

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-Interim**

Marc Johnson

**Chief of Police**

Marc Johnson

**City Clerk**

Nancy Williams

**Parks & Recreation**

Joel Holmes

**Development**

Dan Schultz

**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

Police Emergency - 911

**Welcome to Chamblee!** For over 100 years the Chamblee community has enjoyed an outstanding quality of life that the City of Chamblee has helped to promote and support. In November 2010, residents living just north and northeast of the previous city limit line voted to be annexed into the City of Chamblee. The City Council and City Staff have worked very hard to insure a seamless transition for these residents and business owners that will come into the city; while insuring that the quality of life for those currently in the city is in no way diminished.

In recent years the city has been working hard to create a new sense of place, complete with bike and pedestrian trails, landscaped streets, and architectural designs that invite people to stroll down wide sidewalks and gather at festivals. In recent years the city has added two new parks, Centennial Park and The Chamblee Rail. The recent 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Taste of Chamblee was another huge success. With this new annexation Chamblee will have more resources and new opportunities to further unite our community.

Cities are absolutely not another layer of government, but rather a form of government different than that of a county that is often too large and too cumbersome to truly meet the challenges faced by a local community. Cities provide heightened services and more responsive representation where self determination and self governance are truly the way we work. Community involvement is vital to the success of a community. Simply being able to drive a short distance to a City Council meeting rather than trekking halfway across the county to attend meetings helps to get more citizens involved.

There are other ways as well. In 2004, when I was a City Council Member, I proposed that the city start providing a yearly class called Chamblee101. This class is designed to inform and educate citizens about local government. It includes discussions and interactive activities on topics such as Chamblee's history, form of government, city services, budgeting and finances, volunteer boards, and volunteer organizations and opportunities in the City. The class also offers a chance to tour City facilities such as City Hall, Public Works, and the Police Department, and to meet various department heads for question-and-answer sessions. I plan on asking the Council and Staff to conduct another 101 class in early 2011. If you want to know more about how our city operates I would highly recommend that you attend this class.

It is with great honor and pride that I serve as Mayor of the City of Chamblee and I am pleased to welcome our newest Chamblee citizens. Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or want any further information about the great City of Chamblee!

Best Regards,

R. Eric Clarkson, Mayor  
City of Chamblee

## CHAMBLEE AT A GLANCE

**BUSINESSES** that have been newly annexed into the City of Chamblee as of January 1st will no longer pay Occupational Taxes to DeKalb County. Taxes must be paid in the City of Chamblee before April 15th to avoid penalty. The City will be sending applications to all businesses. If you do not receive an application in the mail by mid February, please visit our website at [www.chambleega.com](http://www.chambleega.com) or contact Linda McDaniel at 770-986-5010, ext 226.

**BUILDING PERMITS** that have already been issued by DeKalb County will receive inspections and final approvals from the County. All new permits will be issued, inspected and approved by the City of Chamblee.

**THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** will provide new residents of Chamblee the following services beginning in January 2011: storm water maintenance, road and sidewalk repairs, emergency tree removal, electronic recycling, animal control services, free compost, litter collection, and the opportunity to purchase firewood and granite curbing.

**SANITATION** - The City has contracted with DeKalb County to continue handling the sanitation needs in the annexed area for the next two years. Due to the increased cost of service delivery, the City's sanitation fees have increased by \$65.00 a year. All residents will now be paying a yearly sanitation fee of \$265.00. If you have any questions, please contact us at 770-986-5019. We value you as a customer and hope you understand the necessity for this price increase.



**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING** - The City will accept anything electronic such as: computer equipment, televisions, batteries, small appliances, lawn mowers, and phones. **We will not be responsible for any confidential information left in your computer.** Feel free to drop-off your items at our facility located at 3210 Cumberland Drive. We are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 am until 6:30 pm. For your convenience, we are also open on the third Saturday of each month from 8:00 am until 12 noon. For more details, call 770-986-5019.



**POLICE and E-911** - Beginning at midnight on January 1, 2011, the Chamblee Police Department will assume law enforcement responsibilities in the newly annexed area. At the same time, wire line 911 calls placed from the new area will begin to be routed to the Chamblee 911 center rather than DeKalb County's. Which 911 center cellular calls are routed to depends on which cellular tower receives the signal. It will take a while longer for the cellular phone companies to work out the changes in cellular call routing.

The police department began recruiting months ago in preparation for the possibility of the annexation passing. The city council approved adding twelve additional sworn officers and authorized hiring them immediately after the annexation passed in order to get them trained as necessary and orientated to Chamblee. All twelve positions have been filled. Eight of the new officers are experienced and two have significant experience with DeKalb PD working the north precinct which included the newly annexed area. The other four officers have just completed the basic law enforcement academy and will need to complete their field training before working on their own. Ten will have started working by January 1st and the final two will start in early January. Until all of the new officers are fully trained, we will use overtime as necessary to make sure we are properly staffed for the new area. The number of patrol cars is being increased by six rather than the original plan of four. Four of the vehicles have been delivered and should be equipped and on the

road in early January. The other two patrol cars have been ordered and should be on the road in March.

We were originally planning to add four additional 911 dispatchers but that has been increased to five. Two have been hired and several other experienced applicants are being reviewed.

**ALARM SYSTEMS** - The City of Chamblee requires all alarm systems to be registered with the Police Department. This applies to both residential and commercial alarms. The registration is free but there is a penalty for failing to register. The City believes that three or more false alarms within any calendar year is excessive and civil penalties are assessed on a graduated scale for the third and subsequent false alarms. Detailed information is on the City's web site along with an Alarm Permit Application that may be downloaded.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** - For years, code enforcement has been a high priority of the city and with the annexation this will not change. Two of the additional officers will be assigned to the COP's Unit which is responsible for code enforcement. Requiring property owners, both residential and commercial, to maintain their property is critical to ensuring that Chamblee remains a safe and desirable place to live, work and play. This is accomplished through fair and unbiased enforcement of building and property maintenance codes. While the code enforcement officers try to find violations on their own, you may call or email them with specific complaints. They can be contacted at 770-986-5005 or [code\\_enforcement@chambleepd.com](mailto:code_enforcement@chambleepd.com). The city's web site provides more information on the subject as well as a list of the most common issues.

**PROPERTY TAX - SENIOR HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION** - Resident homeowners 65 and over may apply for a Senior Homeowner Tax Exemption within the City of Chamblee. Those qualified are exempt from city taxes. In order to qualify, you must meet the following basic requirements:

- All parties listed as owners on the property deed must be 65 years or older before January 1, 2011.
- A current Homestead Exemption designating the property as primary residence.
- Supply proof of age (driver's license or other identification) for all owners listed on the deed.
- Must apply for the exemption between January 1st and February 28th by filling out a simple form, in person, at City Hall, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. You can only apply for this City exemption at City Hall.

Your application will be processed and notification of the exemption will be sent to DeKalb County for the 2011 tax year. The exemption will be applied to your 2011 Property Tax Statement and you will not be billed for city taxes; however, you will be required to pay stormwater & sanitation fees. You have to file for this exemption one time if you do not have any changes.

Additional exemptions that you may be qualified for from DeKalb County must be filed with the County separately. Check with the County Tax Commissioner's Office at 404-298-4000 to make sure you are getting all the county exemptions you are entitled to.

Person's who have 100% disability status from the Social Security Administration or the Veteran's Administration, are also eligible for this city exemption. For more information, please call Linda McDaniel, Assistant City Clerk, at 770-986-5010, ext. 226 or email: [lmcdaniel@chambleega.com](mailto:lmcdaniel@chambleega.com)

**FINANCE** - The City Council approved the fiscal year 2011 budget on December 21, 2010. For fiscal year 2011 we are projecting total revenue for all city funds of \$13,715,006 with total expenditures for all funds of \$13,005,607. The General Fund revenue is projected at \$10,175,119 vs. expenses of \$9,465,720. The budget currently has a projected general fund surplus of \$709,399.



For budget purposes, the property tax rate remains at 7.95 mills. The property tax digest will be evaluated in May prior to officially setting the tax rate for 2011. Both wireless and wire-line 911 fees remain set at \$1.50.

Beginning with fiscal year 2010, the GCIC revenues and expenses were removed from the general fund and placed in an enterprise fund. The council dedicated any surplus from that fund to be used for capital purchases. It should be noted that the previous projected surplus numbers do not include the surplus numbers for the GCIC Fund. The GCIC fund is expected to finish 2010 with a surplus in the area of \$400,000. This surplus allows us to budget revenue already in the bank for the purchase of capital equipment in 2011 while reducing the load on the general fund operating budget.

There are a number of factors that contribute to this projected surplus:

- ✓ The retirement contribution for 2011 will decrease from 26% to 14% for all employees that remain in the defined benefit plan. All employees hired January 1, 2010, or later will be in the new defined contribution plan which is being funded at 10%. The reduction in the contributions to the defined benefit plan itself amounted to roughly a \$546,000 savings.
- ✓ The health insurance costs increased 13% but fortunately this increase was dwarfed by the decrease in retirement contributions.
- ✓ The fees for residential sanitation services are being raised from \$200 to \$265, the same rate currently being charged by DeKalb.
- ✓ The occupational tax rates and the method used to determine the tax are being increased and changed to similar rates and method used by DeKalb County and Dunwoody. Our rates have not been adjusted for almost 15 years. This is projected to result in an increase of approximately \$400,000 for the businesses currently located in the city. There is only a minimal amount figured in for the annexed area due to a lack of information at the current time.

#### **Key Financial Impacts for 2011:**

- ✓ There are a number of additional employees included due to the annexation. The police budget includes twelve additional officers and five additional 911 operators. The public works department budget includes three additional employees and an additional three are included in the storm water budget. City hall has an additional employee as well.
- ✓ The permits and inspections functions of the development department will be out-sourced in 2011 to the vendor currently doing our building inspections.

- ✓ Funding is included to allow for doing an early full update to the city's comprehensive plan. The city is due to update the short term work plan in 2011 but we believe it would be best to do a full update in light of the annexation. It is estimated this will cost around \$75,000.
- ✓ The proposed budget includes a one-time pay adjustment of 2% for all full-time employees which will be handled similar to a bonus rather than a raise in pay.
- ✓ All capital equipment being purchased for the police department due to the annexation is being done with a lease purchase program through GMA. The equipment is being leased for a 5 year period which allows the start-up costs to be spread out over time. Among other things, that lease includes six patrol vehicles, an additional CID vehicle, the emergency equipment for the vehicles and equipment for the additional officers. The budget also includes funds to purchase four additional patrol vehicles outright to replace four current vehicles.
- ✓ A replacement garbage truck is included and it too will be leased for a five year period. The public works director is changing to a larger and more expensive truck in preparation for taking over sanitation responsibilities in the annexed area.
- ✓ A new fund has been created in the chart of accounts to accommodate the technology fee which was established in mid 2009 as an additional add-on fee to traffic citations. The fees from this fund are being applied to the technology and software needs of the police, courts and 911 center as required by the adopting ordinance. Since the fees were not used in 2009 or 2010, we will again be able to budget the use of funds already in the bank from this special revenue fund in 2011.
- ✓ It is anticipated that the city will again need to obtain a tax anticipation note during 2011 however it may not be required quite as early. Of course, this also depends on how we are impacted by the annexation costs.



**CHAMBLEE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** will meet on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9am at the Chamblee Civic Center. Networking begins at 7:30 am; meeting starts at 8am. Admission: First time guest are free, \$5 for members. The Chamblee Business Association is directed by local business people with the purpose of making Chamblee a great place to do business!! Dues start as low as \$100 for individual membership. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.chambleebusinessassociation.com/>

**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CHAMBLEE** - meets every Thursday at the 57th Fighter Group. Guests are always welcome. \$13 includes a guest speaker presentation, lunch with beverage and tax & tip.

**KEEP CHAMBLEE BEAUTIFUL** is continuing the commemorative brick sale being held for placement at Clairmont Park. The bricks will be \$30.00 each or \$50.00 for 2. Remember your loved ones, past or present. You will be allowed to have 2 lines with 14 characters per line. More information available at Chamblee library, Civic Center or City Hall or by calling the LANKFORD's at 770-455-0273. We will keep the program open until spring, when the bricks will be engraved by Giles Marble Co.



## YOUTH SPORTS

Welcome new residents to the most affordable youth sports program in the area!! We reward our tax payers with a heavily discounted registration fee. Our soccer program is just \$60 per child and baseball



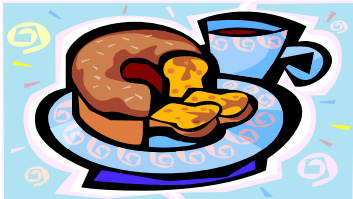
is only \$40. That includes uniforms and a trophy at the end of the season. Regular prices are \$90 for soccer and \$80 for baseball. Residents also receive an extra week to sign up. Registration for our youth sports begins on Monday, January 3 for residents and on January 10 for all participants. You have until Friday, February 11 to sign your child up either in person at our office (3540 Broad St.) or online at [www.chambleega.com](http://www.chambleega.com). Just call to set up your account!

**SOCCER:** Our soccer program is offered to boys and girls ages 4-15. Most teams are co-ed and our coaches are wonderful parent volunteers! Practices are held at Keswick Park and most games are home as well. Older teams will travel for some games.

**TEE-BALL:** Baseball has all practices and games at Keswick Park. We offer tee-ball for 3&4 year olds, underhanded coach pitch for 5&6 year olds and over handed coach pitch for 7&8 year olds.

For both sports, practices will begin in February and games will run March-May.

**DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE** - Our annual event will be held on Saturday, February 12th from 6-9pm. This event is for dads to twirl & whirl their daughters ages 12 and under around the dance floor! For just \$30 per couple, dads and daughters will enjoy dinner, dancing, and a professional portrait to take home. Just \$5 for any additional girls. Don't forget to practice your best moves for the swing dance contest with great prizes for all! Call 770-986-5016 for more information. Reservations are required!



**The Chamblee Senior Breakfast Club** will not meet in January. The next meeting will be on February 3, 2011. The program will probably be the video on the History of Chamblee. Please check the February calendar for details.

**GO PAPERLESS:** You can save paper by receiving this newsletter online. E-mail 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.



**KEEP CHAMBLEE BEAUTIFUL** will be holding the annual **BRING ONE FOR THE CHIPPER** on Saturday Jan 8th 2011, at the Chamblee Civic Center on Broad ST. You may start dropping off on Jan 3rd-9th. We will be there to help on Saturday, from 9am-1pm. Bring your Christmas trees to be recycled and your phone books, also to recycle.

Christmas trees can be recycled into mulch, fuel or fish habitats. The mulch is used for public beautification projects, and is available from our Sanitation Dept. For more information call the Lankford's at 770-455-0273 or visit **KEEP GEORGIA BEAUTIFUL.ORG**.