

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

Website:  
[www.chambleega.com](http://www.chambleega.com)

**Mayor**

R. Eric Clarkson

**District 1**

Mark Wedge

**District 2**

Leslie Robson

**District 3**

Tom Hogan

**District 4, At-Large**

Dan Zanger

**District 5, At-Large**

Scott M. Taylor

**City Manager**

Jim Gleason

**Chief of Police**

Marc Johnson

**City Clerk**

Nancy Williams

**Finance Director**

Angela Hudson

**Parks & Recreation**

Joel Holmes

**Development**

Dan Schultz

**Permits & Inspections**

Marci Hooper-Smith

**Public Works**

Tillman Hannon

**City Hall**

(770) 986-5010

**Public Works/Animal Control**

(770) 986-5019

**Development**

(770) 986-5010

**Permits & Inspections**

(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@chambleepd.com](mailto:code_enforcement@chambleepd.com)

**Police Emergency - 911**

## Local Management Experience Benefits Iraq!

by Jim Gleason

PM conducted an online Q&A with Jim Gleason, city manager, Chamblee, Georgia, on his year-long work detail in Iraq during 2008. Here is what he had to say about the work he did in conjunction with ICMA's Iraq Local Governance Program, which was funded by RTI International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

### Where were you located in Iraq, and what did you do there?

I was located in Kirkuk, and I worked with the district and sub-district councils (city and county) on local governance and capital budgeting. I assisted in teaching the basic principles of how we run municipal government and the need to prioritize and manage capital budgets.

### What was the outcome?

I would love to think I made a difference. Some councils did better than others but overall I believe exposing the Iraqis to the concept of local self-government will go a long way to stabilizing the country and establishing local democracy. Their system has been dictated from Baghdad for so long that it will take time for them to learn the art of local control.

### Were you ever in danger and, if not, was there a specific reason (extra security, location)?

Yes, a few times! The first was around Thanksgiving when I was in Baghdad and the Green Zone where I was doing my training. The area came under attack. While the compound did not take a direct hit that time, we did have to run and take cover in the bunkers. The other time was when I was in our convoy returning to the base in Kirkuk from the local Iraqi government offices and an IED [improvised explosive device] went off just after we passed. There were a few times at night when on the base we had to go to the bunkers because a few rockets had been launched toward the base. It was a little reminder that we were working in a war zone. I was able to travel four to five days a week from the base to the Iraqi government office in Kirkuk. I had to wear body armor and head gear while in the convoy, but I did have full faith and confidence in the men and women of the military who served as my security and escorts!

### What was the most surprising thing to occur during your work in Iraq?

How quickly I bonded with and became friends with the Iraqis who worked with me. I found the Iraqi people want the same things we all do. They want a safe environment to live, work, and play; good jobs; and educational opportunities for their children. The same basics we all want in life. Those basics are the ingredients for stability, civility, and having a future vs. only an existence.

### Were any of the assumptions you held going into this assignment turned upside down and inside out? How?

Yes: that the Iraqi people did not hate the USA or the American people, nor were they our enemy. Every Iraqi I met would tell me to thank America for the help and assistance and sacrifice we made to ensure their freedom. But they also would say they had to stand on their own feet and take responsibility in running their country.

### If you were teaching a lessons-learned-from-this-experience class to students of public administration, what would your top five lessons be? Are these the same five lessons you'd describe to seasoned managers?

Let's see if I can come up with five:

1. You cannot have preconceived ideas or opinions about any group (in this case the Iraqi people).
2. One must be aware I was there to assist, provide information, and share professional experiences, but I was not there to dictate how they should do something. I was a guest in their country, not an occupier.

3. Maintain respect for their religion and culture, and understand there are unique differences.
4. Realize democracy and governance can come in many forms. Although we believe our system is the proper model, there are variations that can and do work in different societies.
5. Respect who you are working with and for at all times. Without that mutual respect you can not be successful.

**Thinking of yourself as the student in your Iraq assignment, what did the Iraqis teach you?**

Patience—the Iraqi senses of time and deadlines are different than in our culture. As a city manager, I am used to tight deadlines for myself and staff, and our elected officials expect answers and results in a very short time frame. The Iraqis did not operate under the same sense of deadlines. Not that they did not meet goals and objectives, but they were not as tied to the clock as we are. They had a statement when you would ask about the deadline—“Inshallah”—which can be translated into something like “If Allah wills it” or “God willing.”

The other lesson was humility. I take great pride in being a proud American and the good our country stands for, but I learned Iraqis too take great pride in their country, culture, and religion. Although we may want them to be a model of American democracy, we have to understand their version will be different from ours. I was also humbled by their sense of history and place compared with our country’s founding on July 4, 1776. Some of the oldest records of civilization in the world can be found in Iraq.

**What cultural differences impacted how you went about your job?**

The biggest was the Muslim religion, as I had not had a lot of experience with Muslim friends in the United States. I had to educate myself on the basic values and beliefs and also the differences between the Sunni and Shia. I did this by talking with the Iraqis I worked with; I would have them tell me about their religion. I have a greater respect for Islam today than I had before going to Iraq. I found Islam is not a violent religion but, like all religions, a few extremists can take teachings out of context to justify violent actions.

The other difference was working with female Iraqis. I have always believed in equality between the sexes, but I learned I had to be more guarded in how I spoke to Iraqi women compared with the men. Also I had to be very careful about any physical contact; sometimes just shaking a hand was a little awkward. Also in any social settings the men and women were separated.

**Has the experience changed your thinking about leadership, passion, ethics, democracy, etc.? If yes, in what way?**

I am as passionate about democracy and leadership as I was before I went to Iraq but I have realized our form of democracy may not fit with every culture. One can have civil liberties and social freedoms, but the government model may not follow our model. I realize the goal is for people to have a legitimate free vote and a right to self-determination, but we have to respect that in that process some societies may choose different types of leaders than we might or a different model of government. As long as the election and choice is by a legitimate vote of the people, we have to respect that it may be different from the outcome we would have liked.

**How did this kind of assignment impact your personal life? Any unexpected side effects?**

I am honored I was selected by ICMA to work on this assignment, but it was a greater challenge being away from family and friends than I thought. While the Internet and e-mail helped me stay connected, it was not the same as being there. Being away for holidays and birthdays was the toughest part. I have always admired those who choose to serve our country in the armed forces, but I now understand the challenge they go through when being deployed. They and their families go through this multiple times.

**Has the experience uncovered or given rise to new goals or pursuits? Has the experience changed you in any way?**

I have always been passionate about good governance and leadership, but this experience strengthened my belief that all of us must work together to make our system better. We can have different opinions—be conservative or liberal, Christian or Muslim—but unless we find the common ground to work out our differences, we will not be as successful as we can be. The level of anger and discord we have in politics today really saddens me. We all have more in common that we do differences, but it seems our system is now about making the other guy look bad or take the blame. I hope we return soon to the time when leaders become statesmen and can communicate and reach across the aisle to find solutions and compromise that works for all Americans, not just for one’s party or political ideology.

**Of the things you didn’t have access to in Iraq but take for granted in the United States, what did you most miss while on this assignment?**

FOOTBALL! I missed tailgating at the Florida Gator games with family and friends and watching my Minnesota Vikings on the NFL Ticket!

**What’s your most vivid memory of being in Iraq?**

The first time I got to go among the Iraqi people without wearing body armor or having an armed soldier by my side. The Iraqi people and shopkeepers I met in the market were so friendly. Those who spoke English would engage me in conversation and ask about America. I will never forget the smiles and laughs of the children who came up and greeted me and wanted me to take a picture. It also did not hurt that I was giving out candy; it just proves kids are kids no matter the country or culture. Candy is the universal language. It can bring a smile to a child’s face.



[www.census.georgia.gov](http://www.census.georgia.gov)



## OVERVIEW

**What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and noncitizens.

**When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. *(More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey—a separate activity.)*

**Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. A Census has been held every decade since 1790— 21 times in all. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**How:** With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

## IT'S SECURE, EASY AND ESSENTIAL!

**SECURE**— Federal law prohibits the sharing of information from the Census with any other organization or agency—only the Census Bureau sees your specific Census form, and the information is protected for over 70 years!

**EASY**— Only 10 questions!

**ESSENTIAL**— When you fill out the census form, you're making a statement about what resources your community needs going forward. *Over \$400 billion in Federal aid is apportioned based on the census counts—approximately \$1700 per person counted!*

- Census data guide planning for new hospitals, roads, job training centers, schools, fire, police and are used to determine the need for additional social services, block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities. Participation ensures delivery of social and economic services to those who need them most including children, the elderly, the poor, and the homeless – populations that are often least likely to be accurately counted. Data is used in a diverse range of local initiatives, from justifying the need for an after-school program to designating urban revitalization areas.
- Accurate data reflecting changes in your community is crucial in apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, ensuring Georgia is fully represented in Congress.

For more information, please visit: [www.census.georgia.gov](http://www.census.georgia.gov)

Or you may contact Georgia's Complete Count Committee at [census2010@dca.ga.gov](mailto:census2010@dca.ga.gov), or by phone—404/679 - 3147.

## CITY OF CHAMBLEE

The goal of city staff is to ensure each stakeholder receives the highest level of customer service when you visit City Hall. We want to ensure proper staff is available to meet your needs so we request you make an appointment. Please call or e-mail M-F for an appointment with the following departments:

**City Manager:** 770-986-5013

8:30 am-5:00 pm

Jim Gleason - [jgleason@chambleega.com](mailto:jgleason@chambleega.com)

**City Clerk:** 770-986-5018

8:30 am-4:00 pm

Nancy Williams- [nwilliams@chambleega.com](mailto:nwilliams@chambleega.com)

**Development Dept:** 770-986-5010 x223

8:30 am-4:00 pm

Dan Schultz - [dschultz@chambleega.com](mailto:dschultz@chambleega.com)

**Building Permits:** 770-986-5024

9:00 am-11:30 am

1:30 pm- 4:00 pm

Marci Hooper-Smith –

[mhooper-smith@chambleega.com](mailto:mhooper-smith@chambleega.com)

Julie Eikoos - [jeikoos@chambleega.com](mailto:jeikoos@chambleega.com)

**Business Licenses:** 770-986-5010 x226

8:30 am-12:00 pm

1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Linda McDaniel - [lmcdaniel@chambleega.com](mailto:lmcdaniel@chambleega.com)

---



---

## Lost Animal Signs

If your animal is lost because it escaped out of the house, yard, or containment area, call Junior, our Animal Control Officer. He will be more than happy to help you find your pet. Please do not post “Lost Animal” signs on telephone poles or on City/County/State signs, as this is illegal. This is not only an eyesore, but it can be a safety hazard as well.

Also, make sure your pet is up-to-date on vaccinations, including rabies shots. Your pet has a greater chance of being returned if it’s wearing a tag. Junior can be reached at 770-986-5019



This month's Public Works employee is Sam Wims. He began working for the City in March of 1989. He is one of our Sanitation Workers and is responsible for collecting trash and debris. Sam has a fiancé, Lisa, and they plan to marry someday. He enjoys collecting model die-cast cars and has over 100 on display. Sam will also receive his 20-year service award this year. Congratulations, Sam!

---



---

## CHAMBLEE COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT

March 2010

Our next meeting is March 1 at 7 PM at the Chamblee Methodist Church. Averil Bonsall, a delightful British Lady, will bring us a power point program on English Gardens. Averil is Master Gardener Coordinator for DeKalb County and stays up to date on all that’s happening in the gardening world. Please join us – no charge! Then in April, Kathryn Gable of the Georgia Perimeter College Botanical Garden and past president of GNPS, GPPA, and other groups will bring us some plants AND a program on good natives for spring planting.

In looking through some old magazines, I came across an article that I think will be of interest to us all. I think we have all had a fungus of one kind or another on our plants. The most common is blackspot, which affects many plants – not just roses! For blackspot, use 1 quart of water, 1 tsp. of soda and ½ tsp. of Ivory Liquid Soap. Liquid soaps with detergent in them will harm the plants. Shake up in a spray bottle and coat leaves. Do this on a cloudy day or in the evening to prevent burning. Another one for blackspot and other fungi is cornmeal – sprinkle ½ cup around every plant and cover it with bark mulch. This promotes the growth of good fungi which fights the bad. Three cups of water mixed with 1/3 cup of milk and sprayed on, helps with powdery mildew. Ground cinnamon sprinkled lightly over the surface of potting mix helps stop damping off of all types of plants and seedlings.

Hope these tips will help- and thanks to Garden Gate Magazine for the article!

## City and Police Department Email Lists

The City and the Police Department each maintain an email list for disseminating information to city residents and businesses. The City list is maintained by the City Clerk and is used to distribute public hearing notices, council agendas and other general information relative to Chamblee. The Police Department list is maintained by the Community Oriented Policing Unit (COPs). They use that list to distribute periodic crime updates, warning notices and other police related matters. If you would like to be on either of these lists please email a request to the City Clerk, Nancy Williams, at [nwilliams@chambleega.com](mailto:nwilliams@chambleega.com) or for the police list to Capt Mike Beller at [mbeller@chambleepd.com](mailto:mbeller@chambleepd.com).

---



---

## Chamblee PD Receives 2 Federal Grants

The police department has been awarded 2 federal grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program. The first grant for \$14,283 is being used to replace all of the bullet resistant vests issued to our officers. The useful period for the existing vests expires this year. The second grant for \$58,970 is being used to replace all of the mobile computers in the police vehicles. The replacement computers are currently being installed in 4 new patrol vehicles as well as the rest of the fleet. The existing mobile computers are 6 years old and were past due for replacement. The federal grants could not have come at a better time.

---



---

## CHAMBLEE BREAKFAST CLUB

The March meeting of the Chamblee Breakfast Club for Seniors will be held on March 4, 2010 at the Civic Center at 3540 Broad Street at 10:00 am. The program this month will be BINGO. If you received something for Christmas and would like to donate it as a prize that would be great. Monthly dues are \$2.00 for each person attending. If you do not receive a phone call or an e-mail, please contact either Evelyn Kennedy at 770-451-4891 or Becky Craven at 770-457-3834 by March 4th. Do plan to join the group for this interesting meeting.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Chamblee 101 Class Scheduled

Once again, the Mayor and City Council will sponsor a 6-week course titled Chamblee 101 to increase the number of informed and involved citizens in the City and to connect our citizens with their government.

The course will be offered May 12<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with the exception of the last week. For the last session the class will attend the City Council Meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> where certificates will be presented to all participants.

The sessions will focus on the following:

**Form of Government and City Administration (1week)**  
**Planning & Zoning (1week)**  
**Parks & Recreation & Public Works (1week)**  
**Police and Municipal Court (2 weeks)**

**Deadline for registration is Friday, April 30, 2010.** You may register by sending your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address to:

Chamblee 101 – City Hall  
 5468 Peachtree Road  
 Chamblee, GA 30341

Or by sending the same information by e-mail to the City Manager at [jgleason@chambleega.com](mailto:jgleason@chambleega.com)

---



---

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Joe Voyles is requesting a variance to reduce the side yard from 10 feet to 5 feet at 3397 Keswick Drive, for a new addition to the existing home.
2. City of Chamblee will hold a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 94 , Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Section 216, concerning permits and seasonal activities and outdoor sales.

## CHAMBLEE RUN & ROTARY ROLL

On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Chamblee's annual 5K road race is taking on a whole new attitude! This year our event includes a registration option for people in wheelchairs! This is for everyday chairs, not your hard core athletes. Our event is for everyone! In addition to our traditional 5K route through Chamblee, we are offering a 1K route around a runway of Peachtree DeKalb Airport! And get ready for a big finish! More sponsors means lots of goodies for our participants. Much thanks to Mr. Pat Epps who has donated his main hangar for our fantastic finish line area. Grab your bragging rights t-shirt and enjoy food, music, and lots of fun! Look for registration forms in April's calendar and sign up the whole family! Profits of this event will go to Shepherd Center, one of the best spinal rehabilitation centers in the country! Please call 770-986-5016 for more information. See you on May 1!

---



---

### CAMP CAMP CAMP!

Give your kids a great vacation without busting your budget! Camp Chamblee has everything they need for fun: field trips, crafts, sports, games and so much more. And we're not just a summer gig, join us during Spring Break for just as many exciting activities as we do during the summer months. And don't forget our soccer camps! During Spring Break we are offering a half day camp through the Cobb Football Club East and M&M Soccer Camp will be offering 2 weeks of their camp over the summer. (If you would like your child to attend Camp Chamblee in the afternoon after soccer camp we can arrange it!) Registration for all camps opens on March 8<sup>th</sup> for City residents and March 15 for everyone. Registration will remain open until full. Camp Chamblee is open to children ages 6-12 and fees are \$60 per week for our residents and \$90 per week for non-residents. Soccer camp fees are TBD. Camp runs from 8:30am – 3:30pm. Drop off begins at 7:30am and pickup extends until 6pm. Camp dates are as follows:

Spring Break & CFC East Soccer Camp – April 5 – 10

#### **Camp Chamblee Summer Sessions:**

May 24 – 28

June 1 – 4 (we are closed Memorial Day)

June 7 – 11

June 14 – 18 – M&M Soccer Camp also offered

June 21 – 25

June 28 – July 2

NO CAMP July 5 – 9

July 12 – 16

July 19 – 23

July 26 – 30 – M&M Soccer Camp also offered

August 2 – 6

Please call 770-986-5016 for more details.

### **CHAMBLEE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

The Chamblee Business Association (CBA) presents the first "State of the City" Address by Mayor Eric Clarkson at the monthly meeting. This will take place Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:45 am. The meeting is held at the Chamblee Civic Center, 3540 Broad Street.

#### **GO PAPERLESS:**

You can save paper by receiving this newsletter online. And better yet, the online version is in COLOR!

Just email Libby Galvin at [lgalvin@chambleega.com](mailto:lgalvin@chambleega.com) and request to be removed from the mailing list by providing your name and your physical mailing address. Your newsletter will then arrive automatically to your email address.

How simple is that?