



# City Manager Update

July 22, 2022



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROGRAMS

1. July 27: Chamblee 101 Reunion & New Class Kick-off
2. July 30: Elaine Clark Center – Exceptional Evening
3. August 2: National Night Out: NNO allows the community to get to know their fellow neighbors and police officers. Neighborhoods are invited to host a cookout or other gathering and invite Chamblee police officers, elected officials, and city staff to visit. The registration link is open and can be found at: <https://forms.gle/kwgmArWrNBDWHVDs9>.
4. August 9: Nonprofit Partnership Program – Let's Talk About Volunteers
5. August 26: Chamblee Summer Concert Series – Plain White T's and Fastball

## GOAL A: CREATE A GREATER SENSE OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY

*The focus of this strategic goal is to promote the city as a unique place with which residents are proud to identify. We are unpretentious and proud of the hard work ethic that has been developed from a history that spans from farms to industry. We are an inclusive community that is a destination where you can start your career, open your business, raise your family, and retire. We will achieve our goal through implementing objectives that reinforce and promote our city brand in a way that defines who we are and draws people who are in alignment.*

1. Boy Scout, Chris Beck, completed his Eagle Scout project at Centennial Park (City Hall). Chris built a selfie station in front of the City Hall mural that included expansion of the existing landscaping and addition of new plants.
2. New City Hall: Reeves Young is working through EarthCraft requirement issue and has provided an updated timeline that shows completion on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Parks and Recreation Staff designed and released the Fall/Winter 2022-2023 Activity Guide. The guide, which shows all programs offered through the department, can be found on the City Website and on the parks and recreation registration page at [www.chambleerec.com](http://www.chambleerec.com).
4. Installation of the mural at the ride share park began on July 15th and is anticipated to be completed by July 29th. Artist Matt Field (known as Matt Lettr of All City Murals) will be completing the piece illustrating different dance styles in vibrant colors.
5. Chamblee 101 will kick off with the reunion on July 27 and the first class will be held on August 10. As of July 18, there are 27 people registered for the class. Registration closes on July 25. To register, visit [bit.ly/2022chamblee101](https://bit.ly/2022chamblee101).

6. The city was selected by CGI Digital, a video production company that works in partnership with the National League of Cities, to participate in a Community Showcase Video Program. The program produces four professional videos with subject matter that may include a welcome, education, healthy living, homes/real estate, or community organizations, at no cost to the city. City staff will begin meeting with CGI Digital and draft a plan by the end of July.
7. In addition to the Community Showcase Video Program, CGI Digital has a Streetscape Banner Program. The program includes custom designed banners that are updated annually and installed on light poles along main streets. Staff has scheduled meetings with CGI Digital to discuss this free program and the potential of enrolling for the Peachtree Road streetscape.
8. Code Conspirators, the contractor to assist with organizing and writing/rewriting website content, has scheduled meetings with each of the department directors. Meetings will take place from July to the beginning of August, site mapping and content creation will occur from August to September, and content migration will be in October and November.
9. The first set of employee spotlights and “Why I Serve” social media posts were placed on Facebook and LinkedIn at the beginning of July. In recognition of the hard work of city staff, there will be at least one spotlight of a city employee that will ask casual questions (i.e. what’s your favorite movie?) and one #WhyIServe (why the staff member chose to work in the public sector) post on Facebook and LinkedIn.
10. Staff has begun posting weekly videos of various happenings in the city on Facebook. The videos posted thus far include a recap of the Chamblee Chalk Walk and the 4th of July Celebration. City staff is working to draft a list of video topics that will be posted throughout the remainder of 2022.
11. E-Signal Report
  - a. Last distribution: July 1, 2022
    - i. Recipients: 3,294
    - ii. Opens: 1,275
  - b. Next distribution: August 5, 2022

## **GOAL B: SUPPORT A THRIVING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**

*The focus of this strategic goal is for the City to be responsive to the needs of current businesses as well as co-create programs and policies that support sustainable growth. Chamblee will create a business climate that has a sustainable mix of uses (retailers, companies, and industry) that provides a mix of jobs for all skill levels and career stages. Chamblee will become known in metro*

*Atlanta as a great place to do business, as an affordable place to live at every stage of life, and for its unique blend of tradition and innovative spirit.*

1. The Planning and Development Department issued the approval letter for the LDP for the Chamblee International Logistics Center (ILC) development consisting of 5 warehouse buildings on the 28-acre former International Village site. The Site Pre-Construction meeting with staff is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20th.
2. The Planning and Development Department held a coordination meeting with Toll Brothers and their team to discuss the plat and LDP processes as well as review submittals for the Chamblee Park project at Parsons Dr and Deacon Lane.
3. Over 200 restaurants were contacted via email and invited to participate in a roundtable discussion with business leaders and city staff. Six businesses have signed up to participate so far. The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28th.
4. The MOU between the City of Chamblee and the Latin American Chamber of Commerce (LACC) was approved by Council. The city will now organize a roundtable discussion and, with the help of LACC, provide training and support for Latin American businesses.
5. Marketing material was created for businesses that are looking for a new location or would like to relocate to a different area in the city. The flyer includes a link where business owners can check available properties and ways that the city can help with and assist with business expansion or relocations.
6. Chamblee Business e-Newsletter Report:
  - a. 311 contacts; 290 subscribers
  - b. Sent on July 7 (Invitation for Roundtable Discussion with Restaurant Businesses and City Staff):
    - i. 38.3% open rate (Peer average is 37.1%, list average is 30.9%)
    - ii. 0.7% clicks (Peer average is 7.8%, list average is 2.5%)

### **GOAL C: PROMOTE A HEALTHY AND SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

*The focus of this goal is two-fold. First, to create an active and sustainable community that does not sacrifice assets or commodities that have future value for today's economic development or political gains. Secondly, we want to create and maintain a feeling of safety where people feel secure to live and participate in our community.*

1. The final Project Advisory Group meeting for the Housing Study was conducted on July 14<sup>th</sup> as well as a presentation to Council. The report is in finalization with delivery anticipated by the end of July.
2. Staff is working to complete the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing application and participated in a call on July 15<sup>th</sup> for communities that are applying.

3. Public Works:

- a. Removed 1 tree from Kim Lane;
- b. Removed 6 dead animals from roadways;
- c. Cut tree limbs back from ROW at Clairmont Rd. and W. Hardee Ave.
- d. Replaced three stop signs;
- e. Replaced six 25 mph signs;
- f. Replaced two 35 mph signs;
- g. Filled pothole at Keswick Park Playground area;
- h. Replaced four sections of sidewalk at Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd between Chamaun Pl. and Grammercy Cir;

**GOAL D: DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN STRONG MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIONS**

*The focus of this goal is to improve and maintain a strong level of connectivity in the community; remembering that there are multiple forms of transportation that are and will be valued in the future. Chamblee will be a walkable and connected community where people have several options for getting around, both within the city and to important destinations outside the city.*

1. The PATH Foundation held a kick-off meeting with City staff to share team member contact information, schedule community engagement meetings, form a steering committee, collect data, and discuss the project scope and timeline of the city master trail plan.
2. Staff and consultants are working with GDOT on the Chamblee Tucker Path grant. The aviation division of GDOT has rejected the path through the “fly zone” as an incompatible use. The city and consultants are working towards a variance based on the fact that other communities have pedestrian and bicycle paths within similar zones and the use is no different than the current sidewalk. This will delay the start of this project.
3. Peachtree Road Bridge Improvements: Pedestrian panels are installed.

**GOAL E: PROVIDE QUALITY GOVERNMENT SERVICE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION**

*Chamblee is a well-managed city that works cooperatively with adjacent governments to reach common goals. The city believes in transparent government that actively strives to positively engage all citizens and community groups.*

1. The City of Chamblee redistricting map (the website with various maps and data used during the redistricting process to publicize and solicit feedback on proposed changes) **was one of 10 maps recognized internationally at the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego last week.** ESRI is the world’s largest provider of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, and the User Conference is the largest GIS conference in the world.

The map is still available for viewing at <https://redistricting2022-chamblee.hub.arcgis.com/>

2. The Planning and Development Department re-launched its customer satisfaction survey. To-date, as of July 18th, 83 responses have been received over the past two weeks. In summary, around 90% of respondents indicated “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with our services. For those with experience in other jurisdictions, 85% indicated that compared with other departments, our permitting process is “Easy,” “Very Easy” or the “About the same level of difficulty as other jurisdictions.
3. Staff completed initial Business Plan draft meetings with each department. Business plans must be completed by August 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff will hold a workshop with Strategic Government Resources on August 30 to review and discuss draft business plans before community engagement session in September. Draft plans and feedback will be presented to council before they are finalized for approval at the December city council meeting.
4. Foresite Group and Parks and Recreation Staff held the first Public Input Meeting for Keswick Park at the Keswick Community Center. Twenty-eight Chamblee residents attended in person and two attended online via Zoom.
5. Staff is proceeding with Azimuth Grants to complete and submit grant applications for the National Endowment for The Arts (NEA) Our Town grant as well as the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) following Council authorization. The NEA grant would fund several downtown art pieces including an installation in partnership with the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance. The GOSP grant would fund the linear park at Savory Drive.
6. Community-Oriented Policing (COPS) Program:
  - a. Officer Lina Garcia conducted a community talk at the Guatemala Consulate, held 3 community meetings throughout Chamblee, and participated in meetings in reference to a future Health fair for the Hispanic Heritage Month.
7. Homelessness Initiative & Comprehensive Plan:
  - a. 100 homeless necessities backpacks were donated by Chamblee UMC to be distributed by patrol officers. These include water and other essential items.
  - b. The Police Department worked with PDK Security to dismantle homeless camps in the wooded buy-out area. Eight persons were encountered over two days.

## **AUGUST AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Presentation of Audit Findings
2. MARTA Mural Agreement: A contract is in draft with MARTA and Lauren Stumberg for installation of a mural and will be presented at the August Council meeting, with work anticipated to begin this fall.

3. PZ2022-1009 – 5544 Peachtree Blvd. Chamblee Plaza Sign Variance: The proposed project is the replacement of the bottom sign cabinet with an electronic changeable copy sign an existing, non-conforming monument pole sign, near the Peachtree Boulevard frontage at the front of the site. The changeable copy sign is approximately 14.5 ft tall and 7-ft wide and will be located approximately 11-ft from grade. It will replace the 15-ft by 7-ft bottom sign cabinet that currently fits about 4 tenant names. The changeable copy sign will have a display time of 6 seconds for every message.
4. PZ2022-1021 – 1750 8th St (Public Hearing) SFR Retaining Wall Variance: The applicants request a variance from the materials regulations for retaining walls visible from the public right-of-way to bring into compliance a wooden retaining wall in the front yard of a single-family residential lot in the NR-1 zoning district. The retaining wall replaced a failing wooden retaining wall of similar dimensions that the applicant had removed immediately prior to its installation.
5. PZ2022-1022 – 2135 American Industrial Way (Public Hearing) Monument Sign, Wall Sign, and Roof Sign Variances: The applicant requests four (4) sign variances for an adaptive re-use conversion of a single-story 35,000 sq ft warehouse building into Class A office space, which is nearing completion. The variances are to from Ch. 4, Sec. B (1) of the PUD Pattern Book, allow a ground sign in the Downtown Chamblee Town Center PUD district between the building and the street and within 50 ft of the public right-of-way; from Ch. 260 of the UDO to allow a second sign on a single façade; and From CH. 260 of the UDO to allow a sky view roof sign.
6. TA2022-04 Text Amendments to Ch. 18 of the Code of Ordinances to establish a Vacant Property Registry (First Read in August)
7. PZ2021-993: 5007 New Peachtree Road and 1100 Vijay Drive Townhome Rezoning, DCI, and Variances and Waivers (Second Read in August): The applicant requests a rezoning from IT to VR, a DCI, and variances and waivers from regulations related to townhome supplemental regulations, retaining wall height, building materials, streetscape design, and inter-parcel connectivity for the redevelopment of the site to a townhome and mixed-use multi-family project. The applicant proposed to install a segment of the New Peachtree Road trail.
8. Resolution for Future Land Use (FLU) Map amendment 5007 New Peachtree Road and 1100 Vijay Drive – associated with zoning case PZ2021-993, to amend the FLU Map from Mixed Use to Medium-Density Residential.
9. TA2022-05: Text Amendments to the UDO, Title 2, Ch. 240 Regarding Uses (Second Read in August)
10. Amendment of the Massage and Spa Establishment Regulations (Second Read)