



CHAMBLEE Signal

SEPTEMBER 2014
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Official Newsletter of Chamblee, Georgia

chambleega.com

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Chamblee officers among 'toughest' in Georgia



Clockwise, from top left: Valerian Khostariya, Assistant Chief Michael Beller, Lashonda Williams, Tong Ngo, Jim Wiley, and Ernesto Ford. Below: Ray Collar and Michael Orlando.



Eight police officers from the Chamblee Police Department participated in the Georgia Police and Fire Games in Carrollton, Georgia, in June. The event, an Olympic-style athletic competition for law enforcement officers, began in Georgia in 1985.

Officer Valerian Khostariya and Assistant Chief Michael Beller came in first and second place as overall "Toughest Male Cops." The other of-

ficers who participated were Jim Wiley, Lashonda Williams, Tong Ngo and Ernesto Ford. Ford, Ngo and Wiley gained recognition in their respective age groups. Tong received first place for his age group and Williams came in third in "Toughest Female Cop."

Officer Khostariya also won the Combat and Bullseye Course. Officers Collar and Orlando both

competed in this course.

We salute all of Chamblee's tough cops!

Report Broken Lights

It has been proven that well-lit areas are less likely to be broken into and vandalized. Many local businesses are closed at night, so a malfunctioning light can go unreported. The city pays for street lights whether they are lit or not, so it is up to us to report the outages.

The Code Enforcement unit has received its highest

volume of reports ever this year, and we appreciate all the residents and businesses that help make our job easier. Go to chambleega.com to report any locations of concern.

For more information contact Sgt. J. J. Davis, code enforcement supervisor, 770-986-5005; jdavis@chambleega.com.

A Look at the City's Financials

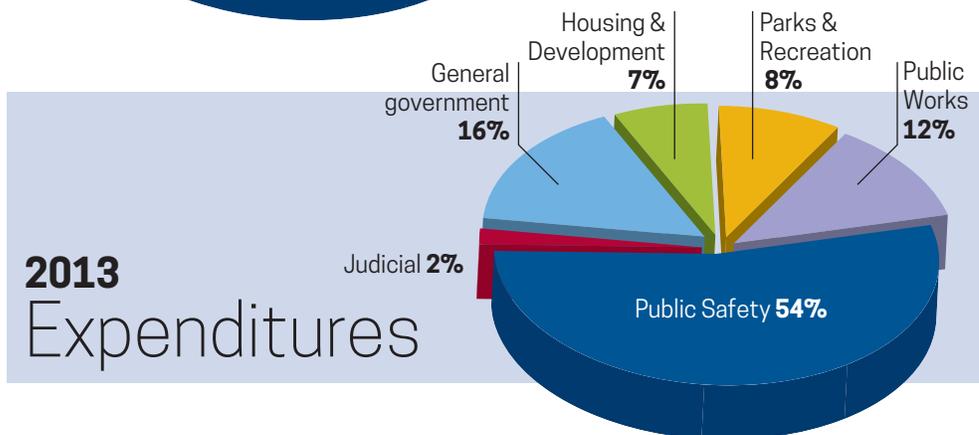
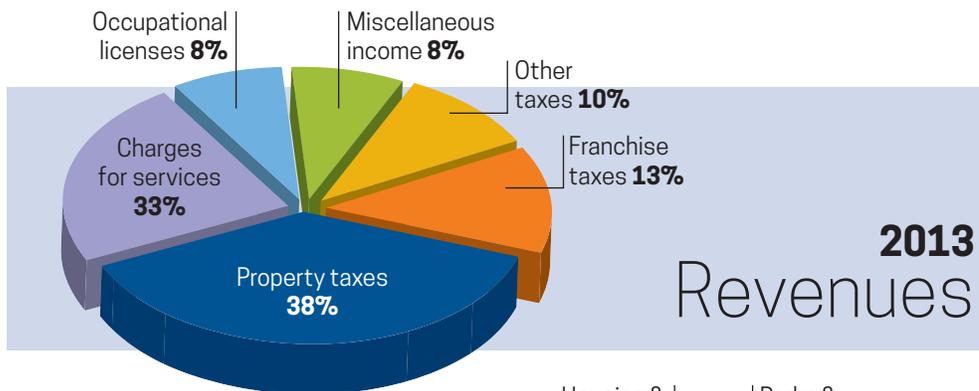
The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is a detailed look at Chamblee's financial condition. Similar to an annual report for a business, a CAFR lends insight into the financial health of a city or state. The city released its CAFR for the year ending December 31, 2013, at the July City Council Meeting.

The 2013 CAFR indicates that the city's total assets exceed liabilities and its financial position, as a whole, improved during the year 2013. Chamblee's net position increased by \$1,224,969, or 5.4 percent. For the year 2013, the city's general fund had a favorable budget variance of \$1,748,056 due in part to receiving more H.O.S.T. money than was budgeted.

Funding for the city's governmental activities is derived from property taxes, fines and forfeitures, and franchise fees along with revenue from criminal history background checks. Public safety made up 54 percent of the city's expenditures in 2013.

As expected, Chamblee's overall revenues decreased in 2013. The city lowered its millage rate from 7.4 mils to 6.4 mils and, as a result, revenues decreased by \$329,202 (or 2.4 percent) in 2013.

The city increased in size last December with the annexation of approximately 3.04 square miles and 11,700 citizens. The city committed to having the police department prepared for the increased patrol area by Dec. 30. That required the addition of 22 police officers and two additional 911 dispatchers. Overall, the city plans to add 37 full-time equivalents in 2014.



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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Public Works/
Animal Control 770-986-5019
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.com
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? Press releases, announcements and other materials for potential publication should be submitted to thesignal@chambleega.com. All material provided is subject to editing.

Signal Marks 15th Anniversary

To celebrate *The Signal's* 15th anniversary in September, we bring to the citizens of Chamblee a fresh design printed in color. We've also increased the length of the publication to give you more information on community and city news.

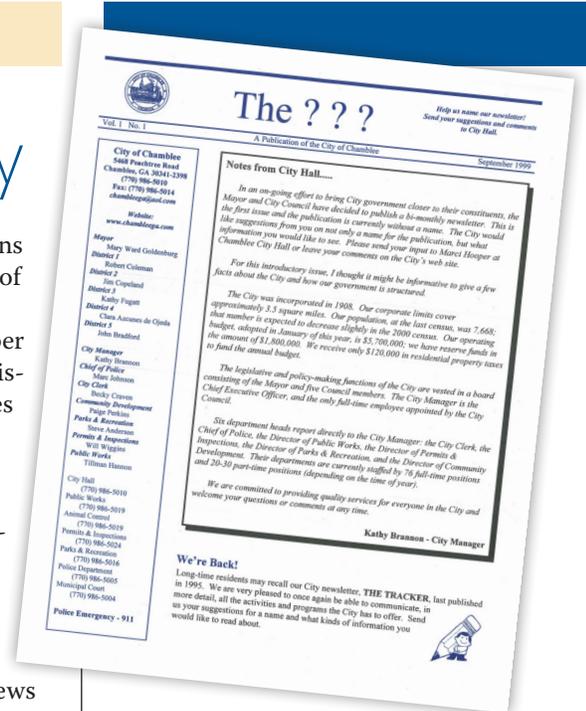
A little history: Chamblee published the newsletter's first issue in September 1999, but it wasn't given its name until the following issue in November. In the first issue, the city asked residents to send in suggestions for the name and many good ones were offered, making the decision difficult. After much consideration the council voted for "*The Signal*."

An explanation of the choice was published in the November/December 1999 issue: "Just as signals of various types have been used throughout history to communicate information, we hope that our 'Signal' will keep you informed of activities in the community and in your local government."

Before *The Signal*, Chamblee had a newsletter named *The Tracker*, which was last published in 1995. Four years later, in 1999, the city not only started producing *The Signal* but also launched its first-ever website, making it a banner year for sharing news and information in our community.

Fast forward 12 years: in September 2011 *The Signal* got a new design, in color, with photos. Although the newsletter was printed in black and white a color version was available online and at City Hall. This year we are proud to produce a print version in full color for all residents.

Feedback and submissions for future *Signal* issues are welcome. Please email your submissions on or before the first of the month before the issue you wish them to appear in. Email thesignal@chambleega.com or call City Hall.



Go Paperless

We are happy to send each resident a print copy of *The Signal*. However, if you prefer receiving the newsletter in digital format, please email thesignal@chambleega.com and we will email it to you.

New After School Program:

Mindfulness for Teens

Chamblee is proud to offer a new nine-week course for teens by Atlanta Mindfulness Groups. Led by Dr. Mary Helen Hunt and Dr. Diana Gordick, these classes are based on a proven, research-based curriculum that includes nine lessons introducing the concept of mindfulness and learning techniques for incorporating mindfulness in everyday life.

Class objectives include teaching students skills to feel happier, calmer, and more fulfilled, to improve concentration and learning, and to cope with stress and anxiety. The nine-week series, coupled with regular practice, helps students develop mindfulness skills at a deeper level, ensuring that they will be able to maintain and practice the skills on their own.

Although this class is not a substitute for individual therapy or coaching, it can offer strong support for work being done with other professionals and make that work more effective.

Classes will be held on Mondays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Keswick Park Community Building, beginning Sept. 15. The fee is \$400/\$350 early-bird discount prior to Sept. 1. For more information or to register, visit AtlantaMindfulnessGroups.com.



Public Works Employees Headed to Training

The Public Works Department is sending five stormwater employees to Griffin, Georgia, in October for the annual Griffin S.T.R.E.A.M. and BMP Demonstration field day.

Storm Water Training for Regional Engineers and Municipalities (S.T.R.E.A.M) will be conducted at the Stormwater Field Demonstration Site, a six-acre site where the latest technology and practices in erosion control and structural stormwater management can be observed in a practical field setting. This setting allows for dynamic demonstrations, complete with simulated rainfall, flexible water quality treatment trains, slopes, channels, piped conveyances and retention ponds.

Public Works Resumes Regular Hours October 1

With the end of the summer season, Public Works will switch back to its regular hours – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 1.

New Faces in the Police Department

Since our city has grown, the Police Department has increased its force with 26 new officers. The department is very close to being fully staffed. The hiring began after the approval of annexation in November. There were 22 slots with the annexation and the department also hired an additional three officers due to retirements and turnover.

The longest-serving officer is Cecil King (not pictured), who started policing in 1979. The newest is Nathan Wolf (not pictured), who graduated from the academy in May 2013. We are still accepting applications from exceptionally qualified police officers.



Officer Guy Antinozzi



Officer Levon Arthur



Officer Melissa Bolden



Officer Brian Calamease



Officer Roy Collar



Officer Oliver Dukes



Officer Jermaine Felder



Officer John Freeman



Officer Julieann Garcia



Officer Ronald Gatlin



Officer Kevin Hunter



Detective Ray Ice



Officer Ralph Jackson



Officer Corey Jennette



Officer Mike McKeithan



Officer Albert Monroe



Officer Michael Orlando



Officer Son Phan



Officer Chris Poythress



Officer Duncan Quarless



Officer Kevin Ryan



Officer Odin Segui



Officer Alan Smithwick



Officer Ronald Stern



Officer Danny Tamayo



Officer Mark Williams

Tipton Named Assistant Director of Public Works

For 24 years, Joe Tipton worked in the Chamblee Police Department. In February of 2014, during the snowstorm, Tipton became the Interim Public Works Director.

When Reginald Anderson was hired as Public Works Director, Tipton remained with Public Works to help the department with the transition. In May, he was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works. Tipton has a background in construction and residential remodeling. He has management experience as a lieutenant in the Police Department.



Waasdorp Promoted

On July 15, Sergeant Waasdorp was promoted to lieutenant. He has been with the City Since 2006. Previously, he worked for Fulton County. He has been in law enforcement for nearly 10 years, and tells us he is excited about his new responsibilities.



COPS CORNER Meet the New Guy

The Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS), out of the Special Operations Division, has a new face. Officer Chris Poythress (at left in the photo above) took the position of COPS officer in July. He is new to the Chamblee force, starting with us in April.

Officer Poythress began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the DeKalb County Police Department. While there, he received departmental awards, precinct awards and was in the 300 Club for law enforcement. He served in the Truancy Unit, I.C.P. (Interactive Community Policing), the Task Force Team and the Uniform Division.

In his role as the COPS officer Poythress will work with neighborhood groups, schools, and community members. He will organize programming for citizens such as neighborhood watches, self-defense training, and drug prevention. He is excited to take on this new role and has a lot of plans.

Officer Alex Cushenan, pictured above with Poythress, who has been in this role since 2012, is now a detective on the force.

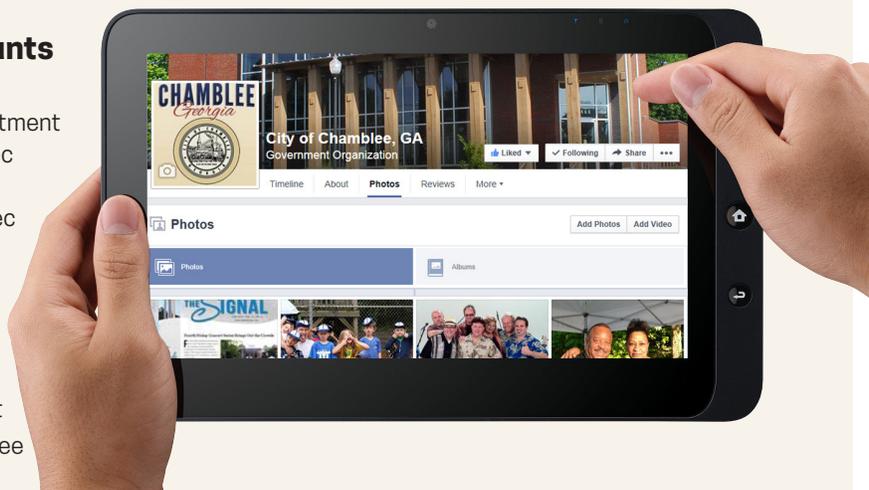
Social Media Corner

Social media accounts

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

Hashtags

- #chambleega - anything Chamblee-related
- #FFC - First Friday Concert
- #TOC14 - Taste of Chamblee



Labor Day Sanitation Schedule

The Public Works Department will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, to observe Labor Day. Monday and Thursday pickups will be done on Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday and Friday pickups will be done on Wednesday and Friday.

Development Department

This department guides residents through the development process, which is established by elected officials. Highly skilled staff members are available through an outsourcing partnership with Jacobs Engineering. Staff has grown from two to four full-time employees plus an additional part-time staff member, because of recent annexations.

Day-to-Day Functions

The department deals with the administration of zoning and development regulations, permitting and inspections, and long-range community planning. Its overall goal is to promote economic prosperity and neighborhood stability.

In addition to permitting and inspections, the staff:

- Answers citizen inquiries on zoning, variances, permits, development regulations, master plans, and land use.
- Reviews plans for compliance with zoning and other requirements.
- Issues zoning certification letters.
- Prepares staff analysis for public hearing applications.
- Prepares legal ads and mailing notices for public hearings.

Comprehensive Plan

The Development Department also prepares the city's Comprehensive Plan, which is designed to guide, manage, and implement quality growth. A community's comprehensive plan is developed through a public process. The overall goal is to accommodate growth in a timely, orderly, and efficient arrangement of land uses, public facilities, infrastructure, and services that meet the needs of present and future residents and businesses in Chamblee.

The city has been working on updating the plan since March. The update is available at chambleega.com.

The Move to New Space

The Development Department is no longer in City Hall but has moved across the way – to 3506 Broad St. The Planning Department also is now housed at this location, behind Chamblee Bistro. This new space will accommodate the growth in staff.

The department remains customer-service-oriented. The city's website has up-to-date information to help guide citizens and developers. Checklists, hours, plan review and permit applications can all be accessed online.



This is the new Development Department office at 3506 Broad St.



Senior Planner Aaron Ruffin unpacks documents in his office at the new Development headquarters.

Meet the Staff

With the city's expansion, we now have some new faces as well as some regulars in the Planning Department:

Jamie Jackson, administrative assistant, issues trade permits and deals with scheduling. She started with the city in May and previously worked in court systems for other jurisdictions.



Jamie Jackson



Aaron Ruffin

Ole Olson, site development inspector, is a retired DeKalb County site inspector. He began working for the city in May.



James Spotts



Gary Cornell

Dr. James W. Spotts, erosion and sediment control inspector, has 30 years in this field federally and 14 years privately. He has been with the city more than five years.



Adleasia Cameron



Ole Olson

Adleasia (Lisa) Cameron, planning technician, issues all types of permits and assists the senior planner. With three master's degrees and a certification in database administration, she is well equipped for the role. Adleasia is a former assistant zoning administrator and senior planner. She has been working with the city since April.

Aaron Ruffin, senior planner, conducts zoning compliance reviews; processes land disturbance, building permit and lot subdivision applications; conducts pre-application meetings for rezoning and variance applications for development. He holds a bachelor of landscape architecture and master of public policy and administration with a concentration in urban planning. He has been with the city for 10 months.

Jim Summerbell, deputy development director, is responsible for long-range planning and planning data services. He is a Georgia Tech graduate in city planning and has been a practicing planner for 30 years. Currently he serves as treasurer for the Georgia Planning Association. Jim has been working with the city since July 2013.

Gary Cornell, development director, leads the staff in the performance of daily activities for planning, zoning, and permitting. He serves as the communicator with the City Manager and Mayor and Council during public hearings related to zoning actions. He has a masters degree in city and regional planning from Harvard University and has been with the city for a year.

Chamblee Gallery



Chamblee Chamber staff spotlights **Handy Husbands**, one of its members, as part of its new program, "Friday Feature."



Teresa Taylor of the city manager's office rode the garbage truck with Joe Kelley (left) and Chris Morgo.



Mayor Clarkson (second from left) at the groundbreaking for the Ed Voyles of Chamblee KIA dealership in the rapidly improving area of Chamblee's Auto Row.

Taste of Chamblee Takes Shape

The seventh annual Taste of Chamblee food and music festival is back! The event returns to downtown Chamblee (Peachtree Road and Broad Street) on Saturday, Oct. 4, noon-7 p.m. It will showcase the diversity of Chamblee's growing community with local fare and entertainment. Event entry is free. Tickets for food and beverages will be sold for \$1 each, with samples ranging from one to four tickets.

Hosting the festival for the first time is the newly minted Chamblee Chamber of Commerce, with proceeds benefiting the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, a Chamblee-based nonprofit that is the largest state-wide provider of accessible and affordable vision and hearing care for uninsured Georgians, allowing them to live healthy and productive lives.

The festival will highlight the delicious diversity of the local community: Plaza Fiesta, a Buford Highway staple, will serve as an event sponsor with two of its own restaurants, Puras Tortas and De Mar,



servicing up their most popular dishes. In addition, several Chamblee culinary mainstays have joined the line-up of restaurants: Union Hill Kitchen, Vintage Pizzeria, Chamblee Bistro, Maison Robert, and the Frosty Caboose.

Other festivities will include an Art Walk

featuring local artists, a bounce-house, interactive games, and face painting. An antique car show will display classic and modified cars for a cruise-in at 2 p.m.

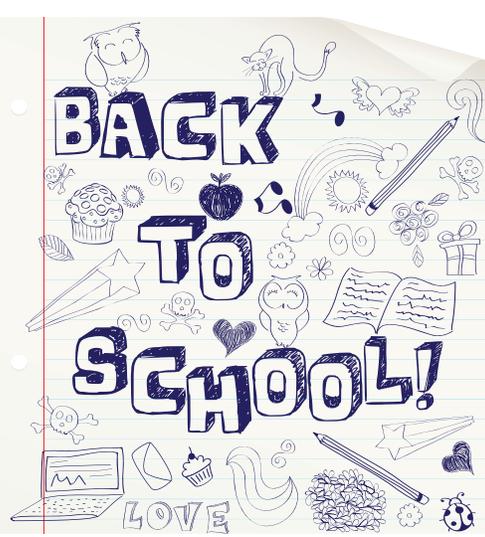
Let's celebrate all that Chamblee has to offer at the city's largest annual event! For more information go to Facebook.com/TasteofChamblee and #TOC14.

ICT Breaks Ground on Parking Facility, Plans Expansion

The Interactive College of Technology celebrated the groundbreaking for its new parking facility in July and unveiled plans for the new administrative center. These developments are projected for completion within the next two years. The college moved to Chamblee in 1996 and has more than 1,400 students.

Van Pappas, president of the Chamblee Chamber, shared his gratitude for the college's support of the Chamblee Business Association. Chamblee Mayor Eric Clarkson praised the college for its progress and remarked positively about the impact ICT has had on the surrounding community over the years.





Safety Checklist for Teens

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- **Eliminate distractions while walking.** To prevent accidents, teach your child to remove all distractions (music, cell phones, tablets) while walking along the sidewalk or in the direction facing traffic, and to always look both ways before crossing the street.
- **Set social boundaries.** Talk to your child about the types of information that should not be shared on social media and tell them to connect only with people they have befriended in real life.
- **Physical and cyber-bullying.** Encourage your child to come to you if they ever witness an act or become the victim of bullying. Prevent acts of cyber-bullying by monitoring your child's online activities and the people they are interacting with.
- **Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.** Remind your child to immediately dial 9-1-1 in an emergency and to alert a trusted adult nearby.
- **Sign up for Smart911 and Safety Profile.** Tie your child's cell phone number, home address, medical history and emergency contacts to your Safety Profile to ensure 9-1-1 will instantly have all the information needed to help your child during an emergency.



Kids Home Alone?

Follow These Safety Steps from the Red Cross

School bells are ringing again and families across the country are busy getting kids readjusted to the classroom. For many of these kids, a return to school also means being home alone after school until parents get home from work. The American Red Cross offers steps parents and children can take to make these after-school hours safer and less stressful.

The first thing parents need to decide is whether their child is responsible enough to stay home alone. If not, other options include after-school childcare, programs at schools and youth clubs, or enrolling the child in youth sports programs.

Whether a child can stay home alone should depend on the child's maturity but a general rule of thumb is that no child younger than eight years old should be left alone for any extended period of time.



American Red Cross
Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter

If the child is going home after school, it's a good idea to have them call to check in when they get there. For an older child, set ground rules about whether other kids can come over when the parents are absent, whether cooking is an option, and whether they can leave the home.

Other steps parents can take:

- Post an emergency phone list where the children can see it.
- Practice an emergency plan with the child, write the plan down and make sure the child knows where it is.
- Let children know where the flashlights are.
- Remove or safely store in locked areas dangerous items like guns, knives, hand tools, power tools, razor blades, ammunition and other objects that can cause injury.
- Make sure potential poisons like detergents, polishes, pesticides and lighter fluid are stored in locked cabinets, out of the reach of children.
- Make sure medicines are kept out of the reach of children.
- Make sure at least one approved smoke alarm is installed and operating on each level of the home.
- Caution children not to talk about being home alone on public websites.

DeKalb Interim CEO Meets with Chamber of Commerce for Breakfast

May Seeks to Restore Partnerships

Lee May, interim CEO of DeKalb County, spoke to 70+ chamber members and elected officials at the Chamblee Chamber's monthly breakfast meeting in July. May was optimistic about restoring the partnership of the DeKalb County government and the cities of DeKalb, stating, "We need to make sure we are conducting business in a very open and transparent way, so we are doing some very tangible things to address where we are."

May remains focused on winning the public's trust while continuing to drive economic growth to the county. His stories of growing up in a large family helped convey his overall message: "We are family and we have to act like that. Regardless of what perspective you have, regardless of what political party . . . we just have to sit down and have a conversation."



From left: Jim Tismanakis, Discover DeKalb; Ronni French, Consignment Furniture Depot; PDK Airport Manager Mike Van Wie; Charlene Fang, Chamblee Chamber; Aurora Santana, Chamblee Chamber; DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May; Barbara Barber and Art Freeman, Chamblee Chamber

May answered questions from the audience and was presented with a large cookie by Chamblee City Councilman Brian Mock

and Chamber of Commerce Deputy Executive Director Barbara Barber in honor of his one-year anniversary as interim CEO.



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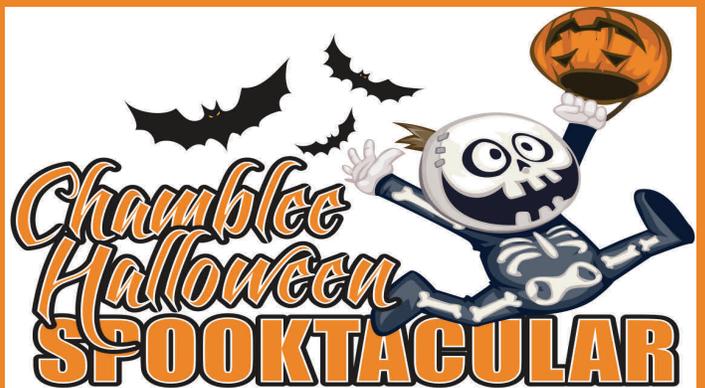
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* For Accredited Investors Only



Don't be Scared to Become a Sponsor!

For Sponsorship Opportunities Contact Jennifer Rackley at 770-986-5016 or jrackley@chambleega.com

**Saturday, October 25, 2014
11am-3pm
Keswick Park**

Hope You Had a Super 4th of July!



Chamblee had the largest crowd ever for the Fourth of July festivities. The event had its traditional activities: the bike parade, live music, good food and fireworks. The weather was perfect for the train rides and relaxing on the grass. The Police Department's booth was a popular place for children to stop by for flying discs, activity books and mini footballs. By nightfall, there was no place to move – Keswick Park was completely full. The fireworks display was amazing.



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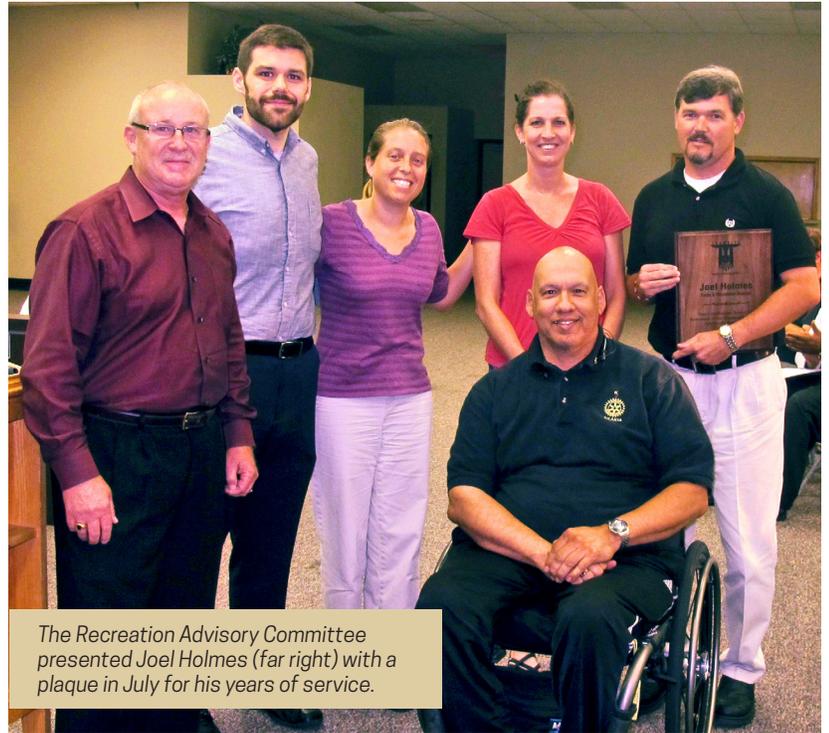
chambleechamber.org

Parks & Recreation Staff Changes

In July, we said goodbye to Joel Holmes, who served as the Chamblee Parks and Recreation director for the past six years. We wish him well in his new position as the Parks and Recreation director for the City of Albany.



Jennifer Rackley (right) is the department's interim director. She will supervise Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers, manage the budget, and oversee special events. Rackley is not new to Chamblee. After graduating from Converse College, she started working as Chamblee's camp director in April 1999. She was promoted to recreation coordinator where she worked for 12 years before moving to Nashville, Tenn. In Nashville she was a teacher for the Gardner School. We welcome Jennifer as our interim director.



The Recreation Advisory Committee presented Joel Holmes (far right) with a plaque in July for his years of service.

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Calendar SEPTEMBER 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTE: Zumba, Yoga, and Theatre classes meet at the Community Building.</p>	<p>1 LABOR DAY City offices closed</p>	<p>2 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Architectural Advisory Review Board, 7 pm, City Hall Conference Room</p>	<p>3 Yoga, 5:15-6:15 pm</p>	<p>4 Children's Yoga, 5 pm Recreation Advisory Committee, 7 pm, Community Building</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Chamblee Chamber Business-After-Hours Meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm, Downwind Restaurant</p>	<p>10 Yoga, 5:15-6:15 pm Court, 6 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>11 Children's Yoga, 5 pm City Council Public Hearing, 6 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm Civic Center</p>	<p>17 Yoga, 5:15-6:15 pm Court, 6 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>18 Children's Yoga, 5 pm Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Mtg with GBI Director Vernon Keenan, 7:30-9 am, Civic Center</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Compost and Electronics Recycling Day, 8 am-noon, Public Works</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Downtown Development Authority Mtg, 6-8 pm Chamblee Chamber of Commerce Office</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 USO Benefit, 8 pm-midnight, PDK airport</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm</p>		 <p>GBI Director Vernon Keenan speaks to the Chamblee Chamber on Sept. 18.</p>		

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Events

A1A Performs at Fourth Friday Concert

At the Fourth Friday Concert in July, A1A lived up to its reputation and kept the crowd on its feet and dancing throughout the evening. The official Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band played Buffett's best songs and it was clear that many in the crowd were true Buffett fans. Many also came out dressed to the theme, with leis and beachy attire. Mad Italian served up fresh cheese steaks and ice-cold beers.

Thank you to our sponsor, Jim Ellis Automotive, for making this concert series possible.



Dr. Miriam Croft specializes in Women's Health, Pediatrics, Pregnancy, and is certified in Webster Technique.

770-452-2955

Info@howchiropractic.com

We're proud to announce the opening of Hands on Wellness Chiropractic Center serving Chamblee and Brookhaven. As a family wellness center, we offer **chiropractic care, educational and fitness classes for all ages, hyperbaric oxygen, massage, and health coaching.** It is our mission to help you feel better and reach your greatest health goals!

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HOURS: Monday-Saturday 10:30am-6:00pm

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