My Chattanooga

2024 EDITION TIMESFREEPRESS.COM/MYCHATTANOOGA

Your Guide to Tennessee's "Scenic City"

PROFILES OF **21** NEIGHBORHOODS

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Outdoor Fun for Every Season

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THE NEXT BOOMER BOOMTOWN

A guide to putting down roots in the South's new retirement hotbed



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Onward Chattanooga Homes carries on the legacy of local real estate legend Mark Hite

Carrying on the legacy of late Chattanooga real estate powerhouse Mark Hite is a tall order, but if anyone is equipped to take on the challenge, it's Hite's longtime associate Jason Carr and his team at Onward Chattanooga Homes.

The first Realtor to join Hite 17 years ago while creating the Mark Hite Team, Carr has taken the training and experience Hite poured into him over the years to create Onward Chattanooga Homes, a dedicated team of professionals providing the area with over 65 years of combined real estate experience in the Greater Chattanooga, North Georgia and Northeast Alabama areas.



Onward Chattanooga Homes Real Estate Team (Left to Right) Bethany Moody, Tricia Wallace Heider, Jason Pryor-Carr, Geno Petro, Stacey Barry

With a focus on local market knowledge, industry expertise and unparalleled customer service, Onward Chattanooga Homes helps clients unlock the potential of the local real estate market in any price range, whether they're looking for a luxury home, a starter home, an investment property or "handyman special." In addition, Carr and his team continue to extend the Guaranteed Cash Offer program for those needing to sell a property without the hassle of stagings and showings or having to make costly repairs.

The team at Onward Chattanooga Homes is also unique in that its agents are not restricted to just buyers or listings. This gives clients a more seamless experience by allowing them to work with just one agent throughout the entire process.

To Carr and his team, carrying on Hite's legacy doesn't end with providing the best possible real estate experience. Onward Chattanooga Homes prioritizes giving back to the community it calls home, continuing much of the work Hite had done through local organizations like Chambliss Center for Children, the American Red Cross, Wreaths Across America Chattanooga, St. Jude and more.



Jason Pryor-Carr
Affiliate Broker
Real Estate Partners Chattanooga LLC

Learn more about how the team at Onward Chattanooga Homes can assist your buying and selling needs by visiting onwardchattanoogahomes.com or calling (423) 667-9385.

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Contents

Chattanooga Times Free Press

2024 EDITION TIMESFREEPRESS.COM/MYCHATTANOOGA

12
Retire in Chattanooga
Discover the hidden gems and unparalleled comforts in Tennessee's retirement paradise.

16
The Outdoors Are Calling
Dive into an abundance of outdoor excursions across Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley.

22
Dishes not to be missed
Explore the city's culinary renaissance through 15 must-try local delights.



The fountains in Coolidge Park provide a perfect way to stay cool in the summer. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

The Communities

Downtown	40	Lookout Mountain	66	East Ridge	84
Highland Park	50	Lookout Valley	70	Brainerd	86
Lincoln Park	52	Hixson	72	East Brainerd	88
Southside	54	Harrison	76	Collegedale	96
North Chattanooga	56	Soddy-Daisy	78	Ooltewah	98
Signal Mountain	60	Missionary Ridge	80	Ringgold, Ga.	102
Red Bank	64	St. Elmo	82	Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.	104

On the cover: Jim and Diane Nelson cruise through Coolidge Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

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Chattanooga Times Free Press

From City Slickers to Mountain Seekers: Chattanooga Beckons

Chattanooga real estate agent Gloria Page has sold about 350 houses in the past 10 years. More and more, she says, her home-buying clients are out-of-state residents moving to the Tennessee Valley to retire. One of the home inspectors Page uses in her work told her that about 50% of his clients these days are from out of state.

"We do not have a state income tax (in Tennessee), and we don't tax on your pension," Page said in an interview. "We have tons of military, police and others from (places) like New York who are cashing out big and coming down here – and, I say, 'living for free' compared to what they were paying."

Whether it be sleek downtown condos or mountaintop homes with sweeping, 2,000-foot views of the city or homes in modest, family-friendly neighborhoods in the suburbs, Chattanooga has a diverse housing stock to appeal to newcomers. Affordability is key. The median home value in Hamilton County is $327,000 and the typical property tax is about $2,600.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the Chattanooga metro area's population has grown about 3% since 2020, not as much as Tennessee cities such as Clarksville, Knoxville and Nashville, but a healthy clip, nonetheless. Word is getting out about the quality of life in southeast Tennessee. Southern Living magazine named Chattanooga the "Best All-Around Place to Retire in the South" last year.

MyChattanooga is our "annual manual" for new arrivers and existing residents perhaps looking to relocate to a different part of the city. Inside the following pages, you'll find profiles on 21 Chattanooga-area neighborhoods with tips on restaurants and recreation spots, facts about schools, housing costs, insider views about points of interest, abundant maps and photos, and more. You can read articles about all the factors making the Scenic City a retirement mecca and learn how to turn the city's array of tourist attractions into a stay-cation playground.

➤ Affordability is key. The median home value in Hamilton County is $327,000 and the typical property tax is about $2,600.

New this year, food writer Andre James shares a foodie's guide to his 15 favorite local restaurant dishes. Have you ever had the falafel at Calliope on M.L. King Boulevard, or the pierogi at the Pickle Barrel on Market Street? James will tell you why you should try both. Also, outdoors expert Sunny Montgomery provides a new, four-seasons guide to outdoors activities and adventure sports in the Tennessee Valley. Hint: Spring is a great time for a wildflower walk.

Readers tell us that MyChattanooga has a long shelf life and helps them stay informed throughout the year. So, if you are new to Chattanooga, a lifelong resident or something in between, keep the 2024 edition of MyChattanooga handy. You never know when you might want to find a doughnut shop in Soddy-Daisy or a swimming hole on a summer day.

Mark Kennedy
mkennedy@timesfreepress.com



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Retired couple Jim and Diane Nelson enjoy a ride through Coolidge Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

CHATTANOOGA:

RETIREMENT'S SOUTHERN OASIS

Uncover the Perfect Blend of Scenic Beauty, Southern Charm, and Financial Freedom in Chattanooga's Retirement Haven

BY JENNIFER MCNALLY

When it comes to finding a sweet spot to retire, Chattanooga's a tough destination to beat.



John Wilson looks on as Juanita Jezek putts the ball at the Everlan Independent Living Community in Hixson. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Whether it's the natural beauty, the options for both business and recreation, or the lower cost of living, the Scenic City is a great place to live and for friends and family to visit.

But don't take our word for it. Over the last several years, Chattanooga has been included on some prestigious national lists.

In 2023, Southern Living magazine named the Scenic City as the "Best All-Around Place to Retire in the South." The year before that, it included the city in its list of "Best Places for a Dreamy Retirement in the South." And in 2018, Livability.com named Chattanooga as one of the "Best Places to Retire" in the U.S.

So, what exactly is it that makes the city so great? The reasons are many.

For starters, natural beauty abounds. From the Riverwalk, a 16-mile walking and biking course along the Tennessee River, to the myriad waterfalls found in every direction, incredible scenery is part of everyday life in the Scenic City.

Chattanooga residents get to experience new beauty with the changing of each season. With average winter lows around 40°F and summer highs reaching the high 80s, the mild climate encourages year-round activity.

With a metro area population of about 562,000 we're a medium-sized city with big city amenities. Plus, it's conveniently situated between Nashville and Atlanta, both just a day's drive away.

And for those who are looking to retire, it's kind of a grandparent's paradise.

"From major attractions like the Tennessee Aquarium to the Creative Discovery museum, it's a great place for kids to come to visit," said Barry White, president of the Chattanooga Tourism Company. "Plus, this region is full of history and natural beauty, which can be enjoyable for all ages.

"We've just got a great quality of life here. There's just so much you can do."

Perhaps the biggest advantage of all is Tennessee's affordability factor. The state boasts the eighth lowest cost of living in the country. And living in Chattanooga, that financial peace of mind is tangible.



Dave and Julie Harp enjoy breakfast at Top of the Rock Restaurant & Brewery at Jasper Highlands, a private gated community popular with retirees, about 20 miles from Chattanooga. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Even before the pandemic, retirees had started to discover what's great about living in Tennessee. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state became the top destination for Americans retiring outside their home state during 2021. And while Florida regained its title in 2022, the Chattanooga area has continued to grow in popularity since then.

Within the last decade, Chattanooga has seen the rise of a wide range of living options for seniors and retirees, from independent- and assisted-living housing to luxurious gated communities. Many were built to feel more like a resort than senior living, with an all-inclusive rent so that residents can continue living an active lifestyle without all the worry.

John Thornton is a developer who has built two mountaintop residential developments in Marion County, about 20 miles outside Chattanooga.

"We get more Floridians that come into Tennessee than there are Tennesseans go to Florida," said Thornton. "That tells you something good."

> "We've got the mild four seasons, natural beauty, friendly people, low cost of living, gas and property taxes are much lower than they are in other states."

To date, Thornton says he has residents who have moved to Tennessee from 48 out of 50 states.

"We have a winning combination here," he said. "We've got the mild four seasons, natural beauty, friendly people, low cost of living, gas and property taxes are much lower than they are in other states.

"And people are shocked. They're blown away by the value that our entire state offers these retirees and pre-retirees who are looking for their forever home."

By the Numbers

Statistics from TNvacation.com

Hamilton County Population
367,800

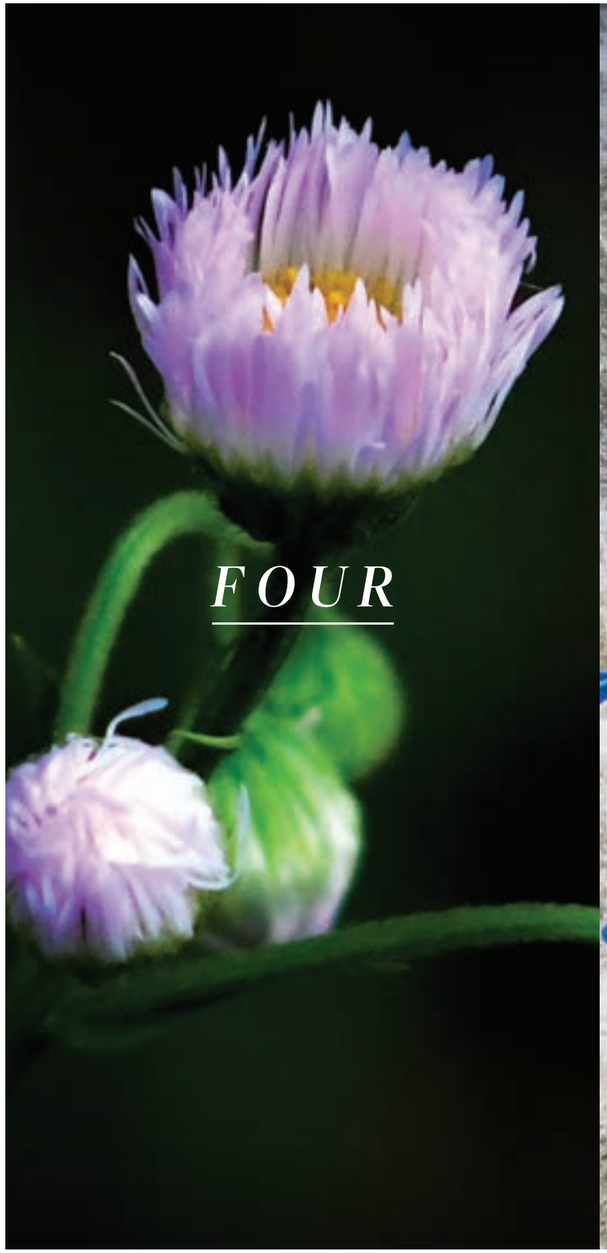
Chattanooga Population
180,000

Median Home Value
$327,000

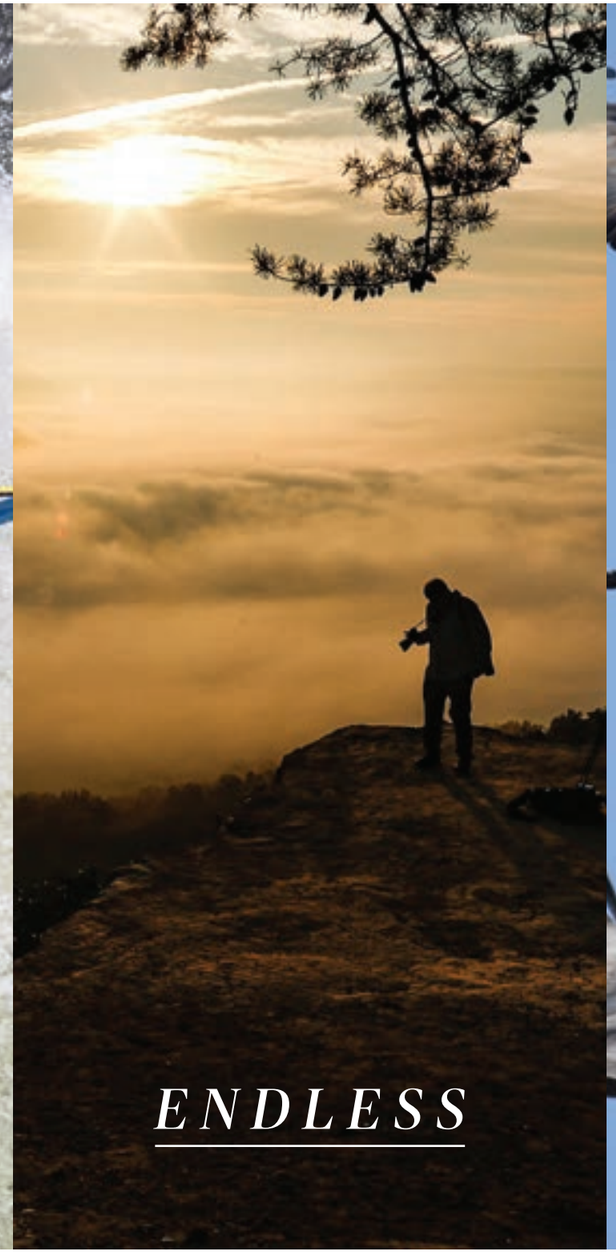
Median Property Tax
$2,600

State Income / Property Tax
$0

State Cost of Living:
Eighth Lowest in the Country









A guide to the Tennessee Valley's year-round outdoor playground

The Tennessee Valley is a premier outdoors destination. From hiking to biking to birdwatching and more, no matter the time of year, you will find something to inspire your passion for nature.

BY SUNNY MONTGOMERY

STAFF FILE PHOTOS

STAFF FILE PHOTOS

Spring into Action

Hang Glide or Paraglide

Spring brings the best air for hang gliding or paragliding – warmer temperatures and better thermals to keep you flying longer, according to **Lookout Mountain Flight Park**. In 2022, Outside Magazine named Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, one of the best hang gliding destinations in the U.S. The flight park offers a range of ways to experience the Tennessee Valley from 3,000 feet, from one-time tandem flights to daylong introductory courses to pilot training programs.

Hang glider Mike Potrin takes off from the bluff at Lookout Mountain Flight Park.



Bike the Greenway

The South Chickamauga Creek Greenway features 12 miles of paved multi-use trail stretching from Camp Jordan to the Tennessee Riverwalk. There are nine trailheads along the wooded route. Cyclists who want to extend their ride can connect to the Tennessee Riverwalk at the greenway's Lost Mound Trailhead. Don't have a bicycle of your own? Rent one from Bike Chattanooga. You can buy a day pass for $10 or become an annual member for $50 for access to over 450 bikes at 43 stations citywide.

Go on a Wildflower Walk

In mid-March, native wildflowers begin to bud across the Tennessee Valley. See trillium and trout lilies at **Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center** or toothwort and violets along **Prentice Cooper State Forest's Pot Point Loop Trail**. For a rare treat, visit **Orchard Knob,** a small hillside in East Chattanooga preserved for its historical significance and now a refuge for native flowers including Fremont's leather flower, one of the rarest in the state.

STAFF FILE PHOTOS

Summer Splashdown

Visit a Blue Hole

Twenty minutes from downtown Chattanooga, the North Chick Blue Hole is a popular summertime destination, comprising a series of shallow and deep pools as well as rope swings and large boulders. To get there, park at North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area trailhead, 354 Montlake Road, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, and follow the trail upriver for about one mile.

Paddle to Chattanooga's Maclellan Island

In the heart of downtown Chattanooga, in the middle of the Tennessee River, sits Maclellan Island nature sanctuary accessible only by boat. Bring your own watercraft or rent a stand-up paddleboard from outfitters L2 Outside, Outshine Adventures or Chattanooga Guided Adventures and launch from the Coolidge Park boat ramp under the John Ross Bridge. From there, the paddle around the island is about 2 miles. There is no fee for day use of the island, however camping is by permit only.



Kayakers approach Maclellan Island.

North Chickamauga Creek Blue Hole.



Whitewater Raft the Ocoee

Ocoee River whitewater is world-famous with 10 action-packed miles coursing through the Cherokee National Forest, an hour from Chattanooga. The river is divided into two sections: the Class III "middle" and the Class IV "upper" which includes the 500-meter course used during the 1996 Olympic whitewater competition. Book your trip at one of the 23 experienced outfitters along the river. Price per person ranges from $27-$120 depending on the type of trip and time of year.

STAFF FILE PHOTOS

Falling for Fall



Hike to an Overlook

Fall color typically peaks in late October, making it a prime time for hiking. Signal Mountain's Signal Point to Edward's Point is a 5.8-mile out-and-back hike that begins and ends with overlooks showcasing the colorful mountains. One mile from Signal Point, hikers are treated to a panoramic view of the gorge at Julia Falls Overlook. For a shorter hike, Signal Point to Rainbow Lake is about 3 miles out and back.

Snooper's Rock at Prentice Cooper State Forest



Learn to Boulder

The Boulders on Old Wauhatchie Pike features 27 boulders ranging in difficulty from the easiest grade, V0, to the more difficult, V10. The bouldering area is located next to the St. Elmo neighborhood following an easy 0.8-mile hike from the parking lot at 1832 Old Wauhatchie Pike. While the sport is beginner friendly, proper gear such as climbing shoes, chalk and a crash pad are still required. And be sure to bring a friend as a spotter.

Go Camping

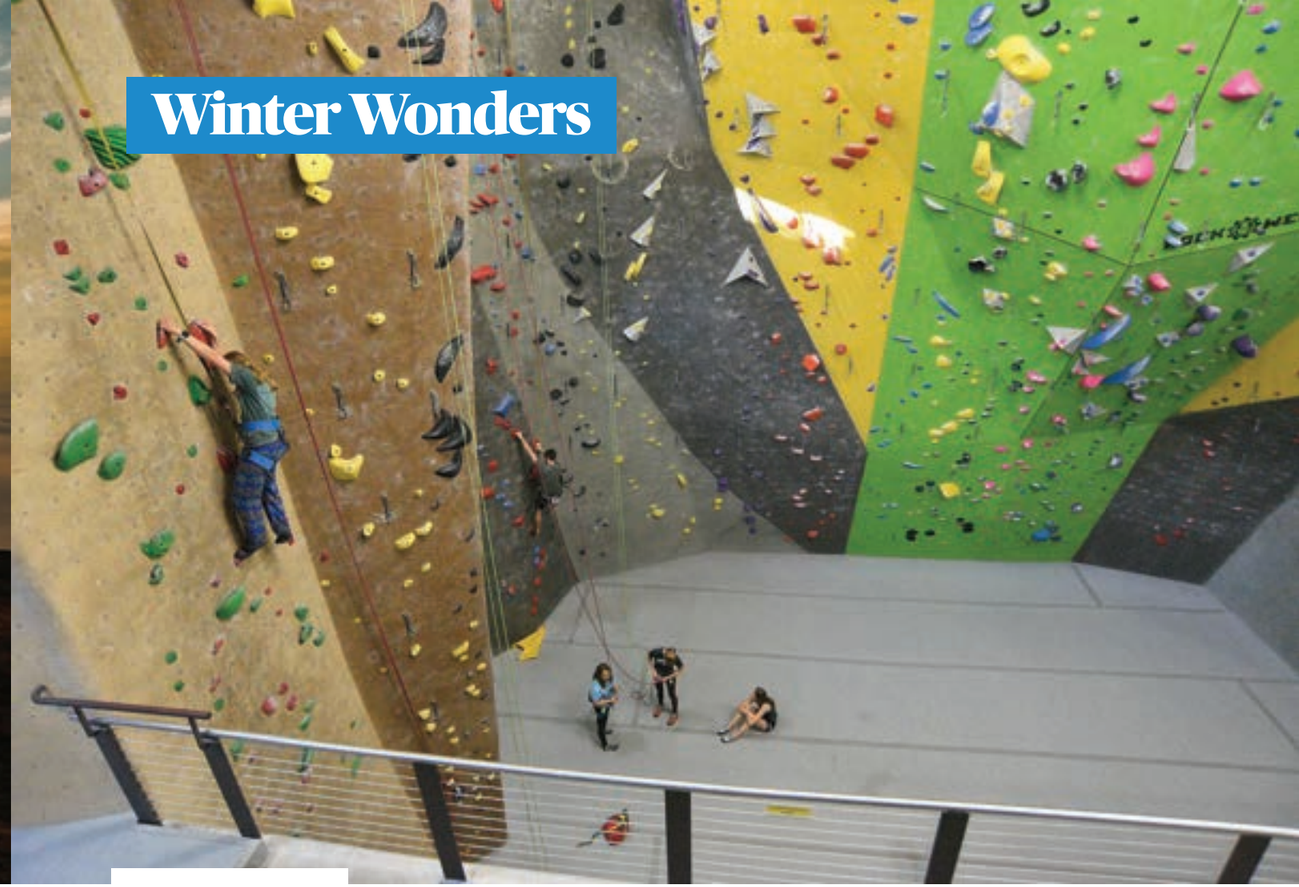
Thirty minutes from Chattanooga, Cloudland Canyon State Park straddles a thousand-foot deep gorge on the edge of Lookout Mountain and offers a range of camping experiences.

There are two main campgrounds, one situated on the east rim and one on the west rim, both with electrical hookups and hot showers. Near the West Rim Campground, for a more secluded experience, a mile-long loop trail features a number of walk-in campsites, each with a tent pad and fire ring. Or, backpackers can opt for one of the park's 11 backcountry sites located on a 2-mile loop trail.



STAFF FILE PHOTOS

Winter Wonders



Stay Active at High Point

High Point Climbing and Fitness helps climbers stay active and improve their skills through the colder months. There are two locations in Chattanooga and one in Cleveland, Tennessee, each offering indoor climbing and bouldering; gear rentals; as well as beginner, intermediate or advanced climbing classes, including top rope and lead belay instruction.



Get Inspired at the Lookout Wild Film Festival

For over a decade, each January, Lookout Wild Film Festival has brought outdoor adventure and conservation films from around the world to downtown Chattanooga. Showcasing more than just short films, the four-day festival helps promote local nonprofits and is committed to using recyclable and compostable materials.

See the Sandhill Cranes

Each winter, tens of thousands of sandhill cranes flock to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge during one of nature's greatest displays. The migration peaks in mid January and is celebrated annually at the Sandhill Crane Festival in nearby Birchwood, Tennessee. The refuge lands are closed from Nov. 15 through February, but the observation platform, an official stop on the Tennessee Birding Trail, is open year-round.

STAFF FILE PHOTO / FESTIVAL PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ANDY JOHNS

15 Restaurant Dishes to Try in Chattanooga

BY ANDRE JAMES



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

FOR DECADES Chattanooga was known as the home of Krystal Hamburgers and Moon Pies. But in the last decade or so, the city's emerging restaurant scene has attracted foodies from around the Southeast. Here, Chattanooga Times Free Press columnist Andre James shares 15 of his favorite local dishes. Make it a checklist for your culinary tour of the city.

Roasted Bone Marrow from Number Ten

1925 Myrtle Street

In order for an American city to deem itself "decent," it needs, at the very least, one of these four types of restaurants: a soul food joint, Chinese takeout, taqueria or a steakhouse (Outback is sufficient). Chattanooga checks off all these boxes (there's also a pupuseria and izakaya here). Who would have ever thought that scooping bone marrow slathered in bacon jam would be a luxurious dining experience? But here we are.

Campfire wings from Basecamp

3646 Frazier Avenue

There is nothing like the buttery, slightly piquant satisfaction of proper Buffalo wings. Basecamp smokes these wings first and then they get flash-fried to order, giving them the crispiness that we all love. At less than $1 per wing, there's a reason why I asked Mayor Tim Kelly to make Wing Wednesdays at Basecamp a citywide holiday. And their bleu cheese dressing is made in house so you know it's funky and chunky.



STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Steak Wrap from Bad Wraps

Food truck, usually found downtown

I've dubbed this dish the "domestic chimichanga." It's the standard wrap, but it's bursting at the seams with steak, melty cheese, onions and peppers, before it's tied in twine and deep fried. Bryan Slayton came up with this genius idea while serving a 31-year prison sentence, before being released into a half-way house and hitting the ground running. Please don't forget to get a side of the garlic parm fries.

Yellowtail Jalapeno from Two Ten Jack

Warehouse Row

Nobu Matsuhisa credits this dish, alongside the black cod and miso, as the most important of his illustrious career. Any sushi bar that's worth its weight in wasabi has a bootleg version of this on their menu. The beautiful part is that Two Ten Jack's version of yellowtail sashimi decorated with thin medallions of jalapeno peppers is $24 less expensive than the original version at Nobu in Malibu.

Falafel from Calliope

422 East M.L. King Blvd.

The watermelon fattoush is a salad on Lebanese steroids. The falafels are a wink to Chef Khaled Albanna's childhood in Jordan. Seeing lamb neck on the menu is probably the first time you realized lamb neck could be an actual dish. However, the labneh, a yogurty cheese, or cheesy yogurt, seems to be the creamy backbone of Calliope's menu. (Cross your fingers that it's paired with the grilled octopus).

Melrose Pizza from Community Pie

850 Market Street

Any time I see goat cheese on anything, I'm going to eat it. This slice is blotted with the tangy cheese alongside smoked mozzarella. The caramelized onions let you know exactly why people caramelize onions and they play well with the spicy acidity of the peppadew peppers. The chunks of Italian sausage are just the cherries on top. (If you don't like the goat cheese try the Pepp & Mush pizza. If you don't like mushrooms, sorry, there's no hope for you.)

Fried Chicken from Kanku's Express

1910 Market Street

I know, Champy's World Famous Fried Chicken gets all the glory and recognition, and it's much deserved. However, when you get Kanku's chicken fresh out of the grease, it can hold its own against Champy's and other fried chicken in Chattanooga. I know a lot of Yankee transplants might find it weird and off-putting to eat fried chicken from a gas station, but trust me. (The dashboard of your vehicle is the best makeshift table ever invented.)

New Orleans-style Barbecue Shrimp from Boathouse Rotisserie and Raw Bar

1459 Riverside Drive

I strongly prefer my shrimp with the heads on (I've been told all my life that the head is where all the flavor is). But that's just me being a seafood snob. These shrimp already come beheaded (probably to save you a mess and a hassle), but I can't front – they might knock the Bang Bang Shrimp from Bonefish Grill off its throne as my favorite shrimp dish that isn't shrimp and grits.

Menchi Katsu Sando from Attack of the Tatsu

818 Georga Avenue

If the words have you confused, just think of this as Japanese cheeseburger. Only the beef is not grilled or charbroiled like most Americans are accustomed to. The beef patty is coated in panko (Japanese breadcrumbs) before being deep fried. Mozzarella replaces American cheese. Instead of the usual lettuce, it's thinly shredded cabbage. The tonkatsu sauce is everything ketchup wishes it was, and the Kewpie Mayo is the Lamborghini of all mayonnaise.



STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Jerk Chicken from Jamaican Jerk Shack

6940 Lee Highway

Kola Champagne was invented for the sole purpose of smoldering the Scotch bonnet-fueled inferno of jerk chicken. Before my daughter Frankie inherited my infatuation with curried goat, before I waxed poetic about ackee and saltfish, slurped a bowl of chicken-foot soup or put a slice of American cheese inside a beef patty, jerk chicken sparked my love affair with Jamaican vittles.

Pierogi from The Pickle Barrel

1012 Market Street

"P" was almost for the "pastrami hash" from Frazier Five & Dime because I'm always tempted by pastrami. Then my constant hankering for dumplings took over, including these of Polish origin, plumped up with a potato and sharp cheddar-cheese filling. Plus, how many times will you have a chance to eat pierogies in a flatiron building with spiral staircases? Maybe, never.

Oysters from Easy Bistro

801 Chestnut Street

I could be in Ürümqi, China – the most landlocked city on Earth – and I'd still try to find a bushel of oysters. Raw, fried, charbroiled, bespackled with hot sauce or covered in mignonette – it doesn't matter. As a North Carolinian, I'm flattered when I see they have Dukes of Topsail among their vast variety, but the Murder Point oysters made me realize that Benjamin Buford "Bubba" Blue's hometown of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, is a real place.

Deviled Eggs from The Rosecomb

921 Baron Avenue

If you ever see me at a baby shower, it means that somebody promised me deviled eggs would be served. It's also the only reason I've ever invested in a jar of smoked Hungarian paprika. These remind me of the ones my aunt used to make for the 4th of July cookout, but even she didn't have hot honey in her repertoire.



STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Tom Kha Gai from Sawasdee

4008 St. Elmo Avenue

Long live Thai Pepper Restaurant in my hometown of Southport, North Carolina. That's the first place I tasted this soup. The commingling of flavors was so exotic and foreign, especially the galangal root, that it flipped my palate inside out and changed everything I'd previously thought I knew about what a chicken soup could be.

Benton's Bacon-wrapped dates from Alleia

25 E. Main Street

This dish legitimizes the notion that "bacon makes everything better." Especially when it's the "champagne of bacon," cured and smoked the old-fashioned way up the road in Madisonville by the legendary (and, possibly, the nicest man in the world) Allan Benton. Indeed, Medjool dates are fine all by themselves (but so was peanut butter before jelly).

MYCHATTANOOGA

PHOTO CONTEST

We've received hundreds of submissions for the MyChattanooga photo contest sponsored by Lee Company.

Thanks to all who participated!



Angelicque Melto
First Place



Angelicque Melto
Second Place



Donald Zimmer
Third Place



Brian Groppe
Third Place



Dawn Kropff
Third Place



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PlayTourist

(IN YOUR OWN TOWN)



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

FROM ITS RICH Civil War history to the iconic landmark of the city's rebirth, the Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga packs a lot into a midsize city. Here are some of the ways visitors and locals alike can spend their downtime.

Above: Ruby Griffith-Hansen jumps into the water during a summer camp at the Tennessee Aquarium.

PlayTourist

FAMILIES

Audubon Acres

900 N. Sanctuary Road; 423-892-1499, chattanoogaaudubon.org

This 130-acre sanctuary, which serves as headquarters for the Chattanooga Audubon Society, features a visitors center, gift shop and a divinely inspired man-made egg collection. Exhibits include a timeline and structures that trace the human habitation of the property, including American Indians. The Audubon Society also stewards Maclellan Island, Audubon Mountain and the Mackey Branch wetland.

Bluff View Art District

411 E. Second Street; 423-321-0235, bluffviewartdistrictchattanooga.com

Tucked atop a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River, this historic enclave is a charming assortment of businesses, including the Hunter and Houston museums, as well as an inn, restaurants, a bakery and an art gallery with a sculpture garden.

Chattanooga Pinball Museum

409 Broad Street; 423-541-4097, chattanoogapinballmuseum.com

Share some memories over the arcade games you grew up with. In addition to wall-to-wall action on dozens of classic arcade games, each machine has a brief history posted. The entry fee offers unlimited play for the whole day, and you can come and go as needed. Memberships are available.

Chattanooga Zoo

301 N. Holtzclaw Ave.; 423-697-1319, chattzoo.org

The Chattanooga Zoo has transformed over the years from a novelty into an accredited institution with success in breeding several critically endangered species. Recent expansions include a deserts and forests exhibit that has added giraffes, camels, fennec foxes and sloths to holdings that already included chimpanzees, jaguars, red pandas and snow leopards.



Riders swing through the air at Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park and SoakYa Water Park in Rossville, Georgia. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Creative Discovery Museum

321 Chestnut Street; 423-756-2738, cdmfun.org

With a mission to "inspire all children to explore, innovate, create and play," the museum features both rotating and permanent exhibits, all of which are interactive, to teach guests about subjects such as archaeology, music and simple machines.

High Point Climbing & Fitness

219 Broad Street; 423-602-7625, highpointclimbing.com

This nationally rated indoor climbing gym offers 30,000 square feet of climbing walls for all ages – including a special Kid Zone and an outside wall more than five stories tall overlooking the city – plus workout classes. The facility welcomes users with memberships or day passes and can be rented for private parties. All equipment can be rented on-site. There is also a Riverside location and another in Cleveland.

High Point ZIP Adventure

1720 S. Scenic Highway; 423-821-2544, rubyfalls.com

Adventurous types can take in an unusual view of the Scenic City and its natural splendor while hanging from 700 feet worth of zip line within – and above – the canopy of trees near Ruby Falls. There's also a 40-foot climbing wall.

Houston Museum of Decorative Arts

201 High St.; 423-267-7176, thehoustonmuseum.org

More than 20,000 antique artifacts are housed in a historic home in the Bluff View Art District, a collection amassed by nine-times-married Anna Safley Houston (1876-1951). There are so many pieces, in fact, that not everything can be displayed at once. As the museum undergoes a renovation, it has temporarily set up shop nearby at the Back Inn Cafe, 411 E. Second Street.

Imax 3D Theater

201 Chestnut Street; 1-800-262-0695; tnaqua.org/imax

See movies on a scale few other theaters can match on a "Certified Giant Screen" that is six stories tall and about 4,500 times larger than the average living room TV. In 2016, it became one of the first theaters worldwide to install digital laser projectors, enhancing color and picture quality.

Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park and SoakYa Water Park

1730 Lakeview Drive, Rossville, Georgia; 1-877-525-3946, lakewinnie.com

For decades, this amusement park has attracted Chattanoogans to head across the Georgia state line for dozens

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of carnival games and rides, including the "world famous" Cannon Ball roller-coaster and Oh-Zone, a 14-story free-fall experience. In 2013, the park added SoakYa, a 5-acre water park.

Raccoon Mountain Caverns

319 W. Hills Drive; 423-821-9403, raccoonmountain.com

➥ Journey into the Earth to explore over 5.5 miles of underground passageways in one of the most geologically active caverns in the South. The roughly 45-minute Crystal Palace Walking Tour takes guests through the commercial section of the cave as a guide explains how caves form.

Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center

400 Garden Road; 423-821-1160, reflectionriding.org

➥ This 300-acre immersion in nature at the foot of Lookout Mountain was created as a public park in the 1950s. Visitors may hike or drive the flora- and fauna-filled loop through the property or rent a Swincar, an electric off-road vehicle, for backcountry outings. A native plant nursery is open in season, and animal ambassadors include birds of prey, opossums and red wolves.

Rock City Gardens

1400 Patten Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia; 706-820-2531, seerockcity.com

➥ Arguably Chattanooga's most well-known tourist attraction, Rock City offers a 4,100-foot walking trail in a scenic, 14-acre park located atop Lookout Mountain. Visitors can see a variety of interesting rock formations. Take in a stunning view – supposedly of seven states – from Lover's Leap.

Ruby Falls

1720 S. Scenic Highway; 423-821-2544, rubyfalls.com

➥ Take a guided tour that culminates with an LED-illuminated waterfall spilling into a pool in a cavern deep underground. Located more than 1,120 feet beneath Lookout Mountain, Ruby Falls is the nation's deepest commercial cave and highest and most-visited underground waterfall. Guests also can enjoy a new events space and a trio of treehouses for overnight stays.



Thomas Alcantarilla crusies down a water slide during a summer camp at the Tennessee Aquarium. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Tennessee Aquarium

1 Broad Street; 1-800-262-0695, tnaqua.org

➥ Consistently rated among America's best aquariums, the Tennessee Aquarium houses more than 10,000 animals between its two themed buildings. Located in the River Journey building are countless freshwater species, including giant catfish, otters, alligators and snakes. Next door, the Ocean Journey building features standing exhibits for seahorses, jellyfish and lemurs as well as a penguin gallery.

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum

4119 Cromwell Road (Grand Junction); 423-894-8028, tvrail.com

➥ Celebrating Chattanooga's historic role as a hub of the railroad industry, the museum's holdings include about 10 steam and diesel-electric locomotives, as well as a number of passenger cars. With daily excursions (in season) and a variety of special events – including the family favorite North Pole Limited each winter – trains still depart from the station for short trips and sightseeing tours into Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia.

SIGHTSEEING

Chattanooga Ducks

151 Riverfront Parkway; 423-756-3825, chattanoogaducks.com

➥ This hourlong guided tour takes visitors through downtown and down the Tennessee River in DUKWs, or "ducks," World War II-era amphibious troop transport vehicles. The tour continues from the asphalt straight into the river for a round trip upstream.

Chattanooga Segway Tours

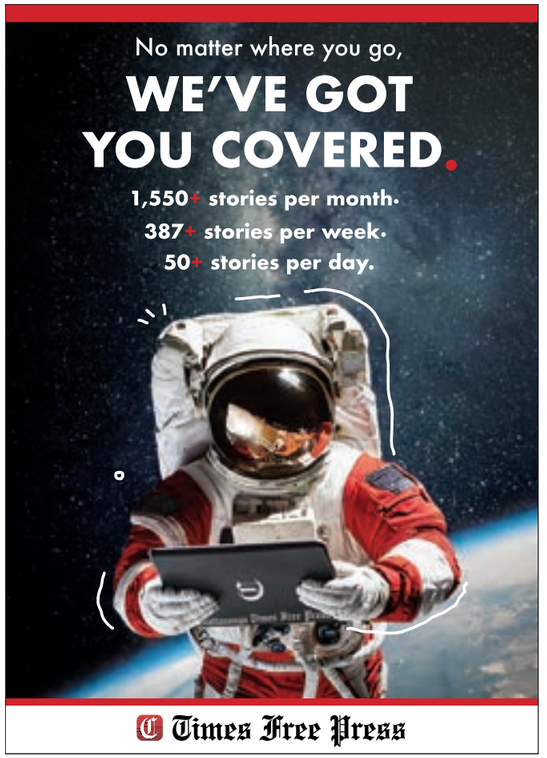
212 Walnut St.; 423-708-5051, chattanoogasegwaytours.com

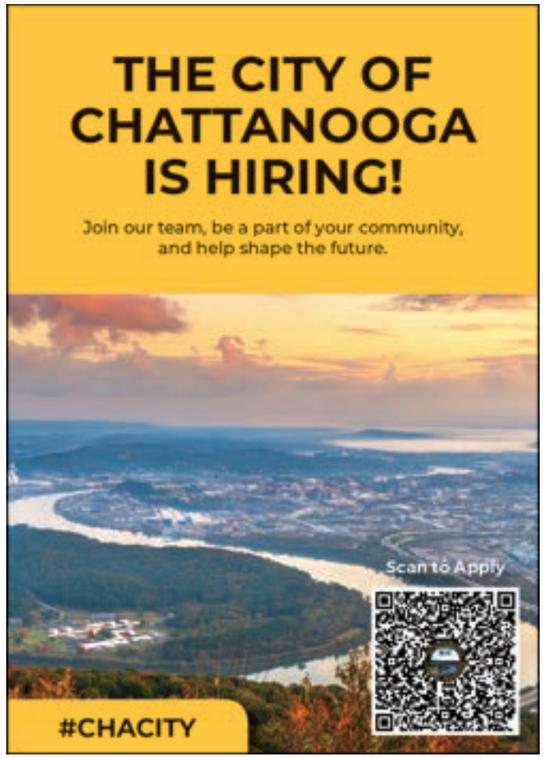
➥ Take to the city streets outfitted with a Segway or bike for an in-depth look at either historic downtown or the "hip to historical" North Shore. Tours run 1.5-2 hours, giving guests a slice of the city's history via their transportation method of choice. Walking and private tours are also available.

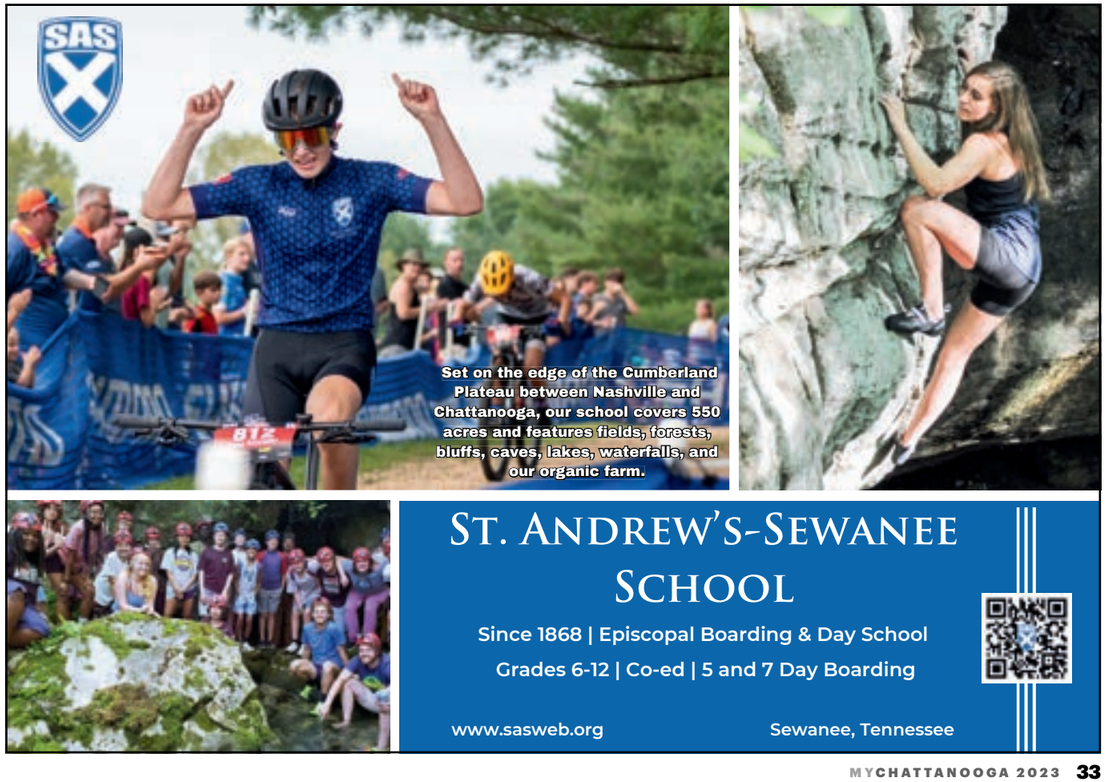
Experience Chattanooga

203-623-4519, 423-834-4197, experiencechattanooganow.com

➥ This local guided hiking service, launched in 2019, offers six tours year-round and nine during the summer, with the most popular being the seven-hour "Best of Tennessee" tour that combines both panoramic mountain views and a waterfall visit.









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Many brought lawn chairs and blankets to relax and enjoy the music at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center's Big 9 Roots Festival in downtown Chattanooga. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Rock/Creek Adventures

1530 Riverside Drive; 423-643-1524, rockcreek-outfitters.com/pages/rca

➥ In late 2019, Chattanooga's homegrown outdoor retailer began offering guided tours, building on the 35-year legacy of Rock/Creek, which has since been sold and headquartered in Arkansas. But the business's mission remains: to get people outside. To that end, its "Adventures" offshoot offers biking, paddling and hiking tours led by a local expert and ranging from two to three and a half hours. Equipment rentals are also available.

Southern Belle Riverboat

201 Riverfront Parkway; 423-266-4488, chattanoogariverboat.com

➥ For a trip up the Tennessee River that's a throwback to the paddleboat days, the Southern Belle riverboat offers 1.5-hour narrated sightseeing, lunch and sunset cruises as well as slightly longer dinner cruises and seasonal fall color cruises.

ARTS

Bessie Smith Cultural Center

200 E. M.L. King Blvd.; 423-266-8658, bessiesmithcc.org

➥ Formerly known as the Chattanooga African-American Museum and Bessie Smith Performance Hall, this downtown facility was unified in 2009 under a single name, the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, in honor of the native Chattanooga vocalist known as "the Empress of the Blues." The site still functions as a museum celebrating Black heritage through permanent and rotating displays and special events.

Public Art Chattanooga

publicartchattanooga.com

➥ Chattanooga's scenic beauty is complemented by attractive art installations dotting the downtown district and beyond. The city's public art collection consists of more than 180 works. Commissioned sculptures and large-scale murals punctuate the cityscape, enlivening buildings and roadsides and serving as unique wayfinding and conversation starters. A map is available online, but a good place to start is the Bluff View Art District at the top of Second Street. The Tennessee Riverwalk, a pedestrian path along the river, is accessible from within the district, and the Bike Chattanooga public transit system offers stands of daily rentals nearby.

Hunter Museum of American Art

10 Bluff View; 423-267-0968, huntermuseum.org

➥ High atop an 80-foot cliff overlooking the Tennessee River, the Hunter Museum is built around a historic mansion near the site of a former iron smelting plant known as the Bluff Furnace. Its collection offers a comprehensive overview of American art, from the Colonial period to the present day, and includes works by Thomas Cole, Mary Cassatt, Helen Frankenthaler and Andy Warhol.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Chattanooga Choo Choo

1400 Market St.; 1-800-872-2529, choochoo.com

➥ Named for a Cincinnati-based, woodburning steam locomotive that was the first to provide nonstop service to the South, this terminal was built in 1908. The station, which was designed by students at Paris' prestigious Beaux Arts Institute, served as a major hub of rail traffic for years but ceased passenger service in 1970, after which it was saved from demolition to become a hotel in 1973 that new owners have renovated and renamed The Hotel Chalet. Rail cars converted to hotel rooms are favorite bookings. A National Register of Historic Places designee, the property also boasts a towering dome in the foyer and a number of restaurants and entertainment venues.

Chattanooga Whiskey

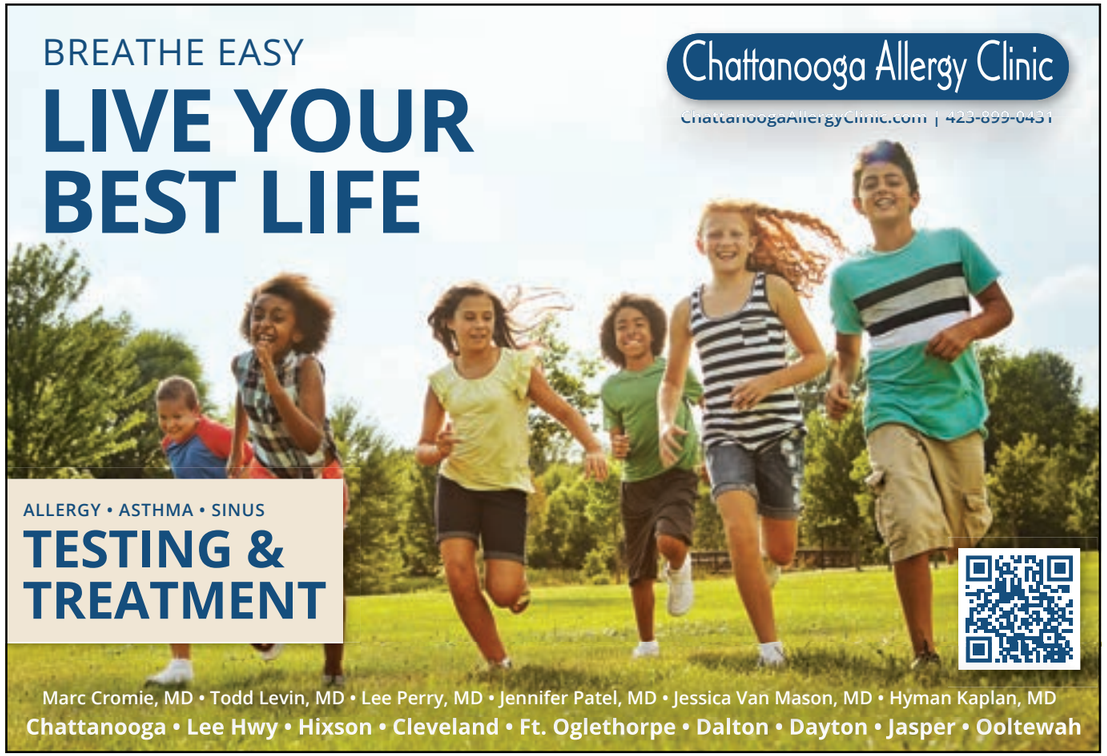
1439 Market St.; 423-760-4333, chattanoogawhiskey.com

➥ This homegrown label opened a 46,000-square-foot distillery on Riverfront Parkway at the end of 2017 to increase production. Those wanting a look at how the signature whiskey is made can tour the micro-distillery on the Southside, where the brand began its historic endeavor to change state distillation laws to allow for the startup to make whiskey here. In addition to the tours, tastings are offered, and there's an on-site gift store.

Chatt Taste

423-910-9494, chatttaste.com

➥ In the same length of time as a normal meal, you can visit three to four restaurants and sample signature dishes from each. Choose from the Downtown Chattanooga, Southside, ChattaBrunch and MLK Southern Cuisine tours, each lasting from 90 minutes to two hours. A cocktail making class is also offered regularly.



HISTORY

Battles for Chattanooga Museum

1110 E. Brow Road, Lookout Mountain, Tenn.; 423-821-2812, battlesforchattanooga.com

The centerpiece of this dedicated museum is a massive 3D, digital projection-mapped show featuring 5,000 miniature soldiers, 650 lights and sound effects to re-create several major Civil War battles.

Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center

2 W. Aquarium Way, Suite 104; 423-877-2525, mohhc.org

Until February 2020, this museum was a small, volunteer-run outfit tucked into a space at Northgate Mall. Now, it's a state-of-the-art tribute to the recipients of the highest distinction awarded to U.S. military personnel. Located at Aquarium Plaza downtown, its exhibits include artifacts from the Civil War through the War on Terror.

Chattanooga Ghost Tours

57 E. Fifth St.; 423-800-5998, chattanoogaghosttours.com

This highly rated outfit, named a Top 10 U.S. Ghost Tour by USA Today and TripAdvisor, reveals the city's sinister side. The original historical nighttime walking tour highlights downtown's more "spirited" attractions. There are also guided ghost hunts of downtown neighborhoods, landmarks and Chattanooga's oldest graveyard.

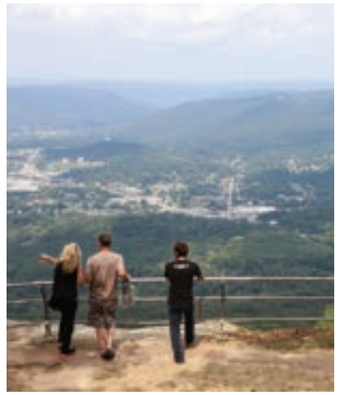
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park

3370 Lafayette Road, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.; 706-866-9241, nps.gov/chch

Dedicated to preserving the grounds on which the Union and Confederate armies fought some of the most decisive battles of the Civil War, this is the largest of the four Civil War national military parks established in 1890 by Congress. (The others are Shiloh, Gettysburg and Vicksburg.) The park – spread across several sites in Chattanooga and North Georgia – comprises 5,300 acres and attracts about a million visitors a year.



Passengers begin loading onto the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway car for a trip down the mountain. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Visitors take in the view from Point Park atop Lookout Mountain. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

International Towing and Recovery Museum

3315 Broad St.; 423-267-3132, towingmuseum.com

Formerly toured around the country in a tractor-trailer, the museum put down permanent roots in Chattanooga and opened its doors in 1986 – just a few miles from where the first wrecker was fabricated at Ernest Holmes Co. Guests can view a collection of towing and recovery artifacts and memorabilia.

Lookout Mountain Incline Railway

3917 St. Elmo Ave. (bottom station); 827 E. Brow Road, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee (top station); 423-821-4224, ridetheincline.com

Enjoy a 15-minute trip at 10 mph up a historic railway that is, in places, a 72.7% grade – one of the steepest in the world. At the bottom station, you can explore the shops and eateries of the historic St. Elmo neighborhood. At the upper station atop Lookout Mountain, you can buy souvenirs and snacks from a gift shop and enjoy a panoramic view of the Tennessee Valley from the observation deck.

Point Park Battlefield

110 Point Park Road, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; 423-821-7786, nps.gov/chch

Technically part of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, this Lookout Mountain location was the site for the Civil War engagement commonly referred to as "The Battle Above the Clouds."



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Communities



MORE THAN JUST A mid-size American city, the Chattanooga metro area is an array of small towns, communities and neighborhoods. Some don't even have precisely defined boundaries, but they all give citizens a shared sense of place and pride. In the following pages you'll find tips and topics on 21 communities that make Chattanooga special.

Samuel Brinson and his dog, Bear, practice tricks at Miller Park in downtown Chattanooga.

STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Downtown

By Andrew Schwartz

DRIVE TIME

0 minutes, you're already downtown!



Many bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the music at the 3 Sisters Bluegrass Festival around Ross' Landing. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Where is it?

Downtown Chattanooga is bounded by Georgia Avenue to the east, Main Street to the south and the Tennessee River to the north and west. Individual neighborhoods in the area may be referred to as City Center, Riverfront and Westside.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in downtown Chattanooga in 2023 was $350,000, a 7.7% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Happy Place

Flanked by the Tennessee Aquarium, AT&T Field and the Tennessee River, Ross's Landing hosts an array of public events, markets and festivals throughout the year. If it's autumn, you don't want to miss the excellent (and free!) annual 3 Sisters Bluegrass Festival.

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Downtown



The Walnut Street Bridge / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Walk this way

Take the river walk to the **Bluff View Art District**, get a quick coffee at **Rembrandt's Coffee House**, then turn back, coffee in hand, to take the pedestrian-only **Walnut Street bridge**, which will take you to the North Shore.



The Rembrandt's Coffee House patio at the Bluff View Art District / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD





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Downtown

Breakfast

Maple Street Biscuit Company specializes in ... biscuits – but that's not all. Try the "Iron Goat," loaded with sauteed spinach and goat cheese. Or, if you are feeling meaty, go for the "Bam! Yo-Yo," the Asiago bacon waffle.

Lunch

Taichi Bubble Tea is a "poke paradise." Load up with tuna, rice, kimchi and, of course, some Taro Bubble Tea in the restaurant's cozy booths.

Dinner

Public House is a Chattanooga classic and a fine place to unwind after a long day of work or exploration. Mains range from the high teens – as of this writing, $18 fried chicken with mac & cheese – to $42 for the beef fillet. Start out with the "Yankee" cornbread, with chili honey and sorghum butter for the table. Then help yourself to a big 'ole burger.



Downtown Chattanooga / AERIAL PHOTO BY 148 FILMS



"Resurgence: A Statement of Celebration" by sculptor Albert Paley at the Tennessee Riverpark / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Two walkers cross the Holmberg Bridge linking the Riverfront with the Bluff View Arts District. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



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Downtown

Pride Points

"The Riverwalk makes it pretty beautiful during the spring and summer seasons."

Meghan Cummins
Resident of the Bluff View Art District

"It's nice, go eat dinner, go to the movies, go see a baseball game."

Derryck Smith
Resident of Patten Towers

Kid Magnets

The downtown branch of the **Chattanooga Public Library** on Broad Street has a large space dedicated to children – and its fourth floor maker-space comes loaded with equipment for sewing, virtual reality, 3D printing, button makers and much more. If it's a Friday in the warmer seasons, follow a few hours at the library by heading over to the free Nightfall music series in nearby Miller Plaza.



The downtown branch of the Chattanooga Public Library / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Mari Beamon, 7, front, and Nala Watson, 6, choose fruits to add to their "fruit sushi" at the Avondale branch of the Chattanooga Public Library. The library was touring the Flavor Lab, a portable kitchen, to the different library branches and using it to introduce children to a variety of healthy snacks and meals they can make at home. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

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Trinity Thomas uncovers fossils at the Creative Discovery Museum, one of Chattanooga's most popular educational destinations for kids. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Downtown

Parks and Rec:

- Ross's Landing, 201 Riverfront Drive
- Boynton Park, 1 Cameron Circle
- Miller Park, 928 Market Street
- Sheila M. Jennings Westside Park, 1201 W. 12th Street

Schools:

- None, but there's plenty for children to learn at the Creative Discovery Museum.

Health care assets:

- Erlanger hospital, the largest health care provider in the region, is just a few minutes walk from downtown along East Third Street. There are also many smaller health care services and clinics available in and surrounding the downtown area.



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Front (L-R): Brett Sanders, MD; Benji Miller, MD; Brian Smith, MD; Robert Mastey, MD; Chad Smalley, MD; Jason Robertson, MD; Timothy Ballard, MD; Todd Bell, MD; Benjamin Geddes, MD; Jason Wamack, DPM; Christopher Lotufo, DPM

Back (L-R): Kyle Kesler, MD; Bradford Mitchell, MD; Jason Spangler, DO; Justin Arnold,MD; Jason Rogers, MD; Shay Richardson, MD; Todd Grebner, DO; John Nash, MD; Joshua Lawson, MD; Michael Hermann, MD

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Highland Park

By Patrick MacCoon

DRIVE TIME

Highland Park is located 2 miles east of downtown Chattanooga and 2.8 miles from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Where is it?

A neighborhood established in 1889, Highland Park's boundaries are South Willow Street and Central Avenue on the east and west, and McCallie Avenue and East Main Street on the north and south.

Curb Appeal

The median home price in Highland Park in 2023 was over $330,000.

Source: Realtor.com

Highland Park was voted the "Neighborhood of the Year" by Neighborhoods, USA in 2001. The neighborhood is one of Chattanooga's largest urban neighborhoods with over 900 homes and three parks: Shaw Park, Tatum Park and the Highland Park Commons.

Happy Place

The Refindery on McCallie, located at 1300 McCallie Avenue, is an antiques shop that showcases the diversity of Highland Park. This shop has something for everyone from treasure hunters to those looking to relive childhood memories. This is a great place to find gifts.



Families participate in a Zumba lesson at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day at the Highland Park Commons.
/ STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Breakfast

Together Cafe, located at 801 South Orchard Knob Avenue, has become many locals' favorite morning coffee and tea shop. The cafe's unusual drinks include: milk & honey latte, almond joy latte, cereal milk latte, turmeric latte and the Fruit Loop matcha. The shop also serves infused lemonades, smoothies and hot chocolate. Food options are limited, but the croissants are delicious.

Lunch

Shady's Corner, located at 1402 Cemetery Avenue, is an all-day deli and all-day bar. Here you can grab a cheap lunch with $3 lunch items such as a bologna sandwich, grilled cheese, PB&J and hot dogs. All sandwiches are served with a dill pickle spear and either Flamin' Hot Cheetos or kettle chips.

Dinner

Taqueria La Antigua Guatemala, located at 1901 East Main Street, is a great choice if you're looking for authentic Hispanic food. If you love tacos, this hole-in-the-wall restaurant is the one for you with many patrons claiming they have the best tacos in all of Chattanooga. The carne asada tacos are a favorite item on the menu.



Kid Magnet

BlueCross Healthy Place at Highland Park, located at 1800 Vance Ave, is a playground shared by Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, Chattanooga Preparatory School and the Montessori School along with Highland Park community members.

The 15-acre play and sports complex has a playground suitable for kids ages 2-12, a fitness station, a pavilion for community gatherings, a walking track, a challenge course, basketball and tennis courts along with a multipurpose sports field and an amphitheater for community seating.

Pride Points

Highland Park is filled with a rich history of success on the basketball court that the community has been able to rally around.

Previously home to Tennessee Temple High School – which won TSSAA boys' basketball state championships in 2002, 2003 and 2007 – now Chattanooga Preparatory School is continuing to add to the history books of top-tier boys' basketball teams.

"Highland Park has great basketball history dating back to the Tennessee Temple days when that area/campus used to be both a high school and college," said Coach Christoffer Collins.

"I still see former Tennessee Temple alums come by the gym to take pictures and reminisce about the past while embracing the present and future.

Chattanooga Prep in March became the area's first boys' basketball program in 17 years to win a state championship.



Elliott and Matt Stevens play a game of Jenga at Tatum Park.

Walk this way

Tatum Park, located at 1609 Union Avenue, offers a walking trail and covered pavilions. The park is also home to a peacock sculpture. The sculpture was inspired by the strong connections that Highland Park residents share.



Families spread out blankets on the grass at Tatum Park.
/ STAFF PHOTOS BY OLIVIA ROSS

Parks and Rec:

- Highland Park Commons at 2000 Union Ave.
- BlueCross Healthy Place at Highland Park, 1800 Vance Ave.
- Tatum Park at 1609 Union Ave.
- Shaw Park at S. Highland Park Ave.

Schools:

- Montessori Elementary at Highland Park (PK-3)
- Chattanooga Preparatory School, (currently 6-11)
- Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy (6-12)
- East Side Elementary (K-5)
- Orchard Knob Elementary (PK-5)
- Orchard Knob Middle School (6-8)

Health care assets:

- Erlanger, 979 E. Third St.
- Children's Hospital at Erlanger, 910 Blackford Street
- Parkridge Medical Center, 2333 McCallie Ave.
- CHI Memorial Hospital, 2525 de Sales Ave.
- Center for Sports Medicine and Orthopedics, 2415 McCallie Ave.
- Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation, 1 Siskin Plaza

Lincoln Park

By Sarah Dolgin

DRIVE TIME

The Lincoln Park neighborhood is 2 miles drive from the Tennessee Aquarium downtown.

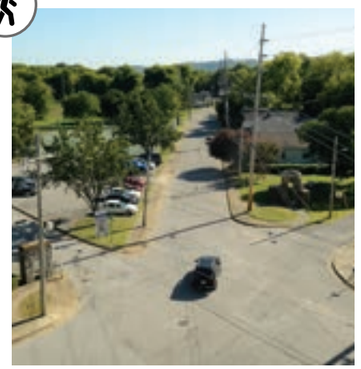


Corey Hayden starts his grill at the 100-year anniversary celebration of Lincoln Park in 2018. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Pride Points

Lincoln Park was founded in 1918 during racial segregation as a space for Black residents of Chattanooga to partake in baseball, swimming and other activities – as Chattanooga's Warner Park was only open to white residents. Today, the once 60-acre park is now reduced to a few acres after Erlanger hospital bought and paved over most of the historic park.

"Lincoln Park historically was always a safe space for African Americans. Its inception created this atmosphere. We have community members that have lived in the community over 40 years, many members have lived in several different homes in Lincoln Park," said Tiffany Rankin.



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

Lincoln Park is a residential neighborhood with access to sidewalks for residents and visitors to use. Lincoln Park and Erlanger hospital can be reached on foot.



Christian Houston plays basketball in the Warner Park pool, just a few minutes away from the Lincoln Park neighborhood. / STAFF FILE PHOTO



Where is it?

Lincoln Park's boundaries include the area spanning the corner of Central Avenue and East Third Street to Scruggs Street, down Scruggs Street until the last house before the Norfolk Southern rail yard, to the end of Maude Street, to Lincoln Park and back to the corner of Central Avenue and East Third.

Curb Appeal

Current homes for sale in Lincoln Park start at $300,000.

Source: Trulia.com



Felton Davis, Danny Gordon and Fredrick Gordon, from left, enjoy a beautiful afternoon in historic Lincoln Park. / STAFF FILE PHOTO



A commemorative hat celebrates Lincoln Park's 100-year anniversary in 2018. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Happy Place

Lincoln Park, next to Erlanger hospital, is a space in the Lincoln Park neighborhood where residents can gather and enjoy the outdoors.

Kid Magnet

Lincoln Park has plenty of space for children to run around and play.

Parks and Rec:

Lincoln Park, the park the neighborhood is named after is still located in the neighborhood and offers green space and tennis courts for visitors to enjoy.

Schools:

Brown Academy (PK-5)

Orchard Knob Middle School (6-8)

Health care assets:

Erlanger hospital is minutes from Lincoln Park.



Javonte Lazenby heads to home plate. The Miracle League held its five-year anniversary celebration at Warner Park in 2022. The organization removes the barriers that keep children with mental and physical disabilities off the baseball field and lets them experience the joy of America's favorite pastime. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Breakfast

Longtime resident and Lincoln Park advocate Tiffany Rankin said there are no local restaurants within walking distance of the neighborhood. However, **Be Caffeinated**, an eclectic drive-through coffee and breakfast shop, is located in Highland Park only a two-minute drive from Lincoln Park.

Lunch

The Yellow Deli, a faith-based eatery known for its hippie style and selection of sandwiches and salads is a four-minute drive from Lincoln Park.

Dinner

Universal Joint, a casual American food spot is a six-minute drive from Lincoln Park. McDonald's is a six minute walk from Lincoln Park.

Southside

By Mike Pare

DRIVE TIME
A little more than a mile from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Where is it?

The Southside spans the area between 12th and 20th streets on either side of Market and Main streets and is anchored by the historic Chattanooga Choo Choo.

Curb Appeal

The median listing price for homes on the Southside was $499,000 in February 2024, trending up 23.2% year over year.

Source: Realtor.com

Walk this way

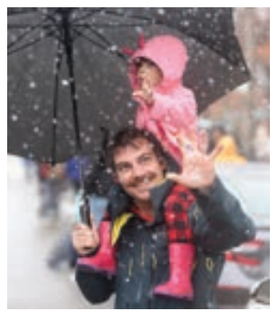
The Southside has a well-developed grid of sidewalks for visitors and locals. **Main Terrain Park**, built on a railroad right-of-way, is a 1.7-acre green space with interactive art pieces and gym equipment. **Sculpture Fields at Montague Park** features more than 1.5 miles of trails across 33-acres of open space that is populated with sculptures from around the world.



Set on the campus of the Chattanooga Choo Choo, the iconic train station, hotel and entertainment complex, The Hotel Chalet reflects a meticulous renovation of the former Choo Choo Hotel. / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Place

The Chattanooga Choo Choo complex turned 50 years old in 2023. The revamped former railroad terminal opened as the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hilton and Entertainment Complex in April 1973, and the hotel was renamed Hotel Chalet in late 2023. The first train arrived at Chattanooga's Terminal Station, popularized in the 1941 hit song by Glenn Miller, in 1909. But train travel declined sharply after World War II, and by 1970, Southern Railway had vacated the facility, according to news archives. A group led by Chattanooga businessman B. Allen Casey took the neglected terminal that was slated for demolition and transformed it into one of Tennessee's best-known tourist destinations.



Brenan and Hazel Vega enjoy the MainX24 parade on Main Street. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Gracie Lee Hernandez sprays water on the vegetables from Hernandez's Farms at the Main Street Farmers Market. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast

The Bluegrass Grill on Main Street serves made-from-scratch breakfast five days a week. Bread is baked daily.

Lunch

Urban Stack on West 13th Street serves up specialty stacks such as the Philly Cheesesteak burger and the North Carolina Chili Cheeseburger. It also offers the Asian Q which features kimchi and wasabi slaw.

Dinner

Alleia has a rustic Italian menu. Among its dishes are butternut squash ravioli, pork belly gnocchi and brick-oven pizzas.



Alleia, located at 25 East Main Street, offers hand-crafted Italian cuisine. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Bluegrass Grill on Main Street is one of Chattanooga's most iconic breakfast eateries. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Pride Points

Caleb Vinson said he likes that the Southside is central to a lot of amenities. He also appreciated the new development in the area and that there are a lot families living there. Chloe Overton said she likes the convenience of the Southside and the walkability of the area.

Kid Magnets

Chattown Skate Park and Hockey Rink, 1801 Carter Sreet; Finley Stadium, 1826 Reggie White Boulevard.

Parks and Rec:

Jefferson Heights Park is located in the Southside neighborhood of Jefferson Heights and features a green space, a playground, community gardens, a beach volleyball court and a picnic shelter.

Schools:

Battle Academy is a K-5 magnet school. The magnet theme is centered on the work of Dr. Howard Gardner in the area of multiple intelligences.

Health care assets:

Parkridge Medical Group Southside, 1700 Broad Street, Suite 140; Riverfront Surgery Center, 1247 Riverfront Parkway Suite 100

North Chattanooga

By Emily Crisman

DRIVE TIME

North Chattanooga's landmark Coolidge Park is about one mile from the Tennessee Aquarium downtown.



The Chattanooga Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival at Coolidge Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Happy Place

Coolidge Park boasts an antique carousel, an interactive water fountain and a rock climbing wall plus wide-open green space along the Tennessee River. It's set underneath one of the world's largest pedestrian bridges, the Walnut Street Bridge.



Where is it?

North Chattanooga — sometimes called the North Shore — consists of the area north of the Tennessee River to near where Fernway Avenue meets Hixson Pike to the north, east to the Tennessee River by the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club and west to the Stringer's Ridge tunnel and White Oak Drive.

Curb Appeal

The median asking price of homes listed for sale in North Chattanooga in March 2024 was $553,000.

Source: Realtor.com

Kid Magnet

Sliding down the hill in Renaissance Park on a piece of cardboard is a tradition worth trying.

Pride Points

"I like that you can easily access places all over town."

Todd Cable

"I love North Chattanooga because it's charming and it's so convenient to all the downtown things. It's a great place to live, especially if you're young to middle age."

Megan Bobita



Visitors keep cool in the Coolidge Park fountain. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

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North Chattanooga



Cardboard Hill in Renaissance Park / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Ride this way

Stringer's Ridge Park offers a piece of nature in the middle of the city with trails winding throughout its 92 acres. A hike to the Stringer's Ridge overlook takes about a half hour and offers one of the best views of the city.

Parks and Rec:

- Coolidge Park, 150 River Street
- Frances B. Wyatt Community Center, 406 Colville Street
- North Chattanooga Youth and Family Development Center, 406 May Street
- Renaissance Park, 133 River Street
- Riverview Park, 1957 Riverview Road
- Stringer's Ridge, Spears Avenue

Schools:

- Chattanooga High Center for Creative Arts (6-12)
- Normal Park Museum Magnet (PK-3, lower school); (4-8 upper school)

Private

- Bright School (PK-5)
- Girls Preparatory School (6-12)

Health care assets:

- The neighborhood has no health care facilities of its own, but is only about 3 miles away from Erlanger hospital, 4 miles from Parkridge Medical Center and 5 miles from Memorial Hospital, all across the river.

Breakfast

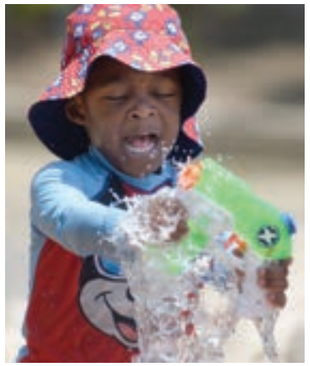
Southern Squeeze is the neighborhood's go-to place for fresh juice, smoothies and vegetarian dishes served in the restaurant's modern, plant-filled indoor space or its pleasant and spacious outdoor patio. Try a smoothie bowl or avocado toast with a turmeric latte for a healthy start to your day.

Lunch

Totto Sushi & Grill is a popular sushi spot, particularly at lunchtime when the restaurant offers a daily all-you-can-eat sushi and hot bar. Fill your plate multiple times from the buffet's plentiful selection, including a variety of specialty sushi rolls, teriyaki chicken, fried rice, dumplings, soup and salad.

Dinner

The Rosecomb is a neighborhood pub with great cocktails and small plates located in a converted house. Space is fairly limited, so reservations are recommended. Try the catfish and grits or the deviled eggs.



Kailo Fortson plays in the fountain in Coolidge Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

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Signal Mountain

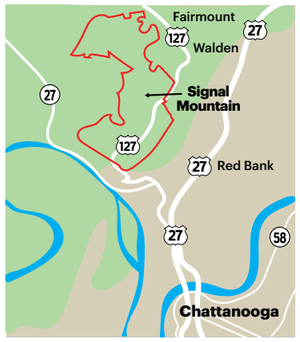
By Jay Greeson

DRIVE TIME

From the main road — Taft Highway — atop the mountain, a trip to the Tennessee Aquarium is about 10 miles.



James Byron jumps off the diving board at the Signal Mountain Pool. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Where is it?

A suburb of Chattanooga, Signal Mountain is located eight miles northwest of downtown. The community borders two other counties: Marion and Sequatchie.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Signal Mountain in 2023 was $642,170, a 14.7% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Happy Place

The community pool is always busy when open in the summer (as well as being the aquatic home to the always-competitive Green Giants swim team). Children and teens wear themselves out and the grownups can catch some rays or catch up on their summer reading. Need more happiness? Head over to Pruett's Market on Taft Highway where you can catch live music, enjoy a specialty coffee or try a craft beer on the patio.

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Signal Mountain



Rainbow Lake Bridge on Signal Mountain / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GREESON

Walk this way

There are many options to get out and stretch your legs on the mountain. There are the sidewalks along many of the major roads in and around the area, especially around the **Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club** as well as through **Old Town.** There is **McCoy Farm**, a relatively flat and pet-friendly, one-mile loop around the old McCoy grounds off Taft Highway. For the more adventurous nature travelers there's the 2.2-mile loop to **Rainbow Lake** that is considered a moderate challenge because of the incline back to the trailhead in Old Town.

Kid Magnets

The Pumpkin Patch is a staple for young kids and their parents. It's a nature park off Taft Highway atop the mountain. For the rest of the over-6 crowd, Signal Mountain's bustling youth sports opportunities offer year-round options in more than a half-dozen sports for boys and girls. **The Town Hall** is a hub of youth activity year-round with a gym and two adjacent baseball fields. You will find a public tennis facility with multiple courts at the community pool. Pickleball facilities will be added in the coming months.



The main house at the McCoy farm / STAFF FILE PHOTO

❤ Pride Points

➥ Known simply as the Cookie Lady for her fabulous baked treats at her bakery of the same name on Signal, Sandie Benson has come to love her town. "When we first moved to Signal Mountain in 1995, I fell instantly in love with the hometown feel and community spirit," Benson said. "Our daughter was just entering middle school and we genuinely appreciated her teachers, and the level of engagement and support the faculty received from all of the parents. ... While I love to travel, I'm always happy to return home. And I'm glad our life's journey brought us to Signal Mountain."



Tyler Heil prepares food during Christkindlmarkt, a German/European-inspired holiday market, at the Mountain Arts Community Center. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Atley Davidson, owner of Mayfly Coffee Company

Breakfast

While **Pruett's,** the neighborhood supermarket/cafe/coffee shop offers options for all three meals, the mountain's other options are more traditional. **Mayfly Coffee** has become a morning staple, especially for work-at-home types, and offers an eclectic collection of coffees as well as a hearty breakfast menu.



Chef Nancy Adams at Southern Star

Lunch

The Southern Star outlet is popular for both eat-in and take-out lunches and dinners. Don't forget to leave room for the delicious desserts!



El Agave Mexican Restaurant in Walden

Dinner

Two Mexican restaurants attract regulars and new customers for after-practice or post-game celebrations: **El Agave** is gaining ground and **El Metate** enters its second decade serving Signal families.



A string quintet from the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera perform during a concert at the Mountain Arts Community Center. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Parks and Rec:

➥ There are a number of public options around Town Hall, and there are basketball, tennis and pickleball courts and softball fields behind Signal Mountain Golf & Country Club as well. The soccer fields for a highly competitive youth program are located behind the middle school, and Timberlinks Park hosts 6-and-under baseball in the spring and summer and elementary school flag football during the fall.

Schools:

➥ Nolan Elementary (K-5)
➥ Thrasher Elementary (K-5)
➥ Signal Mountain Christian School (K-5)
➥ Signal Mountain Middle High School (6-12)

Health care assets:

➥ Chattanooga's two largest hospitals — CHI Memorial and Erlanger — have physician offices on the mountain; there's also a pediatrics practice. CVS pharmacy has a walk-in clinic as well. Several dentists and orthodontists have offices, too.



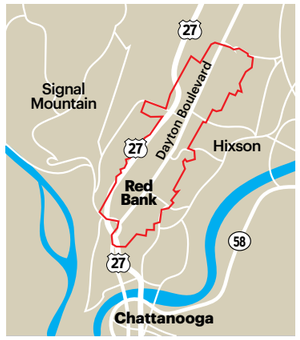
Emma Hodge, front, rehearses a dance routine with other dance camp students at the Mountain Arts Community Center. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Red Bank

By Joan McClane

DRIVE TIME

The Tennessee Aquarium is 4 milies from Red Bank City Hall.



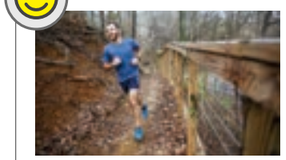
Where is it?

Red Bank is geographically surrounded by the city of Chattanooga. From downtown, drive 10 minutes north.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Red Bank in 2023 was $305,000, a 3.4% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Happy Place

Stringer's Ridge Park is a 92-acre wilderness park of wooded hills overlooking Chattanooga. The minimally developed area, straddling Red Bank and Chattanooga, features an array of hiking and biking trails for all skill levels. A connector trail from popular White Oak Park was recently completed.



The streets of Red Bank fill with pedestrians during the Red Bank Jubilee. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



The Velo Vixens begin their ride in Red Bank. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Sasha Posada grooms Rusty, a Cavapoo, at The Puppy Cut. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Breakfast

Be Caffeinated is the perfect place to grab a hot coffee and muffin on the run. This locally owned, drive-through coffee shop on Dayton Boulevard partners with Morning Bee Bakery to offer baked goods ranging from bagels to cookies.

Lunch

Experience interesting dishes at **Sabor**, a modern Latino and sushi restaurant on Dayton Boulevard. Try the popular empanadas or create a bowl with your choice of protein, rice and beans.

Dinner

At **Pizzeria Cortile**, enjoy Neapolitan-style wood-fired pizza with the family in a relaxed environment. The Sunday Night Dinner specials, new each week, are a neighborhood tradition at the Dayton Boulevard location.

Kid Magnet

Red Bank Bounce for kids 11 and under is an indoor inflatables park where parents can relax on comfy couches or set up to work on a laptop while their kids play in a fun, screen-free environment.

Parks and Rec:

- Red Bank Community Center, 3620 Tom Weathers Drive
- Morrison Springs Park and Dixie Youth Baseball/Swimming Pool, Morrison Springs Road
- Norma Cagle Park for Youth Girl's Softball, 2226 James Avenue
- White Oak Park, 798 Ben Miller Pkwy.
- Kids Korner Park, 3817 Redding Road
- Town Center Park, 3901 Dayton Blvd.

Schools:

- Red Bank Elementary School (PK-5)
- Alpine Crest Elementary School (K-5)
- Red Bank Middle School (6-8)
- Red Bank High school (9-12)
- The Dawn School (K-12)

Health care assets:

- Erlanger North Hospital, 632 Morrison Springs Road



Kalani Cannon rollerskates at VW Clubhouse, a private space where the owners work with Chatt Skates and occasionally hold open skate days for the community. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

White Oak Park on Ben Miller Parkway offers winding, paved walking trails with beautiful views of the surrounding mountains, as well as a spacious **dog park**.



Cal Adams rides through a tunnel at the White Oak Bicycle Co-op's pop-up bicycle playground during the Red Bank Jubilee. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Pride Points

"I love that our neighborhood is filled with young families just like ours. There are great locally owned restaurants instead of lots of chains and plenty of parks and playgrounds for our family to enjoy. We always meet other families and make friends when we go, too."

Summer Sikkema
Red Bank resident

"All the public, family friendly events, like the annual Christmas parade, make Red Bank special."

Sara Mendus
Red Bank resident



The Sweet Thai Chicken at Pizzeria Cortile / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Lookout Mountain

By Bob Gary

DRIVE TIME

The Georgia town hall is 7.5 miles, and the Tennessee town hall is 7.7 miles from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Guests take in the view from Lover's Leap at Rock City. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Where is it?

Both Lookout Mountain, Georgia, and Lookout Mountain, Tennessee have the neighborhoods of St. Elmo and Lookout Valley directly beneath them, with Trenton, Georgia, approximately 25 minutes to the southwest.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Lookout Mountain in 2023 was $870,000, a 5.7% decrease over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Happy Place

When it comes to an attraction that's instantly identifiable in terms of its location, it's hard to beat Lookout Mountain's Rock City Gardens and Ruby Falls. Each of these Lookout legacy attractions has been entertaining visitors and locals alike for nearly 100 years.



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Lookout Mountain



Visitors stand in a plaza area at Ruby Falls. / STAFF FILE PHOTO



The rising sun peeks from behind Craven's House. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Walk this way

If you love to walk, your options on Lookout Mountain range from a leisurely sidewalk stroll with the family dog to full-on hikes with varying degrees of difficulty; some of the easier hikes start at **Cravens House**, Lookout's last remaining Civil War-era structure (per visitchattanooga.com), while **Point Park** figures in some of the tougher treks.



Thompson Kent admires a dinosaur balloon at a school fall carnival at The Town Commons. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Kid Magnets

The Town Commons, just off Scenic Highway on the Tennessee side, offers a playground, track, ball fields, tennis courts and a pavilion. Located off Scenic Highway on the Tennessee side, The Commons features the Mountain Maze Playground, a walking track, ball fields, tennis/pickleball courts and a pavilion.



Brenda and Mark Johnstone, visiting from Texas, admire the view from Point Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Pride Points

"Lookout Mountain is where time stands still. It's Mayberry to some. 'On Golden Pond' to others. 'Our Town' to a few. People gossip, but they also bring dinner at the first whisper of need. ... It has restaurants, but no chains or drive-thrus. And if you squint really tightly, at least a few of the old-timers swear you can see seven states."

Mark Wiedmer
22-year resident of Lookout Mountain, Georgia



Memorial cannons face the city, seen from Garrity's Alabama Battery at Point Park on Lookout Mountain. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Parks and Rec:

- Located on the Tennessee side, at Lookout Mountain's point, is Point Park. Covering 10 acres, it overlooks the site of the Civil War's Battle of Lookout Mountain as well as the city of Chattanooga itself. Visitors can follow a paved walking path and take in the overlook, monuments and Confederate artillery positions.

Schools:

- Lookout Mountain School (K-5)
- Fairyland Elementary School (PK-5)
- Covenant College

Health care assets:

- Erlanger Primary Care, 101 McFarland Road, Lookout Mountain, Georgia



The Chattanooga Pipe Band performs at Rock City's St. Patrick's Day Shamrock City event. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Breakfast

Options include **Canopy Coffee and Wine Bar** on Lookout's Tennessee side, as well as a **Starbucks** at Rock City Gardens on the Georgia side.



Hush puppies at 1885 Grill / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Lunch

When Lookout residents decide to descend the mountain for a meal out, they can find options aplenty at its foot, including **1885 Grill**, which features a southern/coastal motif, **Amigos Mexican Cocina** and **Little Coyote**, where the menu has Texas/southwest underpinnings.



Fletcher Thompson and Scott Eiselstein at Massey's Kitchen / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Dinner

Massey's Kitchen, which sports a distinctly Mediterranean, made-from-scratch menu, opened in mid-2023. Massey's offers lunch and dinner daily, as well as a brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

Lookout Valley

By Bob Gary

DRIVE TIME

It's 6.1 miles from Lookout Valley Middle/ High School to the Tennessee Aquarium in downtown Chattanooga.



Where is it?

Lookout Valley is bordered on the east by Lookout Mountain and the Tennessee River, on the west by Raccoon Mountain and on the south by the Georgia state line.

Curb Appeal

Homes for sale in Lookout Valley in April had a median listing price of $569,500.

Source: Realtor.com



Ja'Meer McCrary plays at the Tennessee Riverplay exhibit at the Creative Discovery Museum. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Kid Magnets

From the **John A. Patten Community Center,** it's just a 6-mile drive to downtown Chattanooga's **Creative Discovery Museum.**



Charlie Daugherty spins around on a piece of playground equipment at Patten Park, near the John A. Patten Recreation Center in Lookout Valley. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Happy Place

Built nearly 100 years ago, the John A. Patten Community Center served as an elementary school until the 1980s, when it was sold to the city of Chattanooga and became a community center. Among the center's program offerings is drop-in pickleball every Monday through Friday.

Pride Points

Eddie Baker, who has lived in Lookout Valley for all but the first six of his 70 years says: "When I was younger, someone would ask me, 'Where do you live?' When I'd reply that I lived in Lookout Valley, the response was always, 'You live way out there?' I'd just nod, knowing downtown Chattanooga was only six minutes away. The Valley still has that small community feeling – a picturesque setting that just happens to be nestled among the mountains."



Ruby, a red wolf, watches a group as they tour the Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Education manager Danielle Pope-White holds Winnie, a barn owl, during an informational session on barn owls at the Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast

It's traditional, tried and true – it's **Cracker Barrel**, 50 Birmingham Highway.

Lunch

LemonGrass Thai restaurant, 3536 Cummings Highway, #180, specializes in Thai food and offers vegan dishes as well. For American fare, including that signature bread, there's **Logan's Roadhouse** at 3592 Cummings Highway.

Dinner

Steve and Vicki Flynn, owners of the **Stevarinos** restaurants in South Pittsburg and Chattanooga, opened **Blackstone Grill** in March at 2018 Cummings Highway. Steve Flynn calls Blackstone an "upscale American tavern" featuring steaks, pasta, seafood, sandwiches and burgers for lunch and dinner.



Campers explore a wetland area at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Parks and Rec:

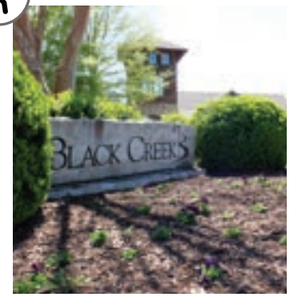
Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center is part public park, part nature center, part wildlands and all outdoor adventure spanning 300 acres at the foot of Lookout Mountain. It's located at 400 Garden Road and online at reflectionriding.org.

Health care assets:

There are a few urgent care and small medical practices in the Lookout Valley area, but a major medical event will require a trip to town. Erlanger hospital is 8 miles away; Memorial and Parkridge are each about 10 miles away.

Schools:

- Lookout Valley Elementary (K-5)
- Lookout Valley Middle/High School (6-12)
- The Wauhatchie School (PK-5)



Black Creek Golf Club / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

Black Creek, the Lookout Valley development surrounding the Black Creek Club, one of Tennessee's top-ranked golf courses, is a great place to walk. So says longtime Black Creek resident and former U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp. "There are all kinds of people out walking in the mornings," he says. "Folks come from around Lookout Valley, and it's great. Everybody stops and talks to each other. It's like an organic community meeting."

Hixson

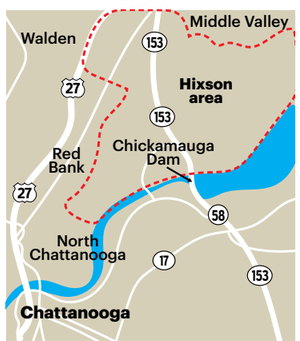
By David Paschall

DRIVE TIME

It is a 9.2-mile drive from Northgate Mall to the Tennessee Aquarium, with an estimated travel time of 15 minutes.



Jax Rowe, 15, makes a turn during the first day of the 2023 Chattanooga Watercross Premier at Chester Frost Park in Hixson. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Where is it?

Hixson has been traditionally defined as the area north of Rivermont, east of Red Bank and Highway 27, and south of Middle Valley and Thrasher Pike. Hixson's eastern border is the Tennessee River.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Hixson in 2023 was $350,000, a 1% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Happy Place

Northgate Mall has passed the 50-year mark and continues to be a go-to place for Hixson residents. There are shopping options such as Belk and Old Navy, and families with small children can conquer a cold or rainy day with the indoor playground and a meal at Chick-fil-A.

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Hixson



Zailee Sharp plays at Vandergriff Park in Hixson. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

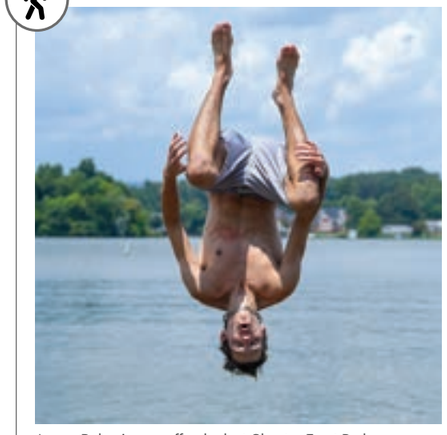
Kid Magnet

Vandergriff Park at 1414 Gadd Road occupies 3.7 acres and has state-of-the-art playground equipment. There is also a 0.2-mile walking track that is available to all ages.

Pride Points

"I am so very blessed to raise my family in such a tremendous big little town. We are a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of downtown Chattanooga, and we also have abundant access to Lake Chickamauga and to the Tennessee River. There are convenient dining and shopping options, top-notch recreational areas and public parks, fantastic schools, very little traffic, and, most of all, a wonderful community of great people from all walks of life."

Lee Vandergriff
Hixson resident



James Bolen jumps off a dock at Chester Frost Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Splash this way

For those who enjoy the great outdoors, **Chester Frost Park** has a lot to offer with its 280 acres. There are opportunities to go for walks in all directions as well as going for a swim, and there are more than 200 campsites with both waterfront and inland options.

Breakfast

The Southern Restaurant at 7714 Hixson Pike offers a delicious, country-style way to start your day. From eggs any way you like them, to bacon and sausage, to biscuits and gravy, the Southern Restaurant is a fantastic destination when the sun is rising.

Lunch

Biba's Italian Restaurant at 5918 Hixson Pike in the Creek Plantation Village is an option for lunch and dinner. Biba's offers delicious pastas, pizzas, garlic bread and fresh salads. The staff at Biba's is fantastic, and it's a terrific place to bring both friends and family.

Dinner

There is nothing quite like Hibachi, and there is nothing quite like **Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse** at 5035 Hixson Pike, where the tremendous selections are equaled by a fun and welcoming atmosphere. The steak is top-notch, and the service is, as well. This has been a generational favorite for Hixson families and is a popular go-to for family celebrations



Bill Hayes putts as Bob Waller, back, and Mark Vastano watch on the fifth green at Valleybrook Golf and Country Club. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Jerrick Young fishes along the South Chickamauga Greenway. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Naavya Shah rolls down a hill off the South Chickamauga Greenway. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Parks and Rec:

- Hixson is not lacking for popular attractions, with the Chickamauga Dam containing several marinas along the Tennessee River. Greenway Farms is part of the North Chickamauga Creek Conservatory and offers canoeing, hiking and a dog park. The Valleybrook Golf Course continues to be popular for players of varying talents and served as a regular PGA Tour stop from 1983 to 1991 with the Chattanooga Classic.

Schools:

- Hixson Elementary (PK-5)
- Big Ridge Elementary (PK-5)
- DuPont Elementary (PK-5)
- Ganns Middle Valley Elementary (PK-5)
- McConnell Elementary (PK-5)
- Hixson Middle (6-8)
- Loftis Middle (6-8)
- Hixson High (9-12)

Health care assets:

- CHI Memorial Hospital Hixson at 2501 Hamill Road has been recognized among American's 100 best hospitals for pulmonary care each of the past three years.



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URBAN STORY VENTURES

Valleybrook Golf and Country Club is being redeveloped by Urban Story Ventures.

Harrison

By Lindsey Young

DRIVE TIME

Harrison is located about 13 miles northeast of downtown Chattanooga and is 12 miles from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Partly sunny skies greet fishermen at a pier at Booker T. Washington State Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Felix Mcamis tries out a fishing rod at Booker T. Washington State Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Where is it?

Harrison, which is bordered almost in its entirety by the Chickamauga Lake, has the following cities and towns surrounding it: Red Bank, Soddy-Daisy, Hixson and parts of Chattanooga.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Harrison in 2023 was $350,000, a 7.7% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Kid Magnets

Harrison Bay State Park, Booker T. Washington State Park

Most communities are lucky to have one small park. Harrison has two very popular state parks that both entertain and educate children. The parks offer the popular Junior Ranger Program, where children ages 6 to 14 can sign up in the summer and be eligible to attend educational sessions led by rangers and educators. Children 4 to 6 can be a part of Kit's Club, which provides them with an introductory outdoor experience.

Both parks also offer numerous playgrounds and special events throughout the year. Harrison Bay also has a library, aviary, snake exhibit, dog park and several sports fields in addition to hiking, biking and water activities.

Breakfast

City Cafe Diner. It's a 6-mile trip from Harrison to the Lee Highway location, but well worth it. The diner is known for its omelet selection, which includes choices of 34 ingredients; and there are also numerous waffle, pancake and wrap offerings. The homemade cakes are legendary.

Lunch

Fresh Burger Grill. The Highway 58 restaurant features a variety of burgers made from never-frozen ground beef. The fresh-cut fries and chips are popular as well, and if you want to try something different, check out the fried bologna sandwich.

Dinner

Lakeshore Grill. Located 8 miles away at the Lakeshore Marina, this waterside family-owned business has multiple menu options for dinner, including an extensive seafood selection. Folks rave about the variety of starters, including the popular Tuna Lollipops.



A camping location at Harrison Bay State Park / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Happy Place

The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay. Nothing beats a day on the links and this Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course has it all for the serious and beginner duffer, including a driving range, practice green, snack bar and the ability to take lessons from a pro. This water-lined public course is ranked by Golf Digest as one of the best courses to play in Tennessee.

Walk this way

Booker T. Washington State Park's 353 acres have nearly 10 miles of walking and hiking trails, many alongside Chickamauga Lake. Bikers can try the park's 6-mile bike trail.



Park Ranger Robert Thomas leads a group of hikers at Booker T. Washington State Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Parks and Rec:

- Harrison Bay State Park, 7855 Bay Marina Circle
- Booker T. Washington State Park, 5801 Champion Road

Schools:

- Chattanooga Central High (9-12)
- Brown Middle (6-8)
- Harrison Elementary (K-5)

Health care assets:

- CHI Memorial Hospital, 2051 Hamill Road, Hixson.

Harrison itself does not have a hospital but several health care provider offices, including family practices and urgent care centers, can be found in the Harrison area; and CHI Memorial Hospital in Hixson is not far away.

Pride Points

"I grew up in the Harrison area and attended the old Harrison Elementary School, where my father was among the first students. Now I'm in Harrison again, but I've always been close by and spent time there with family and friends. It is near the city but still has pleasant suburban and even rural space, with beautiful scenery and lake access, good schools and churches and mostly good people."

Ronald Bush

"Everyone always talks about Chattanooga being such a centrally located city with easy drives to Atlanta, Nashville, and Knoxville. Well, Harrison is like that. It's the same distance to downtown, Cleveland, Soddy-Daisy, Hixson or Red Bank. It's very convenient in that aspect, plus you have the perks of being close to the state park, the Volunteer site and lots of other outdoor venues. It has a small town feel with everything you need within a stone's throw."

Kristi Beach

"Well, to be honest, Harrison is really all I've ever known since I live on the same piece of property I grew up on. It has been a great place to raise a family. It's a community where being a neighbor really means something. It has changed a lot over the last 60 years, but the growth hasn't been overwhelming enough to change the fact it is still a community that cares about one another."

Frieda Roy

Soddy-Daisy

By Lisa Denton

DRIVE TIME

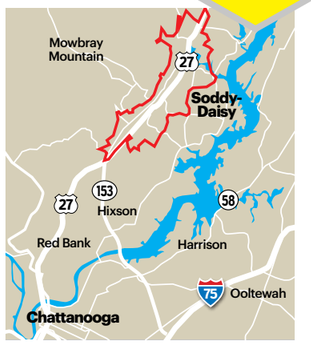
17 miles from Soddy-Daisy City Hall to the Tennessee Aquarium.



Brice Morgan takes batting practice from his dad, Walter Morgan, at Soddy-Daisy Kids Club Park. / STAFF FILE PHOTO.

Happy Place

The thrill of victory and the (fleeting) agony of defeat play out in various seasons at the Soddy-Daisy Kids Club, headquartered at Soddy Municipal Park, 150 Depot Street. The nonprofit organization fields teams in baseball, softball, football, basketball, volleyball and cheerleading. Sports legends have been known to make guest appearances at the spring kickoff, which fills the ball fields near Soddy Lake with hundreds of excited children and families on hand to watch budding athletes learn sports skills and sportsmanship.



Where is it?

The city of Soddy-Daisy runs north to south along U.S. Highway 27's old and new parallel paths. The original route, also known as Dayton Pike, is home to much of the city's commercial district. The newer thruway, Corridor J, is a four-lane divided highway just east. To the south, Soddy-Daisy borders the Chattanooga city limits near Thrasher Pike. To the north, it reaches the unincorporated community of Bakewell.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Soddy-Daisy in 2023 was $349,000, a 6% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Walk this way

Veterans Park at 9009 Dayton Pike is a good place to get your steps in. As you make your rounds on the track, you can take in sights including a rose garden, playground, ball fields, a Huey helicopter and memorials to war veterans and the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks.



Samuel Davenport helps Ellie down the slide at Veterans Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Kid Magnet

Scramble Alley, a sprawling playground behind City Hall, 9835 Dayton Pike, includes a wood climbing maze, picnic tables and a pavilion with restrooms.

Breakfast

If the best way to start the day is coffee and a doughnut, Soddy-Daisy has two new places to try. **Lickin' Good Doughnuts** has opened in the old Pizza Hut building at 10043 Dayton Pike. **Dunkin'** claimed a section of the Walmart parking lot for its new store at 9334 Dayton Pike.

Lunch

OB3B – short for O'Brien's Brew, Bits and Bites – opened in December at 8804 Dayton Pike, Suite D, offering soups, sandwiches and deli sides.

Dinner

For heartier fare, try **Liberty Bell Sandwich Shop**, which moved into the old Krystal Too at 124 Harrison Lane, Suite 116. Cheesesteaks, hoagies, burgers and fresh-cut fries are specialties, but there are salads for lighter appetites.



The "Splash into Summer" event at Southern Kingdom Diving Dogs in Soddy-Daisy. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Visitors look over cars on display as part of the car show during the Independence Day celebration at Soddy Lake Park / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Cameron Dell belays for Fleetwood Gruver at the Lower Leda Climbing area near the North Chickamauga Trailhead. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Pride Points

"What drew us to the Soddy-Daisy area over 20 years ago was the value of the real estate, the convenience of Highway 27 and the beauty of the area. What has kept us here remains the same, but we've added community and family to the list."

John Haustein
Owner of Nooga Lights

"Soddy-Daisy is the perfect place to live, raise our family and run our business. It's the perfect balance of small-town feel, while only being 25 minutes from downtown Chattanooga. The community is amazing, and we are so grateful to be a part of it."

Lindey Goodrich
Owner of wedding and event venue Cedar Hills Farm

"I love living in Soddy-Daisy because of the amazing community here. People are friendly and welcoming, and the school system is amazing. I also enjoy that it's very close to the city. I can enjoy a slower-paced life; however it's a hop, skip and a jump to Chattanooga if we want to get away."

Jessica Morris
Zumba instructor

Parks and Rec:

- Because of its linear layout, Soddy-Daisy has parks at either end of the city — Municipal Park to the north and Veterans Park to the south. Both have open-air pavilions, walking tracks, basketball courts and playgrounds. The larger community playground, Scramble Alley, is about midway between the two. Municipal Park also has a community center and pickleball courts. Around Soddy Lake, and the larger Chickamauga reservoir, are boat launches and fishing piers.

Schools:

- Allen Elementary (PK-5)
- Daisy Elementary (PK-5)
- Soddy Elementary (PK-5)
- Ivy Academy (charter school) grades 6-12 (Ivy is also a satellite location of Wauhatchie Forest Preschool and the future home of Skillern Elementary, a charter school for grades K-5 that is meeting at Daisy Church of God until the expected completion of the campus this fall.)
- Soddy-Daisy Middle School (6-8)
- Sequoyah High School (vocational school) (9-12)
- Soddy-Daisy High School (9-12)

Health care assets:

- Construction is advancing on Parkridge Health System's new freestanding emergency room in Soddy-Daisy. The 11,000-square-foot facility, near the Harrison Lane exit off U.S. 27 Highway, is expected to open this spring.

Missionary Ridge

By Shannon Coan

DRIVE TIME

Missionary Ridge is 3.9 miles from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Where is it?

The ridge itself is 8.3 miles long and runs from Glass Street to the north and Highway 27 to the south in Georgia. Its unique shape and proximity mean that depending on where you are on the ridge, you are a couple hundred yards from East Ridge, Brainerd or the Eastside to the east and Rossville, Ridgedale, Glenwood or Avondale areas to the west. All of those areas, plus downtown and East Brainerd, are within 10 minutes for most ridge residents.

Curb Appeal

Homes for sale on Missionary Ridge in March 2024 had a median listing price of $249,900.

Source: Realtor.com



Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park staff historian Jim Ogden leads a 2-hour walk detailing the Battle of Missionary Ridge at Sherman's Reservation. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Happy Place

The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has several reservations and monuments that mark key areas of the Battle of Missionary Ridge, a Civil War battle that placed Chattanooga under Union control and forced Confederate soldiers to flee south. A short trail lets you walk from the Sherman Reservation, a 50-acre park where Gen. William T. Sherman attacked Confederate forces, to the 73rd Pennsylvania monument.

Breakfast

Sleepyhead Coffee's second location on East Main Street opened in fall 2023 and offers a variety of house-made and locally sourced pastries.

Lunch

Sugar's Ribs, off Westside Drive, offers good barbecue, tacos and some of the best sides in town, including wood-grilled okra and pinto beans. Plus, you get to feed the goats.

Dinner

Giardino, across the street from Sugar's Ribs, serves Italian-inspired cuisine with locally grown seasonal veggies. Customers rave about the chicken parmesan and the view from the patio.



The bronze figures of soldiers on the base of the Illinois Monument appear to stare out into the deepening fog at Bragg's Reservation atop Missionary Ridge. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



South Crest Road at the south end of Missionary Ridge. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

If you're looking for an urban hike, **Crest Road** follows the summit of the ridge for nearly its entire length and gives a vantage point for views of Lookout, Signal and Raccoon Mountains. Depending on where you start, you might pass the historic Windcrest home, a Queen Anne-style mansion built in 1894, or the Seamour and Gerte Shavin House, the only building in Tennessee designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



Carson Monday watches a model version of Thomas the Tank Engine at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Kid Magnet

Whether your child is a train enthusiast or not, the **Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's** Missionary Ridge Local train ride is sure to make for a fun afternoon. The route, which departs just outside of Missionary Ridge, will take you on a journey past some of the neighborhood's highlights, including through the pre-Civil War Missionary Ridge Tunnel and across four bridges.

Parks and Rec:

The Chattanooga Unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park has several reservations on Missionary Ridge, and East Lake Park is just outside the neighborhood. The city's Brainerd and Avondale recreation centers are also just a few minutes away.

Schools:

- Brainerd Baptist (PK-5)
- East Ridge Elementary (PK-5)
- Hardy Elementary (PK-5)
- Woodmore Elementary (PK-5)
- Boyd Buchanan (PK-12)
- Dalewood Middle (6-8)
- East Ridge Middle (6-8)
- McCallie School (6-12)
- Brainerd High (9-12)
- East Ridge High (9-12)
- Notre Dame High School (9-12)

Health care assets:

Erlanger, Parkridge and Memorial hospitals are all within two to four minutes of most of the ridge.



The Iowa Monument stands among the trees at Missionary Ridge's Sherman Reservation. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Pride Points

"All my neighbors are very friendly and supportive. A neighbor never passes by without saying hello, so that's always a great feeling."

Susan Warner
Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association vice president

"I've just been really impressed with how the neighborhood comes together. We have neighborhood parties where people can meet each other. We have a board that meets monthly, and it's very busy and active in our meetings. ... It's just really nice to feel that collective effort because the people who live there really love it and they want to take care of it."

"It's really amazing to live amongst all those monuments, the cannon, the signage that tell a story that's important – not just to Chattanooga's history, but really our whole nation's history."

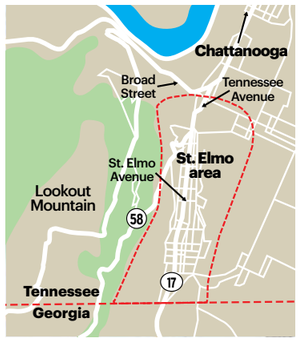
Todd Morgan
Missionary Ridge resident

St. Elmo

By Ben Benton

DRIVE TIME

It's a 4-mile drive from the heart of St. Elmo to the Tennessee Aquarium.



Where is it?

St. Elmo is generally defined as the area south of the railroad bridges over St. Elmo Avenue and Tennessee Avenue, east of Lookout Mountain, west of Hawkins Ridge where East Avenue loops at the top and north of the Georgia state line.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in St. Elmo in 2023 was $220,925, a 13.3% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Walk this way

St. Elmo has lots of sidewalks leading into the quaint neighborhood's residential areas, but in 2021 work was completed to extend the **Tennessee Riverwalk** – a pedestrian and bicycle path that follows more than 16 miles of the Tennessee River shoreline starting near the Chickamauga Dam – to the Incline Railway in St. Elmo.



Homes along St. Elmo Avenue display the American Flag. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



"St. Elmo (A History of Steel)" / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Happy Place

A sculpture titled "St. Elmo (A History of Steel)" has stood at the intersection of Tennessee and St. Elmo avenues for about a decade. The circular steel structure by Mint Hill, North Carolina, artist Charles Pilkey, features 37 identified figures revealing a historic progression of culture and events from Cherokee times to today.

Kid Magnet

The Incline Railway is a kid-pleaser going back to 1895 when John Crass and the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway Co. constructed it. The original railway cars operated on coal-burning steam engines, which were upgraded to electric motors in 1911. In 2020, the rail line was shut down for needed maintenance and to add a pair of new incline cars to the line billed as "America's most amazing mile," a $4 million investment.



Corgi owners participate in the Corgi Parade during the Hello, St. Elmo street festival. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

A traditional bacon and eggs breakfast, or a breakfast burrito, croissant or omelet can be found just outside St. Elmo on South Broad Street at the **Common Table**. Then mix it up with lunch back in the neighborhood at **The Hummus Bowl** on St. Elmo Avenue for wraps, pitas, salads and their namesake bowls. Wind up the day at the eclectic **Little Coyote**, adding a little southwestern flair to chef Eric Niel's lineup of smoked meats and tortillas made in-house using a roller press and oven from Mexico, all served alongside an agave-imbued beverage list featuring cocktails, Mexican and Spanish wines, and a variety of beers.



Festival-goers visit various booths during the Chattanooga Luminaria Festival in St. Elmo. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Parks and Rec:

- St. Elmo Park, a neighborhood sanctuary on St. Elmo Avenue, is a quiet local spot to find calm that borders the 3,000-acre Chattanooga-Chickamauga Military National Park on Lookout Mountain, which is crisscrossed with 34 miles of trails.

Schools:

- Chattanooga Christian School (PK-12)
- Calvin Donaldson Elementary School (PK-5)
- Lookout Valley Middle High School (6-12)
- Howard Connect (6-8)
- The Howard School (9-12)



Bilbo gets ready to march in St. Elmo's corgi parade.

Health care assets:

- Erlanger Health System's Southside Community Health Center at 3800 Tennessee Ave. is open Monday through Friday offering general adult and pediatric care, laboratory, X-ray, obstetrics and gynecology, diabetes and hypertension counseling.

Pride Points

"I came in, initially, as a renter of the house I live in, and the community and the area was in really bad shape. Then I ended up having an opportunity to purchase the house. What I like is a lot of the people who started coming in were associated with Covenant College, and what St. Elmo was becoming was a real community. There's a real sense of camaraderie and community. People of the community have really gotten to know each other."

Jana Alexander
30-year St. Elmo resident

"We've got a lot of things going on. We've got a St. Elmo Ladies Wine Night, we've got The Woodshop that hosts live music and all kinds of events down there. We have a bicycling group that will take rides down the greenway downtown. I know my neighbors well. I've got nosy neighbors in a good way – the best kind of nosy. I feel like they watch out for me. They've got my number, and they'll call me if I left my garage door open, or my dog's in the front yard. It's a fun place to live."

Casey Morrell
St. Elmo resident

"The St. Elmo community is special because not only is it beautifully situated at the bottom of Lookout Mountain, the people of the community support and look out for one another. I personally love it because it's one of the few communities in the downtown area that is walkable."

Amanda Niel
Co-owner of St. Elmo's Little Coyote restaurant

East Ridge

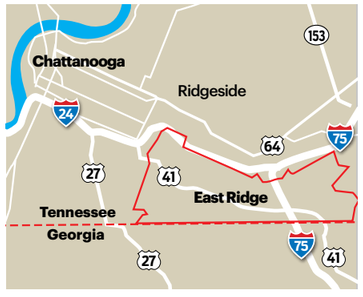
By David Floyd

DRIVE TIME

East Ridge's Camp Jordan Park is 12 miles from downtown Chattanooga's Tennessee Aquarium.



Above and below: Children play on the playground at Pioneer Frontier. / STAFF PHOTOS BY OLIVIA ROSS



Where is it?

Totaling 8.3 square miles, East Ridge is surrounded on three sides by the city of Chattanooga and the Georgia border to the South. It's bound in part by Interstate 24 to the North and South Chickamauga Creek to the East. The city was founded in 1921 and has a population of about 22,000 people.

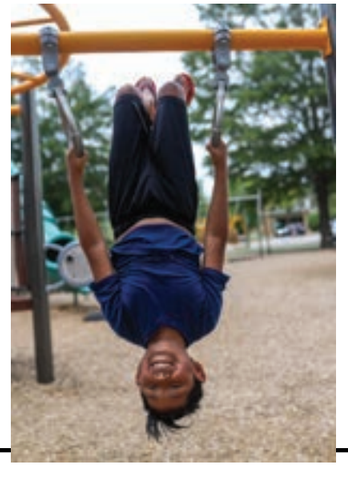
Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in East Ridge in 2023 was $263,000, a 10.3% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Kid Magnet

The Pioneer Frontier Playground was created in the early 1990s by a group of parent volunteers and citizens, according to the East Ridge Parks and Recreation Department, which has since taken over maintenance of the facility. The playground has multiple slides, swings, picnic tables and a rentable pavilion.



Happy Place

Audubon Acres at 900 N. Sanctuary Road is situated between East Ridge and East Brainerd. The 130-acre sanctuary features 5 miles of trails, and a swinging bridge allows visitors to cross Chickamauga Creek and explore forest, wetland, meadow and hilltop habitats. The facility also features a museum that traces the human habitation of the property.

Pride Points

- June Markham had five children who went to East Ridge High School, where she said they received an excellent education. She said the community has a convivial, homey atmosphere.

"Everybody knew everybody," she said. "Our next door neighbors were such good friends. Every night, three or four families would come up there, and we'd have coffee and cake and watch the children run around catching fireflies. It's just a friendly, friendly place to live."

- Harry Battles, who grew up in East Ridge, recommends newcomers check out Camp Jordan and the flea market.

"This part of town continues to grow, and more people end up moving here," Battles said. "It's definitely not like it was when I was 6 or 7 living here. It was way more quiet back then, but it just seems like it's going to continue to grow."



Grant Goins enjoys an obstacle course during a fall festival in East Ridge at Camp Jordan. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



John Cross and Jami Killian jog along the path at Camp Jordan in East Ridge. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

A 2-mile walking trail surrounds **Camp Jordan Park**, East Ridge's recreation and athletic complex. Beside the event arena, there's a small fishing pond surrounded by some picnic tables, which is often frequented by flocks of ducks and geese. The park also regularly hosts events throughout the year, including the Chattanooga Apple Festival. It connects to the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway, a long walking trail that runs alongside Chickamauga Creek.

Parks and Rec:

- Camp Jordan Park
- Springvale Park, 1615 Springvale Road
- Pioneer Frontier Playground, 1509 Tombras Avenue

Schools:

- East Ridge Elementary (K-5)
- Spring Creek Elementary (K-5)
- East Ridge Middle (6-8)
- East Ridge High (9-12)
- Belvoir Christian Academy (PK-8)
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School (PK-8)

Health care assets:

- Parkridge East Hospital, 941 Spring Creek Road
- Parkridge Camp Jordan ER, 483 Camp Jordan Parkway

Breakfast

Red Owl Coffee Co. has a Chattanooga location at 7737 E. Brainerd Road. About 14 minutes from Camp Jordan, the shop has various caffeinated beverages, smoothies, milkshakes and food, including an English muffin sandwich with egg, cheese and either sausage, bacon or sliced ham.

Lunch

Many of East Ridge's best places to eat and shop are situated along the main drag of Ringgold Road. **The Apna Kitchen** specializes in Indian food and offers many vegetarian options, including multiple curries. The menu also has soups, fresh tandoori bread and various forms of protein, including seafood, lamb, chicken and goat.

Dinner

Portofino's, another restaurant on Ringgold Road, has been serving people in the Chattanooga area for generations. The current chefs and owners, Antonio Zakkas and Tony Giannourakis, told the Chattanooga Times Free Press the menu is mostly Greek and Italian with some American items, like chopped steak, fried shrimp, hamburgers and a cheese steak sandwich. The lasagna, gyro plate and Mediterranean grouper, which is lightly breaded and sauteed with mushrooms and garlic in a lemon-butter cream sauce, tend to be favorites.

Brainerd

By Cameron McKeon



An incomplete rainbow crowns Brainerd Village. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Happy Place

Bud's Sports Bar features not only food and drink, but also a crowded events calendar. Music is a focal point at the veteran-owned and operated bar, offering the chance to catch local bands on the weekends and acoustic nights on Wednesdays.



Murals decorate several of the buildings in the Olde Town section of Brainerd. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Chattanooga Zoo Outreach Coordinator Joshua Mays shows visitors Rose the Eastern Screech Owl at Brainerd's Eastgate Library. STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Pride Points

"Brainerd is a diverse and changing area. Just a couple miles down the road from our restaurant they're building more condos and making it more residential. I thought this is a prime location for me. There's plenty of parking, it's easy to get in and out, and Brainerd Road is one of the more bustling streets in the city."

Letrell Russell
Co-owner of Soul Food Xpress

DRIVE TIME

Eastgate Town Center in Brainerd is 6.9 miles from the Tennessee Aquarium.



Where is it?

The Brainerd Community is essentially bisected by Brainerd Road, which runs from Missionary Ridge to South Chickamauga Creek. It is bordered to the south by Interstate 24 and to the north by Shallowford Road.

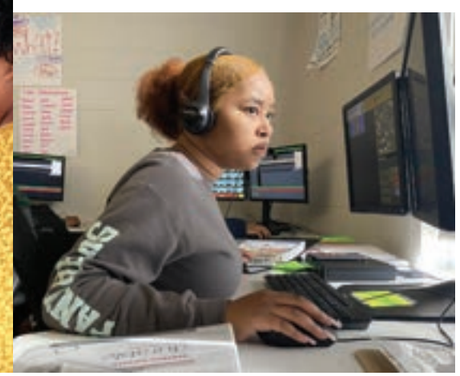
Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Brainerd in 2023 was $242,000, a 3.1% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report



Lakissia Ervin, of Mo Lemonade, gives a bag of her product to customer, Lauren Hodges. The Kitchen Incubator of Chattanooga held a Valentine's Market at their location near Eastgate in Brainerd. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Raquel Butts follows the information on her screens. Brainerd High School has launched a new 9-1-1 dispatch pathway as part of its Future Ready Institute of Law, First Responders, and Forensic Science. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Breakfast

Gordo's Bakery is a family-owned Mexican bakery that offers flautas and churros in addition to doughnuts and cookies. Like many of the eateries and businesses in Brainerd, Gordo's is located on Brainerd Road.

Lunch

"Fish so good it will smack you," claims **Uncle Larry's Restaurant**, which has four locations in Chattanooga including Brainerd. Uncle Larry's specializes in fried fish; but pork chops, hot dogs and chili can also be found on the menu.

Dinner

High school sweethearts Letrell and Samara Russell opened **Soul Food Xpress** in late 2023 with comfort food and Soul Food Sundays in mind. "When I was growing up, Sunday after church was when Mom was ready to cook dinner," Letrell said. "Soul Food Sunday is when we pull out all the tricks and make it a familial atmosphere."



Lanes are ready for play at Spare Time Chattanooga. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Parks and Rec:

- Eastgate Branch Chattanooga Public Library, 5705 Marlin Road
- Brainerd Crossroads, 4011 Austin Street
- Brainerd Golf Course, 5203 Old Mission Road
- Tacoa Park, 5205 Tacoa Circle
- Brainerd Recreational Center, 1010 N. Moore Road
- Eastgate Town Center's Senior Citizens Activity Center, 5600 Brainerd Road

Schools:

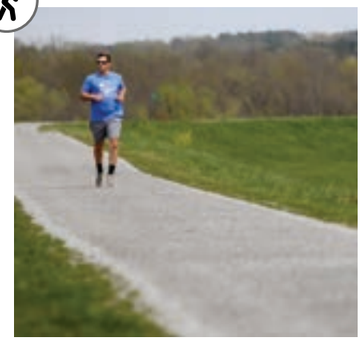
- Boyd Buchanan School (PK-12)
- Brainerd Baptist (PK-5)
- Brainerd High (9-12)
- Barger Academy (PK-5)
- Dalewood Middle School (6-8)
- Woodmore Elementary (PK-5)
- Skyuka Hall (K-12)
- Hamilton Heights Christian Academy (9-12)

Health care assets:

- CVS, 5501 Brainerd Road, provides basic care through its Minute Clinic.

Kid Magnet

Spare Time Chattanooga has everything a kid could want and need. With bowling alleys, an arcade room and laser tag, Spare Time is the ideal place for a birthday party or a family outing.



Matt Schaller runs along the Brainerd Levee section of the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway near Brainerd High School. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Walk this way

The Brainerd Levee is a favorite spot for exercise and community building. It offers 2.6 miles of level walking space and the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife alongside marshes, ponds and South Chickamauga Creek.

East Brainerd

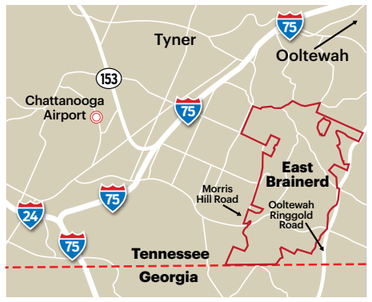
By Elizabeth Fite

DRIVE TIME

From Hamilton Place mall, the Tennessee Aquarium in downtown Chattanooga is a roughly 13-mile drive.



As the lights of Heritage House linger in the predawn hour, a woman walks on the trail at Jack Benson Heritage Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD



Where is it?

East Brainerd lies between Lee Highway to the west and Ooltewah-Ringgold Road to the east. The northern boundary of East Brainerd runs along Standifer Gap Road, while the south boundary follows East Brainerd Road near the Tennessee-Georgia line.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in East Brainerd in 2023 was $353,250, a 0.6% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Walk this way

Heritage Park, 1428 Jenkins Road, is a public park with playgrounds, large-dog and small-dog parks and a shaded walking trail. Grownups and kids alike will enjoy splashing around in the nearby creek.



East Brainerd

Kid Magnets

Sky Zone and Urban Air trampoline parks provide options for kids to play indoors year-round.

❤ Pride Points

"East Brainerd is convenient to everything: the mall, smaller shops, doctors, hospitals and lots of restaurants. Sure, I-75 can get backed up, but traffic problems are not a deal-breaker. This is a great area to live in."

➥ **Geraldine Kocher**
East Brainerd resident



Players take turns enjoying the pickleball courts at Batter's Place Park in East Brainerd. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Happy Place

Batter's Place Pickleball Complex, 8011 Batter's Place Road, is an outdoor public pickleball facility featuring five courts, including one that's ADA-accessible. This complex opened in July 2023 and offers new surfaces, seating, LED lighting and ample parking.

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East Brainerd



Kyla McCloy serves up a refill at Mean Mug Coffee House. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast

Mean Mug Coffeehouse Hamilton Place, 2090 Hamilton Place Blvd. #106, serves a diverse menu of fresh-made breakfast, lunch and pastries seven days a week. Try the smoked salmon bagel with whipped feta cream cheese for a Mediterranean twist on this breakfast classic. Whether you're looking for hearty or healthy, there's plenty to choose from, such as the breakfast potato hash bowl or keto egg bites.

Lunch

Armandos of East Brainerd, 8018 East Brainerd Road, is a family-owned and operated restaurant known for its made-to-order burgers, sandwiches, salads and big baked potatoes. The Armando's cheeseburger has been a Chattanooga favorite for more than 40 years, according to the menu. Pair it with steak fries or homemade onion rings to complete your meal.

Dinner

La Alteña, 8644 East Brainerd Road, is a popular option for traditional Mexican and fusion food. The restaurant boasts one of the largest chimichangas you will find, stuffed with vegetables and meat. Customers rave about the table salsa, which is flavorful but not too spicy. A generous happy hour every day from 4-8 p.m. and 99-cent tacos on Tuesdays make this a tasty and affordable spot.



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East Brainerd

Parks and Rec:

- Audubon Acres, 900 N. Sanctuary Road in Chattanooga
- Heritage House (and park) 1428 Jenkins Road in Chattanooga
- Standifer Gap Park, 8327 Standifer Gap Road
- East Brainerd Community Theater, 8645 E. Brainerd Road
- Enterprise South Nature Park, 190 Still Hollow Loop

Schools:

- East Brainerd Elementary (PK-5)
- Westview Elementary (PK-5)
- East Hamilton School (6-12)
- Ooltewah Middle School (6-8)
- Tyner Middle Academy (6-8)



A winter wildlife walk at Audubon Acres / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

- Ooltewah High (9-12)
- Tyner Academy, (9-12)

Health care assets:

- Erlanger East Hospital, 1751 Gunbarrel Road
- Parkridge North ER, 7402 Lee Hwy.
- CHI Memorial – Atrium Medical Center, 1949 Gunbarrel Road
- Center For Sports Medicine & Orthopaedics Surgery Center, 7450 Tyner Road





Collegedale

By Tierra Hayes

DRIVE TIME

Collegedale City Hall is 20 miles to downtown Chattanooga.



Cari Lockhart of Earl Roden Produce bags a customer's purchase at the Mother's Day Gala at the Collegedale Commons / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Where is it?

Collegedale is located in East Hamilton County, south of U.S. Highway 64. Portions are north of Standifer Gap and Camp roads.

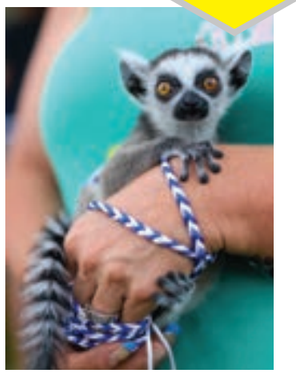
Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Collegedale in 2023 was $454,753, a 3.4% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report



Dakota Osife participates in the Yellowhorse Pow Pow Celebration at The Commons. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Mindy the lemur from CW Farms hangs out at the petting zoo at an Inependence Day celebration held at The Commons. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Happy Place

Collegedale was founded in 1916 as the site of Southern Adventist University, a private school that encompasses 1,300 acres of the city. While the day-to-day operations of the school cater to 2,000+ students, faculty and staff, community members are often found on campus at the Village Market, the Hulsey Wellness Center or on the miles of nature trails maintained by the university.

Walk this way

The Collegedale Greenway allows walkers, bikers and skaters to wind through three miles of the city passing rivers, greenery and multiple parks.



Imagination Station / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Kid Magnets

Collegedale may be small, but it's full of fun options for kids, especially by the way of imaginative parks. **The Imagination Station** and the most recent addition to the area's parks, **Little Debbie Park**, provide outdoor fun supplemented by programming from the city's Parks and Recreation Department.



STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Pride Points

Veterans Memorial Park includes flags of all 50 states, sculptures, and military installations to honor former members of the armed services. The park is located along Wolftever Creek Greenway facing Apison Pike.



Sculptures of Little Debbie snacks decorate the Little Debbie Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Parks and Rec:

- Imagination Station (behind City Hall)
- Dog Park, 5225 Tallant Road
- Veterans Memorial Park (along Wolftever Creek Greenway)
- Greenway
- Thatcher Switch, 5201 Tucker Road
- Nature Nook, 5225 Tallant Road
- Little Debbie Park, 4698 Swinyar Drive

Schools:

- Ooltewah Elementary (PK-5)
- Wolftever Creek Elementary (K-5)
- Apison Elementary (PK-5)
- Collegedale Academy, (early-ed-12)
- Ooltewah Middle School (6-8)
- East Hamilton Middle School (6-8)
- Ooltewah High (9-12)
- Southern Adventist University

Health care assets:

- There are a variety of primary care and other practices in Collegedale. Erlanger East Hospital is 9 miles away.

Breakfast

The Bakery is a plant-based cafe at 9408 Apison Pike. If you need your coffee fix on the way to work, **Scooter's Coffee** opened a kiosk in Collegedale in 2022 at 9395 Apison Pike.

Lunch

Ooltewah Whistle Stop on Main Street offers a blast from the past with vintage-themed milkshakes and specialty menu options of comfort foods such as soups, salads and sandwiches

Dinner

High Su is a new addition to Collegedale's multicultural food scene. The restaurant boasts a menu full of plant-based Asian cuisine including fried rice, mapo tofu, vegan sweet and spicy chicken bites and trendy boba drinks. Another option, **Aji Peruvian** features cuisine hailing from Peru and other Latin American cultures from pupusas and arepas to empanadas and ceviche. Like most Collegedale restaurants, the business boasts ample vegetarian and vegan options.

Ooltewah

By Kiara Green

DRIVE TIME

Estimated commute time to downtown Chattanooga from Ooltewah's Cambridge Square is 28 minutes



Classic cars line the street during a Cruise In & Bike Night in Cambridge Square. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Where is it?

Ooltewah is nearly 30 minutes east of downtown Chattanooga in an area that stretches north to Chickamauga Lake and south to the Tennessee state line.

Curb Appeal

The median selling price of homes in Ooltewah in 2023 was $450,000, a 3.4% increase over 2022.

Source: Greater Chattanooga Realtors annual report

Happy Place

Considered the "downtown" of Ooltewah, Cambridge Square on Bradmore Lane is a blend of locally-owned restaurants and retailers. With parking and walkability, the area gives residents the chance to enjoy several social experiences from delightful cuisine to upscale hair salons.



Ooltewah



Chetan Saraf pilots a model of a F-86 Sabre during the Warbirds Over the Summit remote controlled warplane exhibition at Summit Airfield in Ooltewah. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast

Neighbor serves breakfast and lunch daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Offerings include omlettes, benedicts and other breakfast staples.

Lunch

Couch's Barbecue on Old Lee Highway is a family-owned restaurant that first opened in 1946 and serves classic barbecue ribs and country cooking with a hometown feel.

Dinner

For a menu with locally-sourced and sustainable foods, head to **Local Goat — New American Restaurant** on Artesian Circle.

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Above: A musical instrument play area at the Little Debbie Park
Right: The Little Debbie Sculpture / STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT HAMILTON

Kid Magnets

In nearby Collegedale, **Little Debbie Park** opened in 2023 on Swinyar Drive, offering playground structures with sculptures of Little Debbie snacks in between. **The Imagination Station Playground** is another option near Swinyar Drive for children looking for action-packed fun on a classic playground build.





A train rolls by the Ooltewah Whistle Stop. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



A couple walks their dogs along the Wolftever Creek Greenway. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Walk this way

The Ooltewah area has a variety of public spaces for its citizens to get their daily step in, one of which includes nearby **Wolftever Creek Greenway.** The 2.6-mile trail of greenery takes, on average, one hour to complete and is an easy route for all ages.



Allen Truitt and Brody Patty take a look at different vehicles at the Ooltewah Cruise In at Cambridge Square. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS



Visitors check out vehicles at the Ooltewah Cruise In, featuring classic cars, antiques, motorcycles and more. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

❤ Pride Points

Area residents express the value they have in being part of the Ooltewah community, from participating in public events to choosing from multiple outdoor recreation activities.

"I always feel safe and welcomed while indulging in my favorite outdoor activities. There is something for everyone to do here and that makes the community so inclusive," resident Brianna Sheppard said while walking on Wolftever Creek Greenway.

"Ooltewah is special to me in that even if you weren't raised in the community, you'll always get that comforting feel of familiarity like you've been here forever," resident Kimberly Woods said.

Parks and Rec:

- Tucker Road Recreational Area, 5201 Tucker Road
- The Honors Course, 9603 Lee Highway
- White Oak Mountain Trails
- Biology Trails, 4707 Morningside Drive
- Thatcher Switch Recreation Area, 5201 Tucker Road

Schools:

- Ooltewah Adventist School (K-8)
- Ooltewah Elementary (PK-5)
- Wallace A. Smith Elementary (K-5)
- Wolftever Creek Elementary (PK-5)
- Hunter Middle School (6-8)
- Ooltewah Middle School (6-8)
- East Hamilton High School (9-12)
- Ooltewah High School (9-12)

Health care assets:

- While there are no hospitals in Ooltewah, there are a variety of health care providers such as CHI Memorial Family Practice Associates, Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics and Tennova Primary Care.

Ringgold

By Andrew Wilkins



Memorial Day weekend is celebrated with Ringgold's 1890 Days Jamboree. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Happy Place

From mid-May to mid-September, the Rabbit Valley Farmers Market at 96 Depot Street in downtown Ringgold is a great way to support the growers and crafters in the area. Expect live music and food trucks, too. The organizers of the market also host other holiday events throughout the year that have become a rallying point for downtown Ringgold's growth.



Harper Pinkston moves a wheelbarrow of mulch at the Little General Park during the Clean Catoosa event. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Kid Magnets

In downtown Ringgold, the **Little General Children's Park** is a draw for families from throughout the county. The playground has a variety of amenities for young children, and near the Little General, a community effort is funding a park for people with disabilities called **Crossroads Unity Family Park.**

DRIVE TIME

From the Ringgold City Clerk's Office, at 150 Tennessee St., it's just over an 18.5-mile drive to the Tennessee Aquarium.



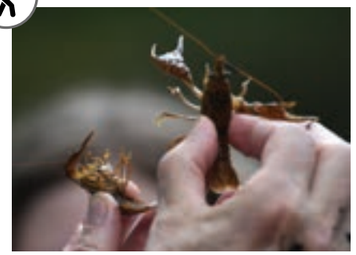
Where is it?

Ringgold is a North Georgia city with irregular borders bisected by Interstate 75. It is the county seat of Catoosa County.

Curb Appeal

The median listing price for homes in Ringgold in February was $322,500.

Source: Realtor.com



An aquatic conservation biologist from Tennessee Aquarium holds a male and female crawfish for students to examine in South Chickamauga Creek. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Walk this way

Downtown Ringgold is a great place for a walk. Its coffee shops, restaurants and quaint shops are great examples of revitalized small-town America. If you'd like to begin or end your stroll with a bit of nature, just a few minutes away you can find **South Chickamauga Creek** and the **Chief Richard Taylor Nature Trail**.



Morgan Lakey leads her horse, Elsa, over an obstacle during Magic Horse Training Days at State Line Arena in Ringgold. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Breakfast

Caffeine Addicts Coffee Shop & Cafe is the small-town community coffee shop you've always dreamed about. Serving a wide variety of coffee drinks and teas, breakfast sandwiches and pastries, you'll find a comfortable space to meet friends or relax and read a book.

Lunch

Downtown Ringgold boasts a popular location of **Jefferson's,** a restaurant chain that's spawned over two dozen restaurants, mostly grouped in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. It features a menu of wings, burgers and oysters as well as beer and cocktails.

Dinner

A new name for the restaurant came last spring with the addition of more Thai food dishes at Ringgold's **Baan Thai** (formerly Teriyaki of Japan). Traditional Thai food dishes have been added to the menu of Asian delights including sushi, teriyaki dishes and stir-fried meals.



The Boynton Elementary School dance team performs at a basketball game at Heritage High School. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Pride Points

"Ringgold has become a quaint main street destination where visitors and residents alike love to come for a good, safe time with family and friends."

Amy Jackson
President and CEO of the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce

"Ringgold's really good about trying to draw more people in for business. It's just a great town to do business in."

Danny Brown
Owner of Cotton Gin Antiques

Parks and Rec:

- Martha Denton Swimming Pool, 406 Cotter Street
- Little General Children's Park, 15 Cleveland Street
- Elsie A. Holmes Nature Park, 88 Ben Holmes Road
- Jack Mattox Recreation Complex, 749 Pine Grove Road

Schools:

- Boynton Elementary School (PK-5)
- Graysville Elementary School (K-5)
- Ringgold Elementary School (3-5)
- Ringgold Primary School (PK-2)
- Ringgold Middle School (6-8)
- Heritage Middle School (6-8)
- Ringgold High School (9-12)
- Heritage High School (9-12)

Health care assets:

- Catoosa County Health Department, 145 Catoosa Circle.
- North Georgia Healthcare Center, 6120 Alabama Highway
- Ringgold Ready Clinic, 7566 Nashville Street
- Hamilton Physician Group Catoosa Campus, 45 College Park Drive
- CHI Memorial Hospital, 100 Gross Crescent Circle, Fort Oglethorpe
- Caris Healthcare, 127 Battlefield Crossing Court

Fort Oglethorpe

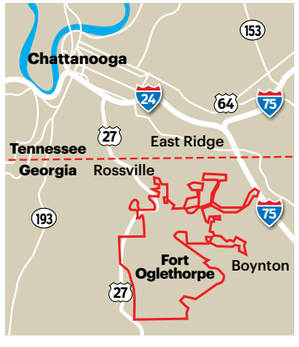
Andrew Wilkins

DRIVE TIME

From the Fort Oglethorpe Municipal Complex, it's about a 10-mile drive to the Tennessee Aquarium



Aliyah Jah, Emory Wagner and Lennon Burton swing together at Gilbert-Stephenson Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON



Where is it?

Fort Oglethorpe is a Northwest Georgia city with irregular borders that includes the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The city was founded on the site of a military base decommissioned after World War II.

Curb Appeal

The median listing price for homes in Fort Oglethorpe is $237,000.

Source: Realtor.com

Happy Place

One of the many stables needed to house Fort Oglethorpe horses during its cavalry days has become a centerpiece for the city's colorful calendar of events. Stable 41 is now home of the city's seasonal farmers market and winter market and is a symbol of city leadership's commitment to the past in historic Fort Oglethorpe's revival.



The rising run illuminates the Dyer Field at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

Walk this way

Fort Oglethorpe, founded in 1949, is brimming with history despite being less than 100 years old. The nearby **battlefield** illuminates a pivotal battle in the Civil War, while a short walk away, the city's origin as a cavalry post can be seen. At the heart of the former military post, **Barnhardt Circle** loops around what was the parade grounds and polo field and is a great place to take a walk and imagine its busier past.



Gilbert-Stephenson Park / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Kid Magnet

On a hot summer day, there's nothing better than bringing the family to Fort Oglethorpe's swimming pool in **Gilbert-Stephenson Park** at 19 Van Cleve Street. The park features adult and kiddie pools as well as a playground and several tennis courts.



Civil War reenactors perform an artillery demonstration for the Battle of Chickamauga's 159th anniversary celebration in Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. / STAFF PHOTO BY OLIVIA ROSS

Breakfast

Locally owned and operated, **Mean Mug Coffeehouse** is a four-location chain serving breakfast and lunch along with a wide variety of coffee drinks. At its hip and modern location on Battlefield Parkway, breakfast comfort food favorites can be found with options for healthy add-ons like fresh fruit, vegetables and sprouts.

Lunch

Barbecue is big in the South, and **Fort Oglethorpe's BBQ Shack** is known as one of the best around. Barbecued pork, beef, ribs and chicken are on the menu, as well as all the delicious sides you'd expect. Top it all off with BBQ Shack's banana pudding, and you'll go home happy.

Dinner

Mango Sushi Bar & Grill is a new independently-owned restaurant that prides itself on bringing creativity and innovation to its sushi combos and savory grilled entrees. Owned and operated by a husband and wife team, Mango Sushi will also surprise your taste buds with a wide variety of creative cocktails.

Fort Oglethorpe



A historical marker tells the history of Lafayette Road in Fort Oglethorpe. / STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

Pride Points

"The city is doing a lot of things as far as development and recreation. They're rebuilding infrastructure and adding events like the winter skating rink and farmers market."

Payton Mayes
Owner of The Helm Tattoo & Piercing

"It's the hometown feel, it's just a good, quaint community. There's great things happening, there's big things happening down here. In the next couple of years, we're going to see a huge change."

Amy Faulker
Owner of The Post General Store



Suttles Family Legacy performs during the Honoring Those Who Serve event at Honor Park in Fort Oglethorpe. / STAFF FILE PHOTO



Rolling Thunder Tennessee Chapter Two members Joe Duncan, left, and Byron Trantham hold the American flag as taps is played. / STAFF FILE PHOTO

Parks and Rec:

- Honor Park: A Tribute to Those Who Serve, at the end of Cleburn Street in Fort Oglethorpe, just after you turn off Shelby Street. The park is a green space dedicated to all veterans and regularly hosts community events.
- Gilbert-Stephenson Park, at the corner of Van Cleve and Norris streets, offers walking tracks, tennis courts, a playground and picnic tables. The park also has a public pool that opens the Saturday before Memorial Day. The playground was updated in 2020.
- Bark City Dog Park, 1086 Battlefield Parkway, is a dog park open to the community. Furry friends have the opportunity to play and have fun together while owners enjoy time out in the sunshine.

Schools:

- Battlefield Primary School (PK-2)
- Battlefield Elementary School (3-5)
- Lakeview Middle School (6-8)
- Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School (9-12)

Health care assets:

- CHI Memorial Hospital, 100 Gross Crescent
- Catoosa County Health Department, 145 Catoosa Circle
- North Georgia Healthcare Center, 6120 Alabama Highway



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