North Briarcliff

The Official Newsletter of the North Briarcliff Civic Association

Civic Association



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Atlanta, GA 30345

NEW REPRESENTATION MEANS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

by Andrew Heaton, NBCA President

In the Fall/Winter of 2021, many of the headlines in Georgia were devoted to the Special Session of the Georgia Legislature. The Session was called to evaluate the results of the 2020 census and to decide on new legislative district lines for federal and state offices.



Despite the changes that came for many (and for nearly everyone in the NBCA footprint), this was not actually the end of the process. The redistricting process continued with the current regular legislative

session as the Legislature considered new County Commission and School Board lines for the bulk of the counties in Georgia. This includes DeKalb. Once again, we NBCA residents were affected.

At the federal and state level, the impacts were immediate. Everyone in the northern tip of DeKalb County previously resided within the 6th Congressional District (Representative Lucy McBath). At the state level, most of us in the NBCA neighborhoods were previously represented under the dome by Senator Elena Parent and Representative Mary Margaret Oliver.

- ✓ Federal level -- Now all of northern DeKalb, including our neighborhoods, resides within the 4th Congressional District, making Representative Hank Johnson our new Congressional Representative.
- ✓ State level -- Now the entire Hawthorne precinct is represented by State Senator Sally Harrell and State Representative Scott Holcomb.

The coverage of NBCA neighborhoods by DeKalb County Commissioners was (and remains) more complex with Districts being overlapped by Super Districts. Most NBCA residents were represented by Commissioners Jeff Rader (District 2) and Edward (Ted) Terry (Super District 6).

- √ Now Commissioner Robert Patrick (District 1) represents a much larger portion of the NBCA area, while Commissioners Jeff Rader (District 2, retiring) and Steve Bradshaw (District 4) represent smaller areas.
- ✓ Now Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson (Super District 7) represents nearly the entirety of the NBCA area, while Commissioner Ted Terry (Super District 6) represents a smaller portion.

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NEW REPRESENTATION CONT'D

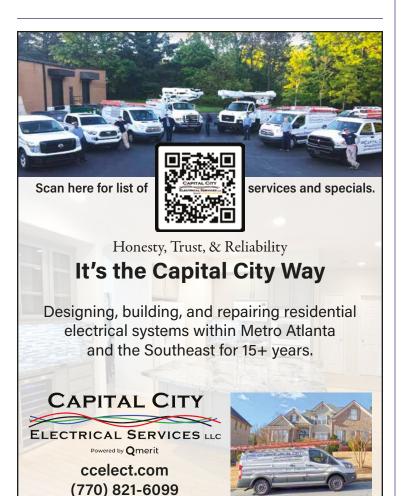
What does all this mean? Why should you care?

No matter your personal political persuasion, new representation always represents an opportunity for fresh engagement on issues that directly impact you. Some examples include:

- 1) On the federal level, what is Congressman Johnson doing to try and direct Federal dollars to transit projects in North DeKalb?
- 2) On the state level, what do Representative Holcomb and Senator Harrell think about Cityhood? Have they taken a position on Vista Grove or the newly-proposed city of North Decatur??
- 3) At the county level, what are your new Commissioners doing to try and advance sorely needed infrastructure projects in our area? What are their thoughts on walkability? Parks and greenspace? Repairing potholes?

All of these are issues that impact you as a resident and citizen of the area. I encourage you to reach out to your new representatives and ask them about the issues important to you and your family. These elected officials appreciate that you need to get to know them and that, frankly, they need to get to know you and "us."

This is a prime opportunity to establish a line of communication with the people who will ultimately vote on issues and projects that could have long-ranging effects in our region. The NBCA will also be looking for opportunities to set up public forums to introduce these new representatives to the neighborhood, especially once the legislative session is over in April. Get engaged, stay engaged, and we will all ensure that our neighborhood thrives!



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2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return your check for annual dues and this form to:

North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) • 2566 Shallowford Road, Suite 104, PMB 132 • Atlanta, GA 30345

To pay your dues with a credit card or via PayPal or Venmo, go to www.northbriarcliff.org.

The North Briarcliff Civic Association (NBCA) represents you. A civic association is an organization that exists to improve the neighborhood through volunteer work by members of the association. The purpose and mission of the NBCA is to promote the civic interests of the people living in our area. What this means is that this association is dedicated to informing, representing, and supporting the residents of our area in issues of public concern.

Membership in the NBCA is voluntary and is open to any resident or property owner within the Hawthorne Elementary School District and to other residents living on bordering streets who request inclusion. The newsletter is addressed to "Current Resident" to ensure that the newsletter is delivered (free of charge) to every house and condominium in the NBCA area as a service to all the residents.

We want you to help us become better representatives. As our paid membership increases, we have greater authority and leverage in dealing with (or confronting) the county and other organizations on your behalf. Renew your membership or become a member by paying your annual dues. The \$25 dues covers the household for the calendar year (January-December 2022).

Help us to better represent the interests of our neighborhood by bringing to our attention any issues or events that merit our attention. We would appreciate your perspective, and you may know more or care more about that issue than any board or off-board member. Consider joining the board or advising the board as an off-board member so that the association is better able to address the issue in question. We would welcome your assistance, enthusiasm and expertise.

The NBCA is a non-profit organization that is managed by its board members, all of whom are neighbors who have volunteered to work together to make a difference in our local community. All of the board members are elected by the dues-paying members of the NBCA at an annual meeting in the fall. Some board members have special interests and expertise in specific areas that are important to our area, while other board members are generalists. The board members are supported by off-board members, who are neighbors who have volunteered to help the board by identifying and addressing specific areas. None of the board or off-board members receive any monetary payment for their efforts.

If you want to report something or register a complaint with the county or other agencies, the board may be able to assist you or help you contact appropriate agencies. However, you are responsible for making your report or registering your complaint. Please remember that board and off-board members are volunteers with only so much time and energy.

Email addresses for board and off-board members are listed on the front page of each newsletter and are also found on the NBCA website www. northbriarcliff.org

MANY DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOW REPRESENT US

by Art Hansen, NBCA Editor

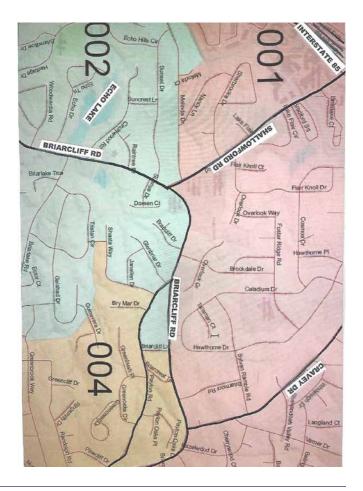
There are seven DeKalb County Commissioners; they represent five districts and two overlapping super districts. All seven districts were adjusted this year to equalize the county's population (2020 census). This meant major changes for our North Briarcliff area. The map shows the new coverage by Districts 1, 2, and 4. The map does not show how the overlapping Super District 7 (Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson) covers almost all our area.

- District 1 (Commissioner Robert Patrick) includes the NBCA area north of Briarcliff Road and Melinda Drive.
- ➤ District 2 (Commissioner Jeff Rader, who has stated that he will not be running for re-election this year) covers our area south of Melinda Drive and most of the area south of Briarcliff Road.
- ➤ District 4 (Commissioner Steve Bradshaw) includes a smaller area between Briarcliff and Payton Roads and south of Payton Road.

For many years, we were primarily represented by two very good Commissioners --Kathie Gannon (retired) and Jeff Rader (retiring). Now we have been subdivided among four Commissioners, all of whom appear to be good hard-working people.

Being represented by four of the seven Commissioners means that we are now represented by the majority of the Commission. If we want these Commissioners to know us and represent our interests, we need to meet and talk with them. This is an election year, a good time to learn about these Commissioners and for these Commissioners to hear from and learn about us.

Let's go meet and talk with our Commissioners!



APRIL DEADLINE: REGISTER TO VOTE IN 2022 ELECTIONS

by Art Hansen, NBCA Editor

- ▶ There is a primary election on May 24, 2022.
- > You must be registered by April 25th to vote in the May primary.
- > You must be registered by October 11th to vote in the November general election.

The office of Georgia's Secretary of State has "My Voter Page" (www.mvp.sos. ga.gov). Check the My Voter Page to learn (1) if you are already registered to vote and (2) the location of your polling place.

The May primary is important because the results of the May primary will determine who will be the Republican and Democratic (and Libertarian et al.) candidates competing in the November 8th general election.

The May primary actually consists of three separate primaries (Democratic, Republican, and nonpartisan). You have to choose one, and you vote only for the candidates listed on that ballot.

The homepage of DeKalb County's Department of Voter Registration and Elections (DVRE) is another excellent online source of information about registering to vote and voting. Their mailing address is 4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300, Decatur, GA 30032-1239. (https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/voter-registration-elections/our-mission)

WE ARE NOW IN DIFFERENT VOTING DISTRICTS

by Art Hansen, NBCA Editor

All of the voters in our North Briarcliff (NBCA) area have been directly affected by redistricting. Although we did not sell our houses and move, all of us are now living in different political districts than we were for the 2020 election. When we vote in this year's May primary and November general election, we will be voting for different people to represent us.

➤ I recommend that you go online to the Georgia Secretary of State "My Voter Page" (www.mvp.sos.ga.gov). Once you identify yourself, the page will (1) verify whether you are a registered voter, (2) tell you the location of your polling place, and (3) note who are the elected officials who now represent you.

My Surprise

From time to time, I go to My Voter Page just to reassure myself that the state has not lost my voter registration. When I checked last month (March), I was surprised to learn that different people now represented me. I had been redistricted. Your experience may not be the same as mine, so please check to learn where you now reside in this political landscape.

I was represented by the:

- ✓ U.S. Congressional Representative for District 006 (Lucy McBath).
- ✓ Georgia State Senator for District 042 (Elena Parent).
- ✓ Georgia State Representative for District o82 (Mary Margaret Oliver for many years).

The Secretary of State's My Voter Page let me know that I am now represented by the:

- ✓ U.S. Congressional Representative for district 004 (Hank Johnson for many years).
- ✓ Georgia State Senator for District 040 (Sally Harrell)
- ✓ Georgia State Representative for District o81 (Scott Holcomb).

After this year's November election, I will be represented by whoever is elected in Congressional District 004, Georgia Senate District 040, and Georgia House District 081.

How did it happen that I could be moved politically when I did not physically move from one place to another? What is the political process that can engineer such political changes without our consent?

The National Census and Reapportionment

The national census is conducted every ten years. The 2020 national census is the basis for the redistricting.

- ✓ The 2010 national census counted 9,687,653 people in Georgia.
- ✓ The 2020 national census counted 10,711,908 people in Georgia.

Reapportionment means the redistribution of representation. Reapportionment at the national and state level occurs every ten years after the national census has established the number of people in each state and in the country.

Our state added more than a million people from 2010 to 2020, but this population growth did not occur evenly across the state's electoral districts. The Supreme Court has ruled that the electoral districts within a state must contain the same number of people.

Although the number of people in each district must be equal, each state's legislature has the authority (unless that state's constitution provides otherwise) to shape the districts and draw the boundaries for that state's Congressional districts and the electoral districts for the state's senators and representatives.



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WHAT HAPPENED TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 006?

By Art Hansen

Georgia continues to have 14 Congressional seats after the 2020 census. Although the state grew in population, we neither gained nor lost a seat in Congress. However, the districts had to be adjusted. The boundaries of the 14 Congressional districts had been drawn after the 2010 census so that each district contained 691,975 people. Based on the 2020 census, each Congressional district now must contain 765,136 people. Similar changes have occurred with Georgia's electoral districts for its 56 State Senators and 180 State Representatives.

Georgia's 14 Congressional Districts

Map #1 shows the state's 14 Congressional districts <u>before</u> the latest redistricting. Note that the six districts closest to the core of the densely populated metro Atlanta area were much smaller in area. The other eight districts contained some urban areas, but also contained a number of rural and sparsely populated counties.



Map #1: Georgia's 14 Congressional Districts before 2022

The table shows the population of each Congressional district in the 2020 census, the location of the district, and how much the 2020 population deviated from the new ideal district population (765,136 people). Remember that each district had the same population (691,975) after 2010.

Georgia's population growth occurred primarily in the six metro Atlanta Congressional districts (004-007, 011, and 013) and two northeastern districts (009-010). The greatest growth was in district 007 in Gwinnett County. The district in the southwest corner of the state even lost population.

2020 POPULATION OF EXISTING DISTRICTS & DEVIATION FROM 765,136 IDEAL POPULATION					
	2020 POPULATION	DEVIATION	LOCATION IN GEORGIA		
Congressional District 001	755,781	-9,355 People	Southeast (bottom right)		
Congressional District 002	673,028	-92,108 People	Southwest (bottom left)		
Congressional District 003	763,075	-2,061 People	West (center left)		
Congressional District 004	773,761	8,625 People	Metro incl part of DeKalb		
Congressional District 005	788,126	22,990 People	Metro incl part of DeKalb		
Congressional District 006	765,793	657 People	Metro incl part of DeKalb		
Congressional District 007	859,440	93,304 People	Metro adjacent to DeKalb		
Congressional District 008	719,919	-45,217 People	South (center bottom)		
Congressional District 009	775,367	10,231 People	Northeast (top right)		
Congressional District 010	775,012	9,876 People	East (center right)		
Congressional District 011	802,515	37,379 People	Metro northwest of DeKalb		
Congressional District 012	738,624	-26,512 People	East (center right)		
Congressional District 013	792,916	27,780 People	Metro southwest of DeKalb		
Congressional District 014	728,551	-36,585 People	Northwest (top left)		
TOTAL POPULATION	10,711,908	0			
Note: this table presents data obtained online from the State of Georgia.					

What Happened to Our Congressional District 006?

The Georgia Legislature has the authority and responsibility to redraw Congressional district boundaries to establish equal district populations. Gerrymandering explains why we are no longer in Congressional District 006. Gerrymandering occurs when the ruling political party draws the boundaries of electoral districts to give that party the majority of voters in as many electoral districts as possible, while also packing the voters favoring the other party into as few districts as possible.

Based on the outcomes of previous elections, the political parties know how the voters in each voting precinct tend to vote. Until 2019, Districts 006 and 007 were controlled by the Republicans. Then Democratic candidates (Lucy McBath and Carolyn Bourdeaux) won both seats. This year, the Republican-controlled Georgia Legislature redrew Congressional district lines to recapture one of those seats in Congress.

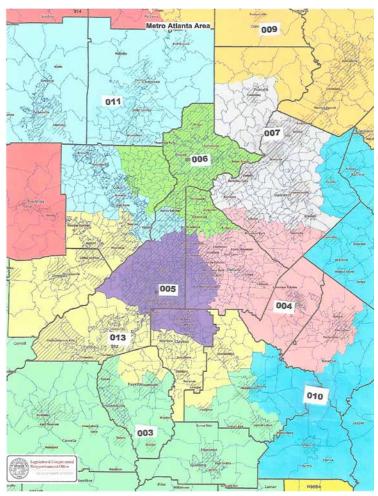
To regain Republican control of District 006, the Republican-controlled Legislature shifted district boundaries to pack more Democratic voters into Districts 004 and 007 while shifting the boundaries of District 006 farther north to include more Republican-leaning areas. The shifts are clearly seen when comparing the following two maps.

Map #2 shows the Congressional districts in the metro Atlanta area before they were changed this year. Notice how the boundaries of Districts 004,006, and 007 cut across counties.

- ✓ District 004 included most of southern DeKalb, all of Rockdale, and parts of Newton and Gwinnett Counties.
- ✓ District 006 included northern DeKalb (where we live), northern Fulton, and northeastern Cobb County.
- ✓ District 007 occupied most of Gwinnett and southern Forsyth Counties.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 006? CONT'D

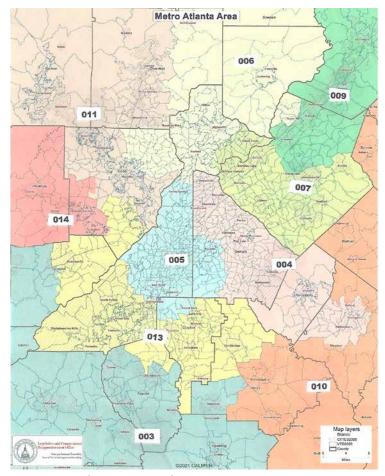


Map #2: Metro Atlanta Congressional Districts Before 2022

Map #3 shows these metro Atlanta Congressional districts <u>after their boundaries were changed this year</u>. Focus on what had changed for District 006. It had:

- ✓ Lost northern DeKalb County to District 004 and sections of Fulton County to Districts 005 and 007.
- \checkmark Expanded northward to include eastern Cherokee County and all of Forsyth and Dawson Counties.

Map #4 is included to help readers see more clearly the boundaries of the metro Atlanta counties. Most of the counties are reasonably compact in shape. Fulton County is an anomaly. It has a long north-south orientation with a narrow middle and larger sections at the southern and northern ends.



Map #3: Metro Atlanta Congressional Districts in 2022



Map #3: Some Metro Atlanta Counties

NEWS FROM HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY

by Lisa Limoncelli, Hawthorne Principal

Hawthorne Change 4 Change

At Hawthorne Elementary, our students and teachers have spent a significant amount of time talking about advocacy and how everyone, regardless of age, may make an impact. One of the ideas that came from these discussions was the creation of the "Change for Change" fundraiser.

The "Change for Change" fundraiser asked students and faculty to donate their spare change to their classrooms' collection boxes throughout the month of February. The students set a goal of \$500. They happily exceeded their goal; they raised \$600.

It was decided that the funds raised should go to an organization that is aligned with our core beliefs and models, teaches, and advocates for racial justice and equality for all. Hawthorne Elementary chose to donate the funds we raised to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) because of their extensive work in the advancement of human rights and their support of schools and educators through the "Learning for Justice" program.

We are grateful to the SPLC for the many free resources they have provided to our teachers and students. We are advocates for equality, and we are making a difference!

Black History Month Parade

On February 25, 2022, Hawthorne Elementary held our 2nd Annual Black History Parade. In celebration of Black History Month and famous figures who have contributed to Black excellence, students were encouraged to show a creative representation of a famous African American figure who has impacted our society in a positive way. The parade was a great success with 93 students walking in the parade and many parents watching.













Hawthorne Elementary School PTA

Saturday April 30th, 2022 12-4pm

TICKET PRICING

Red Wrist Band \$30

Includes: Unlimited Carnival Games, Giant Slide, Gaming Truck, Little Red Barn Petting Zoo, Face Painting, Dunk Tank, Cake Walk

Blue Wrist Band \$25

Includes: One time each- Carnival Games, Giant Slide, Gaming Truck, Little Red Barn Petting Zoo, Face Painting, and Dunk Tank

Yellow wrist band \$15

Includes: One time each- Carnival Games, Giant Slide, and Little Red Barn Petting Zoo

Children 3 and under are Free

Wrist Bands DO NOT INCLUDE Concessions and Ice Cream Truck.
These items are cash or credit card.

Hawthorne Orders and Donations

Order Hawthorne Elementary School t-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, car magnets, and more! We will deliver your order right to your door! This is also the link to become a PTA member or make a donation. (https://hawthornees.memberhub.store/store)

NEWS ABOUT THE PEACHTREE CREEK GREENWAY

By Vicki Hood, Board Chair, Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc.

Have you heard about all the great things happening for the Peachtree Creek Greenway (PCG)? The Greenway continues to make great strides to expand its footprint into Atlanta, Brookhaven, Chamblee, unincorporated DeKalb, and Doraville with the help of the 501(c)(3) advocacy organization Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc. (PCGI).

The many 2021 accomplishments included:

- ➤ The PATH Foundation, PCGI volunteers, DeKalb County Commissioners Robert Patrick, Jeff Rader, Ted Terry and Lorraine Cochran Johnson, and other DeKalb County representatives worked together on a concept plan for the expansion of the Peachtree Creek Greenway in Chamblee and DeKalb County.
- ➤ The first public meeting for the North Fork Peachtree Creek Greenway Comprehensive Study was held in October 2021 with a great turn-out and helpful input from the attendees. This study included the five segments for the Greenway from Clairmont Road north to and through I-285 (Spaghetti Junction) before connecting to Graves Park in Gwinnett County. This gives the PCG future access to trails in Gwinnett County.
- ➤ City of Doraville staff, PATH Foundation staff, and PCGI volunteers began a working group to develop a plan for connectivity to the Peachtree Creek Greenway across I-85, bringing a connection to Doraville's City Center and MARTA station.
- ➤ A segment of the Peachtree Creek Greenway in Atlanta was paved as part of a partnership among trail organizations (PATH400, the South Fork Conservancy, and the Atlanta Beltline) to extend connectivity to those trails from the Peachtree Creek Greenway.

The North Fork Peachtree Creek Trail, now known as the Peachtree Creek Greenway, has been listed on the DeKalb County Greenway Trails Master Plan since 2000. DeKalb County is reviewing its Master Plan to ensure that it meets the goals of DeKalb County in the future with connectivity to regional trails that are under construction now or are in the long-range plan. The Peachtree Creek Greenway will remain at the top of that list with the continued support of all of us here in the North Briarcliff community as well as the surrounding neighborhoods and communities!

In 2022, the expectation is the Peachtree Creek Greenway will continue to make inroads in DeKalb County and the cities of Doraville, Chamblee, Brookhaven, and Atlanta in support of a real regional trail system connecting to the trails/paths planned in those areas as well as the trails/paths planned in the city of Tucker and in Gwinnett County.

If you are not familiar with the approximately 1.3 mile completed section of the Peachtree Creek Greenway in Brookhaven, please reach out to the Peachtree Creek Greenway, Inc. to set up a tour by sending an email to info@ peachtreecreek.org. You may also join their newsletter list through their website www.peachtreecreek.org and follow Peachtree Creek Greenway on Facebook and Instagram.

Peachtree Creek Greenway
Trail Hours: 6 AM – 11 PM
Trailheads/Parking: 2036 North Druid Hills Rd.
1801 Corporate Blvd. • 1799 Briarwood Rd. (Behind REI)



Photo showing an artist's rendition of how the Greenway will be constructed below I-85 to allow people to walk and bike easily across (under) I-85.

MARY SCOTT NATURE PARK

by Deborah Donovan

We have created a new Facebook page for the Friends of Mary Scott Nature Park. Have you checked out your neighborhood park lately? Right now, you will find many native plants blooming in the park, including river oats, spiderwort, Stoke's aster, and jack-in-the-pulpit.

Mary Scott Nature Park recently received a Certified Wildlife Sanctuary designation from the Georgia Audubon Society. Check out the signs at the park.

Many volunteers have been working in the park to clear out invasive plants, plant native plants, and work on numerous other projects. Volunteers include neighbors and people from numerous groups such as the Georgia Native Plant Society and Atlanta Christian. Many Lakeside High School and Chamblee High School students have been volunteering to help remove invasive plants in the park.

If you have any extra books, please consider dropping them off in the Little Free Library in the front of the park.

Please help maintain and improve the park. Come and join us from 2pm - 4pm (10am - noon during the summer months) on the 1st Saturday of every month. You will enjoy meeting the other volunteers.







Roofing - Siding - Windows

How to Grow a Better You

The Joys and Benefits of Online Learning

o matter where you are in life, boosting credentials on your CV is always a positive move. Are you now an "empty nester" with more free time? Or a college student looking for something to do one summer? Wanting to gain more credentials in the field you work in? Or, if you just want to know more, consider taking a professional development course online. There are countless options appropriate for everyone, and by taking one, you'll be learning useful material, adding something to your resume, and increasing your potential for your future education and career.

Excel is a data analysis tool offered by Microsoft that handles complex tasks, from comparing data to offering it in a variety of modes. Mastering the program can be an invaluable skill whether you are launching a new business, trying to improve an existing business, or looking for a new career option. There are plenty of Excel classes offered online that are tailored to allow you to learn at your own pace. Udemy offers a variety of Excel classes: Microsoft Excel 101 is appropriate for beginners, Microsoft 102 provides intermediate training, and Microsoft 103 covers advanced training. Macquarie University's Excel Skills for Business Specialization is available through Coursera, and it includes four courses: Essentials, Intermediate I, Intermediate II, and Advanced. Topics include Macros, Pivot tables, data forecasts, and building dashboards everything your business needs to help it thrive. You'll have to commit to six weeks of learning at a pace of about two to four hours a week for each course, so this one is a serious time commitment. Rice University also offers an Excel class as part of their Business Statistics and Analysis Specialization program. Their course is considered an introduction as they say it is for "those who have very little functional knowledge of Excel." So, if you just want some fundamental knowledge and familiarity with Excel, then this class is perfect for you. Other online platforms that offer Excel classes include GoSkills' Microsoft Excel Classes (Basic and Advanced), Ben Currier's Excel Exposure, and Chandoo.org VBA Classes.

If you prefer linguistics over graphs, consider studying a language. Mastering a language can be practical if you're moving to another country, and it can also just be quite fun. Whatever your motivation may be for language learning, it's a useful and fulfilling way to fill your time and there are plenty of ways to start

on the web. A well-known resource for language learning is Pimsleur. This program is more rigorous compared to others and it involves a heavy amount of listening, repeating, and practicing conversations with pre-recorded clips. Rosetta Stone is another expert language learning platform that involves different learning methodologies, like practicing vocabulary and listening to audio from native speakers to help you correct your pronunciation and accent from the beginning. Rosetta Stone is less expensive than Pimsleur, it offers about half as many languages, and has less of a focus on conversation. Italki is an online platform for language classes where you work directly with a tutor or teacher who offers independent classes. They set their own schedule, price, have unique qualifications and experiences, and come from all over the world. There are plenty of other language learning websites too, such as Babbel, Duolingo, Idlewild, and Dialup. All of these apps and websites offer the possibility of participating in language exchanges, conversation practice, and learning new vocabulary.

There are many money-management and personal finance courses offered online as well, which can benefit you and your bank account. Udemy offers The Core Four of Personal Finance, which focuses on managing your debt, reducing your expenses, financing a home, retiring, and everything in between. Also offered by Udemy is Personal Finance 101 - a beginner course that'll explain everything to you from credit to taxes to various issues such as going to college, buying a house, or getting married. If you want a longer course, check out Coursera's 9-week Personal and Family Financial Planning. Created by the University of Florida, this course covers the basics as well as investing, managing risk, and building your own finance plan. Khan Academy also does well when it comes to money management classes. They offer a 10 lecture-class on Personal Taxes, so you can have a guide on how to calculate your take-home pay and how to do your government taxes. Khan Academy's course called Housing is a 19 lecture-class covering mortgages, insurance, and real estate. And they offer a 26-lecture class called Investment Vehicles, Insurance, and Retirement. If you still want more resources, check out personal finance courses offered by edX and ALISON.

Not sure about a specific class to take and want to discover more? LinkedIn Learning is available as an online educational platform



that helps you discover business, technologyrelated, and creative skills through many expert-led course videos. These courses allow you to discover, complete, and track classes related to your field and interests, and you can add these courses to your LinkedIn profile once you've completed them. Class offerings range from ethics courses, such as Critical Thinking for Effective Communication, to technical courses, like Using Green Screen to Make Great Videos. FutureLearn is another platform that offers a variety of professional online courses and degrees from top universities. Course topics vary; you could take a class centered on psychology, crime and punishment, writing, or software development basics. On Skillshare you will find business and technology courses, but some of their most unique courses fall under the Creative category. Opt in for a class on DSLR photography, creative writing, or art journaling for self-care.

Intrigued? Got the time and interest? Look further into online development. It's easy, convenient, and you'll also be learning about something you care about. Even though some classes are more costly and require more time than others do, they all have one end-goal: increase your knowledge base to make you ready for that next step, whether that be a job, university, or simply, daily life.



Article written by Michelle Manganiello. Michelle is a recent graduate from the University of Georgia, where she received two degrees in English and Romance Languages. Please contact manganiellomichelle@

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