



# Activity Report

## August 17, 2022



### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROGRAMS

1. August 10 - October 18: Chamblee 101
2. August 18: Chamblee Trail Master Plan Open House #1 (6-7:30pm at the Public Safety Building – Court Room, 4445 Buford Hwy.)
3. August 23: Chamblee Trail Master Plan Open House #2 (6-7:30pm at the Keswick Community Center, 3496 Keswick Dr.)
4. 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. New Hire Spotlight: Gabby Cazeau began as the newest member of the Planning and Development team in the role of Senior Planner on August 15th. Gabby previously served Chamblee on a contracted basis before accepting a position with Gwinnett County. We're excited to have Gabby back in the department!
2. Three job offers were extended to fill two part-time front desk receptionist positions and the Capital Projects Coordinator position in City Hall with a start date of August 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. New City Hall:
  - a. Completion date of the new city hall has been pushed to September 16 due to supply chain delays on rebar and concrete for the west side (back end) retaining wall that must be installed to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy
  - b. Furniture installation has begun inside the building and will start with the third floor and work down to the first over the next three weeks
4. Huntley Hills, Variations, and Wakefield Forest participated in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2.
5. Staff assisted Cop-N-Stuff with their annual Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 6.
6. The Nonprofit Partnership Let's Talk About... roundtable series returned on Tuesday, August 9.

7. The first Chamblee 101 class we held on Wednesday, August 10 and the City Manager's Office and City Clerk taught the first class.
8. Code Conspirators, the contractor assisting with the new city website has one department remaining and will proceed with creating and updating content and creating the sitemap for the new website.

## **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. Finance and Code Enforcement Staff met to discuss a new scope of work with HdL for occupation tax licensing discovery and compliance. That scope of work with HdL should kick off in October.
2. The Planning and Development Department issued the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for the new Publix at Chamblee Plaza and issued two Certificates of Completion (CC) for the adjacent retail tenant white box spec suites. The project manager for the Publix project stated that Publix plans to open on August 24th.
3. Economic Development staff engaged with 15 businesses including Onyx Creative, Pull Spark, Select Shades, Atlanta Restoration Chiropractic, Gusto, DexaFit Atlanta, Accent Graphics Inc, DerMed Institute and Serene Dental Solutions.
4. Chamblee business e-newsletter report:
  - a. 311 contacts; 290 subscribers
  - b. Topic: Small Business Survey to understand your needs
    - i. 40.5% open rate (Peer average is 39%, list average is 31.2%)
    - ii. 1.4% clicks (Peer average is 7.5%, 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 City's application for Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) has been selected as a finalist to move to the next round of consideration. Next steps in the

process are a meeting of our Chamblee Housing Team (August 16<sup>th</sup>) and then a site visit by the GICH selection committee on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

2. Staff participated on a panel discussion of affordable housing as part of the inaugural DeKalb City Summit hosted by the DeKalb Chamber on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Feedback on submission for Green Communities recertification was received. Staff is working to complete edits and submit requested documentation prior to the October 7<sup>th</sup> deadline for feedback response.
4. Public Works Administration:
  - a. Staff invoiced 4 Special Pickups
  - b. Locker Room Renovations – Plans are in review by Planning & Development
5. Stormwater Division:
  - a. Public Works is partnering with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to be a pilot of their Stormwater Forecast Model;
  - b. Fabricated new storm drain inlet utilizing rebar for reinforcement at 2200 Wentworth Drive;
  - c. Cleared storm drain at Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd and Colt Drive;
  - d. Inspected Storm drain at Grammercy Circle for proper water flow.
6. Sanitation Division:
  - a. Staff completed 12 special pick-ups
  - b. *Vehicles out of Service:* Unit # 89 Leaf Truck, Unit # 163 Rear Loader, ASL oil pressure issue, repair under warranty.
7. Facility Maintenance: Staff completed 23 maintenance requests.
8. Parks & Streetscape Division:
  - a. Removed 4 dead animals from roadways;
  - b. Cut low hanging limbs around Dresden Elementary School;
  - c. Removed 5 shopping carts from ROW.
9. Roadway & Walkways:
  - a. Staff replaced 2 stop signs;
  - b. Replaced 2 street name signs;
  - c. Installed (2) Do Not Enter signs at Dresden Elementary;
  - d. Installed (2) One Way Signs at Dresden Elementary;
  - e. Inspected School zone signs, traffic signs and crosswalks at all schools;
  - f. Repainted crosswalks at Dresden Elementary;
  - g. Transported digital message board to Harts Mill Rd for LMIG Project.

#### **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. MARTA is hosting a bus tour of Buford Highway August 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the transportation needs in the corridor, including ART vs BRT options. Councilmember Robson and staff will attend.

#### **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 Manager's Office hosted the City of Franklin, Tennessee for a tour of the city's new city hall facility. The City of Franklin staff reached out with a request to tour the property due to its design elements and similar features to their city hall project currently underway.
2. The City Manager's Office met with Strategic Government Resources to discuss an upcoming staff workshop on the city's update to the operational strategic plan. SGR will be facilitating a staff workshop on August 30<sup>th</sup> for all city department directors and associated staff.
3. The City Manager's Office is working with each department to develop departmental business plans. This process launched at the end of May and the business plan drafts are due to the City Manager's Office on August 19<sup>th</sup>. These business plans will be critical to the development of the city's updated operational strategic plan, which will be presented to council for approval in December along with the annual budget.
4. Staff is working to update the Service Delivery Strategy with Dekalb County; an updated resolution will be on the agenda in September.
5. Human Resources is currently working with Peachtree Benefit Group to collect proposals and quotes for the city's 2023 health insurance benefits plan. This information will be shared with council before approval during the September city council meeting.
6. UFA Soccer-Chamblee met with Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the upcoming fall season, decline in participation numbers and potential reasons, marketing, pricing, uniforms, and need for field space once Dresden is under construction. Staff will work with UFA to push fall registration and will help them in securing space for practices and games once Dresden is under construction.

7. Chamblee's final portion of application for the National Endowment for The Arts (NEA) Our Town grant was submitted August 16th. Staff in Economic Development and City Manager's office worked to gather 10 letters of support from key partners, including downtown businesses and the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance. The NEA grant would fund several downtown art pieces including an installation in partnership with the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance.
8. Community-Oriented Policing Program (COPs):
  - a. Staff conducted meeting at the Guatemala Consulate with residents;
  - b. Supported the Plaza Fiesta and Dresden Park back-to-school events;
  - c. Conducted a visit at Dresden Elementary School.
9. Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP): Hopstix Restaurant at 3404 Pierce Drive enrolled.
10. Homelessness Initiative & Comprehensive Plan: Staff facilitated 9 clinician referrals through the Co-Responder Program.