. through March 31
Keswick Park Community Building

Class Pricing:

- \$12 per class in advance
- \$15 per class for walk-ins

Want to get an aerobic workout in

a fun-filled environment? Zumba is a great cardio exercise that moves to Latin-inspired music. ZumbaAtlanta.com

ZUMBA KIDS!

Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Keswick Park Community Building

Class Pricing:

- \$72 for six weeks of classes
- \$60 each for a group of six or more kids

The Zumba® Kids program is the ultimate dance-fitness party designed exclusively for kids (ages 4 to 11; Zumba Kids Jr. for four to six and Zumba Kids for seven to 11) where they can play it loud and rock with friends to their own rules! This program features age-appropriate music and moves that get kids moving to the beat. It's all about feeling fearless on the dance floor, reinforcing the idea that it's okay to just be yourself and dance like no one's watching!

Zumba Kids is a fun class to dance and let loose. It features various styles of dance from all over the world and different genres, along with some songs kids may recognize from the radio. Zumba Kids teaches dance routines, different styles of dance such as salsa, cumbia, hip hop and even flamenco or belly dancing.

YOGA

Wednesdays through March 12

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Keswick Park Community Building

\$10 per class for walk-ins



This 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.

AARP SAFE DRIVER CLASS

April 5, 2014

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Keswick Park Community Building

Cost: \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members

You must sign up in advance for this class. You can register online without making any payments at time of registration. Payments for the course are due day of class.

Chamblee Business Association

The Chamblee Business Association's March meeting is set for March 20, with representatives from Georgians for Local Area School Systems — Erika Harris, co-chair, and Heyward Wescott — on hand.

CBA meetings are open to the public. Meetings 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, and the program begins at 8 a.m. There is no charge for first-time guests; costs are \$10 for returning guests and \$5 for members.

Also, CBA holds its monthly Business after Hours networking event on the second Tuesday of each month. The March Business after Hours is slated for March 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Fischer Funeral Care at 3742 Chamblee Dunwoody Road. Attendance is free with drinks and appetizers served. www.chambleebusinessassociation.com

COMMUNITY NOTES

New Chamblee, continued from page 1

- Chamblee was accepted into the Georgia Main Street Start-up Program
- Work began to create opportunity zones in the city
- The next Chamblee 101 is set for April 2 to May 20 — a time for participants to learn about local government and how the city operates

“Wonderful cities like Chamblee do not just happen by chance,” Clarkson says. “They thrive because of the people of the community that come together to make a difference.”



City of Chamblee
5468 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341

New Council, continued from page 3

any boards, committees, etc., on which you serve.

After working more than 15 years in aquarium sales and service throughout metro Atlanta, I now work closer to home for two Chamblee-based businesses: Team Octopus Mixed Martial Arts and Atlanta Closet & Storage Solutions.

Please share more about your personal life, including family, city of residence, personal interests.

I am married to my wife Susan, and purchased a home and moved to Chamblee in 2002.

2014 HOLIDAY SANITATION SCHEDULE

Memorial Day — Closed Monday, May 26

Week of May 26 — Monday and Thursday will be Tuesday and Thursday
Tuesday and Friday will be Wednesday and Friday

Independence Day — Closed Friday, July 4

Week of June 30 — Monday and Thursday will be Monday and Wednesday
Tuesday and Friday will be Tuesday and Thursday

Labor Day — Closed Monday, September 1

Week of September 1 — Monday and Thursday will be Tuesday and Thursday
Tuesday and Friday will be Wednesday and Friday

Veteran's Day — Closed Tuesday, November 11

Week of November 10 — Monday and Thursday — No Change
Tuesday and Friday will be Wednesday and Friday

Thanksgiving — Closed Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28

Week of November 24 — Monday and Thursday will be Monday only
Tuesday and Friday will be Tuesday only

Christmas — To be determined

New Year's 2015 — To be determined