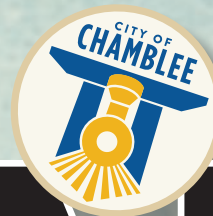


SIGNAL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA | VOL. 34, NO. 1



2024 City Accomplishments

See page 2 for details

- 10** Navigating Chamblee's Renovation Rules
- 12** Chamblee Voters Support Parks Bond
- 15** Leaf Truck Naming Contest Winners Announced



The City of Chamblee

2024: A Year of Progress and Achievement

2024 was a great year for the City of Chamblee. Now is the time to reflect on a year filled with progress, innovation, and community-driven success. From infrastructure improvements to award recognitions, the City of Chamblee has much to celebrate! Here's a look back at some of the year's most notable achievements for our various departments.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Adopted Chamblee's Sustainability Roadmap.
- Completed Year 2 of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Program.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Implemented livestreaming capabilities for City of Chamblee meetings.
- Purchased state-of-the-art video and editing equipment to capture City of Chamblee events and showcase the City's growth and progress.
- Updated the Discover Chamblee Magazine with new content and photos.

POLICE

- Achieved certification from Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. This means that the Chamblee Police Department is recognized for being in compliance and following best practices as it relates to policing within the State of Georgia.
- Achieved an overall reduction of 15% in Part I crimes as of November 10, 2024.
- Created the Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU) and the Citizen's Advisory Committee to improve and foster relationships between law enforcement and the community.



PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS

- The Chamblee Parks, Trails, and Outdoor Recreation Areas Improvement Bond Passed with an overwhelming 81% of our residents voting "yes".
- The department oversaw the installation/painting/ completion of 4 sculptures, 1 artistic bench and trash can, 1 painted piano, 1 community mural, 1 fiber arts weaving and 11 utility boxes. The department also held two successful festivals this fall with the Chamblee Chalk Walk and Arts Festival in September (11 professional chalk artists and 48 art vendors) and the Babe Walls Mural Festival in November (30 female and non-binary muralists painted 20 murals (6,700 sq. ft.) along Chamblee's Rail Trail).
- Dresden Park Groundbreaking in June and park construction starting in July. The park is scheduled to reopen in the summer of 2025.





PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- The Department's Code Enforcement Division achieved full staffing in 2024 resulting in outstanding performance. The division managed 4,084 total cases. Of these cases, on average each month, 90.7% were generated by staff with less than 10% generated by resident complaints!
- Completed the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.
- The Department completed the Dresden Park Small Area Plan. This plan will help staff prioritize improvements for a 404-acre area of east/south east Chamblee.



FACILITIES AND IT

- The facilities team migrated all large city buildings to a smart-building control solution to reduce energy consumption and maximize efficiency.
- Increased transparency with real time & accessible data through GIS concepts such as Capital Projects Dashboard & Public Arts map.
- Deployed window virtual machines configured for ESRI integration in the Azure portal and migrated over 100 TB of previous on-premises WatchGuard in-car & body-worn camera data from two physical servers to a cloud-hosted environment.

FINANCE

- Maintained our Moody's Credit Rating.
- Successfully issued 2 Revenue Bonds.
- 2023 Audit completion with no findings.

MUNICIPAL COURT

- Partnered with Chamblee High School's Social Studies Department and Mock Trial Team to conduct its annual mock trial practices.
- Launched its queue management system called Qmatic, designed to reduce wait times and improve the customer experience with a more accurate check-in process, it directs and keeps tracks of customers, and has a reporting feature that helps to improve staff efficiency.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Sanitation** – Started a glass recycling reprogram in addition to collecting 610 tons of recycling, 5,178 tons of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste), and 14,472 tons of yard waste sent to the composting facility.
- **Maintaining our streets and rights-of-ways**
 - 21 tons of loose litter picked up
 - 5,850 pounds of invasive species removed
 - 106 potholes repaired
 - 475 signs installed
 - 41 traffic signals repaired
- **Maintaining our stormwater system**
 - 2,403 miles of streets swept
 - 182 tons of sweeper dirt collected from our streets
 - 176 structures maintained
 - 17 stormwater projects totaling \$1.38 Million



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **The department received the following awards in 2024:**
 - 2024 Visionary City Award: Nonprofit Partnership Program
 - 2024 Southeastern Festivals and Events Awards
 - 2023 Best Event Series – Live! On Your Block (Bronze)
 - 2023 Best Promotional Poster – Fall Event Menu (Silver)
 - 2023 Best Promotional Poster – Chamblee Summer Concert Series (Bronze)
 - 2023 Best Event Photograph – 4th of July Celebration (Bronze)
- **Neighborhood Engagement Program**
 - Launched in Community 1 and Community 6 with an estimated 120 people that attended various meetings throughout the year.
 - 2025 communities will include Community 2 and Community 5
 - Held 6 Live on Your Block events in each of the NEP communities.





City of Chamblee Appoints Vivian Vakili as New Assistant City Manager



The City of Chamblee is proud to announce the appointment of Vivian Vakili as the new Assistant City Manager, effective January 6, 2025. Vakili will serve as a key member of Chamblee's executive leadership team, supporting a wide variety of departments and divisions, and working cooperatively with the City Manager to effectively manage the day-to-day operations of the City and moving projects and initiatives forward. She brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the Chamblee team.

"I am thrilled to be joining such an exciting and innovative team and look forward to serving the City of Chamblee,"

Chamblee Assistant City Manager Vivian Vakili

Prior to joining Chamblee, Vakili served in multiple roles focused on land development in both the public and private sectors, including as the Director of Building and Economic Development for Forsyth County and as the Director of Research and Due Diligence for The Preston Partnership working on feasibility studies and due diligence for sites across the United States. She enjoys working with staff, the development community, and local stakeholders to implement efficiencies that enable quality development. She received a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an MBA from Emory University. Vakili also holds the American Institute of Certified Planners certification from the American Planning Association and the LEED Accredited Professional certification from the United States Green Building Council. As a community leader, she has also served on various committees focused on planning, transportation, economic development, and the film industry.

"We are excited to welcome Vivian Vakili to our dynamic team," said Chamblee City Manager Kristen Gorham. "Her proven track record in economic development, planning, and organizational leadership will be invaluable as we work toward achieving our goals for the City of Chamblee."

Buford Highway Safety Action Plan

Walking Tour Conducted to Assess Needs for Improvement

On November 13, 2024, City of Chamblee staff members along with officials from Toole Design conducted a walking tour along the corridor of Buford Highway to Shallowford Road as part of the Buford Highway Safety Action Plan. This committee assessed areas of concern and are brainstorming solutions to improve safety for everyone traveling along the corridor. Cities along Buford Highway, including Doraville, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Norcross, and Gwinnett County, are creating a Safety Action Plan to develop strategies of low cost, high impact projects that can be quickly implemented by the cities, counties, and other entities. The plan is funded by the federal Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) program and will be completed in 2025.





Laying the Foundation for A Better Commute



\$2 Million Street Paving Project and Peachtree Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements Complete



Peachtree Industrial Ct



Plaza Way



Commodore Drive

Chamblee residents and visitors are experiencing smoother rides and safer streets now that a comprehensive street paving project has wrapped up. The City of Chamblee spent \$2 Million to repave 17 streets. The project was complete in mid-October of 2024 and utilized \$690,226.61 of Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) funding through the Georgia Department of Transportation. The following streets were repaved:

- Huntington Chase
- Admiral Drive
- Hamlin Road
- Peachtree Industrial Court
- Chamblee Dunwoody Way
- Malone Drive
- Ham Drive
- Dyer Circle
- Shallowford Place

These streets were selected based on a paving conditions analysis conducted by the City in 2020 to determine the priority list of paving projects based on road conditions.

The City of Chamblee and the Chamblee-Doraville Community Improvement District also completed the construction of 2,900 linear feet of concrete sidewalk along Peachtree Boulevard to enhance safety and accessibility for pedestrians. The project includes signal improvements, drainage, landscaping, retaining walls, and ADA improvements along SR 141/ Peachtree Boulevard within the City of Chamblee limits.



Peachtree Boulevard



Chamblee Mayor Brian Mock, Chamblee City Councilman John Mesa, and Chamblee City Councilman Jimmy Furst at the "Pet Neighborhood" Groundbreaking Ceremony hosted by DeKalb County.

DeKalb Breaks Ground on Animal Shelter Overflow Units in Chamblee

Expansion to increase shelter capacity by 120 pets

On November 21, 2024, Mayor Brian Mock along with Councilmembers John Mesa and Jimmy Furst joined DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond, DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and LifeLine Animal Project's CEO Rebecca Guinn for the groundbreaking of a state-of-the-art "pet neighborhood" at the DeKalb County Animal Services Center at 3280 Chamblee Dunwoody Road in Chamblee, Georgia. This \$4.1 million expansion will include 10 overflow units which will house an additional 120 animals.

The first five units are expected to be in place by the end of March 2025, with the remainder being opened in June 2025. Approximately \$2.5 million of the project is being funded by DeKalb County's second Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST II). The remaining \$1.6 million was funded by the county general fund.



Rendering of "Pet Neighborhood" Units.

Homestead Exemption 2025 Deadline



The City of Chamblee offers a 100% exemption to seniors and disabled

residential homeowners on city property taxes. This exemption applies to city property taxes only and is not related to the property tax exemptions offered by the county. Chamblee residents who are 65 or older or disabled qualify for this exemption if they live in owner-occupied homes. The exemptions must be updated every three years. The renewal request resumes for residents located on streets **F-M**.

To qualify for exemption:

- All parties listed on the property deed must be 65 years or older on **January 1, 2025** or be 100% disabled as declared by the SSA or VA.
- The owner(s) must qualify for homestead exemption by living in the home as the owner. Secondary homes and rental properties do not qualify for exemptions.

Applicant must provide both items below as supporting documents:

- Driver's license or state ID for all owners listed on the deed
- Recent utility bill

The deadline to apply for the exemption is **February 28, 2025**. Email Erin Barnes, Deputy Finance Director at ebarnes@chambleega.gov

Ways to Apply:

In person: Chamblee City Hall, 3518 Broad Street, Chamblee, GA 30341

By mail: mail application, copy of ID, and utility bill to 3518 Broad Street, Chamblee, GA 30341

Online: at www.chambleega.com



A Taste of Chamblee Winners

We're excited to announce the winners who made the most in sales at the 2024 A Taste of Chamblee!



1st Place: Antigua Lobo



2nd Place: City Barbeque



3rd Place: Oaxaca



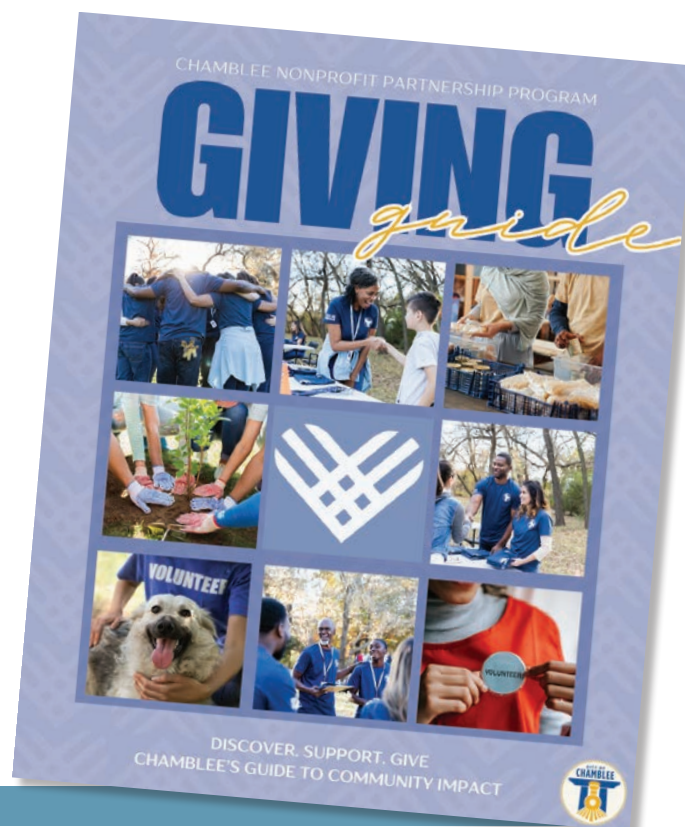
Please continue to support these restaurants and all of the restaurants who participated in A Taste of Chamblee. You can learn more about them at www.tasteofchamblee.net/ and see them again in October 2025!

CHAMBLEE GIVING GUIDE

We are excited to release the 2024-2026 Giving Guide. Throughout the year when the urge to give strikes, take a look through the Nonprofit Partnership Program Giving Guide to gain access to donation drives, identify volunteer opportunities, or learn more about the members of Chamblee's Nonprofit Partnership Program. Let's make every season the season to give!

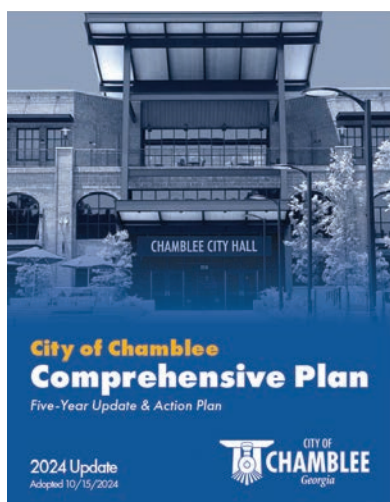


To view the Giving Guide, scan the QR code.





Chamblee Adopts 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update



An update to Chamblee's Comprehensive Plan was adopted on October 15, 2024, and is now available to the public! This plan serves as a guiding document for Chamblee as it grows and evolves over the next 25 years. It outlines the City's goals and aspirations in various key areas and aims to create a sustainable and thriving community for residents and businesses alike.

The Comprehensive Plan includes several key elements, including:

LAND USE: The central component of the comprehensive plan is the Future Land Use Map which guides land use and development decisions. It is crafted so that the City can accommodate future growth and investment, while also maintaining and enhancing the character of the community. This land use policy guide along with the Character Area Map were developed with considerations for density, height, multimodal transportation, and civic or open space.

HOUSING: The comprehensive plan builds upon recent housing initiatives by the City and includes policies that encourage a range of housing options that meet the needs of its diverse population. This includes promoting affordable housing, encouraging mixed-use developments, and preserving the existing housing stock, among other strategies and actions.

TRANSPORTATION: The plan identifies priorities and projects from recent transportation plans to ensure consistency across strategies and implementation programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The comprehensive plan recognizes the importance of a vibrant and sustainable economy. It identifies strategies to attract businesses, support job growth, and promote entrepreneurship. By fostering economic development, the plan aims to enhance the overall quality of life for Chamblee residents.

To read the updated plan,
scan the QR Code.



Planning & Development Department welcomes Keren Kapwadi and John Torres to their team!



Keren Kapwadi previously worked in the City Manager's Office as a Receptionist for the City. Since October, she's taken on the new full-time Administrative Assistant role in the

Planning & Development Department. She is a graduate of Brenau University with a degree in Conflicts Resolution and Legal Studies. Currently, Keren is working to complete a Master of Business Administration degree in Project Management. As the Administrative Assistant for the Planning & Development Department, she will do a wide range of work in the department with a key focus on customer service.

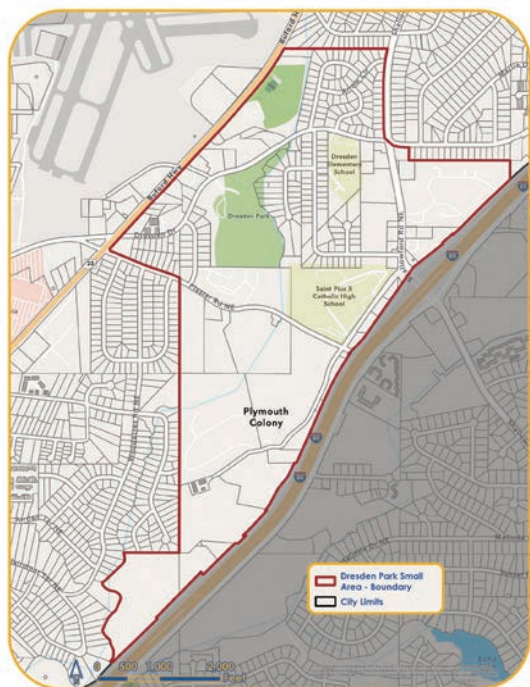


John Torres is a passionate urban planning professional with a background in sustainable development and strategic community planning. John studied Urban Planning and

Regional Development at Arizona State University, which sparked his drive to make life better for as many people as possible. Dedicated to improving public transportation and walkability, he returns from New York, where he previously served as part of the New York City Housing Preservation and Development Agency. During his time there, he contributed to the 'Unlocking Doors' pilot program, which focused on renovating long-standing vacant rent-stabilized units to provide unhoused New Yorkers with safe, affordable housing. This initiative was important to him as it helped address housing challenges in New York. Bilingual in English and Spanish, he hopes his efforts will help create a more sustainable and equitable community.



Chamblee Adopts Dresden Park Small Area Plan



A new vision will soon come to fruition in the Dresden Park area. On November 19, 2024, the City of Chamblee adopted the Dresden Park Small Area Plan. This plan is the detailed vision and strategic framework for preservation, development and growth

of the Dresden Park area in the City of Chamblee, which includes Buford Highway to the northwest, the Laventure Forest subdivision to the north, Shallowford Road and adjacent properties to the east, Northeast Expressway to the south, and the rear of a series of multifamily apartment complexes along the western boundary. The area is home to Dresden Park, Arrow Creek Park, Chamblee Public Safety, Dresden Elementary School and St. Pius X Catholic High School. The result of the plan is a collaborative effort between residents, business owners, community stakeholders, and city officials to ensure that the unique character, needs, and potential of the area are recognized and enhanced.



The purpose of the plan is to guide land use decisions, promote sustainable development, and encourage economic vitality while preserving and protecting the cultural environmental assets that define the area. The Dresden Park Small Area Plan was created to address and provide solutions to the five key areas:



- 1 Housing and Quality of Life:** Protect and preserve existing naturally occurring affordable housing while promoting improved living conditions through maintenance and renovation of existing housing.
- 2 Transportation:** Improve upon existing infrastructure, create safe connections, and expand sidewalks, trail, and bicycle lanes in order to provide safe alternate modes of transportation.
- 3 Lane Use:** Promote redevelopment in a strategic and equitable way and identify targeted locations for redevelopment.
- 4 Recreation and Green Space:** Connect parks, open spaces, and natural areas through existing natural resources including Dresden and Arrow Creek Park and the North Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary. Create neighborhood serving open spaces and recreational amenities.
- 5 Beautification and Placemaking:** Establish a community identity through public programs and services and introduce public art that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

By establishing clear goals, policies, and strategies, the Dresden Park Small Area Plan aims to create a vibrant, livable, and resilient neighborhood that meets the evolving needs of current and future residents. This plan is a living document, meant to evolve with the area over time. It serves as a tool for local officials, developers, and residents to ensure that growth is managed thoughtfully and benefits all stakeholders. By adhering to the vision and strategies outlined within, we can ensure that this area remains a vibrant, dynamic, and diverse part of the Chamblee community.

To read the plan,
scan the QR Code.





Revamp Made Easy: Navigating Chamblee's Renovation Rules

Renovating a property in Chamblee? Before you dive in, learn how the city's redevelopment rules could mean more than just updating the inside-exterior improvements might be required too!

What is it?

The **redevelopment assessment form** helps figure out if a property's renovation will require exterior improvements. These improvements can include adding a sidewalk, updating a parking lot, or improving building design, based on the City of Chamblee's rules.

Who does it apply to?

The redevelopment thresholds apply to all **commercial** renovations, alterations, adaptations, additions, restorations, repairs, or other redevelopment of a structure. It does not apply to detached single-family and two-family residential structures.

Why is it needed?

These improvements help make the city look nicer, keep it safe, and maintain public health standards. They also help encourage economic development activities and protect property against blight and depreciation.

How does it work?

1. Find construction costs:

Check the latest published edition of the **International Code Council (ICC) building valuation table** to determine the cost of construction. This table uses the building's use group (business, assembly, storage, etc.) and its construction type (wood-frame, steel, etc.) to determine the cost to construct the building per square foot.

*Example: a **wood-frame church** (A3 Assembly, Type IV) has a construction cost of **\$267.24 per square foot**.*

2. Calculate total construction costs:

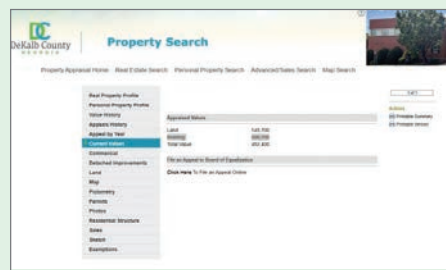
Once you have found the construction cost per square foot, multiply this number by the square footage of the renovation. Then, divide this number in half to get the total construction cost for the interior renovation.

*Example: 1,000 sq. ft. × \$267.24 = \$267,240
\$267,240 ÷ 2 = \$133,620
Total Cost of Construction (TCC) = \$133,620*

3. Find the Fair Market Value:

Use the **Dekalb County property appraisal website** to find the fair market value of the building. Be advised, because this is an interior renovation, **this value should be for the building only** and cannot include the value of the land.

*Example: Based on the information above the building value would be \$306,700.
Fair Market Value (FMV) = \$306,700.*



4. Calculate redevelopment threshold:

Divide the **total construction cost (TCC)** by the **fair market value (FMV)** to get the redevelopment threshold.

*Example: \$133,620 ÷ \$306,700 = 0.43
Redevelopment Threshold = 43%*

5. Apply the rules:

Exterior improvements are required once the redevelopment threshold exceeds 30%. At 30% sidewalks along the frontage of the property must be constructed. At 60% sidewalks must be constructed, landscaping must be installed and building architecture must be improved. At 71% or more full compliance with City regulation is required.

The city calculates the redevelopment threshold in this manner to ensure the code is being applied consistently across every project that is reviewed. In short, the redevelopment assessment and thresholds are a tool to keep the city looking beautiful and safe for everyone.

Here are some real examples of where redevelopment thresholds were applied:



Chamblee Tap and Market
3509 Broad Street



5370 Peachtree Road



Color Field Sculpture Brings Vibrancy to Downtown Chamblee

The City of Chamblee has added more color and vibrancy to Downtown Chamblee thanks to a new sculpture! The Color Field Sculpture sits at the corner of Peachtree Road and American Way. Created by artist Shelley Parriott, it was originally purchased in October of 2023 by the Public Arts Commission, also known as PAC, which gets its funding through a percentage of Chamblee Hotel/Motel fees.



"The site-specific installations are composed of individual units of perforated heavy-gauge industrial aluminum, said artist Shelley Parriott. "They are structurally sound although they appear illusory. Viewers actually become participants as they walk around the sculpture's transparent overlapping layers. Moving through time and space they experience the installation from the inside looking out, or the outside looking in. They are connected to each other, to the art, to fields of color, and to nature as the environment is seen through the perforations."

We hope you enjoy these pops of color and recommend taking a selfie with the sculpture at night! For more information about the Color Field sculpture, visit www.colorfieldsculpture.com/about.

Rail Trail Wayfinding Signage Installed

Exciting news for Rail Trail users!

We've completed the installation of new wayfinding signs and mile markers on the Chamblee Rail Trail to guide you along your journey! Whether you're walking, biking, or exploring, these signs make it easier than ever to navigate and discover all the hidden gems along the trail.

In addition to helping you find your destination along the trail, we've also displayed rules for enjoying and sharing the trail with others.

Rail Trail Rules

- Enjoy the trails. Be safe. Respect all trail users.
- Share the trail.
- Slower traffic move to the right.
- Stop at intersections.
- Keep the trail clean. No littering.
- Keep pets on short leashes and remove pet waste.
- No trespassing on private property.
- No loitering.
- No vehicles weighing more than 100 pounds.
- Maintain a safe speed.





Chamblee Voters Overwhelmingly Support Parks Bond

Additional funding to improve parks, trails, and outdoor recreational areas



On November 5, 2024, during the General Election, Chamblee voters were asked to vote on whether to approve bonds to

improve its parks, trails, and outdoor recreational areas. With an overwhelming 81% of our residents voting "yes, we can soon begin the process of issuing up to \$30 million in aggregate principal amount of its general obligation bonds for the purpose of financing design, acquisition, construction, equipping and/or improvement of parks, trails and outdoor recreation areas, the costs of issuing the bonds and capitalized interest on the bonds.

What is a general obligation bond?

A bond is to a city like a mortgage is to a household or a business, it's simply a long-term lending instrument that enables capital investments to be made in the near-term and paid off over time. Bond holders purchase the bonds now and the city guarantees they will be paid back at a set amount in the future. General obligation bonds must be approved by the voters. These bonds would provide the City with sufficient funds now to make park, trail and outdoor recreational area improvements. The cost is shared not only by taxpayers who will enjoy the facilities now, but also by those who will use them in the future.

What does this mean for the typical Chamblee homeowner?

The most the average homeowner in Chamblee would pay is approximately \$9.83 per month or \$118 per year. This is based on an average residential market value in Chamblee of \$499,000 and assumes all the bonds are issued at once in 2024, which is unlikely. These figures are based on other conservative assumptions including that there is no tax base growth or annexation in the City of Chamblee. If you do not pay property taxes, there is not a direct cost impact to you.

What is next, now that it is approved?

The \$30 million bond plan will begin having money available about one year from the vote. In the meantime, the city will prioritize the projects and work on a schedule for completion.

Potential projects being considered are:

1. Multiple Keswick Park Projects (soccer field upgrades, upper area master plan construction, revitalization and lighting at tennis/basketball/rebound wall, community building restroom upgrades and outdoor restroom addition)
2. Huntley Hills Park and FEMA Parcels
3. Wood Acres Property
4. Savoy Property Trail
5. Model Trail Project (as identified in the Chamblee Trails Master Plan)



VILLAGE PARK UPGRADES UNDERWAY

Construction is underway at Village Park for the installation of artificial turf. The park will also receive new fencing and slate chips around the community garden, along with a concrete sidewalk leading up to the gardens. Landscaping will be upgraded on a new parking lot island with new plants and three shade structures will be constructed over the plaza picnic tables. The City is spending \$422,000 in grant funds from the Georgia Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities Grant to complete these upgrades.





Officer Brandon White Receives 2024 Dennis Dougherty Award for Community Leadership



Officer Brandon White receiving the 2024 Dennis Dougherty Award at the Matthew Shephard Foundation Gala on October 26th in Denver, CO.

On October 26, 2024, Chamblee Police Officer Brandon White was the recipient of the 2024 Dennis Dougherty Award for Community Leadership. This award is given to those who have played an essential role in the Matthew Shephard Foundation's growth and integrity. The Matthew Shephard Foundation has been dedicated to eliminating hate crimes since 1998 while inspiring individuals, organizations and communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people. Officer White was a victim of a hate crime in 2012, when he was

attacked for his sexual orientation. His case was the first in the state of Georgia to be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office under the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a landmark federal law that includes crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The City of Chamblee is proud of Officer White's leadership and service in our community.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings Resume in 2025

The Chamblee Police Department will resume its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Arrow Creek Community Room.**

CAC Meetings are held by the Chief of Police and the Chamblee Police Department's Command Staff **on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Arrow Creek Community Room, located at 4445 Buford Hwy, Chamblee, GA 30341.**

The Citizens Advisory Committee is comprised of a group of community members who give advice and comments to the police department on how to make our community better. All CAC meetings are open to residents, businesses, homeowner's associations and community groups. For more information, contact Officer Lina Garcia (lgarcia@chambleega.gov) or Officer Christopher Monk (cmonk@chambleega.gov).



Chamblee Police, Mayor Brian Mock, and Councilman Paul Stovall with Ukrainian Delegates at the Public Safety Complex.

Ukrainian Delegation Visits Chamblee Police

On October 25, 2024, the Chamblee Police Department hosted a delegation of police officers from Ukraine. The visit included a tour of the Public Safety Building, networking with law enforcement partners, and a conversation with Mayor Brian Mock and Councilman Paul Stovall. This was an excellent example of cross-cultural learning through partnerships with foreign law enforcement professionals.



(L to R) Sgt. Nixon, Officer Cavin, Communications Officer Gudrun Hughes, and Officer Loewen.

Heroes in Uniform: The Life-Saving Officers Protecting Our Community

We're taking a moment to commend and recognize Communications Officer Gudrun Hughes, Officer Cavin, and the Chamblee Police Department's B-Team Officers for their outstanding teamwork and quick thinking during a critical call on November 13, 2024.

At 6:59 a.m., an elderly male called 911 and reported that he was involved in an accident, sounding confused and disoriented. Thanks to the swift and coordinated response of Officer Cavin, Operator Hughes, Sgt. Nixon and Officer Loewen, they resolved the situation with remarkable efficiency. Officer Cavin and Operator Hughes collaborated seamlessly to gather essential

information, while Sgt. Nixon and Officer Loewen's dedication and attentiveness led to the successful location of the elderly male. This collaboration and dedication from each team member played a crucial role in ensuring the individual's safety.

This is an excellent example of how our team's collaboration, communication, and quick decision-making save lives everyday. Your unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community is truly commendable, and we are all proud to work alongside such dedicated and skilled professionals. Thank you for your exemplary work!

Chamblee Municipal Court Partners with Chamblee High School for Mock Trial Practice

Over the past few months, Chamblee High School's Mock Trial Program has been taking over Chamblee's Municipal Courtroom to bring their mock trial practice to life! These future lawyers, judges and leaders showcased their skills, debated cases, and got hands-on experience in a real-world setting thanks to a partnership with Chamblee Municipal Court. Thank you for supporting the next generation of legal minds right here in our community!



Chamblee High School's Mock Trial Program practicing in one of the courtrooms at Chamblee Municipal Court.



Leaf Truck Naming Contest Winners Announced

The results are in! We're thrilled to reveal the names chosen by our community for our new fleet of leaf trucks! After reviewing all of your creative and fun suggestions, we have our winning names with the most votes that will hit the road in style!

- Truck #1: Leafal Weapon
- Truck #2: Snuffaluffaleaf
- Truck #3: Mona Leaf-A

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and casted your vote. Stay tuned for the name unveiling as the newly named trucks begin their journeys and bring quality service to you.

Bring One For The Chipper

Christmas Tree Recycling is underway in Chamblee! Keep Chamblee Beautiful invites you to drop off your Christmas Trees at Bring One for the Chipper. The official event is on **Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Chamblee Public Works, located at 3210 Cumberland Drive, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** You have until **Tuesday, January 21st to drop-off trees at Chamblee Public Works, Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Trees should be unbound and free of decorations. Trees will be recycled into mulch for city landscaping projects.



2025 Holiday Sanitation Schedule

New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1st
No change to the trash schedule

MLK, Jr. Day: Monday, January 20th
Monday's route will be collected on Wednesday, January 22nd

President's Day: Monday, February 17th
Monday's route will be collected on Wednesday, February 19th

Memorial Day: Monday, May 26th
Monday's route will be collected on Wednesday, May 28th

Juneteenth: Thursday, June 19th
Thursday's route will be collected on Wednesday, June 18th

Independence Day: Friday, July 4th
Friday's route will be collected on Monday, July 7th

Labor Day: Monday, September 1st
Monday's route will be collected on Wednesday, September 3rd

Staff Appreciation Day: Monday, October 13th
Monday's route will be collected on Wednesday, October 15th

Veteran's Day: Tuesday, November 11th
Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, November 12th

Thanksgiving Holiday: Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th
Thursday's route will be collected on Wednesday, November 26th
Friday's route will be collected on Monday, December 1st

Christmas Holiday: Wednesday and Thursday, December 24th and December 25th
Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, December 26th

Yard debris, leaf collection, and special pickups are suspended during each holiday week.



Assistance League® of Atlanta's Chamblee History



In 1982, a small group of women formed a local chapter of a national nonprofit organization, Assistance League, based in California. Their mission was to help those in need in the greater Atlanta community. Their first funding-raising project was marketing arts & crafts created by senior citizens. Working out of members' homes and garages, they sold the craft items at art fairs and shows and shared the proceeds with the seniors.

Assistance League of Atlanta, an all-volunteer organization, began their long-time Chamblee history in 1985 when they opened their first retail shop, called "Prime Time Treasures" at 3535 Broad Street. The shop, a rental property, was a tiny 260 square foot house, affectionally called the "Mouse House." Within 10 months, they returned \$6,000 to 100 senior craftspeople from sales. Their shop was welcomed by the Chamblee community, and the craftspeople enjoyed the additional income.

A few years later, as they found new causes to support, the chapter expanded by acquiring two additional rooms at the craft shop and started a thrift shop named "Attic Treasures." Thanks to donations of gently used clothing, jewelry and other items, their business flourished, but more space was needed. By the early 1990's, they moved around the corner from Broad Street to 5502 Peachtree Street. Chamblee's Mayor Brown did the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In 1993 the chapter started a local version of National Assistance League's signature program, Operation School Bell®, providing brand new school clothing to elementary school students who did not have appropriate clothing to attend school. The first year, children from an area elementary school came in buses to the chapter house where members helped them pick out

new clothes. They served 211 children that first year. Since that time the program has grown immensely. In the 2023-2024 school year, they provided 4,200 elementary and middle school students with a week's worth of school clothes and a new book. Of these, 30% were homeless or victims of fire, eviction, or abuse. An additional 12,000 received one or more clothing items, hygiene kits or food and gas cards for the family.

The new program and the growing thrift shop business required even more space, so a year or so later they moved their office and programs to yet another Chamblee location at 5571 Peachtree Road, diagonally across from their thrift shop. They realized this was just a temporary fix to their space issues and began to think about the possibility of owning their own building in Chamblee.

After several years of searching, a property at 3534 Broad Street was purchased in 1997. Once the chapter received approval from the City of Chamblee and obtained a loan, they began planning construction of a new chapter house. The groundbreaking ceremony occurred in November of 1998, and demolition of an existing building and construction of a 13,000 sq ft. two-story new building began. By September of the following year, a new thrift shop and a large warehouse were housed on the first floor and the chapter's philanthropic programs and a meeting room were housed on the second.

As the membership continued to grow and the thrift shop thrived in its permanent Chamblee location, the organization found more ways to address the needs of the community. It wasn't long before they had outgrown their Broad Street building. To serve more children, the Operation School Bell program gradually moved from bussing children to their Broad Street location to delivering the clothing directly to the schools.



FEATURE



The Operation School Bell program was serving more than 200 schools, and more space was needed to accommodate the clothing inventory. Additional parking was needed as well. The Growth & Development Committee began a search for an alternate location. After many years in Chamblee, they had developed a loyal customer base for the thrift shop, so the preference was to stay in Chamblee.

As the city of Chamblee was revealing new development plans, property values were increasing. The chapter was unable to find an affordable property that would accommodate all their requirements. In 2016, after an exhaustive search, they purchased an 11,000 square foot building in Peachtree Corners for their administrative offices, meeting rooms and the necessary expansion of Operation School Bell. They were able to maintain their Chamblee presence by keeping Attic Treasures Thrift Shop in the Broad Street location. With the easing of crowded conditions, they expanded their retail space by converting the second-floor multi-purpose room into what is now known as the "Home Store."

Operating out of two locations wasn't the perfect solution. The members preferred to be in one building, but they realized the value of having their main source of income, the thrift shop, remain in Chamblee where they had been serving customers since 1985. The shop's location is ideal in terms of the proximity



to MARTA and to the city's ongoing development plans. They are grateful to be a part of these exciting changes.



During their 42-year history as an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, Assistance League of Atlanta has managed to meet many challenges

while achieving great success in their mission to serve others. In their last fiscal year, they helped approximately 60,000 children and adults in need to rebuild their lives and become more self-sufficient. Through philanthropic programs and a network of community partners, they provide food, new clothing, household goods, hygiene kits, comfort items and educational aid to those affected by homelessness, abuse and poverty.

Contact: Janice Smith • 770-778-8454

For more information, visit AssistanceLeagueATL.org





Chamblee High School VEX Robotics Sweeps Clarkston High School



On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Chamblee High School's VEX Robotics teams shined at the Clarkston High School VEX Robotics Tournament. The Robodogs Swept the Tournament for the first time in history! Team 1275E triple crowned, taking home a Tournament Champion Award, Robot Skills Award, and the Excellence Award. Team 1275D allied with Team 1275E and also won a Tournament Champion Award. They also placed third in skills. Team 1275C earned second place in Skills.

Both Chamblee Army JROTC Teams: 1275F and 1275G JROTC are in the Top 25 JROTC-Army rankings, qualifying them for VEX Worlds. Both JROTC teams are also ranked in the top 35 out of all JROTC branches worldwide, again qualifying for Worlds!

Vex Robotics student, Luke Simonsen, had an excellent tournament weekend topped off by finding out he was admitted by early-decision to Georgia Tech for Aerospace Engineering and Mathematics Minor.

VEX Robotics is an extracurricular activity sponsored by Dekalb County School District's Career Technical Educational Department. Chamblee High School's VEX advisors are Ms. Lucretia Gant, Ms. Heather Miller, and Col. Gloria Dunklin (Ret.).

Each year VEX Robotics releases a new game for students to research, design, build, program, and drive their robot. This year's game, High Stakes, involves four robots working together in two, two-robot team alliances to score the most points in the time given. Robots run autonomously first, followed by live robot driving. Robots score points by placing plastic rings on stakes, moving stakes around the field, and commanding the robot to climb the center scaffold. The highest ring on a stake scores the most points.

Chamblee High School is hosting the next DCSD VEX Robotics Tournament on January 11, 2025 from 9:00 am until 5:00pm. Qualification matches begin 9:00 am. Alliance Selection, Elimination Matches (round of 16), Semi-Finals (Round of 8) and the Final Match start after lunch.



Chamblee High School Wins Congressman Hank Johnson's (GA-4) 2025 Congressional App Challenge

For the second time, Chamblee High School students have won our district's annual Congressional App Challenge. Four Chamblee High School Students in Ms. Heather Miller's Engineering Applications course created a mobile app inspired by this year's federal elections. Sophomores Mary Lawton Jones, Nicholas Jovanovic, Emma Lane and Junior Ella King created a mobile app called "Voting Buddy." Students used a drag-and-drop program called MAD-learn to create the mobile app, Google Sites to create the companion website, and will be using Google Slides to create the presentation for the #House of Code at the US Capitol in Washington, D.C. this April 2025.



Chamblee Happenings

January

1

City Offices Closed in observance of New Year's Day



4

21st "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas Tree Donations

20

City Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

17

City Offices Closed in Observance of President's Day



City Meetings

Chamblee City Council Meetings

Thurs., January 9
(Year-in-Review Townhall Meeting by Councilman Jimmy Furst)

Tues., January 21
Tues., February 18th
(City Council Regular Meeting)

Thurs., January 16
Thurs., February 13
(Public Hearing and Work Session)
Chamblee City Hall | 6:00 PM

Discover Chamblee Advisory Committee Meeting

Wed., February 26
Chamblee City Hall | 12:00 PM

Downtown Development Authority Meetings

Tues., January 28
Tues., February 25
Chamblee City Hall | 6:30 PM

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Wed., January 29
Wed., February 26
Chamblee City Hall | 6:00 PM

Public Art Commission Meetings

Thurs., January 23
Thurs., February 27
Chamblee City Hall | 6:00 PM



City Council

Mayor: Brian K. Mock

District 1: John Mesa

District 2: Leslie C. Robson

District 3: Paul Stovall

District 4: Elmer Veith

At-large, Mayor Pro Tem:
Jimmy Furst

City Staff

City Manager:
Kristen Gorham

Assistant City Manager:
Vivian Vakili

Finance Director:
Julie Pero

Chief of Police:
Michael Dieppa

City Clerk:
Cherron Bouie

Parks & Recreation:
Jodie Gilfillan

Community Engagement:
Brittney Lindsay

Human Resources Director:
Jennifer Burke

Planning and Development:
John Maximuk

Public Relations and Communications:
Shannon Wiggins

Public Works:
Todd Hill

Contact Information

City Hall:
770-986-5010

Police (non-emergency):
770-986-5005

Code Enforcement:
770-986-5009

Police Emergency: 911

Address: 3518 Broad Street
Chamblee, Georgia 30341

Email: info@chambleega.gov



SIGNAL



It's the best way to reach more than

16,000

Chamblee households

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

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

770-986-5010

info@chambleega.gov

City of Chamblee
3518 Broad Street
Chamblee, GA 30341

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ATLANTA, GA
PERMIT #2003



*Start the New Year right:
Sell us your car for top dollar!*

Start the new year with a quote from Jim Ellis on your vehicle's purchase price. Even if you don't buy a vehicle from us, we are interested in buying from you!

Visit **JimEllisBuysCars.com** and use our easy online tool to receive an instant cash offer.