

# DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED



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DISCOVER

# Chamblee

DESTINATION GUIDE

## Sensational Spaces

CELEBRATING PUBLIC PARKS, TRAILS,  
GREENWAYS, AND LOCAL ART

**PLUS**

GLOBAL CUISINE  
STANDOUT SHOPS  
CREATIVE CHAMBLEE  
AND MORE



# Welcome to Chamblee

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**I**T IS MY HONOR TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU DURING YOUR visit to DeKalb County's fastest growing city. Chamblee is a diverse and energetic community. We are a mobility hub in metro Atlanta with a variety of options for transportation. Chamblee sits in the heart of two of the most traveled highways—Interstates 285 and 85—and is home to the Chamblee MARTA station, a Norfolk Southern office, and a Georgia Department of Transportation district office. The DeKalb Peachtree Airport is also located in Chamblee; it is the second-busiest airport in Georgia, averaging 230,000 operations—takeoffs and landings each year. Buford Highway, a major international corridor featuring restaurants and shops rich with culture, also runs through our city.

We are excited to share with you the stories, achievements, and vibrant culture that make our community thrive. In these pages, you will discover the heart and soul of our city, our diversity, and the innovations that shape our future. We also hope that you'll experience our Southern hospitality, unique charm, the fun recreational activities at our 11 parks, and the rapid redevelopment and evolution of our downtown.

I encourage you to explore, engage, and connect with the many facets of our city. We welcome you to our community and hope that you feel at home!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian K. Mock". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Mayor Brian K. Mock**  
City of Chamblee

## Contact Us

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## ON THE COVER

CHAMBLEE'S RAIL TRAIL, WHICH PASSES THROUGH KESWICK PARK.

PHOTOGRAPH [Jonathan Philips Photography](#)



Plaza Fiesta

# Chamblee

Once a small railroad town, Chamblee has blossomed into a varied and vibrant community. It is home to Dekalb Peachtree Airport, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 11 city parks, and Buford Highway, with a large concentration of international markets, restaurants, and residents.







Bluetop

# LOCAL FLAVOR

CHAMBLEE'S CULINARY SCENE TAKES DINERS ON A JOURNEY



**Chef Jared Hucks**  
The Alden

## THE ALDEN

After several years working at some of the top restaurants around the globe, Executive Chef/Owner Jared Hucks returned to his hometown and opened The Alden just a few miles from where he grew up. Recognized by the *Michelin Guide* as one of its Recommended Restaurants, The Alden offers a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere where guests can take a culinary journey enjoying delicious dishes presented with extraordinary care. The menu, created daily to celebrate local, seasonal ingredients, features shareable options that are crafted to satisfy and excite. Guests come from around the country to experience Chef Jared's progressive, seven-course tasting menu, which is available in pescatarian, vegan, and vegetarian formats. At the intimate Chef's Counter surrounding the open kitchen, the excitement of seeing behind the scenes and sampling improvised creations is an unforgettable experience.

© J GLENN PHOTOGRAPHY (2), © GREGORY MILLER PICTURES (2), © JANDI IMAGES, OAXACA



## HOPSTIX

Hopstix isn't your average brewery, nor a typical Asian fusion restaurant; it combines the best of both. Owner/brewer Andy Tan brought something truly unique to Atlanta's food scene when he opened Hopstix. Tan embraces fusion with dishes from all over Asia inspiring the menu and the flavors and ingredients of Asia influencing beer styles from America, England, Belgium, and Germany.

Born and raised in Medan, Indonesia—a city influenced by immigrants from China, India, and Malaysia—Tan was immersed in a melting pot of cultures from a young age. With such a culturally diverse background, he strives to offer that same experience at Hopstix. What sets the beers apart from other brewpubs is Tan's use of ingredients like steamed Thai jasmine rice, Chrysanthemum flowers, Japanese sencha green tea, and Southeast Asian fruits such as soursop. "With so many shared concepts and ingredients, Asia is already fundamentally fused in terms of cuisine," Tan says. "We want to celebrate and own that at Hopstix." The menu offers a wide range of dishes such as ramen, curries, sushi, charcoal-grilled skewers, dumplings, bao, and gado gado salads.

## BLUETOP

Bluetop is named after a taxi stand that stood in its location in the 1950s. The original structure still stands, and owner Andy Lasky always liked the building and has created a neighborhood hangout with a few additions. Bluetop's kitchen sits inside a 1969 Global Van Lines moving trailer parked along the side of the building. Managed by Casey Taylor and Chef Julianna Moreno, Bluetop offers approachable American fare. Think shareable items like wings and cauliflower, and sandwiches that include a delicious shrimp burger and a unique take on a Sloppy Joe. Cocktails are served on tap and change with each season. The fast casual concept sets Bluetop apart: Customers order at the counter and are handed libations before taking a seat. The menu is designed so guests are not left waiting and enjoy their food quickly. Live music on weekends in a backyard setting keeps the locals coming to this family-friendly spot that is also great for a night out.

## OAXACA

Opened in 2023, Oaxaca is committed to serving their customers authentic dishes from its namesake region. The menu features dishes straight from the southern Oaxaca region of Mexico—such as elote (grilled corn), tamales, gorditas, and Tacos al Pastor—and the kitchen employs cooking techniques that incorporate smoke. They import their corn directly from the region to make homemade tortillas. For dessert, guests can enjoy corn husk mousse with meringue, churros dusted with cinnamon, and Mexican-style hot chocolate. The bar offers cocktails made with smoky mezcal and other agave spirits, as well as wines from Mexico and countries around Central and South America. Grab a seat in the dining room, which is flooded with natural light, or on the lively covered patio, and tuck in for a transportive meal that may make you forget you're still in Chamblee.



Hopstix Executive  
Chef Dony Raymond







Buff City Soap

## SHOP CHAMBLEE

From the trendy to the one-of-a-kind, it's all here

Chamblee had a reputation as an antiquing destination, and while vintage finds can still be found, newer stores are making the city's retail as diverse as its food. Downtown Chamblee is a one-stop shop for all celebrations. Design an entire event from save-the-dates to menus at custom stationery studio **Paper Daisies**. Thirty-plus customizable templates are available to start, or bespoke design can make an occasion truly unique. Email first and then work with the designers in person. Whether it's classy cocktail glasses for a wedding gift or a more irreverent bachelorette gag, **Broad Street Mercantile** has the perfect present—don't forget to say hi to the shop cats. A mother-daughter duo opened the newest location of their Duluth women's boutique **Personify** right off Peachtree Road. Whimsical wares like bold-printed dresses, animal-shaped pottery, and Kanken backpacks in every shade of the rainbow fill the shelves.

Look past the car dealerships on Peachtree Boulevard for essentials for the whole family. Lather up with plant-based suds at Chamblee Plaza's **Buff City Soap**. Each bar, body butter, or bath bomb is handmade in store, or join a workshop to create your own with 30 fragrances to choose from and almost as many colors. Anyone can get a cut or a kooky color at all-ages, all-genders parlor **Bishops**, which started in Portland, Oregon, and maintains its counterculture ethos but for a fraction of the price of a typical hair salon. Continue down the road to Peachtree Station's shopping center, where Memphis-based **Hollywood Feed's** expertly trained staff sells foods, treats, toys, and beds for pet pals with an emphasis on American-made products. Tucked away in a brick house off Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, **Wee Bee Baby** has everything from newborn necessities like diaper pails and strollers to cute clothes and toys—and gift wraps and delivers locally for free. From the same owners as Wee Bee Baby, **Atlanta Golf & Social**—Chamblee's popular indoor golf facility and sports bar—includes a pro shop that sells golf apparel, accessories, and gifts emblazoned with the venue's logo. ~ *By Tess Malone*



Paper Daisies



Bishops





SurinaThai



Keswick Park



Tarrance Malone

## LOCAL PICKS

Tarrance Malone shares his favorite Chamblee spots

When Tarrance Malone moved to Chamblee in 2018, he found the walkable, growing community he'd been looking for. "I wanted to be near a MARTA bus stop or train station and stay out of my vehicle," he says. The CEO of Encore Consulting Services, Malone enjoys walking to visit restaurants, run errands, and stroll the Rail Trail.

» **FAVORITE ETHNIC RESTAURANT:** **Surina Thai.** I love their spring rolls, egg rolls, Drunken Noodles, and Pad Thai. One night when it was raining, they knew I was coming to pick up my food. They were supposed to close at 9 p.m., but two team members waited for me. They have the best customer service.

» **FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** **Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken.** I'm from Mississippi and it reminds me of home. The chicken is amazing, and the mac and cheese and greens are good. It has exposed bricks inside and feels homey with a downtown twist.

» **BEST SPLURGE:** **Southbound** restaurant. At lunch, the crowd is light, and you can sit at the bar and interact with the staff. At dinner, the salmon is amazing, and they have burgers, shrimp and grits, salads, fried green tomatoes, and deviled eggs.

» **BEST PLACE TO FIND A GREAT GIFT:** **Chamblee Antiques and Interiors.** My living room has 3D wallpaper that looks like exposed bricks, so I wanted something to add antique flavor. I found a table lamp with iridescent glass.

» **BEST PARK:** **Keswick Park.** I love to play and watch tennis, and they have two courts there. There's an open field next to it where you can play soccer, and a basketball court.

» **BEST PLACE FOR A TREAT:** **The Frosty Caboose.** It's a train caboose, and they have so many ice cream flavors. I love the banana split or vanilla. I look at an Amtrak time schedule and sit by the tracks while I eat to watch the train come through.

» **BEST FESTIVAL:** **The Taste of Chamblee,** to sample food from various restaurants and see your neighbors. I invite friends and we go for drinks afterwards.

» **BEST ON A BUDGET:** I love **China Kitchen**, a food hall with lots of eateries and inexpensive options. I go for the orange chicken on fried rice. ~ *By Lynn Coulter*



## PLAZA FIESTA

### THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Walk into **Plaza Fiesta**, a 350,000-square-foot shopping center at the intersection of Clairmont Road and Dresden Drive, and you'll feel like you're entering a Latin mercado with colorful storefronts, hanging paper garlands, and fountains. "Visiting Plaza Fiesta feels like walking through some of the most vibrant markets in Latin America, where locals and visitors can connect with traditions, lifestyle, and delicious Hispanic food," says Cristina Bolanos, property manager. "At least 3 million people visit every year; it's the heart of the community and the door to the growing and diverse Hispanic market."

**Discolandia**, a global music lover's paradise, sells reggaeton, Latin pop, and salsa music CDs, as well as Top 40 hits. For cowboy couture, stop at **Laredo Western Wear** for ostrich and alligator skin boots, pearl-snap plaid shirts, and even chinchilla cowboy hats. Sports fans score at the **Soccer Corner**, which carries jerseys from all over the world, including Atlanta United. For wedding and quinceañera wear, options include **Quinceañeras Boutique**, **Lizzy Fashion**, and **Isabella's**.

After you shop, refuel at the food court, where the counter-service restaurants offer everything from ceviche and arepas to tacos and "quekas" (slang for quesadillas).

Meander over to **Soy Garapiñados** for candied nuts and sweets or to **La Moreliana** for fruit paletas, ice cream, and chamoyadas. For take-home items, **Mercado Fresco** super-market is where you'll find all the ingredients for an at-home feast.

~ *By Jennifer Bradley Franklin*





Chamblee Rail Trail

# A WALK IN THE PARK

PUBLIC PARKS AND PUBLIC ART ARE A WINNING COMBO

With their natural beauty and intriguing public art, Chamblee's 11 parks give visitors multiple reasons to stick around and soak it all in. From refreshes and renovations to brand-new spaces, the city's public spaces are in a bit of a renaissance—and everyone is poised to benefit.

Recently, the new **Arrow Creek Park** opened at 4445 Buford Highway, on land purchased by the city in 2018. According to Chamblee Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Jodie Gilfillan, the 10-acre park was formerly the Jim Hearn Golf Range and now offers amenities such as an outdoor fitness area, large and small dog parks, multiple sports courts, and a “green” restroom. “We use solar to operate anything electrical and rainwater to flush the toilets,” Gilfillan explains. “And there is a freshwater tank for handwashing.”

Elsewhere in the area, updates and upgrades continue to keep Chamblee's public spaces modern and interesting. In fall 2023, the city opened two new segments of

**Rail Trail**, allowing views of downtown Chamblee and the future site of **Fish Bolt Park**, according to Gilfillan. Also in 2023, the city completed a stream bank restoration through **Dresden Park**, utilizing dead trees and other natural materials to secure the banks—and more is on the horizon, as the park closes in 2024 to undergo a complete transformation. Of course, the time-tested spots are still beloved. Chamblee's largest greenspace, **Keswick Park**, open since the 1960s, beckons avid hikers to savor its nature trails of old forest growth. Families also frequent Keswick Park for the 3,000-square-foot community center, athletic fields, and sprawling event lawn.

Art lovers in Chamblee can enjoy several **public murals**—with more on the horizon, according to Teneisha Jones, Public Art Coordinator for the City of Chamblee. Start with the *Rising Red Lotus* at old City Hall, created by artist Brandon Sadler. This year, the mural will be accompanied by a

sculpture by Phil Proctor, a talk bench, and a walking path to the new City Hall.

Visitors will also find murals at the public safety building, created by Nicole Salgar, and at the Chamblee MARTA station, created by Lauren Stumburg. In addition, utility boxes throughout the city bear original mural art, and more public exhibitions are planned for this year. Last summer, the city welcomed thousands of people to the **Chalk Walk and Artist Market**, an opportunity to shop local artisans and to watch artists from all over the country create works of art using chalk. The annual event is held the third Saturday of September and is swiftly gaining popularity.

“From vibrant public art to creative-based businesses and diverse food options, Chamblee offers the perfect day trip destination,” Jones says. “Whether it's attending art-centered events or checking out our collection of murals by Georgia artists, visitors can experience the city's strong support of the arts.” ~ **By Denise K. James**



## WORLD'S FARE:

Buford Highway is one of the most multi-cultural culinary corridors in the nation

With more than 20 different nationalities represented and over 100 restaurants and markets, Chamblee has no shortage of exciting food options.

» **LEE'S BAKERY:** The family-owned Vietnamese cafe is known for its staple bánh mì sandwiches, generous bowls of pho, and nourishing rice paper spring rolls. It's also one of the best places to try Vietnamese iced coffee made with sweet, condensed milk.

» **GU'S KITCHEN:** The longstanding Szechuan establishment serves delicately spiced silken Zhong style dumplings, Chengdu cold noodles in garlic and sesame, spicy ma po tofu in ground beef, and black bean paste. Consider the chili meter before ordering.

» **CHINATOWN:** With bonsai gardens, koi pond, and red paper lanterns, you can escape to Asia without leaving Chamblee. Mom and pop businesses sell Hong Kong BBQ, steaming hot pots, roasted duck, and pulled noodles, among many other quick and affordable dishes.

» **PHO BAC:** Taste passed-down family recipes of the rich and fragrant Vietnamese beef broth soup cooked with 12 kinds of herbs and rice noodles. Pho Bac has plenty of vegetarian-friendly options as well as tropical fruit smoothies and herbal drinks topped with fruits, beans, and boba.

» **FOOD TERMINAL:** This contemporary food hall boasts over 125 Malaysian-inspired street foods often served by a robot waiter. *Michelin Guide*-mentioned chef/owner Amy Wong doesn't compromise on the playful South Asian flavors. The hardest part may be deciding



what to order, but the 50-page, glossy magazine-style menu helps.

» **THE HALAL GUYS:** For a filling lunch or a late-night bite, head to the New York-founded street-cart-turned-fast-casual franchise location in Chamblee, open until 1 a.m. (3 a.m. on weekends). The fresh and flavorful gyros, falafel, and Mediterranean platters are quite satisfying.

» **CRAWFISH SHACK SEAFOOD:** If you are a seafood fan, you'll love the inventive and affordable fried, boiled, and steamed seafood platters that serve much more than crawfish, soft shell crab, and alligator tails. This casual spot offers appetizing, Cajun-style seafood with a Vietnamese twist. ~ *By Sucheta Rawal*



## ARTISTIC CHAMBLEE

Creativity flourishes here

Named for tree nymphs who joyfully pranced around the forest, **Dryads Dancing** was founded in Chamblee in the early 1980s. Watch owner and woodworker Margaret in the original factory, then visit the onsite gift shop and discover furniture, art, and home decor made from salvaged pieces, each honoring the beauty of the source.

The **Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance** is a Chamblee-based nonprofit upholding the art of textiles. Through several hands-on workshops and classes, members learn quilting, hand stitching, needlework, weaving, fabric-dyeing, and other skills. The organization also rents out art studios and multi-purpose spaces for hosting workshops or solo projects.

Sip while you savor the work of local artists at the **Distillery of Modern Art**, a unique distillery offering small-batch spirits, a 2,000-square-foot event space, an art gallery, and a cocktail lounge. For New Orleans-inspired cuisine in an artful setting, enjoy a meal at **Lagarde American Eatery**; the restaurant's design includes multiple glass walls and a wrap-around mural painted by local art collective the Lotus Eaters Club. Yet another eye-catching mural decorates the walls of **Contrast Artisan Ale**, hand-painted by artists Austin Blue and Jagua Martian. ~ *By Denise K. James*

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Indulge your creativity at the **AR Workshop** location in Chamblee. Founded by Southern business-women Maureen Anders and Adria Ruff, AR Workshop offers group classes focused on creating custom crafts—from porch signs to canvas totes to knitted pillows—based on a range of designs and materials. For those who prefer to craft at home, the shop offers take-home kits with video instructions. Not the crafty type? Choose a design, and they'll make it for you. ~ *By Denise K. James*





# Calendar of Events

CHAMBLEE'S TOP EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

## SPRING

### Chamblee 101

This 10-week course gives civic-minded residents, business owners, and aspiring leaders an inside look at how the city works, who is responsible for what, and ways to make a difference. [chambleega.com](http://chambleega.com)

## APRIL

### Chamblee Restaurant Week

Sample Chamblee's much-lauded fare with food and drink specials, signature menu items, or fixed-price menu deals. Lots of options from takeout and delivery to indoor or patio dining. [chambleerestaurantweek.net](http://chambleerestaurantweek.net)

### Georgia Cities Week

Hosted by the Georgia Municipal Association, this program highlights city services, providing a look at operations, community projects, and infrastructure. Chamblee offers free public events throughout the week. [chambleega.com](http://chambleega.com)

## APRIL – SEPTEMBER

### Third Spot

Unwind after a long day with dinner downtown, then grab a drink and stroll the Downtown Entertainment District (open containers allowed) to enjoy major sporting events such as the Braves or the Masters on a large LED screen. [chambleega.com](http://chambleega.com)

## MAY

### Plaza Fiesta's Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Join the lively outdoor party for dance performances, mariachi bands, singers, games, and prize giveaways. Inside the mall, you'll find tacos, flautas, and agua frescas aplenty. [plazafiesta.net](http://plazafiesta.net)

## JUNE

### Immigrant Heritage Month Resource Fair

Chamblee, home to the Buford Highway Cultural Corridor and Chinatown Mall, teams up with community partners to celebrate and support immigrant residents with cultural performances, social service and health agencies, and food access. [chambleega.com](http://chambleega.com)



Chamblee Restaurant Week

## JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

### Chamblee Summer Concert Series

At free monthly concerts at City Hall's green space, expect cover tunes, party bands, and headliners from the '80s and '90s (and fireworks on July 4th). Food trucks and beverage vendors too. [chambleerocks.net](http://chambleerocks.net)

## SEPTEMBER

### Atlanta United Watch Party and Resource Fair

The party and the jumbo screen return to Plaza Fiesta as fans reunite to watch another match. A resource fair adds a community vibe. Kiddie amusements include an arcade truck. [chambleeatludwatchparty.net](http://chambleeatludwatchparty.net)

## OCTOBER

### A Taste of Chamblee

Plan to eat, drink, and repeat in October. There's a beer garden, wine tent, and two jumbo screens playing college football. Craft vendors and a kids zone, too. [tasteofchamblee.net](http://tasteofchamblee.net)

### Día de los Muertos

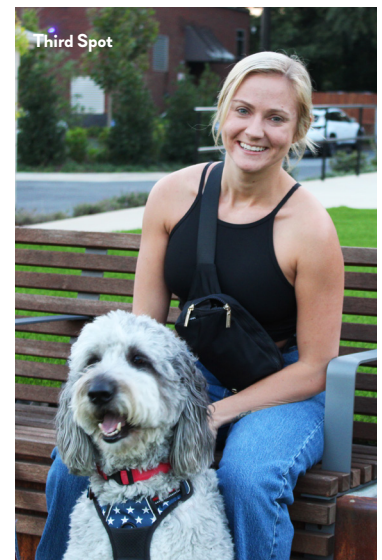
Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), celebrates, rather than mourns, the departed. Keeping with Mexican tradition, marigold flowers and altars decorated with candles, photos, figurines, sugar "skulls," and other mementos are on display. [chambleega.com](http://chambleega.com)

## DECEMBER

### Holiday Hoopla

The merrymaking begins downtown where the eggnog flows during the month-long Holiday Hoopla of Lights. Festive decorations, pop-up events, craft workshops, photo ops, and more are on the roster. [chambleeholidayhoopla.net](http://chambleeholidayhoopla.net)

~ By Vené Franco



Third Spot



Plaza Fiesta's Cinco de Mayo Celebration

JONATHAN PHILLIPS PHOTOGRAPHY (2), PLAZA FIESTA



# Dekalb County

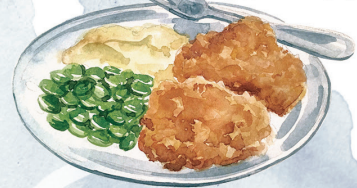
Dekalb Peachtree Airport



Atlanta Chinatown Mall



Matthews Cafeteria

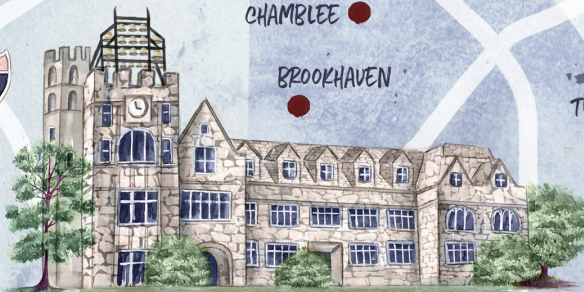


DORAVILLE



CHAMBLEE

BROOKHAVEN



TUCKER

Stone Mountain Park



STONE MOUNTAIN

Arabia Mountain

CLARKSTON

PINE LAKE

AVONDALE ESTATES

ATLANTA



DECATUR

Callanwolde Fine Arts Center



Your Dekalb Farmer's Market

STONECREST

LITHONIA



Starlight Drive-in

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport



David J. Sencer CDC Museum

