

JANUARY 2021

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save the date

Tuesday, January 12
Small Business Seminar
Via Zoom

Wednesday, January 20
COVID-19 Update with NGHS
Via Zoom

Thursday, January 28
South Hall Business Coalition
Via Zoom

Legislators discuss important topics at Eggs & Issues Forum



The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's **Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast** took on a different format in December and was held in person at **Lanier Technical College** and virtually via Zoom. Over 200 participated in the event that was sponsored by **Jackson EMC** and featured the **Hall County Legislative Delegation**. (L-R) **Senator Butch Miller**; **Representative Timothy Barr**; **Representative Matt Dubnik**; **Representative Lee Hawkins**; **Representative Emory Dunahoo, Jr.** Important topics discussed during the pre-legislative event included the State Budget, Healthcare, Education, Small Business, Economic Development, Transportation and Elections.



Congratulations to **30 companies** that earned **Chamber Small Business Partner Certification** for attending small business seminars in 2020. See page 7.

featured member



Northeast Georgia Health System



Brian Rochester
Rochester & Associates
Chairman, Greater Hall
Chamber of Commerce

Staying Exceptional

Way back when I assumed the leadership role of Chamber Chair in July 2019, I boasted that we'd have an exceptional year. That we'd have a year like no other. Well, this statement rang true coming into early spring 2020 when our world was rocked by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Being exceptional" took on a totally new meaning. Being exceptional was not just about being an unusually good or outstanding community. Being exceptional meant being creative, tenacious and driven to make a difference.

It was truly an exceptional year, on so many fronts. Yet, through the challenges and crisis, many of our community traits came to the forefront, and we learned so much.

We learned that **we are RESILIENT**. The Chamber along with business, government and healthcare leaders emerged as a team to find the means to deal with a pandemic on many levels.

We are CARING and SUPPORTIVE. Never have I seen such compassion as when our community bonded together in the pandemic. From food drives and COVID-19 testing to the monumental giving of funds for those most in need, our region stepped up to help others in the most trying of times.

Chamber Board Nominations

The Greater Hall Chamber is seeking nominations for three-year directors. Serving with Chamber Chairman **Brian Rochester** on the 2021 Nominating Committee is Chair Elect **Phil Sutton**, Immediate Past Chair **Carol Burrell** and Past Chairs **Perry Barnett**, **Randall Frost**, **Lee Hemmer**, **Brian Daniel**, **David Lee** and **Dixie Truelove**. The committee will select new director nominees as stated in the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce By-Laws:

- Any member in good standing may submit one or more nominations.
- Nominees will be named in February 2021 and are elected in March 2021.
- Five to seven director positions will be elected.
- Newly elected directors will serve a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2021.

Chamber Board Nominations must be **submitted in writing and received by Friday, January 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm**.

Mail Board Nominations to Kit Dunlap, President & CEO
Greater Hall Chamber, PO. Box 374, Gainesville, GA 30503. Email: kit@ghcc.com

We learned that **we are INNOVATIVE**. We're quick to change focus and discover new ways to meet the needs of our community during a time of crisis.

We remain a GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. Even in the midst of a pandemic, the 2020 Milken Institute Report named the Gainesville-Hall County Metro Area as the Top Small Metro Area in Georgia and #8 in the Nation for Best-Performing Small Metros.

I look forward to 2021 and the opportunities ahead, including our continuance as the #1 Chamber of Commerce in the state, country and universe and all that we have to offer, like a **Robust Economy** – one of the top in the country.

Great Educational Opportunities are available right here at home. From Pre-K to MBA's, we have the best of the best in public and private institutions.

A Skilled & Hard Working Work Force remains a top priority as our Workforce Development Task Force advocates for employers and seeks to build a skilled and sustainable workforce.

A wonderful place to live and raise a family with an unparalleled **QUALITY OF LIFE**. From Vision 2030 Public Art to the new Hall County Library headquarters, our community has the best of the best.

We ARE the best of the best. **We're EXCEPTIONAL!**

BUSINESS LINK

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 7

McKemie West, Editor • Email: kwest@ghcc.com
230 E.E. Butler Pkwy • Gainesville GA 30501 • 770-532-6206 • GreaterHallChamber.com

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce 2020-2021 Executive Committee

Chairman Brian Rochester <i>Rochester & Associates</i>	Vice Chairs, Education Andi Farmer <i>Milton Martin Honda</i>	Vision 2030 Executive Director Elizabeth Higgins
Chairman-Elect Phil Sutton <i>Kubota Manufacturing of America</i>	Lauren Armour Talley <i>Lanier Technical College</i>	Co-Chairs, HALLmark Paul Chambers, AT&T Mimi Collins, Longstreet Clinic Randall Frost, Stewart, Melvin & Frost
Treasurer Glenn Barnes , <i>Georgia Power</i>	Vice Chair, South Hall Council Terry Merck , <i>American Yazaki</i>	Senior Advisor Brian Daniel <i>Carroll Daniel Construction</i>
Vice Chair, Economic Development David Lee , <i>Jackson EMC</i>	Vice Chairs, Membership Brett Fowler <i>Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance</i>	Immediate Past Chair Carol Burrell <i>Northeast Georgia Health System</i>
Vice Chair, Marketing Missy Burgess , <i>Lanier Islands</i>	Phil Bonelli , <i>Regions Bank</i>	Greater Hall Chamber President & CEO Kit Dunlap
Vice Chair, Government Affairs Philip Wilheit, Jr. <i>Wilheit Packaging</i>	Vice Chair Community Development Haley Bower , <i>Clipper Petroleum</i>	
	Chair, Vision 2030 Tate O'Rourke , <i>Jackson EMC</i>	

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Christa Andrews , Corporate Storage	JD Mealor , Regions Bank
Norman Baggs , The Times	Ashton Meeks , Willis Investment Counsel
Neal Booth , Pinnacle Bank	Mike Miller , Mayor, City of Flowery Branch
Chris Braswell , The Norton Agency	Sheri Millwood , Oakwood City Council
Chris Brown , Delta Community Credit Union	Caitlin Mincey , Mincey Marble Manufacturing
Whitney Brown , Stewart, Melvin & Frost	Dr. Kirsty Montgomery , Lakeview Academy
Nick Bruner , Rushton	Terry Morrissey , Intelligent Energy
Dan Carey , BB&T/TRUIST	Chris Nish , Cottrell
Tammy Caudell , Carroll Daniel Construction	James Nix , Mayor, City of Clermont
Sean Couch , Northeast Georgia Health System	Bill Orr , Mayor, Town of Braselton
Shanna Cronin , Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic	Dr. Jeff Payne , North Georgia Eye Clinic
Ashley Davis , Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing	Todd Pennington , McGarity's Business Products
David Dickerson , Law Office of David H. Dickerson	Michele Pucci , Peach State Bank & Trust
Stacey Dickson , Lake Lanier CVB	Col. Stas Preczewski , Riverside Military Academy
Danny Dunagan , Mayor, City of Gainesville	Brad Puryear , Mansfield Energy
Drew Echols , Jaemor Farms	Derek Reyes , Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta
Dr. Suzanne Erickson , Brenau University	Vanesa Sarazua , Hispanic Alliance Georgia
Josh Everett , New Leaf Landscape Services	Will Schofield , Hall County School System
Jim Grier , Mayor, City of Lula	Mulham Shbeib , Mar-Jac Poultry
Bruce Hancock , Liberty	Dr. Anne Skleder , Brenau University
Emily Hayes , Milton Martin Toyota	Terry Spicer , King's Hawaiian Bakery
Tracy Hoeltke Herter , Netchex	Margaret Spratlin , Longstreet Clinic
Richard Higgins , Chair, Hall County Commission	Kevin Strada , The Atlanta Falcons
Anna Jacobs , AccessWDUN	John Turner , Northeast Georgia Health System
Ben Jarrard , University of North Georgia	Roy Turpin , Mayor, City of Gillsville
Logan Jones , Wilheit Packaging	Philip Wilheit , Wilheit Packaging
Brooke Kalinauskas , Conditioned Air Systems	Dr. Jeremy Williams , Gainesville City Schools
Jay Kilroy , Willis Investment Counsel	Darryl Workman , South State Bank
Geoff Lee , Craton, Inc.	John Wright , Fieldale Farms
Dr. Kate Maine , University of North Georgia	Mike Zeiler , Bitzer US, Inc.
Ward McCamy , Bank of America	Nancy Jo Zimmer , JP Morgan Chase Bank
Tim McDonald , Lanier Technical College	

Greater Hall Chamber Staff

Executive Kit Dunlap, <i>President & CEO</i> Gerri Collins, <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Government Affairs Madison Hopkins, <i>Project Manager</i>
Economic Development Tim Evans, <i>Vice President</i> Nikki Chandler, <i>Vice President Existing Industry</i> Amanda Lewis, <i>Project Manager</i> Madison Hopkins, <i>Project Manager</i>	South Hall Council Kara Tate, <i>Vice President, Sales & Programs</i>
Finance & Operations David Umberson, <i>Vice President, Finance & HR</i>	Community Development Robin Halstead, <i>Vice President</i>
Membership Development Mandy Latham, <i>Vice President, Events</i> Christen Wilbanks, <i>Vice President, Sales</i> Kara Tate, <i>Vice President, Sales & Programs</i>	VISION 2030 Elizabeth Higgins, <i>Executive Director</i>
Education & Leadership Andi Tippens, <i>Vice President</i>	Marketing & Communications Kemie West, <i>Business Link Editor/Consultant</i>
	Greater Hall Chamber Welcome Center Robin Halstead, <i>Manager</i>

The mission of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is to improve the overall business climate for member growth, promote community development, facilitate political action, and enhance the quality of life.

economic development

NEGA Health System Expansion

New, multi-story tower to be constructed as early as 2024



Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) plans to grow its hospital in Gainesville to meet the growing needs of the surrounding region by adding a new, multi-story tower as early as 2024. This future tower is part of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Gainesville's continued evolution into one of the state's largest and most advanced community-based, non-profit hospitals. The tower, which will be located next to the existing North Patient Tower, will pave the way for several anticipated improvements including:



- Moving and **expanding the Emergency Department** to the ground floor of the new tower.
- Expanded and convenient **access for advanced heart care**
- Creating a **new helipad** on the roof of the tower
- Adding **more operating rooms** to expand available surgeries and procedures
- Adding more than **150 new beds** for inpatient care
- Adding a **parking deck** with hundreds of new parking spaces for patients and visitors

Between 700 - 2,000 workers are expected to be on-site for planning and construction at any given time as the project progresses. "We've started referring to our future expansion and improvement projects as '**Growing the Greater Good**,'" says **Carol Burrell**, president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System. "That phrase is a reminder that when we grow facilities to care for more patients and expand our clinical services, we're ultimately reinvesting in the overall health of our region." NGMC Gainesville's Emergency Department is routinely among the busiest in the state. Moving the department to the future tower will create a more efficient space to help meet the growing need for emergency and trauma care in the community. The expanded space will also support training needs for an Emergency Medicine physician residency program, which NGMC hopes to add in the coming year – as it continues to empower the physician leaders of tomorrow. *nghs.com*

Cantrell-Gainco opens new facility

Headquarters and manufacturing facility for food processing equipment



Cantrell-Gainco Group, manufacturer of processing equipment, yield enhancement and yield tracking systems for meat, poultry and fish operations, announced the opening of a new corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility in Gainesville. The new headquarters campus, located on Monroe Drive in Gainesville, brings together multiple design, manufacturing and administrative offices at one completely new, centralized location. Combining the strengths of Cantrell Machine Company and Gainco, Inc. created a single enterprise in 2019 that benefits meat, poultry and fish processing firms with a wide range of solutions. The new, 136,000-square-foot facility's manufacturing is set up in a "work cell" layout, with a dedicated R&D area, plus special zones for engineering, fabrication, electronics assembly and other activities.

Thomas Holm, president of Cantrell-Gainco Group stated, "This was an important opportunity to consolidate our operations from several facilities at a single location, driven by the need to support continued growth, including our global expansion into Europe and Latin America. Our company is recognized for technologically advanced systems that deliver improved product quality, accurate weighing, labor savings, and process line improvements for meat processors. Consolidating our operations means we can now support our clients with even greater efficiencies and delivery lead-times." 2579 Monroe Drive in Gainesville. 800-467-2828. *cantrellgainco.com*

Over 335 made the pledge, have you?



Being hALL IN means you've pledged to **wear a mask**, practice **social distancing**, **wash your hands** and abide by other health and safety guidelines outlined by the CDC, White House and State of Georgia to stop the spread of COVID-19. **Over 335 area businesses and individuals**

have taken the pledge, have you? By taking the pledge, your business/name is added to the wearehAllin.com website. You'll also receive a hALL IN window decal. It's important that we protect ourselves and our community from the flu. The flu vaccine is the most effective way to prevent the flu, and the CDC recommends everyone six months and older should get a flu vaccine. Keep your employees safe! Go to WeArehAllin.com, take the pledge and **request an On-Site Flu Shot Clinic** at your business.

meetings & events

COVID-19 Vaccines Everything You Need to Know

Webinar: **Wednesday, January 20**
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
via Zoom
No Charge | Open to the Public



Join us for a special webinar facilitated by **Northeast Georgia Health System** physicians and administrators as they share the status of COVID-19 in our community and provide details about the COVID-19 vaccine. Info: Madison Hopkins, 770-532-6206, mhopkins@ghcc.com. Register online at GHCC.com/EVENTS.

Healthy Hall Awards 2021 Tuesday, March 2nd Sponsorships Available!

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | via Zoom

The Chamber's **4th Annual Healthy Hall Awards** program on March 2 will honor those in the healthcare industry making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness.

- Award Categories -
- Corporate Achievement Recognition
- Visionary Leader
- Community Impact
- Healthcare Education
- Outstanding Achievement in Behavioral Health
- Healthcare Worker of the Year
- Nurse of the Year
- Dentist of the Year
- Physician of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *May be awarded posthumously

HEALTHY HALL
Awards of Excellence

Presented by



Northeast Georgia Health System

Award Nominations: surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyHallAwards

Award Nominees must be located in the Greater Hall area.
Nomination deadline is 5pm on Friday, February 5, 2021. Awards will be presented at the 4th Annual Healthcare Awards Program on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Questions? Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 · alewis@ghcc.com
Registration for Virtual Awards Program via Zoom: GHCC.com/EVENTS

calendar

January

Wednesday, January 6
Healthcare Committee
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 8
Economic Development Council
8:30 a.m. | via Zoom

Tuesday, January 12
Small Business Seminar
"Make 2021 Your Best Year Ever!"
Chris Hanks, Institute for Entrepreneurship
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Ambassadors Council
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Break Water Grill | Flowery Branch

Wednesday, January 13
Human Resource Council
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 19
Vision 2030 Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PPP/EIDL Funding Update
Q&A Webinar with the UGA SBDC
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Wednesday, January 20
COVID-19 Update with NGHS
10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Thursday, January 21
Chamber Executive Committee
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 26
South Hall Business Coalition
Webinar with the Northeast Georgia
Medical Center Brasleton
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Thursday, January 28
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

February

Wednesday, February 3
Healthcare Committee
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 9
Small Business Seminar
"Tax Tips for Small Business"
Russell Hopkins & Randy Jessup, BatesCarter
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Ambassadors Council
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Scott's Downtown | Gainesville

Wednesday, February 10
Human Resource Council
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday, February 12
Economic Development Council
8:30 a.m. | via Zoom

Tuesday, February 16
Vision 2030 Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17
Issues Committee
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 18
Chamber Executive Committee
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 25
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Get all the details and
register for events online at
GHCC.com/events

The Greater Hall Chamber is closely monitoring COVID-19 regulations and guidance and may convert in person events to virtual only events if needed. All registered participants will be notified by e-mail of any changes. Check the Chamber calendar regularly, and keep an eye on your inbox for updates. GHCC.com/EVENTS

community development

Student Art & Essay Contest

The Chamber's **Annual Arbor Day Celebration is Friday, February 19** at the Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and safety guidelines, the celebration is open only to invited guests. Coordinated by the Greater Hall Chamber and sponsored by the **Hall County Master Gardeners, Keep Hall Beautiful** and **Georgia Power**, festivities include student art and essay contest recognition and a joint city/county **Tree City USA proclamation**. Over 100 student entries were submitted for the "I Speak for the Trees" Art & Essay Contest. 3rd Grade Art Award Recipients: 1st Place Winner: **Teresa Perez, McEver Arts Academy**, and Runners Up: **Virginia Munn, Enota Elementary**, and **Emmanuel Bedoya, Sardis Enrichment School**. 5th Grade Essay Award Recipients: 1st Place Winner **Rakel Aquilar, Riverbend Elementary**, and Runners Up: **Emmaleigh Thomason, Enota Elementary**, and **Amelia Mathes, Enota Elementary**.

"I Speak for the Trees" Essay by **Rakel Aquilar**, 5th Grade, Riverbend Elementary

One day a girl went to go see her grandparents for the weekend. When she got there, there were a lot of beautiful trees and it was fall so the leaves were red and orange and all the fall colors, but there was a really bad man that wanted to cut down all the trees and use them to make houses and make fire. The things that he wants to do with the trees are good but animals live in the trees and if he cuts them down the animals don't have anywhere to live.

So, the next day the man came to cut more trees, the girl went to talk with him. She told him that he shouldn't be cutting the trees. He said to give him three reasons why he shouldn't cut the trees.

Then the girl told him, my first reason is that the animals don't have anywhere to go if you cut the trees, and my second reason is that trees also grow apples and other fruits that animals and people eat.

My third reason why you shouldn't cut is because trees are living things and they don't want to die. Then after the girl told the man the three reasons, the man started laughing and said the trees are not that important and people can find their own food that is why we have market stores and the animals can go to a zoo.

The man yelled "You need to leave, I'm trying to do my work here!" Then the man went to get his chainsaw, pulled the cord, and

it fired up.

When he started cutting the trees the girl went and clocked one of the trees and said that she wasn't going to let him cut the tree. The man started laughing again and told the girl it was dangerous for her out in the woods and she needed to leave. She was so upset, and didn't know what to do so she just left without saying anything.

At the end of the day, the man left the woods. The girl went out in the woods and saw that the man had cut three trees. She was really sad because she loved the trees. She ran her hand over the stumps and tears slid down her face. She felt helpless. Five days came and went, and the man did not come at all.

Then one night the girl and her grandparents went outside for a little camp out. They heard the scream of a chainsaw. The man had returned. He came to cut more trees, but this time at night. Isabella, the girl, went to go talk to the man again. Isabella said "the trees don't need to die. They are very helpful and they have something in them that I love about them. They are so beautiful and living things".

Suddenly the ground started shaking, the limbs of the trees began to shake and wind began to blow. I was afraid and didn't know what was happening. I was so distracted with what was hap-

pening I didn't realize the man disappeared.

The next day, the sun came out and the girl went to the forest again. She put her arms around her favorite tree, then the tree spoke to her. The girl was frightened so she ran away. She stopped halfway back to her house, trembling and with a very frightened face went back to the tree. After Isabella calmed down the tree began talking to her the tree said, "Thank you for speaking for the trees."

Isabella smiled and nodded, but it was getting late and her grandma was calling her for dinner. The tree was sad because the girl was leaving. She promised to come back and see him. Isabella ran home and asked her grandmother if she could camp in the forest tomorrow. Her grandmother said it was okay and she told her to be careful.

After dinner Isabella got her stuff and went outside. The tree and Isabella talked some more. Then the tree said thanks for defending the trees. As the years passed Isabella grew older and older and the tree kept getting older too. Now Isabella is an adult with kids and a husband. Isabella went to see the tree and to introduce her kids and husband. Isabella wanted to teach her children to speak for the trees.



Winning "I Speak for the Trees" Art Work by 3rd Grader **Teresa Perez**, McEver Arts Academy.

Vision 2030 Student Art Award

New this year, the **Vision 2030 Board** created the "What A Tree Means to Me" Visionary Award presented to a student for an outstanding piece of art work showcasing the connections and impact that trees have on our health and our community. The winner of the "Visionary Award" is **Isaac McPeck**, a 3rd Grader at Enota Elementary. Isaac created a unique tree branch mobile. Each of the eight oak tree leaves gives a fact about Georgia live oak trees and their importance in our environment.



The winner of the "Visionary Award" is **Isaac McPeck**, a 3rd Grader at Enota Elementary. Isaac created a unique tree branch mobile. Each of the eight oak tree leaves gives a fact about Georgia live oak trees and their importance in our environment.

Thank You Chamber Event Sponsors!

AccessWDUN
Caldwell Electrical Contractors
Chick-fil-A
Gainesville Mechanical
Halski Systems
Jackson EMC

Judge John Breakfield
Lake Lanier Olympic Park
Lanier Technical College
Milton Martin Honda
Northeast Georgia Health System

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton
Signs by Tomorrow
South Hall Rotary Club
Store More Self Storage
The Times

membership development

Signs by Tomorrow Celebrates 20 Years



The Kelly Family (L-R) Jay, Janet, Katherine, Michael and Kari Kelly.

Founded by the **Kelly Family** in 2000 and opening their doors in early 2001, South Hall-based **Signs by Tomorrow (SBT)** is a successful regional sign and graphic leader. Over the last 20 years, the company has grown to 14 employees with over \$1 million in annual sales. A recent staff addition is **Katherine Kelly**, the fifth Kelly family member to join the team. She's the wife of co-owner **Michael Kelly** and brings an outstanding background in customer care and sales to SBT. Recognition, like the Chamber's 2013 Small Business of the Year, Community Service awards, and "The Best Sign Company" numerous years are important, but the

enjoyment of providing sign solutions and engaging with customers is SBT's hallmark and what brings a sense of joy and accomplishment. SBT has been an involved Chamber member since opening, with founder and co-owner **Jay Kelly** serving on the Board of Directors, numerous committees, Leadership Hall, Vision 2030 and as a Small Business Seminar sponsor. Jay states, "We are truly thankful and blessed at Signs By Tomorrow by our customers, our community, our team, and our success." See images of their sign work throughout North Georgia online at SignsByTomorrow.com/GainesvilleGA. 770-534-6616.

Optimist Screening COVID-19 Testing

Environmental responsibility, social conscience, and good governance are the guiding principles motivating Flowery Branch-based Optimist Screening and its strategic partners to help fight the spread of contagious diseases. Protected by patents in the U.S. and elsewhere, Optimist Screening, a new Chamber member, has developed an **Anosmia Screening Kit** that recently obtained FDA Class II medical device registration. **Loss of smell is often the first and only symptom experienced** by otherwise Asymptomatic "Silent Spreaders" of COVID-19 and **occurs in up to 80% of those infected with the virus**. Each kit provides 560 tests, and screening is **fast and easy with immediate results**. The kit complies COVID-19 safety protocols by making the net tighter, screening often, and isolating the silent carriers early in order to slow the spread. Learn more about Optimist Screening and how you can obtain the Anosmia Screening Kit at OptimistScreening.com



welcome new members

Chafin Realty

Eric Brooker
5230 Belle Wood Court
Buford, GA 30518
770-831-0844
- Real Estate
chafincommunities.com

Country Financial

Jaxon Hart
200 West Academy St. NW
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-532-7228
- Financial Services
countryfinancial.com/jaxon.hart

Halcyon Hospice

Melinda Plakiotis
915 Interstate Ridge Drive
Suite A2
Gainesville, GA 30501
470-248-4120
- Medical / Hospice
lhcgroupp.com/locations/halcyon-hospice-gainesville

MedLife Investment Group

Salim Merchant
2129 Friendship Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
404-932-4382
- Real Estate / Investment

OCC Antiques & Interiors

Julia Nycz
300 Northside Drive
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-406-8604
- Retail
outofthecedarchest.com

Optimist Screening

Russell Smith
4148 Industry Way, Suite D
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
404-777-6190
- Employment Screening
Healthcare; Medical
OptimistScreening.com

Professionals Network Before Work



Greater Hall Chamber members recently gathered outdoors (while practicing social distancing) for **Network Over Coffee at Lake Lanier Olympic Park**. (L-R): **Chris Arrington**, *Double Cakes by Chris*; **Christen Wilbanks**, *Greater Hall Chamber*; **Regina Dyer**, *City of Gainesville Convention & Visitors Bureau*; **Nicole Ricketts**, *Main Street Gainesville*; **Todd Redish**, *Boost Transport*; **Jim O'dell**, *Lake Lanier Olympic Park*; **Jaxon Hart**, *Country Financial*; **Kristy Holland**, *Open Up Good (member prospect)*; **Glen Turner**, *Etrenzik LED (member prospect)*; **Eric Larsen**, *Lake Lanier Olympic Park*. To learn more about Network Over Coffee and other Chamber networking opportunities, contact Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206 or cwilbanks@ghcc.com. Check the Chamber Calendar for upcoming events at GHCC.com/events



Lake Lanier Olympic Park is gearing up for its popular **Food Truck Friday** series that begins in March. For vendor, sponsor or partnership information, contact **Eric Larsen**, 855-536-1996, elarsen@gainesvillega.gov. lakelanierolympicvenue.org

small business development

Small Business of the Month Left Nut Brewing Company

Left Nut Brewing Company Owner **Pap Datta** recently stated, "All of us at Left Nut Brewing (LNB) are so honored to be selected as the Chamber's January Small Business! Through 2020, the team at the "nuthouse" has worked tirelessly and passionately to continue to provide our community the **best beers and ciders**, crafted meticulously at our brewery."



Mirva Datta, Patrick McCormac and Clay Beck of Left Nut Brewing Company.

LNB launched a **partnership with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper** to release **Pure Source IPA**, donating a portion of the sales proceeds to ongoing efforts for a clean and safe Chattahoochee, as well as two popular **milkshake IPA's** using hundreds of pounds of fresh strawberries and peaches from **Jaemor Farms**. **As a tribute to the beautiful Lake Lanier, they launched Lake Gold lager**. These products underscore the camaraderie and partnership achieved with local businesses and organizations to create collective success in a tough climate. "We want to especially thank all of our fans who supported us through this and other years," said Datta. "And we look forward to celebrating our **5th Anniversary in March 2021!**" 2100 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30504. 678-827-6678. leftnutbrewing.com



SMALL BUSINESS PARTNER

CONGRATULATIONS to these **30 companies that earned Chamber Small Business Partner Certification** for attending at least six small business seminars in 2020. Recipients will be formally recognized at an upcoming Chamber Board of Directors meeting.

A Good Look Home Inspection	Edward Jones	ROI Performance Group
American Yazaki	Enterprising Solutions	SCR Consulting Services
Athens Printing	Gee Heating & Air	Small Biz Ally
Boost Business	Hopkins Associates	The Alternative Board
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier	Lanier Law	UGA Small Business
Brenau University	Living Art Landscapes	Development Center
Cardinal Ridge Group	McDonald's, NEGA Inc.	United Community Bank
Cochran Brothers Electric	Medlink	Virtual Properties
Convence	Mobility Scooters & More	Your Trusted Servant, LLC
DBR Associates	Murray Plastics	
Double Cakes by Chris	Peach State Bank & Trust	

Small Business Success Seminar Tuesday, January 12

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

"Make 2021 Your Best Year Ever!"



Chris Hanks

Institute for Entrepreneurship

Join entrepreneur specialist **Chris Hanks** as he discusses what 2020 taught us and how to use these lessons to make 2021 your best year ever, personally and professionally. **Learn to challenge your limiting beliefs and embrace the entrepreneurial mindset in a year full of risk!** Chris is deeply committed to transforming people through entrepreneurship and is the founder and executive director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship. He founded and directed the entrepreneurship program at the University of Georgia and, most recently, the entrepreneurship center at Kennesaw State University. He has owned multiple businesses and is certified in business valuation, providing expert witness testimony. Questions? Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111, alewis@ghcc.com. Register online: GHCC.com/events

Upcoming Small Business Seminars

Tuesday, February 9

Small Business Seminar

"Tax Tips for Small Business"

Presented by **Rusty Hopkins** and

Randy Jessup of BatesCarter

9:00 am | via Zoom

No Charge for Chamber Members

Tuesday, March 9

Small Business Seminar

"Building Your Brand to Stand Out"

Presented by **Effectv** (formerly Comcast)

9:00 am | Via Zoom

No Charge for Chamber Members

Info:

Chamber Small Business Seminars are held monthly on topics of interest to small business. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seminars are currently in virtual format. Check the Chamber's Events Calendar at GHCC.com/EVENTS for up-to-date info or contact Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: alewis@ghcc.com

Become a Chamber 2021 CERTIFIED Small Business Partner by simply attending six (6) Small Business Seminars this year.

CERTIFIED Partners Receive

- Certificate of Completion
- Certified Small Business Door Decal
- Recognition at a Chamber Board Meeting
- Announcement in the Business Link

Small Business Seminars are sponsored by **AccessWDUN**, **Caldwell Electrical Contractors**, **Gainesville Mechanical** and **The Times**.

Gainesville-Hall County was named one of the **2020 Best Cities in the United States for Small Businesses**. *ChamberofCommerce.org* released the report, *Best Small Cities for Business*, recognizing cities that have created a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and small business owners. Gainesville-Hall County ranked 32nd and was the highest among Georgia cities on the list.



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Cleveland, GA 30528

Dacula
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Dacula, GA 30019

Dawsonville
108 Prominence Court | Suite 100
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Gainesville
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Gainesville, GA 30501

Dahlonega
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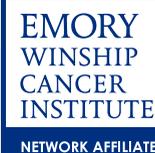


When you're facing cancer, you want a strong team on your side. Even better, two. That's why Northeast Georgia Medical Center is now a network affiliate of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University – Georgia's only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. Together, we deliver some of the most effective treatments and promising clinical trials, right here at home. It all starts with more voices – and leads to more victories.

 **Northeast Georgia Medical Center**

Learn about the collaboration, and choose your cancer doctor at nghs.com/more

Emory Winship Cancer Institute Network Affiliates collaborate with Emory on quality and safety initiatives to improve care locally.



Make an award nomination

HEALTHY HALL Awards 2021

The Greater Hall Chamber's Healthcare Awards Program spotlights those in the healthcare industry making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness. 2021 awards will be presented at the **4th Annual Healthy Hall Awards Program on Tuesday, March 2 (11:30 am - 1:00 pm) at Lanier Technical**

College, Ramsey Conference Center. Award Categories are *hALL In Corporate Achievement Recognition; Visionary Leader; Community Impact; Healthcare Education; Outstanding Achievement in Behavioral Health; Healthcare Worker of the Year; Nurse of the Year; Dentist of the Year; Physician of the Year; Lifetime Achievement Award* (may be awarded posthumously). **Nominate an individual, business or organization** for a Healthy Hall Award of Excellence at surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyHallAwards by February 5th. Event sponsorships available. Details: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: alewis@ghcc.com

Job Fair & Career Expo on March 31

10am-2pm | Gainesville Civic Center | Free & Open to the Public

Job Seekers: The community Spring Job Fair will feature 60+ employer booths and is a great opportunity to learn about local companies that are hiring. Be prepared to meet employers face-to-face and complete job applications on site. This event is open to the public, and there is no admission fee.

Employers: The job fair is a great opportunity to recruit qualified employees and typically draws close to 1,000 job seekers. Booth space is limited. Sponsorships available!

The job fair is coordinated by the **Greater Hall Chamber, Georgia Department of Labor, Lanier Technical College**, and the **Gainesville Area Employer Committee**.

INFO: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: alewis@ghcc.com. [GHCC.com/JOBS](https://ghcc.com/JOBS)

Smith Hulsey locates to Green Street

Business Partners **Rustin Smith** and **Ronny Hulsey** of **Smith Hulsey Law** recently purchased and relocated their office to 756 Green Street. Smith and Hulsey see the property investment on Historic Green Street as not only a commitment to their hometown, but also a commitment to a way of practicing law. To hard work, not busy work. An unflinching promise to not settle for anything less than exceptional. Both Smith and Hulsey were selected by their attorney peers to Georgia Trend's 2020 Legal Elite list. smithhulseylaw.com



- **Lissa Shirley** was recently awarded the **Nathan Deal Governor's Award for Trauma Excellence** for the lasting impact she has had on trauma care in the region. Shirley has worked in the blood bank at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) for 34 years impacting those throughout Region 2 and the entire state by ensuring NGMC Gainesville has enough blood on hand for trauma patients who arrive at the Emergency Department. nghs.com/trauma
- The **University of North Georgia President Bonita Jacobs** announced **Dr. Richard Oates**, Vice President of UNG's Gainesville Campus, retired November 30, and **Dr. Kate Maine**, Vice President of University Relations and Chief of Staff, will provide interim oversight for the Gainesville Campus. Dr. Jacobs has named **Mary Rob Plunkett**, UNG's associate athletic director for business and senior woman administrator, as the university's new athletic director. Plunkett succeeds **Lindsay Reeves**, who recently retired. ung.edu
- The **University of Georgia** named **Amanda Wilbanks**, owner and founder of **Southern Baked Pie**, to its **2020 40 Under 40 Alumni** list. Wilbanks is a graduate of the UGA Terry College of Business, majoring in marketing. Founded in 2012 and headquartered in Gainesville, Southern Baked Pie currently has four locations – Gainesville, Buckhead, Vinings and Alpharetta – and ships pies to corporate and individual clients nationwide. southernbakedpie.com
- **Northeast Georgia Medical Center** (NGMC) **Barrow** and **NGMC Braselton** recently joined **NGMC Gainesville** as certified **Primary Stroke Centers** by DNV GL Healthcare. "Our health system continues to prove that it is dedicated to ensuring stroke patients in our region are offered the best care close to home," said Dr. Sung Lee, NGMC's medical director of Neurointerventional Surgery. "With three of our hospitals now certified, patients can rest assured that if they arrive with stroke symptoms, they will receive quick care from a skilled and passionate team." nghs.com
- **Jim Hammond**, former head of the theater department at the **University of North Georgia** (UNG), was recognized with the **Governor's Award for the Arts &**

Humanities. "To receive this honor at the culmination of a 37-year career in theater education is very humbling and satisfying," said Hammond, who retired from UNG in summer 2020 after 30 years. The award honors those that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through service to the humanities or excellence in the arts.

- After extensive renovations, **Jeff and Donna Worley** are pleased to announce **The Collegiate Grill** is again open for business. The Downtown Gainesville mainstay since 1947 (and Chamber Small Business of the Year) is open with limited hours and limited seating (Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-3pm and Friday-Saturday 11:am-7:00pm). Stop by and enjoy fresh burgers, homemade fries, and delicious milk shakes at 220 Main Street in Gainesville. facebook.com/collegiategrill
- **Braselton Town Manager Jennifer Scott** announced eight residents who completed the **10th Annual Citizens Academy: Jessica Zagarella, Ronald Lev, Shawnette Good, Dale Shapiro, Justin Norman, Lee Baker, Ryan Aquilino and Justin Guido**. The graduates completed the six-month municipal immersion series covering the topics of town administration, finance, police and court, libraries, public works, planning and development, economic development, and tourism. braselton.net
- The Chamber is dedicated to providing **resources for employers and job opportunities for the community**. Visit the jobs page online at [GHCC.com/JOBS](https://ghcc.com/JOBS) for a listing of 60+ employers hiring. Link to apply directly for careers with area companies like **Belk, 2 Dog Restaurant, CASA, American Yazaki, Martin Docks, Hollis Transport, King's Hawaiian, Kubota, University of North Georgia and ZF Gainesville**. The **Chamber's Spring Job Fair & Career Expo is March 31** (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center. The event is open to the public with 65+ companies that are hiring on hand. Exhibit space and sponsorships available. alewis@ghcc.com

Got news?

Email: kwest@ghcc.com



business news

Liberty Utilities has a bold new look

Liberty Utilities is now simply Liberty, but the company's commitment to customers remains the same. They have a new logo and call it the **Radiant Heart** because they're "putting our heart where it matters." The Radiant Heart symbolizes how clean, sustainable



energy and water are the heartbeat of our homes and communities. Liberty believes that reliable, affordable service for our communities matters. Greener, cleaner and more sustainable systems for the future matter.

When you do things with your heart, you can

do both. Every day Liberty is adopting clean, sustainable energy and water solutions to reduce their carbon footprint, and yours. Liberty is on target to achieve our 75% renewable generation goal by 2023. They have reduced more than 75% of the one million metric tons GHG emissions target and have introduced innovative green services such as smart meters, net meters, battery storage, and free water-saving devices in select regions. Liberty also supports biodiversity programs and community support programs in selected regions. The new logo will replace the existing Liberty Utilities logo and will be introduced in phases. This means that you may see both logos in our community and displayed by employees as they work through this transition. libertyutilities.com

AT&T Fiber Ready expands in Gainesville

Tim Evans (left), *Greater Hall Chamber Vice President of Economic Development*, and **Paul Chambers**, *AT&T Northeast Georgia Regional Director, External Affairs*. As part of continuing efforts to drive economic development and investment in Georgia, AT&T announced **Gainesville 85 Business Park** is now certified **AT&T Fiber Ready**. In today's world, and especially with the challenges of the global pandemic, connectivity



is important to everyone, including new employers and businesses of every type. There are many reasons businesses invest and locate in Gainesville-Hall County, and fiber infrastructure with high-speed communications capabilities is an important one. AT&T's Fiber Ready designation helps convey to potential investors around the world that we are ready to meet their needs right here in Gainesville-Hall County. The Gainesville 85 Business Park is a new 1,300-acre, environmentally focused business park in Gainesville. Located just two miles from I-985 and 15 miles from I-85, the business park's regional accessibility encourages economic growth through transportation and infrastructure connectivity.



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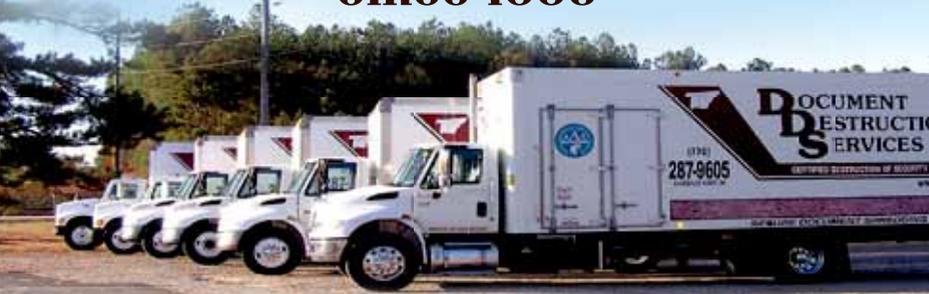
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ground breakings

Medical Plaza in Buford



Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) broke ground for the **Medical Plaza in Buford** to include a new urgent care center and more convenient access to specialty care. “This new, multi-tenant building strengthens our commitment to serving this community with one convenient location that provides a wide range of healthcare services,” says **Carol Burrell**, *President and CEO of NGHS*. The three-story, 90,000-square-foot Medical Plaza is expected to see over 100,000 visits per year after it opens in Spring 2022. In addition to **urgent care**, the plaza includes **Cardiology** provided by The Heart Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center; **Northeast Georgia Physician Group** services including family medicine, OB/GYN, urology, sports medicine, orthopedic surgery and general surgery services, a new **Imaging Center**, and an **on-site lab** for convenient testing. nghs.com



Benefits of Chamber Membership

- Listing in the Membership Directory
- Advertising, Publicity, Sponsorships
- Listing in Online Business Directory
- Business Referrals
- Subscription to *Business Link*
- Leads & Networking Groups
- Entry to Networking Events
- Increased Business Exposure
- Access to Forums and Seminars
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Valuable Business Connections
- Visibility & Community Involvement

Join today.
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Construction begins at Gainesville High



Gainesville High School held its official groundbreaking ceremony commemorating the construction of the school's new facilities in November. Officials welcomed students, employees, and guests at the historic event, with inspiring remarks from Gainesville City School **Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams** and Gainesville High **Principal Jamie Green**. The renovated campus will include a new Advanced Studies Building, Student Activities Center, Instructional Building, and a new Cafeteria and Media Center Building. The renovated campus is funded by the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. gcssk12.net

PostNet opens in Flowery Branch



Owners **Jimmy and Debora Wallace** cut the ribbon for the new **PostNet** location in Flowery Branch. PostNet specializes in packing and shipping through four carriers, USPS, UPS, FedEx and DHL, and special projects like business cards, brochures, canvas printing, banners, and more – all designed, printed and finished in-house. Private mail boxes are available in store for physical use, in addition to Virtual Mailboxes through Anytime Mailbox and iPostal1. PostNet accepts all prepaid returns from USPS, UPS, FedEx and DHL. PostNet's main purpose is to help as much as they can, all in one place. Visit their website, give them a call, send an email, or simply come visit their new location! 5900 Spout Springs Rd, Suite C3, Flowery Branch, GA 30542. 770-530-9598. PostNet.com/ga132

Partners in Education

ABB Motors & Mechanical | Flowery Branch High School



Hall County Work-Based Learning Advisory Committee Members (Front, L-R) **Shelley Logan**, *Workforce Strategies Group*; **Nikki Chandler**, *Chamber*; **Christy Carter**, *Flowery Branch High School*; **Greg Vitek**, *Workforce Strategies Group*. (Back, L-R) Advisory Committee Chairman **Mike Holman**, **John Pinkerton** and **Mike Anthony** of ABB Motors & Mechanical.

Flowery Branch High School (FBHS) recognizes **ABB Motors & Mechanical** (previously Baldor Electric Company), **Mike Holman**, *Plant Manager*, and **John Pinkerton**, *Human Resources Director*, as outstanding Partners in Education for over five years. Collectively, ABB has hosted some 55 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Math) students at the Flowery Branch facility in support of National Manufacturing Day in Education every October. Holman and Pinkerton have attended the Falcon Career Summit, speaking to students about the industry and the roadmap they need for a career in manufacturing. ABB has served as a mentor for the **Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program at FBHS** for several years in congruence to Holman's serving as Chairman of the WBL Advisory Committee for Hall County Schools.

ABB is a design and manufacturing facility that offers FBHS students a look at careers in Engineering, Electrical, Industrial Mechanical and more. "The company exemplifies partnership and community loyalty to education and workforce development," said Christy Carter, FBHS Work-Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator. "We can always reach out to Mr. Holman for any materials needed to contribute to the students learning career skills with the FBHS Welding Program. And, ABB recently donated an automobile motor for the Race Car that the students are building in that program as a Capstone Project."

ABB is in the process of creating an Apprenticeship Program for graduating seniors to attend Lanier Technical College at no cost and remains invested, involved, and supportive of Flowery Branch High School.

Coordinated by the Greater Hall Chamber, PIE provides support of regional education partnerships, including all 44 public city and county schools (elementary, middle and high school levels) and over 350 partnering organizations. GHCC.com/education

Leadership Hall County



Leadership Hall County's monthly "Bonus Break" in December featured **Hall County Sheriff Gerald Couch** (left) and **Gainesville Police Chief Jay Parrish** (right), both pictured with **Andi Tippens**, *Chamber VP of Education*, during the recent presentation of their Silver Shovel Awards. Many thanks to Sheriff Couch and Chief Parrish for their ongoing support of the Greater Hall Chamber and its community and leadership programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership Hall Class has been unable to meet in person and participate in on-site program events and tours. "Bonus Breaks" are virtual programs featuring community professionals that speak on their career/industry. In November, **Elizabeth Higgins**, Executive Director of **Vision 2030** gave a presentation on Public Art, Transportation/Infrastructure and other Vision projects.

Youth Leadership Hall



Gainesville Police Department DUI Simulation with Youth Leadership Hall Students (L-R) **Sgt. Erin Escalante**, **MPO Erik Ellis**, and student **Jayden Clark**, *Chestatee High School*.

The **Gainesville Police Department** recently hosted Youth Leadership Hall students for the Law Enforcement Program. Students toured the City's facility, participated in phone forensics, a DUI golf cart simulation, a crime lab discovery, and a K9 experience. A special thank you to **Chick-fil-A West** for sponsoring breakfast and to **State Court Judge John Breakfield** for sponsoring lunch for the students and officers.

membership development



New Member Campaign

February 1
through
March 31

Join during the campaign and receive added benefits!

You're invited to join the **Greater Hall Chamber** as we kick off the **New Year, New Member Campaign** starting **February 1** and concluding **March 31**. Bring in 2021 on a path to success by joining the **over 4,100 Chamber member representatives** who already enjoy **increased visibility, consumer credibility** and **involvement through networking opportunities and economic development**. Founded as Gainesville-Hall County's **Voice for Business** over 110 years ago, the Chamber staff and leadership will help you grow your business.

Membership Directory Listing
Member Networking Events
Forums, Seminars and Committees
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Christen Wilbanks, VP Membership Sales | Kara Tate, VP Sales & Programs

JOIN ONLINE: GHCC.com/membership/join-the-chamber

Thank You Chamber Event Sponsors!

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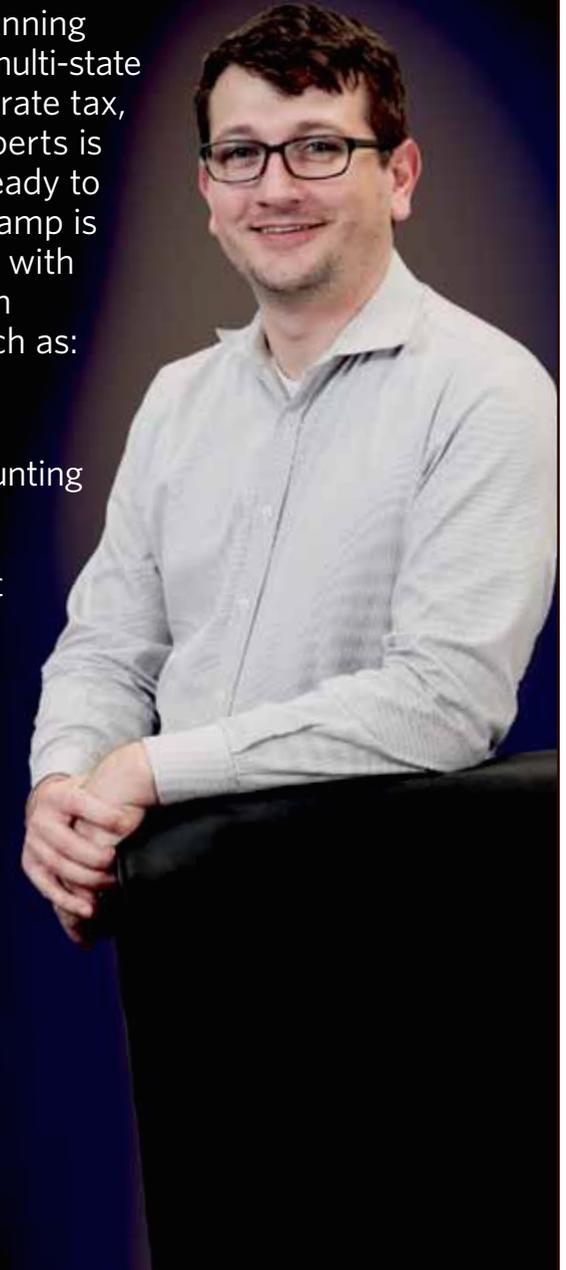
Judge John Breakfield
Lake Lanier Olympic Park
Lanier Technical College
Milton Martin Honda
Northeast Georgia Health System

Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Braselton
Signs by Tomorrow
South Hall Rotary Club
Store More Self Storage
The Times

OUR TEAM IS YOUR TEAM

From personal tax planning and filing to complex multi-state or international corporate tax, Rushton's team of experts is knowledgeable and ready to help. Andrew Beauchamp is a CPA and Tax Senior with Rushton's Tax Division providing services such as:

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- Business Tax Credits



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community development

New Microtransit Service Launched



WeGo is a new rideshare transportation service provided by Hall Area Transit that uses a smartphone application and a fleet of passenger vans to transport you around town.

pick them up within a block or two of their doorstep or a nearby location. Those who don't have a smartphone to download the app can book a ride by phone. **WeGo is offered 6 am - 6 pm Monday through Friday and operates within the City of Gainesville.** In July 2021, WeGo will expand into remaining parts of Hall County. A single one-way ride runs \$3, and customers pay by credit card, debit card, or a prepaid card which is registered when they set up an account. Individuals may also purchase a voucher for a designated amount and use it to access the WeGo service. All WeGo vehicles are equipped with a ramp and spaces for two wheelchairs, and the WeGo app has special features for visual and hearing impaired persons. For more information on WeGo, call 770-503-3333, or contact Phillippa Lewis Moss, Director of Hall Area Transit, at pmoss@gainesvillega.gov

Hall Area Transit officially launched their new microtransit service, **WeGo**, in mid December. Passengers can book a trip on a rideshare vehicle using the free WeGo app that works similarly to Uber and Lyft. Customers enter their pick-up and drop-off locations, and a vehicle will

Save a Life, Give Blood

January is National Blood Donor Month. Be someone's hero and make a date to donate the gift of life! Visit redcrossblood.org and enter your zip code to find opportunities in your area. **To help ensure proper social distancing, appointments are strongly encouraged.** Eat well and drink lots of water before and after giving blood. Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drives in Hall County:

Sterling on the Lake Clubhouse
7005 Lake Sterling Blvd in Flowery Branch
January 14 | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan NE Road in Buford
January 15 | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Chestnut Mountain Church
4903 Chestnut Mountain Circle in Flowery Branch
January 18 | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Braselton**
1400 River Place in Braselton
January 19 | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



North Georgia Community Foundation

Founded in 1985 by a group of citizens interested in encouraging philanthropy and strengthening communities, the North Georgia Community Foundation was built by the community to serve the community and exists today to strengthen our region by inspiring giving, investing in nonprofit organizations and mobilizing action.



Michelle Prater
President & CEO, North Georgia Community Foundation

The North Georgia Community Foundation (NGCF) helps people and nonprofits invest generously in the lives of those who call our community home. Since 1985, NGCF has been instrumental in encouraging and inspiring philanthropy across North Georgia by working with the organization's fundholders to help them meet their philanthropic dreams. NGCF has always been an important part of our community, but never more evident than now.

- In 2020, NGCF provided over \$1,000,000 in COVID-19 Relief Grants to nonprofits and programs providing direct assistance to those impacted by the pandemic.
- NGCF manages a portfolio of over \$100 million in charitable assets.
- Since inception, NGCF has awarded over \$95 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofits and students across North Georgia.
- The NGCF Board of Directors is comprised of business men and women and community advocates who represent 8 counties across North Georgia. Rob Fowler, CEO of Turner, Wood, & Smith Insurance, is the current NGCF Board Chair.
- NGCF partners with business owners, community advocates, school systems, city and county governments, and healthcare leaders to keep our community thriving.
- NGCF has been instrumental in the formation of nonprofit organizations, including several that are local to Hall County: Georgia Mountain Food Bank, the John Jarrard Foundation, WomenSource, North Georgia Works!, and AMPED Kids.
- The NGCF campus is home to 15 nonprofit organizations.
- G.R.O.W. (Growing Roots of Wisdom), the nonprofit education umbrella of NGCF, provides leadership training and programming designed to enhance and enable nonprofits to further their organizations' missions.

To learn more about the North Georgia Community Foundation and how you can make a lasting impact on the community and areas you are passionate about, visit NGCF.org



FOR GOOD. FOR EVER.

The Greater Hall Chamber is committed to serving its member small businesses and non-profits. Let us promote your organization through a spotlight in the *Business Link* newsletter. Email info to kwest@ghcc.com or call 770-532-6206 for more information.

Healthy Hall Awards 2021

Tuesday, March 2nd

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | via Zoom

The 4th Annual Healthy Hall Awards program on March 2 will honor those in the healthcare industry making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness.

- Award Categories —
- Corporate Achievement Recognition
 - Visionary Leader
 - Community Impact
 - Healthcare Education
 - Outstanding Achievement in Behavioral Health
 - Healthcare Worker of the Year
 - Nurse of the Year
 - Dentist of the Year
 - Physician of the Year
 - Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *May be awarded posthumously

Award Nominations
surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyHallAwards

Award Nominees must be located in the Greater Hall area.

Nomination deadline is 5pm on Friday, February 5, 2021.

Awards will be presented at the 4th Annual Healthcare Awards Program on March 2.

Presented by



Northeast Georgia Health System

HEALTHY
HALL 
Awards 2021

Questions?

Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 · alewis@ghcc.com

Virtual Registration: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](https://www.ghcc.com/EVENTS)



Are you hALL in? Help us #stopthespread of COVID-19 in Gainesville-Hall County by taking the hALL in pledge today.

Q: What does it mean to be hALL in?	Q: What does taking the pledge commit me to?
A: Join our community-wide initiative to encourage the use of masks and other best practices as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Georgia and White House in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.	 WEARING A MASK  SOCIAL DISTANCING  GOOD HYGIENE  FOLLOWING DIRECTIVES
Q: Who else is hALL in?	Interested in hosting an on-site flu shot clinic?
A: Find out which Hall County organizations have taken the hALL in pledge, an initiative to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, by visiting wearehALLin.com . Local governments, businesses and organizations have already taken the pledge.	Getting vaccinated for the flu is another step in ensuring a healthy community this season. Flu Shot Clinic Request Forms are available on the wearehALLin.com homepage should your business or organization like to conveniently offer vaccines to employees or volunteers.

wearehALLin.com also serves as a resource for frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19, as well as prevention techniques, press releases and more. Quick links to COVID-19 information issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Georgia and [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) are available on the homepage for easy access.

wearehALLin.com

Upcoming Chamber Events

Tuesday, January 12
Small Business Seminar

Make 2021 Your Best Year Ever!
Chris Hanks, Institute for Entrepreneurship
9:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Tuesday, January 19
PPP/EIDL Funding Webinar

Q&A with the **UGA SBDC** on Relief Funding for Small Biz
2:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Wednesday, January 20
COVID-19 Vaccines:

Everything You Need to Know
Facilitated by **NGHS**
10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Tuesday, January 26
South Hall Business Coalition

Webinar with **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton**
11:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Tuesday, March 2
Healthy Hall Awards

Lanier Technical College
Ramsey Conference Center
11:30 a.m. | via Zoom
Make an Award Nomination!



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