



CHAMBLEE Signal

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Official Newsletter of Chamblee, Georgia

chambleega.gov

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Marlene Bogoslawsky, yoga instructor at Keswick Park

Focus on Wellness:

Good Health Is Essential for a Productive and Vibrant Chamblee

January often brings thoughts of the past year and resolutions for the new. While thinking about goals and resolutions, let's think about wellness. Chamblee has a number of fitness and wellness facilities and many other options if you seek to improve your physical well-being. Some of our neighborhoods have walking clubs and many restaurants offer healthy dining options.

The City of Chamblee offers a variety of lifestyle and fitness programs for the community and also promotes wellness among its staff.

In January Chamblee hosts its first-ever Health and Wellness Fair. Come out and learn about all the businesses in the Chamblee area that offer wellness products and activities.

See page 16 for all the details

Chamblee Health and Wellness Fair

Saturday, Jan. 10 • 1-5 p.m.
Chamblee Civic Center
3540 Broad St.

The Chamblee Health and Wellness Fair presents information and resources on a variety of health and wellness topics. Our goal: to help members of our community make positive changes that improve well-being.

For more information, contact Jennifer Rackley, jrackley@chambleega.com or 770-986-5016, or visit eventbrite.com/e/chamblee-health-wellness-fair-tickets-14698308035.

Participants:

- Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Dr. Max Fried
- Adrenaline Group Fitness
- Better Safer Living
- Fitness on the Mark
- Hands on Wellness Chiropractic
- Hello Gorgeous Boutique and Café
- Nuts N' Berries
- Zumba Atlanta

City Budget Approved for 2015

The Chamblee City Council approved the fiscal year 2015 budget at their last 2014 meeting on Dec.18.

The fiscal budget is balanced for all funds with total expenditures projected at \$25,011,945 and total revenues of \$24,925,810. General Fund revenue is projected to be \$15,369,652 and expenditures are projected to be \$16,155,382. The General Fund expenditures exceed revenues and will require \$785,730 in fund balance to be used to achieve a balanced budget. The unaudited surplus for all funds at the end of 2014 is projected to be \$14,168,957.

The General Fund surplus is projected to be \$5,948,686. That surplus is used to help fund services provided until property taxes are collected late in the year and to fund some capital projects. The Century Center dispute is still ongoing but staff projects that the revenue from Century Center would more than offset the shortage in General Fund revenue.

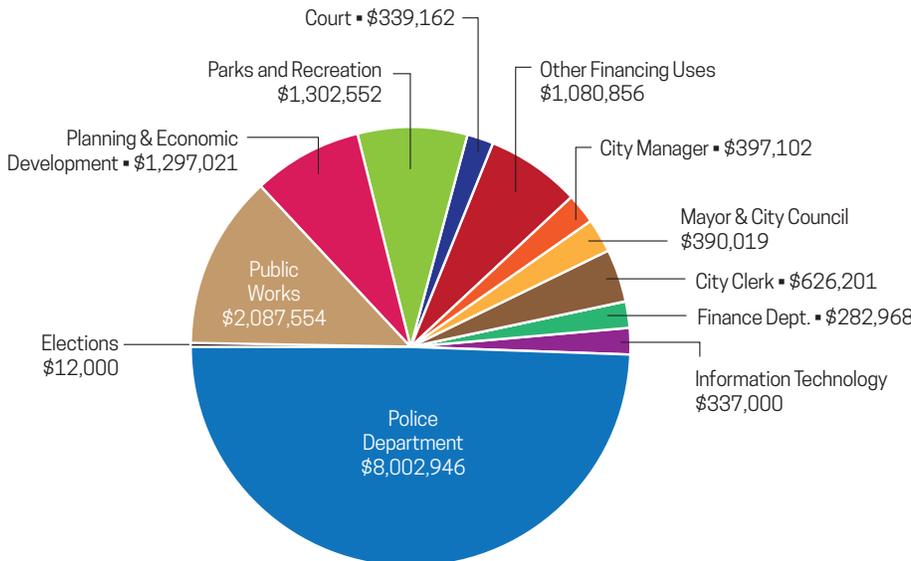
The property tax estimates in the proposed budget are based upon the 2014 tax rate of 6.4 mils. The property tax digest will be evaluated in May or June prior to officially setting the tax rate for 2015.

Chamblee will begin providing full sanitation services to the most recently annexed area on July 1, 2015. Until that time DeKalb County will continue to service the area under an inter-governmental agreement. Beginning on April 1, 2015, sanitation service will change to once a week pickup. Wheeled trash cans will be provided for both garbage and recycling. Leaves and yard waste will be picked up weekly year round utilizing new one-man self-contained leaf collectors.

Council appropriated \$221,000, or roughly 3 percent of current payroll, to be allocated to cost of living and performance-based merit raises. Each employee will receive a 1.7 percent cost of living increase. The remaining funds will be awarded as merit raises.

There are a total of 14 additional full-time employees being added city wide – five in public works, three in sanitation, two in stormwater and four in the parks department.

More information is available at chambleega.com.



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 770-986-5019
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? Send press releases, announcements and other materials for consideration to thesignal@chambleega.com. All material provided is subject to editing.

Unified Development Ordinance

Have you ever started a construction project on your home or local business and found yourself attempting to read Chamblee's zoning ordinance or development regulations? If you have, then you probably called the City Development Department for clarification. Words like "complicated," "foggy," and "confusing" are often used by such callers.

In an effort to address this problem and to bring the code up to date, the city has just completed a draft of a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which the City Council is now reviewing for possible adoption in early 2015.

A UDO is a consolidated document that takes the many different regulations governing what landowners can do with their property and reorganizes them into an efficient and more easily referenced set of regulations. Regulations that have been updated and consolidated include subdivision and environmental regulations as well as the city's zoning ordinance and development regulations and several smaller related ordinances. Each of these regulations has been amended piecemeal over many years, leaving behind redundant and conflicting standards, outdated terminology, and wordy bureaucratic language.

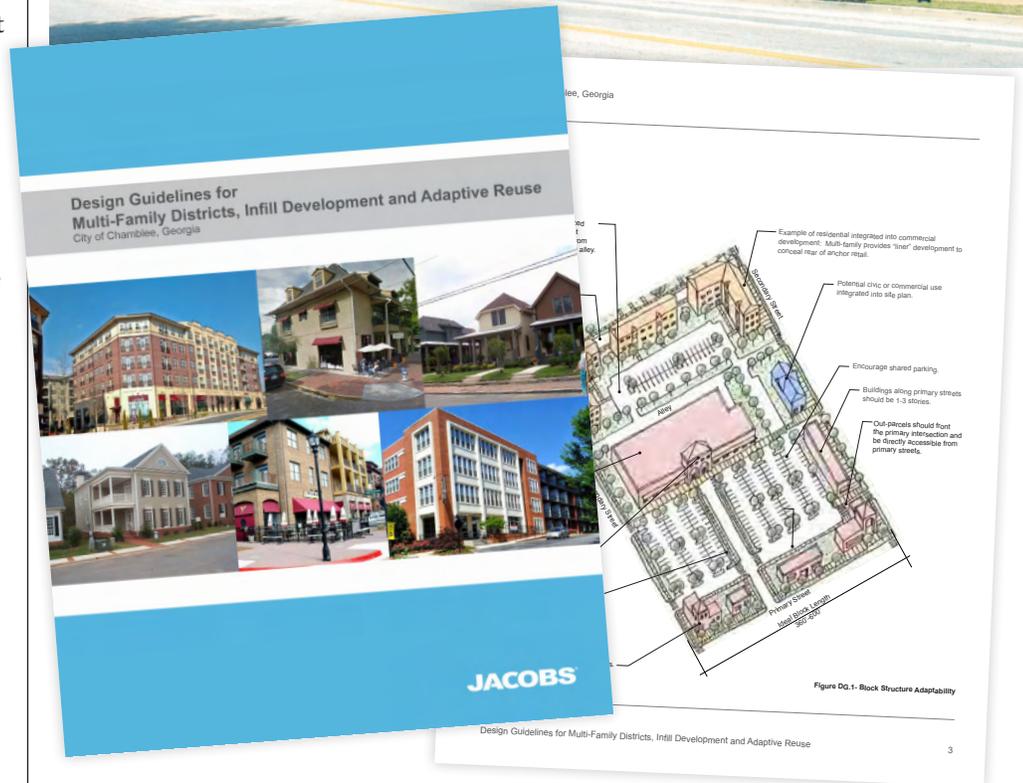
For example, each of the individual current regulations have their own set of definitions, which when combined often show conflicting meanings for similar technical terms. This draft UDO represents an attempt to address all that and better position the city for future growth. The primary effort was not to rewrite the existing code but to reorganize, clarify, and streamline it.

UDO Organization

The draft UDO is organized with three major titles:

Title 1 deals with just the administration of the document, including a combined definition section.

Title 2 contains all the land use and zoning regulations, and is an improved version of the current Zoning Ordinance that regu-



lates such matters as what property owners can do on their property, parking requirements and allowable signage.

Title 3 includes all development regulations dealing with land disturbance activities, such as buffer, landscape and tree protection, soil and erosion control, construction plans, and infrastructure.

The UDO is supplemented with a three-part appendix that includes illustrations and guidelines related to urban design,

tree protection, and streetscapes.

If you are interested in reviewing the draft UDO before the City Council takes action, the document and related files can be found at chambleega.com. The city also proposes to hold at least one public open house or information meeting on the UDO sometime early in the year. Notices of the meeting will be posted on the city website, so stay tuned to learn more about this exciting project.

The Main Street Program



The City of Chamblee is working to become a Georgia Main Street city. The Main Street Program, a nationally recognized community-based initiative, encourages public and private partnerships to create successful central business districts using the Four-Point Approach for downtown revitalization.

Working in the areas of organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring, Main Street communities enlist local business owners, property owners, citizens, nonprofit organizations, and local governments to build a comprehensive approach to sustainable downtown development.

Chamblee's Main Street Program will be directed by the Chamblee Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and coordinated by the city's economic development manager, Adam Causey, who joined us in September 2014.

The Chamblee DDA is a seven-member board of residents and business owners appointed by the City Council. The board is responsible for the economic development strategy for the downtown Chamblee area. In just two short years, it has helped spur positive developments that will improve the city's residential and retail environment.

The city and the DDA realize that a central, walkable, vibrant downtown district is key to creating a community where residents, businesses, and visitors want to invest their time and money. By focusing on the Main Street Four-Point Approach, the Chamblee DDA and the city will promote, preserve, and enhance a safe and economically viable central business district.

Once the start-up phase is complete, Chamblee's Main Street Program will become more active in establishing programs and events that highlight the existing and future retail, residential, and recreation options in downtown Chamblee.

For more information on the Chamblee Main Street Program, the Downtown Development Authority, and volunteer opportunities, contact Adam Causey, acausey@chambleega.com, and visit downtownchamblee.com.



Canned Food Drive

In October, the City of Chamblee and ICARE teamed up for a Continuous Food Drive to help local Chamblee families in need. We reached out to some businesses and they all obliged. After word got out about the drive, we had more interest from businesses than barrels.

For Thanksgiving the drive collected 255 cans. The Ludacris foundation added to that by donating four turkeys for Chamblee families. Thank you, everyone! Please continue to drop off cans for families throughout the year. Donations may be dropped off at the following locations: Chamblee City Hall, the Chamblee Police Department, the Wing Factory, and the Original Barbershop.

Please donate items low in sugar and sodium. Toiletries and personal care items such as tooth brushes, deodorant, and toothpaste are also appreciated.

Suggested Items:

Rice, pasta	Peanut butter
Canned meats	Jelly/jam
Canned vegetables	Canned fruit
Cereal	Canned soup

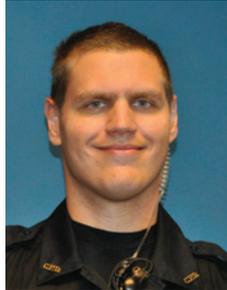
Thank you! Let's continue to help Chamblee families in need. For more information contact Teresa Taylor, ttaylor@chambleega.com, or Officer Poythress, cpoythress@chambleega.com.

Police Promotions

The Chamblee Police Department is proud to announce that these officers were promoted to the rank of sergeant on Dec. 26. Their years of experience and Chamblee start dates are listed as well.



Guy Antinozzi
18 years / Dec. 2013



Robert Bodron
3.5 years / Aug. 2013



Roy Collar
17 years / Feb. 2014



Mike Pearson
29 years / Dec. 2012



Ed Lyons
9 years / Feb. 2013



Tong Ngo
12 years / March 2002



January's storm last year reminded us that when temperatures drop significantly, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Use these highway and preparedness tips to prepare for this year's winter weather:

Highway Safety

- Buckle up, slow down, do not drive impaired.
- Be well rested and alert. Make frequent stops. During long trips, rotate drivers. If you're too tired to drive, stop and get some rest.
- Use caution in work zones.
- Give your full attention to the road. Avoid distractions such as cell phones.
- Observe speed limits. Driving too fast or too slow can increase the risk of a collision.
- Be respectful of other motorists.
- Don't follow another vehicle too closely.
- If you plan on drinking, designate a driver who will not drink.
- Clean your headlights, tail lights, signal lights and windows to help you see, especially at night.
- Turn your headlights on as dusk approaches or if you are using your windshield wipers in inclement weather.
- Do not overdrive your headlights.
- If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.

Prepare for the Unexpected

- Carry a disaster supply kit in your trunk. Pack high protein snacks, water, first aid kit, flashlight, small battery-operated radio, an emergency contact card with names and phone numbers, extra prescription medications and important documents or information you may need.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- Find out how you would get information in the event of a disaster (local radio systems, emergency alert systems).
- Pay attention to the weather forecast for your destination.
- Don't let your vehicle's gas tank get too low. Plan ahead and reduce the risk of getting stranded.
- Taking your pet with you? Visit aspca.org for tips on pet safety on road trips and suggestions on items to take along.

Field Exercise January 8

In response to the needs and concerns of our citizens, a joint field exercise will be held with the Atlanta Gas Light-Peachtree Service Center, DeKalb Fire Department, DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency, and the Chamblee Police Department. The exercise will take place at 1885 Shalimar Dr. NE, Atlanta.

The purpose of the exercise is to test the readiness plans and coordination of efforts of all four organizations. The exercise will consist of a simulated gas leak at the station, resulting in a response from emergency personnel and technicians. At the conclusion of the exercise participants will perform some demonstrations and answer questions. Parking is limited for observers, so please consider car-pooling and parking on one side of the street only leading into the exercise.

Approximate Field Exercise Timeline

8:30-9 a.m.	Observers arrive
9 a.m.	Exercise starts
9:05-10:30 a.m.	Incident response and assessment
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Demonstrations
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Debrief

Property Tax - Senior Exemptions

Resident homeowners in Chamblee who are 65 or older can apply for a Senior Homeowner Tax Exemption. Those who qualify are exempt from city taxes.

Requirements:

All parties listed as owners on the property deed must:

- Be 65 years or older before Jan. 1, 2015.
- Hold a current Homestead Exemption designating the property as primary residence.
- Supply proof of age (driver's license or other identification) for all owners listed on the deed.
- Apply for the exemption between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28 by filling out a simple form in person at City Hall, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

You can only apply for this city exemption at City Hall. The application will be processed and notification of the exemption will be sent to DeKalb County for the 2015 tax year. The exemption will be applied to the 2015 Property Tax Statement. City taxes will be removed; however, storm-water and sanitation fees will remain.

Once this exemption has been granted there will be no need to reapply. Additional exemptions from DeKalb County must be filed with the county separately.

Call the County Tax Commissioner's Office, 404-298-4000, to find out about all exemptions. Persons who have 100 percent disability status from the Social Security Administration or the Veteran's Administration also are eligible for this city exemption.

For more information contact Linda McDaniel, assistant city clerk, lmcdaniel@chambleega.com, or 470-395-2304.

The Loss of J.R.

If you've ever needed Animal Control in the city of Chamblee, you've met J.R. Gibson. He was our animal control officer for more than 20 years and well known throughout the community. Sadly, in November 2014, J.R. unexpectedly passed away. This was a big loss to the Public Works Department. "Everybody liked Junior and he will be missed," said Joe Tipton, assistant director of Public Works.

In planning for his retirement, J.R. handpicked Christopher Smith to be his successor. Chris, formerly of the Stormwater Division of Public Works, had been aiding him with Animal Control to get ready for his new role and has already attended Animal Control field officer training.

Chris loves the new position and feels like it's his calling. He explained that he loved working with J.R., who taught him a lot. He's still receiving additional training, so keep in mind he's a new officer and still learning.

Chris said the one thing J.R. always told him about the position is, we do it "for the love of animals but never forget the role of human beings."



CAFR Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City of Chamblee is proud to announce that we have been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). An award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been presented to Travis Sims, director of our Finance Department.

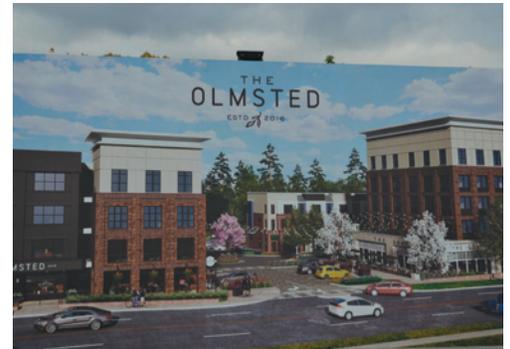
The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

GFAO is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstration of a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Business License Renewals Coming Soon

Occupational tax/business license renewals for 2015 will be mailed out by Feb. 1. The expiration date noted on your Occupation Tax Certificate is Dec. 31, 2014; however, there is a grace period and your Occupation Tax Certificate will be considered valid until April 15, 2015.

Olmsted Groundbreaking



The Olmsted mixed-use development, formerly known as Gateway South, had its official groundbreaking in November. This 283-unit Class-A apartment community with 11,000 square feet of retail is soon to be developed at the corner of Peachtree Boulevard and Chamblee Tucker Road.

The groundbreaking event celebrated the collaboration between the City of Chamblee, the Chamblee Downtown Development Authority and developers Cocke Finkelstein Inc. (CFI) in a joint venture with Macauley + Schmit (MS) and Origin Capital Partners.

Officially Welcoming Jennifer

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the Chamblee City Council voted unanimously to confirm the city manager's selection of Jennifer Rackley as the director of Parks and Recreation. Rackley has served as the interim director since July.

Rackley, a familiar face to Chamblee, has worked for the city more than 12 years. After graduating from Converse College, she started working as Chamblee's camp director in 1999. She was promoted to recreation coordinator where she worked for 12 years before moving to Nashville. She returned to Georgia a month before taking on the interim director role.

Rackley brings institutional knowledge, a strong connection with the community and new ideas. The city officially welcomes her to the team.



Goodbye to Judge Werbin

Samuel Werbin ended his tenure in November as a part-time judge for the City of Chamblee after 38 years. We wish him the best and thank him for his service!

Longtime Employees

Thanks for Your Many Years of Service!

To the City of Chamblee employees listed here, who have served us for more than 20 years: thank you for your time and dedication.

- R.M. Johnson, city manager
- Troy Rogers, crew leader, Public Works
- Steve Harris, lieutenant, Police Department
- Paul Klerlein, captain, Police Department
- Cecil King, officer, Police Department
- Danny Harper, lieutenant, Police Department
- Joseph Tipton, assistant director, Public Works
- Olan Roper, foreman, Public Works
- Donny Williams, chief, Police Department

Holiday Trash Pick Up

New Year's Day – Closed Thursday, Jan. 1

Week of Dec. 29 – Monday and Thursday pickups will take place on Monday and Wednesday; Tuesday and Friday pickups will stay the same.

The Long Journey: How I Came to Our City

During the promotion process, I discovered an interesting story about Detective Tong Ngo that's worth retelling. — Captain Ernesto Ford

In the early 1970s my parents served in the Navy for the Republic of Vietnam and were assigned to work with the United States military. When the U.S. military evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975, my father was given an opportunity to leave Vietnam without his family; however he declined the offer and decided to stay. As punishment for his service with the U.S. military, he was sentenced to five years of hard labor at a camp for the communist government.

Upon his release, my father worked as a three-wheel taxi pedicab driver. After a year of struggling to provide for the family under the communist government, my father decided that escaping was the only option to give our family a better life.

My father and his friends planned an escape route. When it was complete, my father and his friends left home for about six months to build a boat that would transport several families across the sea and ultimately to a better life.

The Escape

After the boat and the plan were finished, he sent a letter to my mother to have the remaining family members go to a secret location where we would wait in a safe house while waiting for trawlers (small boats) to take small groups into international water where the boat was positioned. When it was our turn to get picked up by the trawler, my brother and I were separated from our mother and sisters resulting in my mother and sisters being left behind. My brother and I were transferred from the trawler to the big boat where my father was waiting. With all the confusion and the risks of getting caught, we started our journey immediately; unbeknownst to my father the entire family was not on the boat.

Once the boat set sail and was seemingly safe from being caught by the communists, my father went to check on us and realized that my mother and sisters did not make it to the boat. My father was furious and wanted to go back to get my mother and sisters but the people on the boat begged



him not to turn the boat around and risk everyone's life. My father had to make the toughest decision in his life by continuing with the journey.

Chased by Pirates

On the first day at sea the Thai pirates chased our boat. During the chase we were shot at several times and the chase lasted for about 12 hours. Fortunately, we safely outran the Thai pirates and evaded capture.

The journey lasted another two days and my father was the only captain on board the boat. He navigated the boat for the entire time we were on the water, without any rest.

At the end of the third day, we ended up at a Malaysian ship port. We got processed and sent to a refugee camp. The first camp we were sent to was Bidong Island. This was where our process began with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR helped us apply for residency in the country/state of our choice. We applied for Atlanta, Georgia, because we had relatives living there. While at the refugee camp, we went to school and learned as much about the American culture as we could to prepare for our move.

After six months at Bidong Island refugee camp, we got transferred to Galang refugee camp in Malaysia where we stayed for seven months. We were transferred again, this time to a refugee camp in the Philippines where we spent seven more months. We

continued with school while waiting for our immigration documents to be processed.

Family Reunited

In the summer of 1984, we came to the U.S. and this is where our new lives began. My father was working as a maintenance man during the day and as a dishwasher at night. He started the paper work to sponsor my mother and sisters' immigration to the U.S. My brother and I started school and we had to learn to adapt to our new lives.

It took my father 10 years to gather all the required immigration documents to sponsor my mother and sisters' move to the U.S. In 1994, my mother and sisters arrived in Atlanta, Georgia. To give back to the country that gave my family freedom and better lives, my brother and I decided to join the U.S. Army after high school.

From U.S. Army to Law Enforcement

While serving this country as a soldier, I found my niche in law enforcement. Shortly after my honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, I successfully completed the police academy and started my career in law enforcement with the Chamblee Police Department. I have proudly served the citizens of Chamblee for 13 years with unwavering dedication, a relentless pursuit of justice, and an overwhelming ambition to affect my community with positive change.

Throughout my tenure my productivity has been acknowledged with letters of commendation, the Officer of the Year Award, the Lifesaving Award, as well as the Chief's Award. On Dec. 2, 2014, I was rewarded for my hard work with a promotion to the rank of sergeant in the Criminal Investigative Division.

This story is told – not to brag about accomplishments – but to confirm that with hard work, honesty, and selfless dedicated service to family and community, all things are possible.

A heartfelt thanks to all who have helped me along the way. And thanks to the Chamblee Police Department.

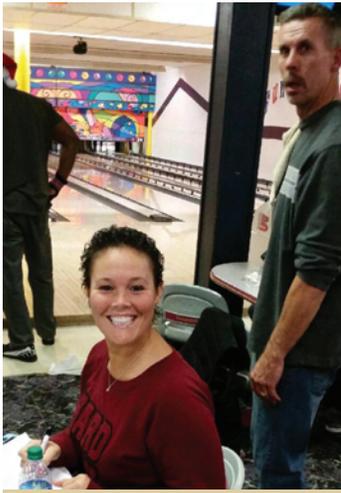
Chamblee Gallery



Hello Gorgeous Boutique and Café ribbon cutting, Malone Drive.



Breakfast with Santa



Casey Finney at the Santa Cop Bowling Tournament at FunTime Bowl.



Mayor Pro Tem Dan Zanger and Detective Alex Cushenan after the Gramercy Park neighborhood meeting.



Hands on Wellness ribbon cutting on Pierce Drive.

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.com for:
 News Flash – news
 Media Center – press releases
 Calendar

Social media accounts

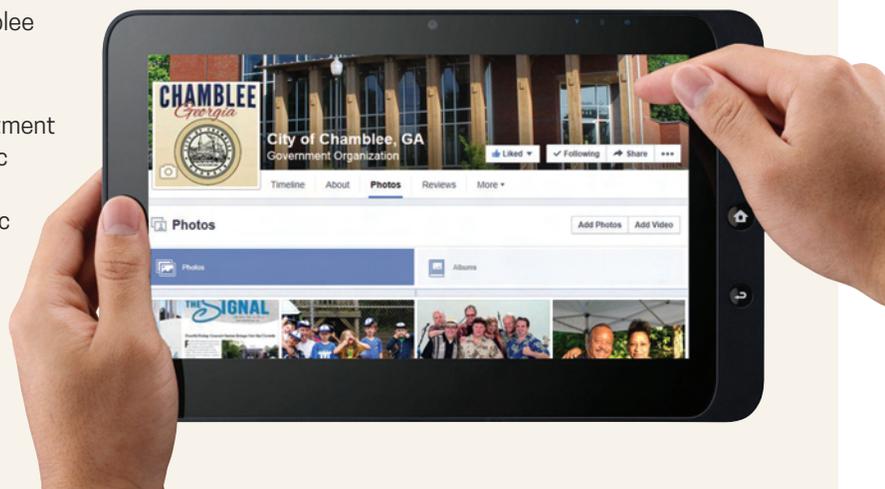
With the mayor's help we got more than 100 likes this week. Let's get 100 more! Please, go

online and "like" the Chamblee Facebook page!

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

Hashtags

- #chambleega – all things Chamblee-related
- #chambleeliveswell



An inside view of Chamblee's departments and what they do to add value to the city.

Traffic Unit

Handling a variety of traffic safety-related duties and responsibilities, the Traffic Unit places a heavy emphasis on the enforcement of traffic laws to make the streets safer by reducing the frequency and severity of traffic accidents.

Day-to-Day Functions

The Traffic Unit deals with speed enforcement. Two of the officers in the unit ride motorcycles and the rest drive patrol vehicles. They are responsible for responding to citizen traffic complaints and providing selective traffic enforcement.

Additional duties and responsibilities include:

- Accident investigations
- Traffic accident reconstruction
- Follow up hit and run investigations
- Speed enforcement
- Fleet maintenance and upkeep
- DUI enforcement
- Seatbelt enforcement
- Child safety seat enforcement

Officer Training

Reconstruction Classes

Officers assigned to the unit are required to successfully complete extensive state training in accident reconstruction. Reconstruction training teaches officers to scale and diagram streets.

Car Seat Training

Traffic officers are also Certified Child Safety Seat Technicians, trained to install car seats and conduct safety checks for new parents concerned about installation.



Sgt. Nick Nixon running radar detection on Peachtree Road at our south city limits.

Photo credit: G. Hughes



Mundo Hispanico Interview

In late November, Mario Guevara of Mundo Hispanico rode with Officer Roy Collar and several other officers from multiple agencies as part of the first video of their DUI series. The video had more than 100,000 views in the first two days. The traffic unit participated in the video hoping to educate the community on the risks and consequences of driving impaired.

Mario rode with Officer Collar on several occasions to assist with bridging the gap between the Hispanic community and the Chamblee Police Department in understanding state laws and general rule of the roads.

Officer Collar and Mario Guevara are pictured together, after a ride-along, on p. 10.

P.R.I.D.E. Driving Class

Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error) is a free, national award-winning, two-hour course designed to help parents and their new (or soon to be) teen drivers. The course is designed to help teenagers ages 14 to 16 learn what they need to do during the 40 hours of supervised practice driving time required by Georgia law.

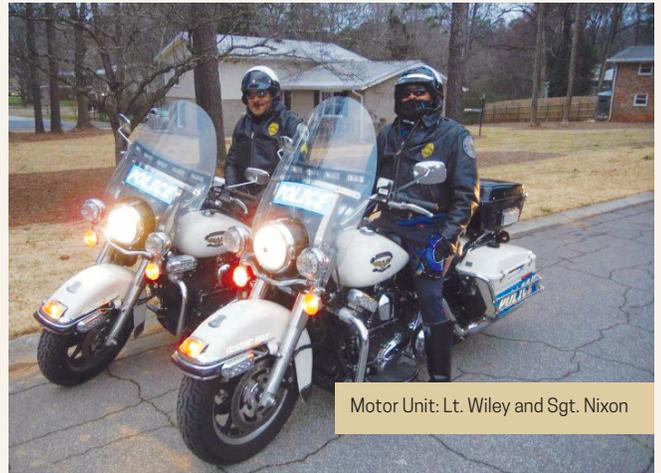
Rather than a technical hands-on driver training course, this program addresses driver attitude, knowledge, and behavior of both parent and new teen driver. Teens and parents must register together to attend. Chamblee Police Department has eight certified P.R.I.D.E. instructors on staff and offers the class four times a year.

Officers in Traffic Unit

Lieutenant Wiley, Sergeant Nixon, Officer Jones, Officer Collar

Motor Unit

Lt. Wiley and Sgt. Nixon are the officers who ride the motorcycles. They enforce traffic laws and lead races and parades.



Motor Unit: Lt. Wiley and Sgt. Nixon



Governor Nathan Deal visited Chamblee



The Traffic Unit helped create a landing area for the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta medevac helicopter.

'Keep Chamblee Beautiful' Is Back!



Kee Chamblee Beautiful (KCB) was originally established in 1991 by Virginia Baker. Over the last 20-plus years, the organization has done some great things for our city, including countless litter collections, tree and flower plantings, park bench installations, Christmas tree recycling programs, stream cleanups, and much more. However, over the last 10 years membership has declined along with the activities and presence in the community.

Now that our city has expanded with two annexations and more young singles, couples and families are moving in, there is new energy and excitement around revitalizing Keep Chamblee Beautiful. As an established 501c3, under the umbrellas of Keep DeKalb, Georgia and America Beautiful organizations, there is so much potential!

To help get us started with the revitalization, we are sponsoring a citywide logo contest. We also have a 2015 community survey. What projects and events would you like to see KCB focus on in 2015? What areas of Chamblee do you think need the most beautification? We want to hear from all Chamblee residents, business owners, and city staff.

To vote in the logo contest, complete the survey, and learn about our upcoming events, visit us online at keepchambleebeautiful.org and facebook.com/keepchambleebeautiful.

Recreation Advisory Committee Is Looking for YOU

The Recreation Advisory Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in being more involved in Parks and Recreation events and programs, please come and check out a RAC Meeting. RAC normally meets the first Thursday of every month, 7 p.m., at the Civic Center. The committee looks forward to meeting you! For more information contact Jennifer Rackley, 770-986-5016, or jrackley@chambleega.com.

The Senior Breakfast Club Returns

We invite senior citizens to the Chamblee Breakfast Club. Starting in February we will host a breakfast for seniors with speakers on topics like fitness and finance at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. We will also schedule a few day and overnight trips throughout the year. For more details or to get on our mailing list, call the Parks and Recreation Department, 770-986-5016.

Mindfulness Classes

Mondays ■ Beginning February 23

Ages 8-10, 3:30-4:30 p.m. ■ Ages 11-13, 5-6:15 p.m.

Atlanta Mindfulness Groups, led by Dr. Diana Gordick and Dr. Mary Helen Hunt, will offer a new series of six-week mindfulness classes for children ages 8 through 13. Classes will meet in the Keswick Park Community Building.

The research-based curriculum introduces the concept of mindfulness and learning techniques for incorporating mindfulness in everyday life. Class objectives include teaching students skills to feel happier and calmer, to improve concentration and learning, and to learn ways to cope with stress and anxiety.

The fee is \$150 for ages 8-10 and \$175 for ages 11-13. To register visit atlantamindfulnessgroups.com. For more information visit mindfulnessinschools.org.



Christmas Tree Recycling



Jan. 3 ■ 9 a.m.-1 p.m. ■ Public Works, 3210 Cumberland Dr.

Bring One for the Chipper – the state’s annual Christmas tree recycling program – invites Georgia residents to bring their trees to local drop-off centers on Saturday, Jan. 3.

In Chamblee, Keep Chamblee Beautiful will host “Bring One for the Chipper 2015” as part of the statewide effort. This annual event continues a 20-plus year tradition of actively participating in environmental education and stewardship by providing drop-off points in the community. The Christmas trees are recycled by chipping them into mulch for use in landscaping, or by using them as fish or animal habitats.

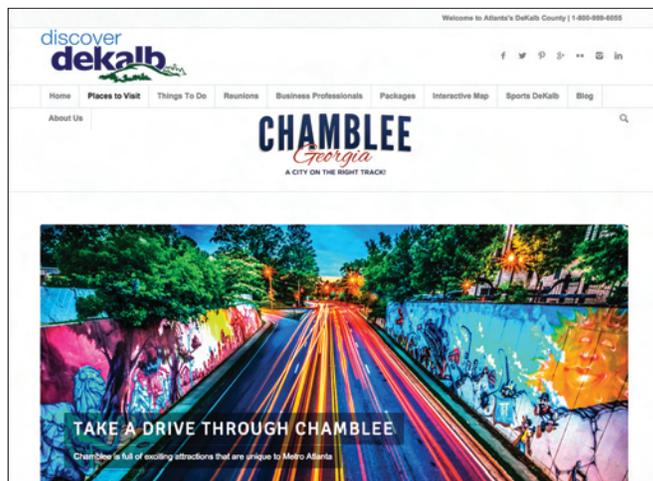
With more than 20 years of tree-cycling in Georgia, this is the largest event of its kind in the nation. Since 1991, more than six million Christmas trees have been diverted from landfills and put to greater use.

Thank you for your awareness and cooperation in getting Christmas trees to a “mulch” better place!

Cool Chamblee Websites

Chamblee’s Downtown Development Authority has a new website offering information on special events, downtown businesses, and the DDA itself: downtownchamblee.com.

Discover DeKalb created the Discover Chamblee website, which highlights points of interest, parks, and cuisines: discoverchamblee.com.



The Arts Alliance Is Back!

New Gallery and Arts Incubator Opening Soon

From the ashes of the Chamblee Alliance for Art and Culture (CAAC), a non-profit organization that fell victim to the recession, arises the new Chamblee Arts Alliance (CAA).

Former members of CAAC, Bonnie Gilbert and JoAnn Goldenburg, felt it was time to resurrect the Arts Alliance and reached out to the Chamblee Chamber of Commerce for help. The Chamber created the Chamblee Arts Committee allowing them to utilize the Chamber’s resources and space to operate.

The first committee meeting was in October and the mission to promote art and culture within the City of Chamblee was unanimously approved. Kris Green was appointed chairperson and plans were made to hold a monthly art party.

On Nov. 19, the first event was held in the Chamblee Chamber’s office showcasing some 20 local artists. More than 150 people attended and were impressed by the quality and quantity of talent on display. Twelve additional artists requested space to show their work the following week and more people are asking how to volunteer.

Because of this momentum, the committee decided to become independent on Dec. 1 by founding the Chamblee Arts Alliance, Inc., a new Georgia non-profit 501(c)(3). Kris Green was elected president, and Bonnie Gilbert was elected vice president.

On January 7 the CAA opens its new gallery and arts incubator in historic downtown Chamblee at 5342 Peachtree Rd., just three blocks from City Hall.

Contact Kris Green, knowinglu@gmail.com or check out [Facebook.com/ChambleeArtsAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/ChambleeArtsAlliance) for more information.

Forefront Theater Arts Classes on Tuesdays

Creative Dramatics: Magic-to-Do

3:45-4:30 p.m. • Preschool-kindergarten

Calling all little performers! We will sing, dance, and act in class each week. Fun theater games, music, puppetry, crafts, and other creative activities will help students learn to express themselves artistically while working as a team and having fun.

Students will also learn a performance piece for the combined Spring Showcase at the end of the semester. The performance pieces will be selected from Stephen Schwartz musicals such as *Godspell*, *Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Enchanted*, *Pocahontas*, and *My Son Pinocchio*.

Spring Showcase

Creative Dramatics classes will perform on May 2 at the Morris and Rae Frank Theatre at the Atlanta JCC. Participation is optional. A \$15 recital fee is due by Feb. 15 if your child will be performing. Audience tickets will be \$5 in advance or \$10 at the

door. You may pay your recital fee at registration, or any time until Feb. 15.

Musical Theatre: Magic-to-Do

4:30-5:30 p.m. • 1st-5th grade

Students will learn warm-ups, play theatre games, receive training in acting technique, vocal skills, choreography, and theatre etiquette and terminology while rehearsing selections from Stephen Schwartz stage musicals such as *Godspell*, *Wicked*, *Children of Eden*, *Pippin*, *My Son Pinocchio* and film musicals such as *Pocahontas*, *Prince of Egypt*, and *Enchanted*. Fun theatre games and exercises will be used to promote physical and spatial awareness, teamwork, and confidence.

Improv Ensemble

5:30-6:30 p.m. • 2nd-8th grade

Develop confidence, a quick wit, and public speaking skills while playing games and

creating characters. Improvisation is acting without a script; each performer creates his own character and interacts with the other actors while inventing an original scene. No rehearsals, no do-overs.

If you've never watched the TV show "Who's Line is It Anyway?" check it out! It's a perfect example of how an improv troupe works together to perform skits.

We'll teach you the "rules" of improv and practice them using fun games and activities. Students will perform in the Spring Showcase at the end of the semester.

Class Pricing (per child)

Tuition is due at registration. It may be split into multiple installments with the first due at registration.

Yearly family registration fee: \$25

One class: \$225 • Two classes: \$345

For more details or to register, visit forefrontarts.com/chamblee or call 770-864-3316.

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A Thanksgiving Gift

From Dresden East Civic Association and Charlotte-Ann Rogers

Since the firefighting team at Station 2 would not be at home with family and friends on Thanksgiving, Charlotte-Ann Rogers of Wakefield Forest decided to head up a fundraising effort to buy a Thanksgiving meal for them. What started as a chat with a couple of neighbors snowballed into an area-wide effort that encompassed the four stations, as well as our police officers from Chamblee and Doraville too, since they often provide back-up for the Chamblee Police Department.

From posting news about the fundraiser on the Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) Facebook page, creating a GoFundMe website, and engaging other Chamblee neighborhoods (including Clairmont Terrace and Huntley Hills), more than \$1,000 was raised. The association continued the campaign through the Christmas holidays.

The big reason for our success comes from the great relationship the Chamblee police and fire departments have with the

“What started as a chat with a couple of neighbors snowballed into an area-wide effort . . .



community they serve. Thank you Charlotte-Ann Rogers and DECA!

Find the full story on the DECA website: decaonline.org/community-association-announcements/over1000raisedforlocal-firefightersandpolice.

Youth Sports Registration

Registration for Chamblee Youth Sports will begin Jan. 5 for Chamblee residents and Jan. 19 for all players. Registration will end Friday, Feb. 6. Soccer is available for boys and girls ages 4-11. Tee-ball and baseball are available to boys and girls ages 3-8. Children have one practice each week and games on Saturdays.

Practices will begin the first week of March and games will begin mid-March and run through mid-May. All practices take place at Keswick Park. Older teams may have some travel for games on Saturdays but a majority will be at Keswick.

Fees are as follows and include a uniform and trophy:

Tee-ball/Baseball

Residents \$60, nonresidents \$90

Soccer

U6 – Residents \$60, nonresidents \$90

U8 – Residents \$65, nonresidents \$95

U10 – Residents \$70, nonresidents \$100

U12 – Residents \$85, nonresidents \$115



Because we are purchasing new uniforms for soccer this season, no uniform discount will be available until the fall.

DECA Keeps Giving

The Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) consists of caring individuals, families, and businesses in the eight neighborhoods surrounding Dresden Elementary School. Members are committed to helping the students at Dresden Elementary receive the best possible education. They are planning a spring fundraiser to start an after-school program for students of Dresden Elementary in coordination with the La Amistad foundation (laamistadinc.org).

To show their dedication to the students of Dresden Elementary and in keeping with the holiday spirit, DECA helped fund two teacher wish-list projects. They donated \$760 to a project to buy books for Ms. Borland's class and a project to buy learning-space materials for Mrs. Denmark's classroom.

Wellness

Let's Share our Efforts! While wellness can be a very personal goal, this month let's show each other how we do it. Use the hashtag **#Chambleeliveswell** to show your community what you are doing to promote wellness – participating in a fitness activity or trying a new healthy recipe. Some of these photos and stories will be featured on the city's website and Facebook page on Wellness Wednesdays.



Marlene Bogoslawsky,
yoga instructor at
Keswick Park

Classes at Keswick Community Center

Yoga

Jan. 7-Feb. 11 • Wednesdays
Gentle/ Therapeutic Yoga : 5-6 p.m.
Level 1-2 Vinyasa : 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Fee: \$55 per six-week session
Drop-in: \$12 per class

Yoga benefits:

- Increased flexibility
- Increased muscle strength and tone
- Improved respiration, energy, and vitality
- Cardio and circulatory health
- Improved athletic performance
- Protection from injury

For more information, email Marlene at marbogo@aol.com.

Zumba/Zumba Toning

Jan 26-May 11 (makeup 18)
Mondays • 7:30-8:30 p.m.
No class Feb. 16, April 6
Fee: \$160 (15-class series, 14 classes plus one free makeup)

Toning Sticks: \$25 one-time purchase, yours to keep

When it comes to body sculpting, Zumba Toning raises the bar (or rather, the toning stick). It combines targeted body-sculpting exercises and high-energy cardio work with Latin-infused Zumba moves to create a calorie-torching, strength-training dance fitness-party. Toning is the perfect way for enthusiasts to sculpt their bodies naturally while having a total blast.

Zumba Kids for Ages 7-12

Feb. 11-April 29 • Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.
No class April 8
Fee: \$175 (11-class series, 10 classes plus one free makeup)

Zumba Kids Jr. for Ages 4-6

Feb. 10-April 28
Tuesdays • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
No class April 7
Fee: \$150 (11-class series, 10 classes plus one free makeup)

Zumba helps kids develop a healthy lifestyle and incorporate fitness as a natural part of their lives by making fitness fun. Classes incorporate key childhood development elements like leadership, respect, teamwork, confidence, self-esteem, memory, creativity, coordination, and cultural awareness. Party animals welcome!

INSANITY Live Classes

Tuesdays starting Jan. 6 • 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Led by Mark Lusk, certified INSANITY instructor

One class: \$12 • One-month session: \$40

All fitness levels welcome. Classes can be modified easily.

INSANITY group exercise classes are predesigned, athletic, drill-based, interval workouts. The workouts are inspired by drills athletes use to improve their sports performance. While it's not necessary to be an athlete to take part in INSANITY workouts, nor is INSANITY intended to achieve such results for athletes, this was the inspiration for the program. In the same way that kickboxing fitness programs are inspired by martial arts, and ballet barre fitness programs are inspired by ballet, INSANITY allows everyday

**Keswick Community Center
is at 3496 Keswick Dr.**

fitness enthusiasts to enjoy the nature and athleticism of drills training to achieve weight loss and overall fitness and wellness benefits.

Fitness Circuit Interval Training

January 25-May 17 (makeup 24)

Sundays ▪ 3:30-4:30 p.m.

No class April 5 and May 10

Fee: \$175 (15-class series, 14 classes plus one free makeup)

Create continuity, consistency, and challenge in each and every class. Each component of the workout provides a uniquely different emphasis or system response, so your body never gets accustomed to the constantly changing format – and you'll have fun in the process. Regular participants achieve undeniable results.

Octopus Smoothie Recipe

Information about health can be overwhelming. A great place to start is nutrition. The better fuel your body has, the better it performs. At Team Octopus, we encourage clean eating – eating real foods, not processed items that can stay on your shelf indefinitely. We also encourage incorporating as many organic items into your diet as your budget can handle. Octopus Smoothie is a **meal replacement shake** that our trainers drink, with modifications to make it budget friendly.

- 1 cup baby kale
- 1 cup baby spinach
- 1/2 cup almond milk
- 1/2 cup acai berry juice (may substitute for organic pomegranate juice – you're looking for the antioxidants)
- 1 tsp. maca powder (optional – promotes stress relief, energy and mood balance)
- 1 tsp. goji berry powder (optional – promotes calmness and better sleep quality)
- 3 tsp. chia seeds
- 3 tsp. raw hemp seeds (may be substituted with flax seeds)
- 3/4 cup blueberries (frozen)
- 1 banana
- 1 tbsp. coconut oil (pure, cold-pressed, unrefined)
- Protein powder (as directed – vegan or whey)



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City Gym

In November, Chamblee opened a gym for city personnel who want to become more active or maintain their current physical activity. The staff helped to paint and spruce up the facility and with the special assistance of Sgt. Waasdorp the equipment was bought and installed.

Wellness at Work

Healthcare costs are rising at unsustainable rates. And premiums are just one reason health care costs are squeezing employers. Every year, companies lose \$60 billion to absenteeism and \$160 billion to health-related lost productivity, according to a 2009 report.

Americans spend many of their waking hours in the workplace, leaving little time to commit to wellness. Smart employers choose wellness programs that support employees' goals by giving them easily accessible tools and incentives that fit their lifestyles. They choose programs that engage and reward family members. And smart employers choose wellness programs that offer evidence-based proof and even multi-year data.

Humana Vitality

On Jan. 1, the city began using Humana as its insurance provider, and joined their wellness program. HumanaVitality is a wellness and rewards program for everyone – no matter your age or health status. It will put you on the path to healthier living whether you're a fitness buff or working on losing a few pounds. It will also help you quit smoking, lower your blood pressure, and eat healthier. There are activities for kids too.

Get Fit in '15

Start your year off right with these tips from Elite Edge Fitness

Set attainable goals: Nothing is more discouraging than setting a goal that takes you a year to reach. Start small with daily, weekly or monthly goals and celebrate each one you achieve.

Make fitness fun: Pick something you really enjoy doing to burn calories and build muscle, and you will be more likely to keep it up. Find a workout buddy and encourage each other to stick with the program.

Consult a trainer: Choose someone you can learn from. The more you know about what works best and why, the more likely it is you'll keep up with your routine.

Set a schedule: We all have to work for a living, so we get up every morning and go. Your fitness routine should be treated the same way. Set a solid schedule and make yourself stick to it.

Stay motivated: All of these tips will help you with this. Setting realistic goals, finding a fun activity with a friend, getting a trainer and sticking to your schedule are simple ways to become a healthier you in 2015.



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JANUARY 2015

Calendar

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>NOTE: Zumba, Yoga, Insanity Fitness, Fitness Circuit and Theatre classes meet at the Community Building.</p>						<p>3 Bring One for the Chipper, 9 am-1 pm, Public Works</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5 Youth Sports Registration Begins, <i>more details on page 15</i> Winter Camp</p>	<p>6 Cancelled: Architectural Advisory Review Board, 7-9 pm, City Hall Insanity Fitness Class, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Yoga, 5 pm</p>	<p>8 Recreation Advisory Committee, 7 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Health and Wellness Fair, 1-5 pm, Civic Center</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Chamblee Chamber Business-After-Hours Mtg, 5:30-7:30 pm, Civic Center Insanity Fitness Class, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>14 Yoga, 5 pm</p>	<p>15 Chamblee Chamber Breakfast Mtg, 7:30-9 am, Civic Center City Council Work Session, 6 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Compost and Electronics Recycling Day, 8 am-noon, Public Works</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY City offices closed</p>	<p>20 Insanity Fitness, 7:30-8:30 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>21 Yoga, 5 pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm</p>	<p>26 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Downtown Development Authority Meeting, 6-8 pm, City Hall Insanity Fitness, 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>28 Yoga, 5 pm</p>	<p>29 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>



Calendar

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FEBRUARY 2015

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	2 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Zumba, 7:30-8:30 pm	3 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Architectural Review Board, 7-9 pm, City Hall Insanity Fitness, 7:30-8:30 pm	4 Yoga, 5-5:50 pm Yoga, 5:15-6:15 pm	5 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center Recreation Advisory Committee, 7 pm, Civic Center	6 Youth Sports Registration Ends	7 Daddy Daughter Dance, 6-9 pm, Civic Center more details on page 23
8 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	9 Zumba, 7:30-8:30 pm	10 Zumba Kids Jr., 10:30 am Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Business-After-Hours Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm, Hello Gorgeous Boutique Insanity Fitness, 7:30	11 Zumba Kids, 4-5 pm Yoga, 5-5:50 pm Yoga, 5:15-6:15 pm	12 City Council Work Session, 6 pm, Civic Center	13	14
15 Fitness Circuit, 3:30-4:30 pm	16 PRESIDENTS DAY City offices closed	17 Zumba Kids Jr., 10:30 Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm City Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Civic Center Insanity Fitness, 7:30	18 Zumba Kids, 4-5 pm	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, 7:30-8:30 pm	24 Zumba Kids Jr., 10:30 am Fitness Circuit, 3:30 pm Theatre Classes, 3:45 pm Development Authority Mtg. 6-8 pm, City Hall Insanity Fitness, 7:30	25 Zumba Kids, 4-5 pm	26 Court, 6 pm, Civic Center	27	28
						NOTE: Zumba, Yoga, Insanity Fitness, Fitness Circuit and Theatre classes meet at the Community Building.

Open Air Market

For the first time, the City of Chamblee partnered with Antique Row to make this year's Antique Holiday Open House better than ever! The city had live music and a vendor market. The businesses on Antique Row had refreshments and great deals. For those who did not let the rain keep them home, it was a fun day.



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Spooktacular Report

The Halloween Spooktacular in October was a fun mix of spooky thrills and festive games. The live actors in the haunted house kept children and parents on edge. Between the cupcake walk, the hayrides, the 5K, and the costume contest, it was a busy Saturday afternoon in Keswick Park. Rumor has it that there will be a haunted trail next year, so come out again – but only if you dare.





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Daddy Daughter Dance

Feb. 7 • 6-9 p.m. • Chamblee Civic Center

Dads, take your daughters out for a special night on the dance floor. Enjoy great music, food, and door prizes and stop by the photography station for a professional photo. Dress up or dress down but make sure you wear your dancin' shoes. There will be a dance contest. Just \$30 per couple, \$5 for each additional daughter.



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Photo credit: Lyle Photos

Art Events in Chamblee



The Chamblee Arts Committee had its inaugural Art Party at the Chamber of Commerce office in November. The Chamber was transformed into a breathtaking art gallery with all the beautiful pieces on display.

The committee hosted its second art event in December. Check the Chamblee Arts Committee Facebook page for information on the upcoming January party. Read more about the Chamblee Arts Alliance on page 13.

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