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Publisher............................................. Linda Mosely
Executive Editor................................. Mark Mosely
Marketing Executive ......................... Christy Craig
Managing Editor ................................. Teresa Greer
Editorial/PR Coordinator .................... Bonnie Hunter
Associate Editor ................................. Andrew Smith
Creative Director ................................. Stephen Hefner
Production Director .......................... Rachel Rowell
Graphic Designer ............................... Spence Garcia
Graphic Designer ............................... Erin Fortenberry
Graphic Designer ............................... Bob Swinehart
Graphic Designer ............................... Daniel Thompson
Photographer ................................. Mike Schalk
Videoographer ................................. Michelle Holton
Proofing Coordinator ......................... Sharee Copeland
Digital Marketing Strategist .............. Lauren Tingler
Digital Marketing Strategist .............. Nate Faulkenberry
Director, IT ................................ Thomas Schaefer
Business Manager ............................ Connie Parker
Administration Director .................. Amy Anderson

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**Population**

200,303

**COLUMBUS POPULATION**

**MEDIAN AGE 33.6**

- 65 & OLDER: 12.0%
- 45-64: 23.3%
- 20-44: 36.7%
- 19 & YOUNGER: 28.0%

**Business**

- 4,359 Companies
- 9.6 Minutes Mean travel time to work
- 42,661 Median Household Income
- 9,554 Muscogee Co. Labor Force
- 197,766 Columbus Area Labor Force

**Housing**

- **MEDIAN HOME VALUE** $138,600
- **MEDIAN GROSS RENT** $844

**Education**

- Bachelor's Degree or Higher: 25.0%
- High School Graduate or Higher: 86.6%

**Climate**

- **ANNUAL HIGH**: 76.1°F
- **ANNUAL LOW**: 55.1°F
- **AVERAGE TEMP**: 65.6°F
- **AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION**: 46.7 inches

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Georgia Dept. of Labor Area Profile Nov. 2018
Welcome to Columbus
COLUMBUS

We Do Amazing!
n behalf of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the community at large, I welcome you to this wonderful place we call home.

As our mantra says, “We Do Amazing,” and if you spend any time here, I think you’ll find this is true.

While Greater Columbus is certainly a place where ideas flourish, businesses thrive, and innovation thrusts us forward, it’s also a place were families settle down, children grow, and community is developed.

The Chamber of Commerce prides itself on being the bridge between industry and the residents. Our staff has an undeniable passion for helping Greater Columbus reach its potential and we work diligently to ensure all citizens have opportunities to achieve their dreams.

The Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in West Georgia. As you read this publication, you’ll see the many ways the Chamber partners with local government, non-profits, educational institutions and businesses of all sizes to give our community the necessary foundation for steady and meaningful growth.

With plenty of small-town charm and an ample supply of big-city opportunity, Greater Columbus has become an attractive place to not only live but also build a business. Whether it’s an emerging startup or a Fortune 500 company, Greater Columbus has the support network in place to develop resources, locate real estate and tap into a qualified workforce.

Whether you’re visiting or relocating, step into the spirit of Greater Columbus and find out how you can be part of something Amazing.

Visit columbusgachamber.com or call us at 706.327.1566 to invest in the chamber.
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Chris Woodruff is a shining example of the innovative spirit and pursuit of progress that drives the people of Columbus. From the second floor of his modern industrial office, Chris looks out over the revitalized 1200 Block of Broadway in Uptown Columbus. The landscape of the city has changed significantly since he was a boy growing up in the area.

Unused buildings have been repurposed, the waterfront along the Chattahoochee River has been developed to become a hallmark of the area and several Fortune 500 companies now call Greater Columbus home.

We sat down with Chris from the offices of The Cotton Companies, the real estate development and investment firm he founded in 2016, to find out what makes the people of Columbus tick and why the area has been so successful in achieving steady growth since its inception in 1828.

Chris, a 1997 graduate of Brookstone High School, specializes in adaptive reuse and urban infill projects, several of which have taken Uptown to new heights. He speaks with a strong reverence for the history of his hometown and the accomplishments of past leaders. Chris is confident that he, his peers and future generations have the will and knowledge to move the region forward.

Q: How did growing up in Columbus shape you?
A: Growing up, I watched and saw that anyone can make a difference. You can see this in Columbus—that it didn’t matter who you were or what you came from, and I was fortunate to grow up with this mentality.
If you want to do something for the right reasons and people are behind you – you can do it. There’s a sense of community and sense of ability to bring about change… you don’t see this as much in a larger city. Ultimately, it’s not what’s in the water, it’s what’s in the people. If we want to do it, we can. If the time is right and the cause is right, we’ll roll up our sleeves and we will do it – together.

**Q:** How does the size of the Greater Columbus area factor into the ability to bring about change?

**A:** Columbus is not a small town, it’s not a big town, it’s the perfect size in between. In Columbus, I – or anyone – can have an idea, take it to the right people, garner support, implement change, and they can positively impact people or the community in days, weeks or months. Not years, not decades, like some larger cities. You can do it in a reasonable time frame. Columbus is small enough where you can effectuate change, but big enough to see the impact made.

**Q:** What drives the innovation and culture in Columbus?

**A:** Going through Columbus’ history you will see marked moments of innovation fueled by…locals and transplants. There is an underlying element of appreciation and cooperation amongst everyone in this community to help innovation succeed. That is something that has historically been in Columbus… that stems from an environment where innovation is celebrated, and I think what we’ve seen in the past decade is that it is growing even more. And that is a testament, I believe, to the community that is Columbus. Why are we such an innovative community? It’s because our leadership truly does embrace the younger generations and they want to help them. And they do. Couple this with the incredible public-private partnership we have in this community and all walks of life can grow. They just have to raise their hand or ask the question “how”.

**Q:** What is the mission of The Cotton Companies?

**A:** At The Cotton Companies, we fundamentally believe that community can be changed through the built environment. People experience life on a daily basis through the buildings and the parks and the trees around them. If done correctly, I believe that community can be enhanced because of that. And I think our pioneer project, which was the transformation of two dilapidated buildings at 1230 and 1232 Broadway, is a great case study to that – as is the median pocket park that sits out front of those two buildings.

**Q:** What’s your favorite thing about the Greater Columbus Region?

**A:** That’s tough. I choose to be in Columbus. I chose to move back to Columbus (in 2002 after attending University of Colorado, Boulder). And I choose to continue to stay here because of the opportunities that exist within the community to build relationships and show positive movement and change. It’s an interesting town, with interesting people. It has a great history and a lot of things to do… as simple as, me waking up in the morning and taking my pup, Daisy, for a stroll on the RiverWalk… then grabbing lunch somewhere in Uptown. And then hopping in my kayak and going whitewater kayaking. And then culminating the day with dinner with friends in Uptown. There’s so much to do and it’s all in our backyard here. So, my favorite thing to do? Is to experience everything Columbus has to offer.

~by Andrew Smith & Bonnie Hunter
In Hollywood, they say “money talks.” If that adage is true, then Georgia’s film industry is speaking loud and clear, and Columbus is listening. Annually, the film industry contributes $9.5 billion to the state’s economy and several Greater Columbus area organizations want to secure the region’s piece of the pie.

The Future of Filmmaking in Columbus

By Andrew Smith & Bonnie Hunter
“Our goal is to promote Columbus as a film-friendly destination, with the expertise, knowledge, and skill sets to navigate the local environment in a way that is efficient and productive for anyone in the film, television, and entertainment industry.”

~ Peter Bowden

Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce | www.columbusgachamber.com | 706.327.1566
The Columbus Film Commission

Starting in 2010, the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office launched the Camera Ready Communities program, designed to connect film and television productions with skilled county-based liaisons across the state while providing local expertise and support.

Thanks to the leadership of Peter Bowden, president and CEO of VisitColumbusGA, Columbus was one of the first communities to become certified by the State. Bowden, who worked passionately to develop the Columbus Film Commission within his existing organization, said film and television production in the area starts with the Columbus Film Commission.

The Columbus Film Commission serves as a point of contact in Muscogee County for production teams considering the area for an upcoming film or series. Bowden and his staff are ready to assist by providing information and resources.

“We have identified – and continue to build – resources and processes to help streamline film making wherever possible,” Bowden said.

From accommodations and catering, to scouting locations and securing permits, the Columbus Film Commission uses local insight and well-established relationships to showcase the area and assure production companies that the community is equipped and excited to assist and support their project.
Just like the Greater Columbus Region, the doors of StartUP Columbus are open for new businesses. StartUP Columbus’ storefront space on Broadway is a prime location for prospective entrepreneurs looking to take the next step on the journey to owning a business or creating a product.

Founded in 2018, StartUP Columbus is a non-profit business incubator that works with area residents to turn good ideas into profitable businesses. Program Manager Ben MacMinn said the organization’s mission is to support local entrepreneurs by providing work space, mentorship and assistance in securing funds to start a new business.

“We act as a conduit, if you will, to connect prospective entrepreneurs to their best resource,” MacMinn said. “We want business ownership to be an option for all residents of the Greater Columbus Area.”

With so many things to consider when starting a business, like securing a license and applying for necessary permits, MacMinn said the free support StartUP provides in the initial phases of development can help eliminate many bumps in the road.

StartUP Columbus is a direct expression of Columbus 2025, the area’s long-range economic development strategy championed by Columbus officials and organizations, including the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the City of Columbus, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Columbus State University Foundation.

Guided by the Regional Prosperity Initiative, Columbus 2025 was developed in 2014 to align the region’s collective community and economic development efforts in a comprehensive and holistic plan of action for the next decade and beyond.

The philosophy of Columbus 2025 uses action areas, such as fostering an enterprising culture, implementing targeted economic growth, and the importance of talented and educated people.

As the concept from which it sprang would suggest, StartUP Columbus is squarely focused on new avenues for economic development, from mom-and-pops to large corporations.

“Of course, we support entrepreneurs that generate two or three jobs, but we also want to focus on ideas and businesses that are going to employ dozens or hundreds of local residents,” MacMinn said.

To connect with StartUP Columbus, please visit StartUpColGa.com.
The landscape of work has changed greatly in the last decade. With the connected nature of the current working world, the days of a business operating solely in a corporate office setting are long gone.

Enter CoWork Columbus, W.C. Bradley Real Estate’s latest venture and the next phase of modern workspace in Columbus. Located on the street level of the Eagle and Phenix Mill 3, CoWork Columbus has positioned itself as the ideal workplace solution for startups, established companies, consultants and freelancers with a desire to get out of a traditional office complex, home office, or crowded coffee shops.

Opened in February 2019, CoWork Columbus is a membership-driven facility that offers six private offices, 18 dedicated desks and more than 50 flexible workstations. Members have access to a full complement of amenities including two shared conference rooms with up-to-date tech functionality, three private phone booths for personal conversations, a fully stocked refreshment center, a high-speed color copier-printer-scanner, and Wi-Fi connectivity with a dedicated fiber network.

Membership Coordinator Patti Martin said a diverse group of professionals use the space because it eliminates significant overhead costs and allows for flexibility. From real estate agents to accountants and engineers to online marketers, Columbus’ growing workforce is opting for less traditional operating spaces.

“A lot of people work remote or are new entrepreneurs trying to start here in Columbus,” Martin noted. “CoWork provides temporary or long-term space for them to work.”

While most members use the space during typical business hours, Martin said it’s not uncommon to see members working hard on nights and weekends.

“The feedback from our members has been very positive,” Martin said. “It’s open 24/7, so that flexibility is something that coffeeshops don’t offer.”

With a variety of membership options, CoWork is ideal for any number of established or emerging businesses.

Find out more:
CoWork Columbus
1201 Front Ave., Ste. N
Columbus, GA 31901
706.571.3400
cowork@wcbradley.com
cowork-columbus.com
Historically, Columbus has served as a hub for forward-thinking entrepreneurs. As global and state business climates ebb and flow, the strength and innovation of our local business leaders have allowed Greater Columbus to chart its own course.

Columbus is the ideal place to start, relocate, or expand your business. Approximately 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, the Greater Columbus Georgia Region is home to more than 450,000 residents. Our prime location adjacent to major highways in the No. 1 state for

WC Bradley Real Estate has played a large role in the transformation of Uptown Columbus.
business (2013-2018), means our companies can rely on:

- an extensive transportation network for national and global reach
- an educated and agile workforce supported by multiple universities and technical colleges
- a supply of motivated soldiers whose military careers are drawing to a close
- a wealth of resources to support industries such as aerospace, automotive, financial services, information security, call centers, and shared services, among others.

Once here, both corporate executives and their employees can enjoy exceptional economic prosperity and quality of life.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

Thirty Fortune® 1000 companies, 17 of which are also on the Fortune® 500, have planted headquarters in Georgia to lower production costs, grow a skilled workforce, optimize access to the world’s top business markets, and ultimately improve their bottom line. Two of those Fortune® companies, Aflac and TSYS, are home-grown Columbus headquartered companies. They are joined by corporate headquarters for Synovus, the W.C. Bradley Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, and Salt Life, among others. Additionally, multi-national companies such as Kia, Kodak, and Pratt & Whitney also have significant footprints in the region and continue to expand their operations.

Additionally, the region is home to Fort Benning and the Maneuver Center of Excellence, with approximately 38,000 military personnel, contractors and civilians working and training at the installation every day.
TRANSPORTATION

The Greater Columbus Region is less than two hours from Atlanta and less than 90-minutes from the world’s busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which connects to 150 U.S. destinations and 75 international destinations. We border the Alabama state line and have an extensive transportation network – including Interstates 185 and 85, CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads, and Columbus Metropolitan Airport. All these factors converge to create amazing access to regional and global markets.

WORKFORCE AND TRAINING

The Columbus Region leverages a bi-state workforce (West Georgia/East Alabama), many of whom hold certificates and/or...
degrees from Columbus State University, Troy University, Auburn University, Columbus Technical College and dozens of other top colleges and universities. These workers are highly skilled, wage competitive and possess a strong work ethic. In addition, veterans leaving service at Fort Benning potentially add as many as 1,300 prospective employees to the area workforce each year.

Businesses with specific training requirements may utilize Georgia’s renowned Quick Start program. Considered one of the top workforce training programs in the U.S., Quick Start offers free, customized training to new and expanding qualified companies.
Spearheaded by the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce, The Valley Partnership is a collaborative joint development authority whose mission is to enhance commerce and trade opportunities in the Greater Columbus Region. Members of The Valley Partnership include: Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Marion County, Muscogee County, Talbot County and the city of West Point.

Collective efforts continue to strengthen the region’s economy. The Valley Partnership turned vision into action by:

- optimizing partnerships
- developing and supporting industry growth
- improving employment opportunities
- creating and sustaining opportunities for business success
- supporting educational excellence and lifelong learning opportunities
- creating a diverse, family-friendly environment.

**BUSINESS PARKS**

- Benning Technology Park
- Corporate Ridge Business Park
- Phenix Industrial Park
- Muscogee Technology Park
- Northwest Harris Business Park
- Talbot County Industrial Park
- West Point Technology Park
The impact is clear in recent projects, such as the allocation of more than $100 million to fund cultural arts projects, vital infrastructure support, the 22-mile RiverWalk, and the Columbus RiverCenter. Over the last decade, the region has experienced the benefits of more than $2.8 billion in new capital investment and 18,000 new jobs.

Among the leading businesses in the region are Aflac, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kia, Pratt & Whitney, Synovus, and TSYS. These companies and others have realized the advantages that coincide with calling the Greater Columbus Region home.

INCENTIVES
State of Georgia (if applicable)

- **Job Tax Credits** – Most of Greater Columbus is Tier 2 – up to $3,000 credit per new job, minimum 10 jobs.
- **Quality Jobs Tax Credit** - $2,500 to $5,000 per job, per year for projects that create at least 50 net new qualifying jobs during a 24-month period, and jobs pay at least 110% of the average wage in the county.
- **Port Tax Credit Bonus** – an increase in imports or exports through a Georgia port by at least 10% may qualify for either a $1,250 bonus added to the job tax credit or an adjustment to the investment tax credit.
- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit** – federal tax credit to Georgia companies that hire individuals who have faced barriers to employment. The tax credit ranges from $1,200 to $9,000 per hire.
- **Mega Project Tax Credit** – Businesses that employ at least 1,800 “net new” employees and have either a minimum annual payroll of $150 million or make a minimum $450 million investment in Georgia may qualify for the mega project tax credit.
- **Investment Tax Credit** – Companies in manufacturing or telecommunications support that have operated in Georgia for at least three years are eligible to earn investment tax credits of 1 percent to 8 percent of qualified capital investments of $50,000 or more.
- **Research & Development Tax Credit** – Companies that spend more on qualified research in Georgia may qualify for an R&D tax credit equal to a percentage of that spending increase.
- **Retraining Tax Credit** – Georgia businesses may offset their investment in retraining employees to use new equipment or learn new skills. The credit equals 50% of direct training expenses, up to $500 credit per full-time employee, per training program.
- **Film, Television and Digital Entertainment Tax Credit** – Film and television companies may receive a tax credit of up to 30% of money spent on production and post-production in Georgia; minimum spending amount is $500,000.
- **Musical Tax Credit** – Eligible production companies that meet the applicable spending threshold may receive a tax credit of up to 20% on qualified production expenditures on eligible musical or theatrical performances or recordings.

Possible Local Incentives
- Property discounts
- Industrial revenue bonds-property tax abatement (requires application, through Development Authority)
- Accelerated permitting timelines
- Reduced utility costs
- Infrastructure improvements
- Freeport tax exemption
- Other incentives possible depending on scope of project
High quality education across all levels continues to fuel this already strong community. Residents of the region, of any age and interest, enjoy a deep pool and diverse mix of educational institutions.

Muscogee County’s nine public high schools have a four-year graduation rate of nearly 90%, more than 7% higher than the state average, while several private schools achieve strong academic results as well. Higher learning is a top priority for the workforce, which can meet the needs of the area’s top employers through matriculation at numerous post-secondary institutions. From preschool to post-grad, Columbus is a great place for students to cultivate their talents and prepare for the future.

**ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY**

The Muscogee County School District is recognized as one of the best school districts in the Central Georgia Region. The district includes 31 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, nine high schools and six centers and programs, serving more than 32,000 students. With more than 92% of all school-age children in Muscogee County attending public schools, the Muscogee County School District employs approximately 5,400 teachers, administrators, and staff. Of the professional employees, 66% have a master’s degree or higher; 93 have doctorates.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

**Brookstone School** is Columbus’ only K3-12 independent college preparatory program. At Brookstone, every student is challenged to discover the leader he or she is meant to be, to be bold in tackling problems, strong enough to stand firm, hold true to high ideals, and be fearless out in front.

**Calvary Christian School** is an ACSI and SACS-accredited K3-12 grade school. Calvary offers: Biblical instruction; AP and Honor classes; dual enrollment; fine arts; full athletic program; extra-curricular activities; weekly chapel; Discovery School for students with moderate learning disabilities; and before and after school care.

Students of many faiths enhance the diverse student body at PK-12 **St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School**. St. Anne-Pacelli offers small class sizes, AP classes, on-campus dual enrollment, 50+ clubs and activities, 12 sports teams, and 100% of its graduates are accepted into a college or university.

**INNOVATORS**

Amazing **Educational Opportunities** in the **Greater Columbus Region**

**St. Luke School**

**Chattahoochee Valley Community College**
St. Luke School, a ministry of St. Luke United Methodist Church, is an independent Christian school that serves children from junior kindergarten-8th grade and offers challenging academics, fine arts, competitive athletics, and servant leadership development.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) offers accessible, quality, and engaging educational opportunities through academic transfer, career and technical education, workforce development and adult education. A member of the Alabama Community College System, CVCC is a public, comprehensive, community college serving a diverse population through traditional classroom and distance-learning formats.

Columbus State University offers nationally distinctive programs in the arts, education, business, nursing and more. CSU is part of the University System of Georgia, enrolling more than 8,200 students in a wide variety of degree programs. Currently, the university offers 46 undergraduate and 42 graduate degrees.

Columbus Technical College is a two-year, regionally-accredited public college that consistently boasts a job placement rate of 100 percent, nearly 90 percent in-field. Columbus Tech offers associate degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates in more than 100 areas of study. Students may transfer courses and even entire degrees to many four-year colleges. The College also provides industry training and workforce education.

Georgia Military College – Columbus opened in 1996. Students take classes on campus or online and may earn Associate of Art or Science degrees or Bachelor of Applied Science degrees. GMC offers small class sizes, free tutoring, and eight-week terms. GMC has articulation agreements with more than 40 colleges and universities. GMC also has an office at the Soldier of Life Center at Fort Benning.

Mercer University School of Medicine established a clinical campus in Columbus in 2012, with both Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown Medical Center and St. Francis Hospital serving as the clinical partners in the students’ education. The School has graduated four classes of students and recently welcomed the sixth class to the Columbus campus. Mercer University is committed to expanding the Columbus campus of the School of Medicine to a four-year curriculum by the fall of 2021.

Miller-Motte Technical College provides the knowledge and hands-on training employers are looking for, including certificate and degree programs in fields such as healthcare, business, and short-term career training programs including ICD-10 and Microsoft Office. In as little as nine to 24 months, students gain the skills needed to succeed in the job market.

Troy University Phenix City’s Riverfront Campus houses the business, nursing, and social work programs, along with the Center for Water Resource Economics. The campus, located off U.S. 431, is home to the University’s education and arts and sciences programs.

University of Phoenix is innovating to help working adults move efficiently from education to careers in a rapidly changing world. Flexible schedules, relevant courses, and interactive learning help students more effectively pursue career aspirations while balancing their busy lives. University of Phoenix offers associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs.

The University of Oklahoma Extended Campus on Fort Benning offers a Master of Human Relations (HR) program and many 100% online programs. Focusing on the higher education needs of place-bound working adults, military-connected personnel, and those seeking specialized study in selected professional areas, OU offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate degrees.

CHATTahoochee VALLEY LIBRARIES

The Chattahoochee Valley Libraries serve 250,000 people across four counties – Chattahoochee, Marion, Muscogee and Stewart. The library system’s seven branches are owned and operated by the Muscogee County School System. In addition to traditional services, the libraries provide access to computers and Internet, bookmobiles, meeting rooms, computer labs and study areas, classes and activities, and many other services.

Completed in 2005, the Columbus Public Library is one of the “10 Most Beautiful Libraries in Georgia” according to the Georgia Public Library Service. It’s
the second largest library in the state, spanning 100,000 square feet, and features a Grand Reading room, an outdoor garden, and a story time space where children can participate in many activities.

In an area that celebrates art, culture and innovation, it’s no surprise to find such an exceptional library system. No matter the size, each branch is an amazing asset that supplies something important to the area. Amid the stacks and online, a world of discovery is waiting for you through the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.

RESOURCES

- **Muscogee County School District**  
  2960 Macon Rd., Columbus, GA 31906  
  706.748.2000 | muscogee.k12.ga.us
- **Brookstone School**  
  440 Bradley Park Dr., Columbus, GA 31904  
  706.324.1392 | brookstoneschool.org
- **Calvary Christian School**  
  7556 Old Moon Rd., Columbus, GA 31909  
  706.323.0467 | calvaryknights.com
- **St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School**  
  202 Kay Cir., Columbus, GA 31907  
  706.561.8232 | BeAViking.com
- **St. Luke**  
  318 11th St., Columbus, GA 31901  
  706.256.1301 | school.stlukeum.com
- **Chattahoochee Valley Community College**  
  2602 College Dr., Phenix City, AL 36869  
  334.291.4900 | cv.edu
- **Columbus State University**  
  4225 University Ave., Columbus, GA 31907  
  706.507.8800 | columbusstate.edu
- **Mercer University School of Medicine-Columbus**  
  33 West 11th St., Columbus, GA 31901  
  800.MERCER.U | medicine.mercer.edu
- **Columbus Technical College**  
  928 Manchester Expwy.  
  Columbus, GA 31904  
  706.649.1800 | columbustech.edu
- **Georgia Military College-Columbus**  
  7300 Blackmon Rd., Columbus, GA 31909  
  706.478.1688 | gmc.edu
- **Miller-Motte Technical College**  
  1800 Box Rd., Columbus, GA 31907  
  706.225.5637 | miller-motte.edu
- **Troy University**  
  1510 Whitewater Ave., Phenix City, AL 36867  
  334.448.5106 | troy.edu
- **University of Phoenix**  
  7200 North Lake Dr., Columbus, GA 31909  
  706.320.1266 | phoenix.edu
- **University of Oklahoma at Fort Benning**  
  8150 Marne Rd., Bldg. 9230,  
  Fort Benning, GA 31905  
  706.780.1183 | pacs.ou.edu
- **Chattahoochee Valley Libraries**  
  800.652.0783 | www.cvlga.org
- **Columbus Public Library**  
  706.652.2669
- **Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library**  
  706.989.3700
- **Marion County Public Library**  
  229.649.6385
- **Mildred L. Terry Public Library**  
  706.243.2782
- **North Columbus Public Library**  
  706.748.2855
- **Parks Memorial Public Library**  
  229.887.2103
- **South Columbus Public Library**  
  706.683.8805

Muscogee County Schools named State Economic Development Partnership District (next page)
The Muscogee County School District recently was recognized as one of the first districts in Georgia to become a State Economic Development Partnership District. At a September 2018 event, State School Superintendent Richard Woods commended Muscogee County Schools and four other districts for their efforts to build partnerships with local employers and gain knowledge of local industry needs.

“For the benefit of our students and our state, it’s essential that we forge stronger connections between the educational system and industry,” Woods said.

“Muscogee County Schools is doing an excellent job of working in partnership with their community to provide the best possible opportunities for students.”

The Economic Development Partnership program, which began in 2017, seeks to promote improved relationships between local school districts and businesses or industry. To finish the program, district leaders must complete economic development training courses, while Career, Technical and Agricultural Education directors, teachers and school counselors must complete a business externship every five years. Participating districts also review local Career Pathway offerings for alignment to high-demand careers and must display evidence of business and community partnerships.

“We are so excited to receive the Economic Development Partnership District designation,” said Victoria Thomas, Muscogee Schools CTAE Director. “It validates the work that our CTAE Department and others throughout the District have done to understand workforce development and build relationships with businesses that will ultimately enable our students to be prepared for careers.”

Thomas said the school district has existing partnerships with Pratt & Whitney, TSYS, and W.C. Bradley, among others, and will continue to build relationships as the program progresses.

“Additionally, District administrators have gotten more involved with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, leading to the development of the annual industry bus tour for educators and enhanced support for a college and career academy to be added,” Thomas said.

Pratt & Whitney has partnered to provide an internship program for the past ten years. Interested students must successfully complete the Certified Manufacturing Specialist (CMS) program at Columbus Technical College. Afterward, Pratt & Whitney will interview students for intern positions. Following the internship, some students have been offered full-time positions with the company. Over the course of the partnership, about 40 area students have been hired and remain with the company.

Through the Chamber’s Partners in Education program, Pratt & Whitney also has individual partnerships with Aaron Cohn Middle School, Double Churches Middle School, and Northside High School through which it provides additional real-world experiences.

TSYS and MCSD partnered to provide exposure to IT careers for high school and middle school students. The four mandatory activities that are part of this partnership are student job shadowing, teacher job shadowing, education tours, and Hour of Code activities.

W.C. Bradley provided a sizeable donation to support the District’s STEAM Center, which was named in honor of retired W.C. Bradley President, Stephen T. Butler. Through W.C. Bradley’s donation, the school district has been able to expand the robotics program and support students by opening the STEAM Center on weekends for robotics teams to practice and provide them with lunch.
Faith and charity have been long-standing principles of our community. Throughout our history, faith- and secular-based organizations have increased in number and diversity. Thanks to these groups, residents of the Greater Columbus Region have an amazing opportunity to grow in their faith and give back to our area in a variety of ways.

Whether you are searching for a new spiritual home within our diverse
religious atmosphere and inclusive philosophy, or whether you want to personally make a difference in the community, discover the many supportive worship centers and non-profit organizations that are dedicated to the people of the Chattahoochee Valley.

**COMMUNITY**

**FAITH & CHARITY**

North Highland Assembly of God
706.561.7777
north-highland.org

Ollie Tarver Ministries
706.689.1446

Rivertown Church
706.221.0777
rivertownchurch.com

St. Luke United Methodist Church
706.327.4343
stlukeum.com

Take the City
706.223.5338
takethecity.com

Temple Israel
706.323.1617
templeisraelga.com

The Bridge Church
706.565.9969
mybridgelife.com

The Ridge UMC
theridgecolumbus.com

Wynnbrook Baptist Church
706.324.4374
wynnbrookbaptist.com

Wynnton United Methodist Church
706.324.4242
wynntonumc.org

**WORSHIP CENTERS**

- Cascade Hills Church
  706.327.5743
cascadehills.com

- Christ Community Church
  706.565.7240
cclive.org

- Evangel Temple Assembly of God
  706.323.1876
etcolumbus.org

- Faith Worship Center International
  706.256.6160
ahministries.net

- First Baptist Church
  706.322.4468
firstbaptistcolumbusga.com

- First Presbyterian Church
  706.322.4523
columbusfpc.org

- Grace Baptist Church
  706.323.1046
gbcolumbus.org

- Morningside Baptist Church
  706.561.0343
morningsidebaptist.com

- North Highland Assembly of God
  706.561.7777
north-highland.org

- Ollie Tarver Ministries
  706.689.1446

- Rivertown Church
  706.221.0777
rivertownchurch.com

- St. Luke United Methodist Church
  706.327.4343
stlukeum.com

- Take the City
  706.223.5338
takethecity.com

- Temple Israel
  706.323.1617
templeisraelga.com

- The Bridge Church
  706.565.9969
mybridgelife.com

- The Ridge UMC
  theridgecolumbus.com

- Wynnbrook Baptist Church
  706.324.4374
wynnbrookbaptist.com

- Wynnton United Methodist Church
  706.324.4242
wynntonumc.org

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

  706.322.2579
columbusymca.com

- Alzheimer’s Association – Chattahoochee Valley Regional Office
  706.327.6838
alz.org/georgia

- American Cancer Society
  706.324.4573
cancer.org

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Columbus
  706.327.3760
bbbschattvalley.org

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley
  706.596.9330
bgc-colsga.org

- Boy Scouts of America/Chattahoochee Council
  706.327.2634
chattahoochee-bsa.org

- Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity
  706.653.6003
columbusareahabitat.com

- Columbus Symphony Orchestra
  706.256.3646
csoga.org

- Columbus Symphony Orchestra
  706.256.3646
csoga.org

- DHS/Georgia TeenWork Internship Program
  404.463.7288
dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/teenwork

- Drugs Don’t Work In Georgia
  404.223.2277
livedrugfree.org

- Easter Seals of West Georgia, Inc.
  706.660.1144
westgeorgia.easterseals.com

- Feeding the Valley Food Bank
  706.561.4755
feedingthevalley.org

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes-West Central Georgia
  706.366.5252
westcentralgafca.org

- Georgia-Alabama Land Trust
  706.718.3324
georgiaalabamalandtrust.org

- Georgia Organics
  678.702.0400
georgiaorganics.org

- Girls Incorporated
  706.683.0809
girlsinc-columbus.org

- Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, Inc.
  888.689.1912
gshg.org

- Greater Columbus American Heart Association
  678.224.2000
heart.org

- Homeless Resource Network
  706.571.3399
homelessresourcenetwork.org

- Hope Harbour
  706.324.3850 (24 Hour Crisis Line)
  706.256.0237
hopeharbour.org

- House of Heroes
  706.569.7011
houseofheroescvc.org

- Lifelink of Georgia
  800.544.6667
lifelinkfound.org

First Presbyterian Church
COMMUNITY

FAITH & CHARITY

• Twin Cedars Youth Services, Inc. / Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home
  706.322.8984
twincedars.org

• UGA Small Business Development Center
  706.569.2651
georgiasbdc.org

• United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley
  706.327.3255
unitedwayofthecv.org

• Uptown Columbus Inc.
  706.322.9078
uptowncolumbusga.com

• Urban League of Greater Columbus, Inc.
  706.322.6840
ulgcy.org

• Valley Interfaith Promise, Inc.
  706.494.6348
valleyinterfaithpromise.com

• Valley Rescue Mission
  706.322.8267
valleyrescue.com

• West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition
  706.660.1914
wcgcc.org

• YMCA
  706.322.5016
columbusymca.com

• Junior Achievement of Georgia
  404.257.1932
georgia.ja.org

• Lower Chattahoochee Direct Service
  706.327.5208
directservicecorp.com

• March of Dimes
  706.660.0160
marchofdimes.org

• MidTown, Inc.
  706.494.1663
midtowncolumbusga.org

• Minor in Business, Inc.
  706.718.7663
minorinbusiness.com

• Miss Georgia Pageant
  706.322.2315
missga.org

• National Infantry Museum Foundation
  706.653.9234
nationalinfantryfoundation.org

• New Horizons Behavioral Health
  706.596.5757
nhbh.org

• Open Door Community House, Inc.
  706.323.5518
opendoorcommunityhouse.org

• PAWS Humane, Inc.
  706.565.0035
pawshumane.org

• Russell County Child Advocacy Center
  334.297.4962

• Sexual Assault Support Center
  706.571.6010 (24/7 Hotline)
  706.221.1033
sexualassaultsupportcenter.com

• SOMA Foundation
  706.221.7262
somafoundation.net

• Southern Teal
  770.584.2078

• St. Francis Hospital Foundation Inc.
  706.596.4000
saintfrancisfoundation.org

• Stewart Community Home, Inc.
  706.327.2707
sch-info.org

• Still Serving Veterans
  334.384.9111
sv.org

• Teen Challenge International
  706.576.6555
globaltc.org

• Teen Challenge of Columbus
  706.507.3705
teenchallenge.cc

• Teen Challenge of Southeast Region
  706.596.8731
teenchallenge.cc

• The Columbus Community Center
  706.687.6809
cccgeorgiakids.com

• The Family Center
  706.327.3238
thefamilyctr.org

• The Literacy Alliance
  706.748.2610
theliteracyalliance.org

• The Salvation Army
  706.561.9026
salvationarmy-georgia.org
Over the last several decades, healthcare in the Columbus Region has taken giant leaps forward. Two of the area’s top 10 employers are healthcare providers and in total, the industry employs more than 12,000 experienced healthcare professionals. These healthcare providers have equipped the large and talented workforce with state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge treatment options, which allows them to deliver exceptional medical care to area residents.

**PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL**

Piedmont Columbus Regional serves the Greater Columbus area with a network of health and medical services through its two hospital campuses. Patients can select from a wide array of services and facilities, including the following:

Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown Campus, with 583 licensed beds, provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including routine and specialized services in neurosurgery, orthopedics, oncology, women’s and children’s services and intensive care.

PCR Midtown Campus houses the region’s only Level II Emergency Trauma Center, a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) within a 100-mile radius and is one of only six perinatal centers in Georgia. PCR Midtown Campus is a Children’s Miracle Network hospital and money is raised to provide support to the children in Piedmont Columbus Regional’s service area.

PCR Midtown Campus also operates an accredited graduate medical education teaching program consisting of a three-year Family Medicine Practice Residency Program of 36 residents.

PCR Midtown Campus is a stroke-certified facility and accepts life-flight helicopter services from throughout the region for its trauma and specialized services. PCR Midtown Campus has an “open medical staff” meaning any physician who meets the training and education requirements and who has demonstrated quality practices may apply for clinical privileges and, if granted those privileges by the Board of Directors,
Our physician network is part of the system that offers the region’s most advanced care.

Which is why it is so important to not only have a doctor you see regularly, but the right doctor. One who is part of a system of primary care doctors and leading specialists who provide the latest treatments right where you live. Because what better place is there to be treated than home?

Alzheimer’s care  |  General surgery  |  Psychology
Bariatrics  |  Gerontology  |  Pulmonology
Breast surgery  |  Hematology  |  Rehabilitation
Cardiac care  |  Internal medicine  |  Sleep medicine
Child neurology  |  Labor and delivery  |  Stroke care
Critical care  |  Maternal fetal medicine  |  Thoracic surgery
Endocrinology  |  Obstetrics-gynecology  |  Trauma surgery
Ear, nose and throat  |  Occupational medicine  |  Urgent care
Family medicine  |  Oncology  |  Urogynecology
Gastroenterology  |  Pediatrics  |  Urology
|  Vascular surgery |

Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital - Midtown Campus • 706.571.1000
Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital - Northside Campus • 706.494.2100
John B. Amos Cancer Center • 706.320.8700
Piedmont Physicians • 706.494.4999

piedmont.org/columbus
Exquisite Community in Columbus
100 Spring Harbor Drive

Choose the Area’s Only Continuing Care Retirement Community

The luckiest people in southwest Georgia love living on the beautiful campus of Spring Harbor—the area’s only continuing care retirement community with a 5-star rated health care center. Choose from 160 apartments with 11 different sizes and floor plans. Or live in one of the 36 garden villas on the gated grounds.

Spring Harbor

Sponsored by Piedmont Columbus Regional
100 Spring Harbor Drive
Columbus, Georgia 31904
(706) 576-6003
SpringHarborLife.org

Join us for a complimentary meal and tour!

Juanita Thomas
Marketing Director

Dan Johnson
Move-In Coordinator

Come and meet our dedicated sales team.
PCR Northside Campus is one of two hospitals in Georgia to receive the 5-star rating for Quality and Patient Experience – upholding the reputation of providing the “Northside Experience” to all patients. The hospital has also won multiple Quality and Patient Satisfaction awards such as the Outstanding Patient Experience and Patient Safety Excellence Award. Most recently, the Northside Campus was recognized as a Milestone 8 Hospital by the Georgia Hospital Association and the facility achieved an “A” grade in Leapfrog ratings for Fall 2018.

The John B. Amos Cancer Center (JBACC) is recognized by many as the “crown jewel” of the Columbus medical community. JBACC is accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons – the only cancer treatment center with this distinction in the 14-county service area that PCR serves in west Georgia and east Alabama.

The center offers a full range of cancer treatment services, including medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiation therapy, outpatient infusion services, nutrition services, pharmacy, lab services, patient navigation services, pastoral care and an array of support services for patients and families. The John B. Amos Cancer Center also provides cancer patients access to clinical research trials.

The center houses cancer specialty clinics and a medical team of board-certified physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners with advanced oncology training and a team of clinical and non-clinical support staff.

COLUMBUS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

Columbus Specialty Hospital, on the PCR Midtown West campus, is a Joint Commission-accredited facility that offers treatment for patients with medically complex conditions, pulmonary disorders,
neurological illness, post-trauma or patients who require ventilator weaning or complex wound care. Admission is through referral only, from a physician or another hospital.

**REGIONAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL**

A joint venture between Piedmont Columbus Regional and HealthSouth Corporation, Regional Rehabilitation Hospital is a 48,000 square-foot, 48-bed rehabilitation facility. The hospital offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services for stroke, trauma, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, arthritis, chronic pain, neuromuscular disease, amputation and other disabling conditions that have caused loss of functional mobility.

**ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL**

Since opening its doors in 1950, the caregivers at St. Francis have been committed each day to provide the
highest quality care to the Chattahoochee Valley and surrounding region. With 376 beds on two campuses, more than 2,500 associates, and 300 physicians, St. Francis offers a full range of inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room services, including the only open-heart surgery program in the region.

An affiliation with Emory Clinic’s Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in 2016 helped take St. Francis’ cardiac service to the next level, bringing life-saving care to more people. Since the 2013 opening of St. Francis’ two newest towers, cardiac services and cardiology practices have been under one roof, making care more convenient for patients.

In addition, the opening of St. Francis Women’s Hospital that same year brought obstetrical services back to the hospital and is a now a destination for a full range of women’s services, including the St. Francis Center for Breast Health, Center for Surgical Care, Gynecologic Oncology, OB/GYN Associates, and OB/GYN Partners.

St. Francis accomplishments and accolades include being recognized by the American Heart Association, for earning the Get with the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for exceeding standards of care for the treatment of stroke patients. In 2017, St. Francis earned the American College of Cardiology Society of Chest Pain Center Accreditation. Additionally, in 2018 St. Francis received the association’s Target: Stroke Elite Plus award. St. Francis’ Family Birthing Center was the first in Georgia to obtain the Perinatal Care Certification from The Joint Commission. Most recently St. Francis became the only hospital in the region to achieve the Baby-Friendly Facility Designation from Baby-Friendly, USA. Through The Joint Commission, St. Francis has also earned Advanced Primary Stroke Center for Breast Health, Center for Surgical Care, Gynecologic Oncology, OB/GYN Associates, and OB/GYN Partners.
HEALTH FACILITIES

Care, Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement disease-specific certifications.

St. Francis has been part of this community for almost three generations. Moving into the future, St. Francis will continue to add new resources and build on its already strong foundation to ensure that you and those you love receive the best patient experience possible.

ST. FRANCIS COLUMBUS CLINIC

St. Francis Columbus Clinic is a multi-specialty clinic offering a full spectrum of primary care services, as well as cardiology, podiatry, and neurology specialties. In addition, they provide services such as mammography, lab, and diabetes education. The clinic is staffed with more than 30 board-certified physicians and mid-level providers, putting comprehensive, compassionate, quality care in one convenient location.

ST. FRANCIS BRADLEY CENTER

The Bradley Center, a community service of St. Francis Hospital, is a unique mental health resource committed to establishing wellness for the whole person – including children, adolescents, adults, and senior adults.

Founded in 1955, The Bradley Center has built a strong reputation as the mental health provider of choice for the people of the Chattahoochee Valley. The Bradley Center employs a multi-disciplinary team approach to treatment. An expert group of professionals, including psychiatrists, nurses, therapists, case managers, and mental health technicians, collaborates to ensure the best possible care.
The Bradley Center’s mental health services include detoxification treatment and inpatient and day treatment programs. These programs, along with support groups and educational programs, work together to enhance the quality of life for individuals, families and the local community and region.

**COLUMBUS DIAGNOSTIC CENTER**

Since opening in 1987, Columbus Diagnostic Center has become a highly dependable and cost-effective diagnostics resource in the heart of Columbus’ healthcare community. Columbus Diagnostic Center’s two locations provide a full range of services including MRI, CT, ultrasound, digital mammography and routine radiology. The Center’s highly trained team of physicians, technologists and associates ensure that the care you receive reflects the highest level of personal attention.

**PASTORAL INSTITUTE**

The Pastoral Institute in Midtown Columbus provides counseling to individuals, couples, families, and children for a wide spectrum of mental health and behavioral issues. Staff includes psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, licensed professional counselors, addiction counselors, and pastoral counselors (regardless of denomination). The Institute partners with more than 150 local and regional companies to offer counseling services for local employees through its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at no cost to the employee. The Institute also offers corporate and community training and education to local companies and churches.

**RESOURCES**

- **Piedmont Columbus Regional-Midtown**
  710 Center St., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.571.1000 | piedmont.org

- **Piedmont Columbus Regional-Northside**
  100 Frist Ct., Columbus, GA 31909
  706.494.2100 | piedmont.org

- **John B. Amos Cancer Center**
  1831 5th Ave., Columbus, GA 31904
  706.320.8700

- **St. Francis Hospital**
  2122 Manchester Expwy.
  Columbus, GA 31904
  706.596.4000 | mystfrancis.com

- **St. Francis Columbus Clinic**
  610 19th St., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.322.7884

- **The Bradley Center**
  2000 16th Ave., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.320.3700

- **Pastoral Institute**
  2022 15th Ave., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.649.6500 | pastoralinstitute.org
he Greater Columbus Region is a hotbed of art, culture and interactive exhibitions. As Georgia’s second-largest metro area, Columbus is a consistent tour stop for major performing artists and cultural exhibits. Local museums allow visitors to step back in history to learn from the past or step into outer space to discover the future. These community assets continue to attract visitors from around the region and beyond, while advancing the cultural significance of the Chattahoochee Valley.

ARTS AND CULTURE

World-class artists and touring productions of Broadway shows take the stage to deliver breathtaking performances at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, one of the gems of Columbus’ cultural arts scene. Each year, RiverCenter presents a season of 20-30 major productions, including celebrated artists in music, theatre, and dance, and supports hundreds of additional concerts and community functions. RiverCenter is home to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, The Schwob School of Music, the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, Cantus Columbus, and the Columbus Ballet, making the center a cultural hub for West Georgia.

When the Springer Opera House opened in 1871, it was the grandest theatre between New York and New Orleans. Such noteworthy performers as Edwin Booth, Buffalo Bill, John Phillip Sousa, Ma Rainey, Burt Reynolds, Oscar Wilde, Garrison Keillor, Chet Atkins, and W.C. Fields have trod the Springer’s boards. The Springer is not only the State Theatre of Georgia, it is also one of only seven theatres in the U.S. producing shows in a National Historic Landmark. It offers a yearly season of three play series – the
Mainstage Series, the Studio II, and the Springer Children’s Theatre Series.

Columbus’ first Black theatre, the Historic Liberty Theatre, opened in 1924, and has hosted ground-breaking performances from Ella Fitzgerald, Marian Anderson, Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, Columbus’ own Ma Rainey and her protégé, Bessie Smith, the big bands of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, and Fletcher Henderson. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, the theatre continues to host musical events, plays, and classes.

Distinctive art is around every corner in Uptown Columbus. Each year, at least 10 new pieces are chosen for display as a part of the city’s Sculpture Walk. While most of the art pieces rotate each year, seven pieces have become a permanent part of the Uptown Columbus streetscape.

The Columbus Museum, offers a diverse collection, including an American fine art collection, historical artifacts that tell the story of the Chattahoochee River Valley, a hands-on gallery for children, traveling exhibitions from across the U.S., and the historic Bradley Olmsted Garden, all with free admission.

**ARTS & Attractions**

When you treat your visitors to a tour of Columbus, make sure to hit some of the city’s major attractions.

The Coca-Cola Space Science Center (CCSSC) is a hands-on educational facility focused on space science and astronomy. Visitors enjoy Georgia’s largest collection of Space Shuttle artifacts and interactive exhibits such as A Space Shuttle Odyssey, flight simulators, Mars rovers, and the Omnisphere Theater planetarium.

At the National Infantry Museum, visitors pay tribute to the dedicated soldiers of the U.S. Army Infantry, whose sacrifices have protected our freedoms for more than 240 years. Through interactive multimedia exhibits, learn about Fort Benning, World War II, the Cold War, Afghanistan, Medal of Honor recipients and more. Visit the Global War on Terrorism Memorial, which carries the names of nearly 7,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines killed since 9/11. It sits on Heritage Walk, across from a 3/4-scale replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial. Experience an authentically restored World War II Company Street, 3D Giant Screen Theatre, combat simulator attractions, restaurant, and gift store.

The National Civil War Naval Museum tells the full maritime story of the Civil War. The museum features warship remains, recreated ship environments, artifacts, and year-round programs and events, as well as the largest collection of original Civil War Naval-related flags in the nation. By telling the stories of the navies of the Civil War, the museum connects people with a little-known past, giving a better sense of place and time.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- **RiverCenter For the Performing Arts**
  900 Broadway, Columbus, GA 31901
  706.256.3612
  rivercenter.org

- **Springer Opera House**
  103 10th St., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.327.3688
  springeroperahouse.org

- **The Liberty Theatre**
  821 8th Ave., Columbus, GA 31902
  706.653.7566
  libertycolumbusga.org

**MUSEUMS**

- **Columbus Museum**
  1251 Wynnton Rd., Columbus, GA 31906
  706.748.2562
  columbusmuseum.com

- **Coca-Cola Space Science Center**
  701 Front Ave., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.649.1470
  ccssc.org

- **National Infantry Museum**
  1775 Legacy Way, Columbus, GA 31903
  706.658.5800
  nationalinfantrymuseum.org

- **National Civil War Naval Museum**
  1002 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA 31901
  706.327.9798
  portcolumbus.org
THE REGIONAL HISTORY OF COLUMBUS

Progress through Trials, Triumphs, and Innovation

Named after Christopher Columbus, this city on the Georgia-Alabama border has nearly 200 years of history, sometimes finding itself at the center of national and global developments.

1828: The 1,200-acre town of Columbus is planned and established.

1828: The first steamboat from the Gulf of Mexico to Columbus, “Fanny”, arrives and is followed by countless boats eager for a stake in the cotton market.

1860: Columbus is ranked second, under Richmond, Va., in industry. The city is called “Lowell of the South” with a paper mill, furniture factory, several iron works, textile mills, and river transportation.

1865: During the Civil War, General James H. Wilson destroys the factories and mills of Columbus and nearby West Point.

1927: Bibb Manufacturing Company’s 2,500-employee plant is among the largest cotton mills in America. Bibb and many others flock to Columbus throughout the 20th Century, allowing the city to remain a center for business prosperity.

1930s: Royal Crown Cola is produced by the Claud Hatcher company.

1958: Columbus College is established in a closed mill.

1960s: Columbus’ historic preservation movement begins when the 1871 Springer Opera House is threatened with demolition.
1886: Dr. John S. Pemberton, a Columbus pharmacist, invents Coca-Cola. In 1891, Pemberton sells his interest to Atlanta businessman Asa Griggs Candler.

1898: Mayor L.H. Chappell lures a military training camp to town, paves downtown streets, builds sewers and steel bridges, plants trees, and creates the modern municipal water works, transforming the muddy Chattahoochee into drinking water.

1918: Fort Benning is established as Camp Benning, and provides basic training in World War I.

1918: Ernest Woodruff, a Columbus native and Atlanta businessman, engineers the purchase of Coca-Cola from the Candler family for $25 million.

1922: Columbus becomes the first major Southern city to adopt the commission–city manager form of government.

1968-1971: The city doubles in size by absorbing the remaining county areas and consolidating governments.

2003: Under federal court order to build a combined sewer-overflow system, the Columbus Water Works begins developing the RiverWalk, which eventually extends for 22 miles, from Fort Benning, south of town, to Lake Oliver to the north.

2011: Fort Benning becomes home to the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

2012-2013: Two century-old dams on the Chattahoochee River are removed. Whitewater rafting, kayaking, and cross-river zip line courses become attractions.
The way the water of the Chattahoochee River rushes through the heart of Uptown Columbus adds a level of energy to the collective pulse of the region. A flurry of activity emanates from the flowing river and along its tributaries in the Greater Columbus Region.

Residents and visitors alike can explore and experience the possibilities for relaxation and adventure. Take it slow with a picnic in the park or jump into action by zipping over the rapids. Whether it’s time to get active or seek serenity, you’ll find the options for recreation abundant on the banks, in the rapids and around the Chattahoochee.

While recreation may start with the legendary waterway, it certainly doesn’t end there. Sports fans and athletes enjoy award-winning golf courses, established youth recreation associations and the winningest arena football team in history. However you spend your time, it’s easy to fill your days with amazing adventure in Columbus.

This extraordinary whitewater rafting course was named by USA Today as one of the “Top 12 Man-made Adventures in the World.” There is whitewater for all ages, whether you want a milder trip or an extreme adventure.

CHATTAOOCHEE RIVER
As the lifeblood of the region, it’s no surprise the Chattahoochee River plays a major role in the area’s outdoor recreation, offering a wealth of activities, including biking, fishing, rafting, kayaking, and more!

Possibly the biggest news in the Columbus in the last 10 years was the breaching of dams on the river and the creation of the “Longest Urban Whitewater Course in the World.” Escape the ordinary with Columbus GA Whitewater. Beginner groups will love the ‘family classic’ where you enjoy entry-level whitewater and float through a Lazy River full of turtles. Or take the ‘Challenge’ trip for an extreme adventure, where you encounter the biggest rapid in the East! Guides accompany all guests. Both trips offer a great opportunity to see bald eagles and ospreys.

Along with the whitewater course, visitors are coming to Columbus for the Blue Heron Zipline, which offers two crossings of the Chattahoochee River. Soaring 100 feet above the rapids from Georgia to Alabama and back is an extraordinary experience. Guests also enjoy the treetop aerial course and a spectacular canopy tour taking you high up in some of the region’s magnificent Southern oaks.

PARKS
Columbus Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of facilities perfect for maintaining an active lifestyle. Head to Flat Rock Park and break out the discs for a round of disc golf. Britt David Park has walking and fitness paths in addition to baseball fields, a playground, and more. Whether you are
a tennis fan or an avid fisherman, there are endless opportunities for fun in Columbus.

**FISHING**
Casting a line from the banks of the Chattahoochee may bring in bluegill, redear sunfish, hybrid striped bass and white bass, catfish or one of several species of trout. Another great spot to fish is Lake Oliver, a Georgia Power hydropower impoundment, which is home to a large population of largemouth bass.

**TRAILS**
One of the largest and most successful recent revitalization efforts in the South is the Columbus RiverWalk project – a raised, paved pathway that follows the Chattahoochee and stretches 22 miles from Lake Oliver to Fort Benning. Also constructed on an abandoned railroad track, the Columbus Fall Line Trace stretches approximately 11 miles through the city and offers 12-foot-wide asphalt paths for recreation. In April 2018, the first phase of the Dragonfly Trail opened to bikers, walkers, and runners. After completion, the Dragonfly network of greenway trails will total 60 miles, including the RiverWalk and Fall Line Trace. The area has been recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as one of the 40 most Bicycle Friendly Communities in the U.S., and bike rentals are readily available.

Another location for trails is at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center. Catch a glimpse of native wildlife, view the wetlands and ponds or explore the educational and fun Discovery Trail. Inside Oxbow Meadows, explore exhibits and natural history displays, including snakes,
turtles, fish, alligators and other animals, and catch programs on ecology and the natural history of region.

**GOLF**

Tee off at any of our award-winning golf courses, including the 36-hole Bull Creek Golf Course, currently ranked in the top 25 golf courses in the U.S. Maple Ridge Golf Club offers a high-quality course co-designed by 1987 Masters winner, current Champions Tour star and Columbus resident Larry Mize. Fine courses are also found at the area’s two private clubs, the Country Club of Columbus and Green Island Country Club.

**SPORTS**

For thrilling family fun, check out the Columbus Lions of the National Arena League (NAL). The Lions kicked off their 13th season in 2019, making Columbus the longest continually running team in arena football. The Lions are led by Head Coach Jason Gibson who has a 102-46 record entering 2019. The Lions have made 11 playoff appearances in 12 seasons, and Coach Gibson has also led the Lions to six championship appearances, winning three of them (SIFL 2010, PIFL 2015, AIF 2016). The Lions play their home games at Hughston Clinic Field in the Columbus Civic Center, a premier local entertainment venue hosting multiple sporting events, concerts, fairs and more every year.

**CELEBRATE THE SEASONS**

Columbus residents have access to numerous recreational opportunities throughout West Georgia, including two state parks less than an hour away. Additionally, Callaway Resort & Gardens attracts both day and overnight guests seeking a quick escape at an authentic outdoor resort destination year-round. Roughly 40 miles from Columbus in Pine Mountain, residents and visitors have easy access to Callaway’s championship golf courses, tennis, fly-fishing, water-skiing, a zipline/aerial obstacle course, gardens, butterfly center, birds of prey shows, and floral displays.

Special events make every season extra special. November brings family and friends together to watch thoroughbred horses race over timber and brush hurdles in the annual Steeplechase at Callaway. Then, from mid-November until the end of December, witness the famous Fantasy in Lights, which includes 8 million lights in 15 dazzling scenes. Fantasy in Lights is not only the South’s most spectacular holiday light and sound show, but also one of the world’s “Top 10 Places to See Holiday Lights,” according to National Geographic Traveler.

**RESOURCES**

- **Columbus Parks and Recreation**
  3111 Citizens Way
  Columbus, GA 31906
  706.225.4638
  parks.columbusga.gov

- **Columbus GA Whitewater**
  1000 Bay Ave.
  Columbus, GA 31901
  706.321.4720
  whitewaterexpress.com

- **Bull Creek Golf Course**
  7333 Lynch Rd.
  Midland, GA 31820
  706.561.1614
  columbusga.gov/bullcreek

- **Maple Ridge Golf Course**
  4700 Maple Ridge Trail
  Columbus, GA 31909
  706.569.0966

- **Columbus Civic Center**
  400 4th St, Columbus, GA 31901
  706.653.4460
  civiccenter.columbusga.gov

- **The Columbus Lions**
  706.322.3336
  columbuslions.net

- **Country Club of Columbus**
  2610 Cherokee Ave.
  Columbus, GA 31906
  706.322.4441
  cccolumbus.com

- **Green Island Country Club**
  6501 Standing Boy Rd.
  Columbus, GA 31904
  706.324.7191
  greenislandcc.org

- **Callaway Resort and Gardens**
  17800 US-27
  Pine Mountain, GA 31822
  844.512.3826
  callawaygardens.com

- **Columbus Regional Tennis Association (CORTA)**
  706.317.4136
  corta.org

- **Sports Council – Columbus, GA**
  706.660.1996
  sportscouncil.columbusga.gov
Welcome to the Columbus Region! To help you get started on your Chattahoochee Valley journey, we’ve compiled a list of helpful information that will allow you check one more thing off your to-do list.

Is there a number I can call to inquire about Columbus City/Muscogee County government services?
To request a service, offer a suggestion or register a complaint about Columbus City/Muscogee County government services, dial 3-1-1, or 706.653.4000. For emergency services, dial 9-1-1.

How do I register my vehicle?
For information please call 706.653.4208.

How do I register to vote?
The Columbus Voter Registration Office handles voter registration for all Muscogee County residents. Online voter registration is now available. For more information please call 706.653.4392 or visit columbusga.org/elections/regVote.htm.

Who do I call to turn on my utilities?
• Electric Companies
  Diverse Power .................................. 800.845.8362
  Flint Energies .................................. 706.568.0333
  Georgia Power .................................. 888.660.5890
  706.329.1775

• Gas
  Liberty Utilities ................................. 855.216.6305

• Telephone Companies
  AT&T ............................................. 800.222.0300
  Mediacom ....................................... 855.633.4226
  WOW! (Wide Open West) ................. 866.376.7003
  706.221.1000

• Television
  Mediacom ....................................... 855.633.4226
  WOW! (Wide Open West) ................. 866.376.7003
  706.221.1000

How do I enroll my kids in school?
Muscogee County School Dist. .... 706.748.2000
Brookstone School ................. 706.324.1392
Calvary Christian School .......... 706.323.0467
St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School .. 706.561.8232
St. Luke School ....................... 706.256.1301

How do I find a doctor?
Bradley Center of St. Francis Hospital (mental health) .................. 706.320.3700
Children’s Hospital at Midtown ... 706.571.1321
Columbus Diagnostic Center ...... 706.322.3000
Columbus Diagnostic Center on Comer .................................. 706.323.7622
Columbus Specialty Hospital ...... 706.494.4075
John B. Amos Cancer Center ...... 706.320.8700
Midtown Medical Center .......... 706.571.1000
Northside Medical Center ........ 706.494.2100
Pastoral Institute ....................... 706.649.6500
Piedmont Columbus Regional Health .................................. 706.571.1000
Regional Rehabilitation Hospital .................................. 334.732.2200
St. Francis Hospital ................. 706.596.4000
St. Francis Columbus Clinic ...... 706.322.7884

4071 Macon Rd.
Columbus, GA 31907
706.563.2372
Are there other resources I might need in my first few weeks in the Columbus Region?

• General
  Columbus Consolidated
  Government.......................... columbusga.org
  Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau .......... visitcolumbusga.com
  Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce......columbusgachamber.com

• Workforce Development
  Georgia Department of Labor .......... dol.state.ga.us
  Georgia Quick Start
  Program ..................... georgiaquickstart.org
  Regional Economic Development
  Partnerships ........ thevalleypartnership.com
  Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce......columbusgachamber.com

• Libraries
  Chattahoochee Valley Libraries ..800.652.0783
    www.cvlga.org
  Columbus Public Library ........706.652.2669
  Cusseta-Chattahoochee
  Public Library .................... 706.989.3700
  Marion County Public Library 229.649.6385
  Mildred L. Terry Public Library 706.243.2782
  North Columbus Public Library 706.748.2855
  Parks Memorial Public Library 229.887.2103
  South Columbus Public Library 706.683.8805
Columbus is a regional center for inspirational art, exceptional education and entrepreneurial innovation. And whether you call it Downtown or Uptown, the vibrant stretch of city just east of the banks of the Chattahoochee River exudes a classic...
Southern feel, while making it clear that this community has its eyes on the future. Access to an area like this usually comes with a steep price tag, but here, affordable housing makes buying your dream home a reality.

The Greater Columbus Region boasts housing options from historic homes to peaceful and walkable family neighborhoods to lakefront gated communities. Best of all, the median house value in Columbus and Muscogee County is almost 25 percent less than the U.S. average. In our neck of the woods, you can satisfy your taste while staying within your budget.

For new residents who are not ready to purchase a home, renting is a viable option. Among the numerous apartments and homes for rent in the area, the median gross rent is only $844 per month, which makes renting a great way to water your roots before you plant them.

With the average cost of living and commute time below the national level, Columbus is positioned to support an amazing quality of life. Both historic and progressive, this unique region is a treasure. Take a walk down Broadway or search homes for sale to see for yourself.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts
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Affiliate of Emory Cardiothoracic Surgery

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