GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS LINK

GreaterHallChamber.com

APRIL 2021

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save the date

Tuesday, April 13
Small Business Seminar
Via Zoom

Friday, April 23
Hackers Holiday Golf
Lanier Islands

Wednesday, April 28
Annual Agribusiness Awards
Jaemor Farms

Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament | APRIL 23
Legacy on Lanier at Lanier Islands

The Chamber's **Annual Transportation Forum** is **May 4** (10am) with **Russell McMurry**, *Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation*, and **Kelvin Mullins**, *GDOT District 1 Engineer, City of Gainesville & Hall County.*
Info: 770-532-6206.

featured member

Lawson AIR CONDITIONING & PLUMBING, INC. 75 1946-2021

from the chairman

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

Transportation Forum is May 4th

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget projects Hall County's population will continue to grow by at least 1.5% annually through 2065 from our current 206,000 residents to more than 326,000. This growth will play greatly into infrastructure and transportation needs in Hall County in the future.

Be sure to tune in for the **Chamber's Annual Transportation Forum on Tuesday, May 4 (10 am) via Zoom**. It'll be presented virtually this year and feature **Russell McMurry**, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Commissioner, and **Kelvin Mullins**, GDOT District 1 Engineer, Gainesville-Hall County. The Transportation Forum offers the opportunity to learn about our community's transportation needs and projects that are on the drawing board.

The Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) is the governmental transportation planning body for Hall County. Administered by three government and citizen led committees, GHMPO's role is to study the region's transportation needs and plan for those needs, whether they be motor vehicle, bike or pedestrian. The May 4th forum will discuss many of GHMPO's plans.

GHMPO Hall County Projects
The following projects are listed in GHMPO's current Transportation Improvement Program for implementation as well as in the Regional Transportation Plan:

- **Spout Springs Road**
- **Sardis Road** (SR 60 Connector)
- **Green Street / City of Gainesville**
- **US 129/SR 11 North and South**
- **Thompson Bridge, Dawsonville Highway Bridge**
- **I-985/365**
- **Hwy 211** (Old Winder Highway to Friendship Road)

Visit **GHMPO.org** for more on local projects, and be sure to sign up for the Greater Hall Chamber's May 4th Transportation Forum. It's open to the public. You can register for the forum online at **GHCC.com/EVENTS** or call the Chamber, 770-532-6206, for more information.

Healthy Hall Awards 2021

Dr. Jim Butts, a retired Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic and Good News Clinics physician, received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 4th Annual Healthy Hall Awards Luncheon. **Kit Dunlap**, *Chamber President & CEO;* **Dr. Jim Butts**, and wife, **Wynelle**; Chamber Chairman **Brian Rochester**, *Rochester & Associates.* *See more on page 15.*

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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 10
McKemie West, Editor • Email: kwest@ghcc.com
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Greater Hall Chamber Welcome Center
Robin Halstead, *Manager*

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.

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meetings & events

Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament Friday, April 23

10am Shotgun Start

Legacy on Lanier Golf Club

WIN $1,000 CASH!

Exciting Cash Prize Drawing at Hackers Holiday. Do not have to be present to win! Tickets, $10 each or 3 for $20.

Some 150 golfers will Swing into Spring on April 23rd at Hackers Holiday at Legacy on Lanier Golf Club. Tournament playing spots are sold out, but **great sponsorships are available**! Sign up to sponsor a hole, sponsor the beverage cart, or set up a tent representing your company on the course and meet the golfers! Don't forget to get your tickets to **WIN $1,000 CASH**. Drawing at Hacker's 19th Hole Reception. Do not have to be present to win. For tickets and info on sponsorships, contact Kara Tate at 770-532-6206 x 103 or email: *ktate@ghcc.com*

Agribusiness Recognition Awards

Annual Agribusiness Recognition Awards, coordinated by the Greater Hall Chamber and the **Hall County Farm Bureau**, will be presented at a breakfast on **Wednesday, April 28 (7:30am) at Jaemor Farms**, 5340 Cornelia Highway in Alto. The breakfast and awards program is open to the public and presented by **Jackson EMC**.

The program increases recognition and appreciation of the agricultural community in Hall County with awards presented to the **Friend of Agribusiness**, **Outstanding Agribusiness**, **Farmer of the Year** and **Ag Hall of Fame**. **Reservations required**. This in-person event requires face masks and social distancing. Reservations: Hall County Farm Bureau, 770-536-3461.

Networking at Lanier Raceplex

Join the **South Hall Business Coalition** at **Lanier Raceplex** (5301 Winder Highway in Braselton) **on April 27** (9am) for a complimentary light breakfast, and hear updates on what's happening at the track. Lanier Raceplex is all geared up for 2021, offering elevated experiences whether it be a private or corporate party, spectator drift event, kart racing league, or festival on the 60 acre property. This outdoor, in-person event will require face masks and social distancing. $5 Chamber Members; $15 Non-Members; Light breakfast included. Questions? Kara Tate, 770-532-6206 x 103. Email: ktate@ghcc.com. Register online: **GHCC.com/EVENTS**

calendar

April

Wednesday, April 7
Healthcare Committee
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13
Small Business Seminar
"Tools to Help You Work Smarter"
by **Stephanie Sokenis**, *SmallBiz Ally*
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, April 14
Network Over Coffee
9:00 a.m. | Haydee's Café in Oakwood

Human Resource Council
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 15
Chamber Executive Committee
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 16
Economic Development Council
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 20
Vision 2030 Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21
Issues Committee
9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 22
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Gainesville Civic Center

Friday, April 23
Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
Legacy on Lanier Golf Club | Lanier Islands

Tuesday, April 27
South Hall Business Coalition
9:00 a.m. | Lanier Raceplex in Braselton

Wednesday, April 28
Annual Agribusiness Awards
7:30 a.m. | Jaemor Farms

May

Tuesday, May 4
Virtual Transportation Forum
Featuring **Russell McMurry**, *GDOT Commissioner*, & **Kelvin Mullins**, *GDOT District 1 Engineer, Gainesville-Hall County*
10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Wednesday, May 5
Healthcare Committee
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Friday, May 7
Economic Development Council
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Art in the Park
Vision 2030 Public Art Event
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Laurel Park

Tuesday, May 11
Small Business Seminar
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday, May 12
Human Resource Council
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 13
113th Annual Meeting & Gala
6:00 p.m. | Chattahoochee Country Club

Tuesday, May 18
Vision 2030 Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19
Issues Committee
9:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 20
Chamber Executive Committee
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25
South Hall Business Coalition
10:00 a.m. | Elachee

Thursday, May 27
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

GHCC.com/events

small business development

Small Business of the Month
Alpha Gyro Grill

In 2017, Christos Nicolaou, his wife Sally Griffin, and friend, George Giannoulas, opened the Alpha Gyro Grill in downtown Gainesville at the corner of Jesse Jewell and E.E. Butler Parkways. With very different backgrounds, each brings their unique talents to the business. Christos has a degree in Economics from UGA and has worked in marketing for 25 years. George was a successful restaurant businessman and property developer in Greece for many years before relocating to Gainesville. Sally, an art historian, has local roots in Hall County going back almost 200 years. She had the vision to create the restaurant's unique wall art inspired by the patterned architecture found on the Greek Island of Chios (backdrop of photo). The restaurant strives to consistently deliver high quality service and delicious, freshly made food. Their menu offers a wide variety of Greek specialties such as gyros, moussaka, chicken lemon soup, freshly made Greek Salads and favorites like spaghetti and meatballs. Don't leave without selecting something from their pastry case with delectable desserts. Visit them is person, or order delivery through Grubhub, DoorDash, Postmates or Uber Eats. 678-696-8380. *Facebook.com/AlphaGyroGrill*

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Lanier College & Career Acdy
Lanier Islands
Lanier Raceplex
Milton Martin Honda
Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton
Signs by Tomorrow
South Hall Rotary Club
Store More Self Storage
The Times

Small Business Success Seminar
Tuesday, April 13
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | via Zoom
"Tools to Help You Work Smarter"

Stephanie Sokenis
SmallBiz Ally

Now more than ever, small businesses need to leverage resources, optimize their time and reduce costs. Thankfully, there is no shortage of **FREE online tools to give your small business the look, feel and advantages of a big business**. Join Stephanie Sokenis of SmallBiz Ally to learn about easy-to-implement FREE tools to grow and manage your business.

- Finances & Bookkeeping
- Time Management & Productivity
- Teamwork & Collaboration
- Design & Marketing
- Tools, Templates & Discounts

Thank you sponsors

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Upcoming Seminars

Tuesday, May 11
Small Business Seminar
"How to Cross Train Your Workforce"
Presented by **Terry Merck**, American Yazaki Corp.
9:00 am | Via Zoom
No Charge for Chamber Members

Tuesday, June 8
Small Business Seminar
"Reach Customers Online with GOOGLE"
Presented by **Demming Bass**, Google Trainer
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 online 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**.

welcome new members

CA Ventures
Steve Rowley
12600 Deerfield Parkway
Suite 100
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770-880-6075
- Real Estate Developer
ca-ventures.com

Cloudland Vineyards + Winery
Sean Wilborn
3796 North Bogan Road
Buford, GA 30519
678-765-7945
- Winery
cloudlandwines.com

Concord Baptist Church
Brandon Roney
640 Main Street
Clermont, GA 30527
770-983-7272
- Church
concordgo.com/Clermont

Cotton Eyed Joe's
Jody Spain
2136 Hilton Drive
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-718-1119
- Promotional Items
cejoes.com

Creatively Driven Media
Brandon Lofton
Jefferson, GA 30549
678-463-5139
- Audio / Visual Production
creativelydrivenmedia.com

DCO Commercial Floors
Amanda Groover
1440 Lakes Parkway, Suite 100
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
678-497-0836
- Floor Covering Contractor
dcocf.com

Dirt Road Restoration & Design
Christie Daigrepont
5288 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504
770-597-0589
- Retail Gifts & Specialty Items
dirtroadrestore.com

Donna Smith
P.O. Box 7954
Gainesville, GA 30504
770-540-4989
- Individual / Web Developer
dwebsmith.com

Edward Jones Investments
Michael Chafin
2551 Limestone Pkwy, Suite 4
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-530-2924
- Financial Services
edwardjones.com/michael-chafin

Fish Tales Lake Lanier
Dale Ozaki
6330 Mitchell Street
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
770-967-3775
- Restaurant & Catering
fishtaleslakelanier.com

Gastro Health for Kids
Ritu Walia
1208 Sherwood Park Drive
Suite A
Gainesville, GA 30501
470-208-3038
- Medical / Gastroenterology
gainesvillepediatricgi.com

Greater Hall Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Laura Aycock
4323 Mundy Mill Road
Oakwood, GA 30566
770-530-2583
- Non-Profit
ghcfca.org

Healthy & Happy Nutrition
Sonia Magana
3004 McEver Road
Gainesville, GA 30504
678-677-5728
- Health & Wellness Retail
goherbalife.com/soniamagana

Home Care Matters
Valerie Darling
5609 Main Street, Suite B
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
770-965-4004
- Home Healthcare
homecarematters.com

Infinite Nonprofit Solutions
Philanthi Koslowski
61 Creekline Drive
Roswell, GA 30076
404-738-0234
- Business Services
infinitenps.com

JenAd
Adam Reynolds
4609 Eston Smith Road
Gainesville, GA 30506
678-707-6729
- Business Services
johncmaxwellgroup.com/adamreynolds

JWB Realty Services
Bill Butler
2771 Lawrenceville Highway
Suite 210
Decatur, GA 30033
770-662-3050
- Real Estate Developer
jwbrealty.com

Manor Lake Dawsonville
Tiffany Sullens
3769 Kallie Circle
Dawsonville, GA 30534
706-216-1333
- Senior Living
manorlakedw.com

North GA Business RadioX
Beau Henderson
351 Jesse Jewell Pwy, Suite 303
Gainesville, GA 30501
770)-249-7424
- Radio Station
northgabusinessradiox.com

Optimizet Energy
Jason Bonham
7380 Spout Springs Road
Suite 210-101
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
470-207-4223
- Energy Solutions
optimizet.com

Pig Tales Lake Lanier
Dale Ozaki
6800 Lights Ferry Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
678- 828-7676
- Restaurant & Catering
pigtaleslakelanier.com

Remedy Distillery
Keith Speed
885 Main Street, SW
Gainesville, GA 30501
404-925-2400
- Distillery
remedywhiskey.com

RichLife Advisors
Beau Henderson
351 Jesse Jewell Parkway
Suite 303
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-249-7424
- Financial Services
richlifeadvisors.com

RLW Property Management
Lee Wagner
3204 Dunlap Drive
Gainesville, GA 30506
770-534-2826
- Construction / Home Builder

Seefried Industrial Properties
Doug Smith
3333 Riverwood Parkway SE
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30339
774-534-8605
- Developer & Property Mgmt
seefriedproperties.com

Southern Aquatic Creations
Steve Murray
2341 Danbury Lane
Suite C
Gainesville, GA 30501
678-450-6599
southernaquaticcreations.com

T & D Charter
Roosevelt Norman
2245 Gaines Mill Road
Gainesville, GA 30507
770-536-0079
- Transportation Services
facebook.com/TAndDCharter

The Crystal Plate / Elizabeth's
Mary Beth Wood
1175 Thompson Bridge Road
Suite 1
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-539-9979
- Gifts & Specialty Items
thecrystalplate.com

The Fockele Garden Company
Julie Evans
PO Box 148
Talmo, GA 30575
770-532-7117
- Landscape & Design
fockelegardencompany.com

The Simpson Company
Chris Hoag
40 Technology Pky, S -Suite 202
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
777-534-8675
- Commercial Real Estate
simpsoncompany.com/team/chris-hoag

The Ville Nutrition
Carlos Figueredo
950 Washington St., Suite D
Gainesville, GA 30501
678-472-7754
- Restaurant & Catering
facebook.com/TheVilleNutritionGA

Thrivent Financial
Reid Mason
1125 Sanctuary Pwy, Suite 510
Alpharetta, GA 30009
816-813-4447
- Financial Services
connect.thrivent.com/reid-mason

Total Imaging
Polly Licciardi
2054 Atlas Circle
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-536-7906
- Construction

Lawson Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Lester Dean "L.D." Lawson returned home from WWII in 1946 and at the age of 26 and founded **Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing**. He pioneered the HVAC industry in North Georgia and installed the first AC unit in Hall County for the Diana Shop on the Downtown Gainesville Square. In 1948, the company became a Carrier dealer and today, 73 years later, is recognized as Georgia's oldest dealer. In 1958, the company moved to its Dorsey Street location where it continues to do business today. In 1983, Lawson's son-in-law, **Vince Davis** joined the team, and daughter, **Debbie Lawson Davis**, started soon thereafter. Their sons, **Taylor and Travis**, joined the family business with Travis' wife, **Ashley** now serving as HR/Marketing Director. Lawson has earned much recognition for community involvement, including the Chamber's 2005 Family Business of the Year. The company continues as a national Carrier standout with L.D. Lawson posthumously inducted in 2018 into the Carrier Hall of Fame, the highest individual honor achievable in the industry. Debbie Lawson Davis says, "the HVAC and plumbing industry has evolved greatly over the last 75 years. We work hard to be a leader in our industries and to always maintain the highest levels of customer service. I feel my father would be proud of the progress we have made" *lawsonac.com*

economic development

Downtown Gainesville Developments were the topic at the Chamber's recent Commercial Real Estate Update, sponsored by Georgia Power, and March Issues Committee meeting. Some 170+ people participated in both meetings presented via Zoom. Projects discussed included The National, Gainesville Renaissance, Solis Gainesville and more.

The National – Capstone Property Group
Demolition of a parking deck at the old Regions Bank building is set to begin in early April to prepare for The National, a $50 million redevelopment project featuring a seven-story, 130-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel, convention space, apartments, outdoor plaza and dining areas. The project covers one city block and part of a second block and includes the renovation of the Walton Jackson Building at the corner of Washington and Green streets. Capstone, the project developer, has also refurbished the former Wells Fargo building at the corner of Jesse Jewell and E.E. Butler parkways. It is now known as Gateway Professional Center and houses their corporate office.

Highlands to Islands Trail
The Highlands to Islands multi-use trail system is a planned 35 mile path that will ultimately connect the Rock Creek Greenway and Gainesville Square to the multi-use pathways along Friendship Road and Lanier Islands Parkway near Flowery Branch. The City of Gainesville is planning to utilize former Liberty Utilities property on Banks Street as the Highlands to Islands trail head parking. The project includes 35 parking spaces, plus restroom facilities.

Gainesville Renaissance
Roddy Properties
The $22.4 million mixed-use development now under construction on the Spring Street side of Gainesville's downtown square, will have six commercial spaces on the first floor, with two reserved for restaurants. The second floor will house Brenau University's Lynn J. Darby School of Psychology and Adolescent Counseling. Condominiums will be on the third and fourth floor. The development includes Renaissance Park, a green space designed to extend the walkability of downtown, connecting the Renaissance Development to Midtown. The building and park are set for completion in July.

Site Selection magazine and the Milken Institute named the Gainesville-Hall County (GHC) Metro to their 2020 Top 10 rankings for economic development. *Site Selection* ranked GHC 6th among Metro Areas with population up to 200,000, and GHC ranked highest of metros in Georgia for the category. GHC has ranked in *Site Selection's* top 10 Metros for eight out of the last 10 years. The Milken Institute ranked GHC 9th of 10 in its 2020 Best Performing Small Metros. GHC has been ranked in the Milken Institute's Top 10 Best Performing Small Metros for five consecutive years.

Solis Gainesville - Terwilliger Pappas
Now under construction and to be completed in April 2022, Solis Gainesville is a 223-unit apartment home community strategically located in Downtown Gainesville. A short walk from the site leads to the Historic Gainesville Square. The mixed-use development includes 10,000 square feet of space for restaurants and retail. The first phase of apartments will be available in early 2022 with pre-leasing beginning in fall 2021.

Thank you for 75 years!

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member news

Gladys Wyant, director of The Arts Council, will retire this summer.

Gladys Wyant, executive director of **The Arts Council**, announces her retirement from the non-profit she led for over 37 years. A search committee chaired by Arts Council board member **Ron Quinn**, Peach State Bank, has initiated a national recruitment effort to replace Wyant, who plans to step down this summer. Wyant has made it her life's work to fulfill the organization's mission to enhance, educate and expand public interest in the arts throughout Northeast Georgia. Under her leadership, The Arts Council has grown from a tiny office with a deficit budget into a major regional organization with over $8 million in assets and a network of performing arts venues and meeting sites. Two of those facilities – the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center and the Arts Council Performing Arts Center (former 1st Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian church building) – have played a big role in downtown Gainesville historic preservation. Most recently, Wyant led the construction of an expanded performance stage and pavilion at The Arts Council's Spring Street headquarters. *theartscouncil.net*

Position Opening at the Chamber

Vice President Finance & Administration

Full Time Position | Experience Required

Responsible for managing financial activities, cash receipts and disbursements, payroll and 401K. Provide HR support for employees. Maintain financial and physical assets, and investment properties. Coordinate IT inventory and support.

Send Resume: *resumes@ghcc.com*

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Human Resources
P. O. Box 347 · Gainesville, GA 30503

GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business Award Nominations

Small Business of the Year · Family Business of the Year

Nominate your company or another member

The Greater Hall Chamber is seeking nominations for the **Small Business of the Year Award**, to recognize an outstanding small business Chamber member for 2020-2021, and the **Family Business of the Year**, to recognize a dynamic family-owned business. A member may nominate their business or another member. Nominations must be received by **Friday, April 23**. Awards will be presented at the Chamber's **113th Annual Meeting & Gala** on **Thursday, May 13** at the **Chattahoochee Country Club**. Details: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: *alewis@ghcc.com*

- HALLCO Community Credit Union kicked off its 50th anniversary with a new name – **MyGeorgia Credit Union**. The new branding follows last year's merger with Habersham Federal Credit Union, which increased the capacity of services and expanded branch locations to Homer, Clayton and Clarkesville. MyGeorgia serves the banking needs of over 17,000 members in an eight-county district of North Georgia. *mygacu.org*

- **Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar** welcomes **Madeline Wirt**, **Chris J. Walker** and **Kas Lawson** to its diverse team of counselors. Wirt and Walker serve as attorneys with Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, while Lawson joined as an associate attorney. Each has practiced law extensively in North Georgia, including most recently with Gainesville firm Whelchel, Dunlap, Jarrard & Walker, and adds to the wide variety of specialties available at the firm. *homlaw.com*

- **Tribe Transportation**, a Gainesville-based logistics company, received **Coca-Cola's 2020 Asset Carrier of the Year Award**. The award is a testament to Tribe's teamwork and relentless dedication to customers. Founded in 2005, Tribe is one of the fastest-growing minority owned carriers in North America, specializing in deep frozen and temp-controlled transportation with single and expedited services. *tribetrans.com*

- **Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta** and the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) announced that the **24th Annual Motul Petit Le Mans will run November 10-13**. Originally set for Oct. 6-9, the date change of this classic endurance event is the result of an IMSA schedule adjustment. All five series of competition that were slated for the four-day festival remain on the revised schedule. *roadatlanta.com*

- For the second year in a row, three online master's degrees at the **University of North Georgia** (UNG) received high marks from *U.S. News & World Report's* **Best Online Programs rankings**. The publication recognized UNG's criminal justice, education and nursing online graduate programs – all three fields have current workforce shortages or projected job growth. UNG has seen a combined 36% increase in new student enrollment in these programs from Summer/Fall 2018 to Summer/Fall 2020. The rankings evaluated more than 1,600 online bachelor's and master's degree programs. *ung.edu*

- The **Chamber's 2021 Industrial Directory** is updated annually listing manufacturers, processors and distributors located in Gainesville-Hall County and over a dozen facts and statistics about each industry. Now available in PDF or bound-book formats. $33.00 (includes tax, shipping and handling). Chamber Members may inquire about discounts. Nikki Chandler, *Chamber VP of Existing Industry*, 770-532-6206 x 108, or *nchandler@ghcc.com*

- The Arts Council's most anticipated annual fundraiser has changed this year from the Black & White Ball to **"Come Sail Away with The Arts Council"** on Saturday, May 1st (6:30-11pm) with a Yacht Rock concert, dinner and live auction at the new performing arts venue. The Nashville Yacht Club Band is an 8-piece tribute to '70s &'80s pop and R&B and more. For sponsorship and ticket info, call 770-534-2787, or visit *theartscouncil.net*

- **WomenSource celebrates 152 women joining** during a recent membership campaign with prizes from local female owned/operated businesses. While the campaign is over, you can still join WomenSource for $50 and receive a membership directory while supporting the educational programming empowering women in Northeast Georgia. To join, visit *womensource.info*, or email Elizabeth Burnette at *elizabeth@womensource.info*

- The **Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier's 23rd Annual Rubber Duck Derby** is May 15th (11am-3pm) at Lake Lanier Olympic Park. Enjoy family fun, live music, food trucks, games, children's activities and the much anticipated Duck Race (2:30pm). ADOPT your ducks today at **RubberDuckDerby.com** for a chance at $20,000 in prizes, including a $10,000 grand prize. Presented by **Northeast Georgia Health System**. Info: Brenda Bohn, 770-361-3720 or *bbohn@bgclanier.org*

Got news?

Email: kwest@ghcc.com

Newly Elected Chamber Board Members

The Greater Hall Chamber Board of Directors elected these seven individuals to serve a three-year term – 2021-2024.

Christa Andrews
Corporate Storage / Adams Companies

Casey Ryals
Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance

Tammy Caudell
Carroll Daniel Construction Company

Mulham Shbeib
Mar-Jac Poultry, Inc.

Jay Kelly
Signs By Tomorrow

John Simpson
Lakeview Academy

Jeff Payne MD
North Georgia Eye Clinic

GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Campaign 2021

"Selling a Chamber Membership is just like selling Farm Bureau Insurance policies – the product speaks for itself. We just have to let people know it is there," said top membership recruiter **Casey Ryals**, *Agency Manager, Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance.*

Top Membership Recruiter **Casey Ryals**, *Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance*

The Membership Campaign concluded on March 31, and at press time, Casey led the individual recruitment efforts bringing in 10 new members. Casey was part of **THE MASKED BANDITS**, led by team captain **Matt Waters**, *United Community Bank*. Fellow team members included: **Rena Pendley**, *American Cancer Society*; **Lila Westmoreland**, *Brenau University*; **Chris McCall**, *Chris McCall Realty / McCall Properties*; **Nikki Chandler** and **Robin Halstead**, *Greater Hall Chamber*; **Carli Jones**, *Jaemor Farms*; **Kyle Hinnant**, *McGarity's Business Products*; **Tracy Herter**, *Netchex*.

Thank you, Casey Ryals, and all the Chamber volunteers that helped make the 2021 Membership Campaign a success. Look for a full report on the 2021 Membership Campaign in the May *Business Link* newsletter.

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ribbon cuttings

Smith Hulsey Law

Hall County natives and attorneys **Rustin Smith** and **Ronny Hulsey** defended some of the best-known insurance companies in Georgia early in their careers. In 2019, they formed **Smith Hulsey Law** to use that experience to help individual victims maximize their results in personal injury, workers' compensation and wrongful death cases. With offices in Gainesville and Winder, Smith and Hulsey are among the 1% of U.S. lawyers who are members of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. They are named in Georgia Trend's Legal Elite list, are consistently selected by their peers to Super Lawyers magazine's Rising Stars list (reserved for only 2.5% of Georgia attorneys), and have recovered over $17 million for their clients since starting the firm. 756 Green Street NE in Gainesville. 678-273-2700. *SmithHulseyLaw.com*

RichLife Advisors

(L-R) **Scott Harlan**, **Beau Henderson** (with scissors), **Jordan Santiago** and **Bob Bartoldus** cut a ribbon at **RichLife Advisors**, a North Georgia based holistic retirement planning firm. RichLife advisor-coaches help clients create retirement strategies that integrate income planning, social security optimization, growth planning, tax planning, healthcare planning, estate planning and non-financial aspects of a successful retirement. 351 Jesse Jewell Parkway, Suite 303, Gainesville, GA 30501. 770-249-7424. *richlifeadvisors.com*

Peach State Bank & Trust Braselton

Peach State Bank & Trust officials cut a ribbon at a new office in Downtown Braselton. The new branch handles commercial loans, mortgages and home equity lines for South Hall businesses and residents. **Ron Quinn**, bank president and CEO, said, "This expanded footprint will strengthen our position as the 'one and only' locally owned community bank for all of Northeast Georgia." **Peach State Braselton** is led by Executive Vice President **Terry Evans**, a veteran lender who has been CEO of two different banks and has strong ties to Braselton and Gwinnett County. Evans is joined by Senior Vice Presidents **David Dyer** and **Stephen Starke**, mortgage specialist **Rhonda Dellinger** and loan assistant **Jennie Parr**. *PeachStateBank.com*

Emory Healthcare & Atlanta Falcons

(L-R) **Tim Zulawski**, *Chief Revenue Officer, AMB Sports & Entertainment*; **Dr. Scott Boden**, *VP of Business Innovation, Emory Orthopaedics & Spine Center*; **Mayor Mike Miller**, *City of Flowery Branch*, cut a ribbon to officially open the **Emory Orthopaedics & Spine Center at Flowery Branch**, a state-of-the-art, 29,000-square-foot clinic and Emory Sports Performance & Research Center, focusing on the science of human performance to support injury prevention and recovery in young athletes and professionals. "We are excited to officially open this unique orthopaedics and spine clinic where the general public, along with members of the Atlanta Falcons organization, can go for world-class sports medicine and musculoskeletal treatment and care," said **Jonathan S. Lewin, MD**, CEO of Emory Healthcare. "Emory orthopaedics experts will care for patients and players under one roof, while also looking at ways to help young teenage athletes and professionals alike prevent and fully rehabilitate from injuries so they can perform at their best." 4450 Falcon Parkway in Flowery Branch. 404-778-3350. *emoryhealthcare.org*

Promote your company with a FREE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It's a free service if you're a member of the Chamber. Not a member? Join now, call 770-532-6206.

education & leadership

Partners in Education

Lanier Technical College | Howard E. Ivester Early College

(L-R) **Claudia Goss**, *Assistant Dean, Howard E. Ivester Early College (IEC);* **Michele Hood**, *Dean of IEC;* **Courtney Harmon** (seated), *Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Lanier Technical College;* **Meg Jett**, *Math Specialist;* **Charles Bell**, *College & Career Coordinator;* **Emily Brown**, *Secretary.*

Kathy C. Mellette, Academic Advisor at the **Howard E. Ivester Early College**, nominated **Lanier Technical College** (LTC) as the Chamber's Partners In Education of the month. Lanier Technical College has offered a variety of core academic and certificate classes over the five years since Ivester Early College was established. For the 2020-2021 school year, LTC offered 50 academic classes and four certificate level classes. "We work closely with Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Courtney Harmon," said Mellette. "Courtney helps with the processing of applications, approval of state funding, financial aid assistance, providing students with books, keeping up with all of the State requirements for dual enrollment policies, and requesting and receiving State DOE approval of classes. Courtney and the Lanier Tech team have truly helped Ivester Early College's efforts at 'Building Dreams One Student at a Time' and are a tremendous asset to the Gainesville-Hall County area."

The Howard E. Ivester Early College is an innovative, dual enrollment campus for academically ready high school students to earn a high school diploma while also earning college credits. In partnership with Brenau University, Lanier Technical College and the University of North Georgia, the program is open to qualified Gainesville-Hall County juniors and seniors. Sophomores are eligible under special qualifications. *ivesterearlycollegehallco.org*

Coordinated by the Greater Hall Chamber, the Partners in Education (PIE) program 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. To learn how your organization can become a PIE, contact Andi Tippens, Chamber Vice President of Education, 678-971-6331, or email *andi@ghcc.com.* Online: *GHCC.com/education*

Leadership Hall County

Leadership Hall County's recent non-profit virtual "mini" program included a segment from **Jessica Dudley**, executive director of **United Way of Hall County**. United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. The program also included overviews from other non-profits in our community, including **Family Promise**, **SISU**, **Georgia Mountain Food Bank**, **Rape Response**, **Boys & Girls Club** and **Salvation Army.** Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Leadership Hall has met remotely. The current class will be the Class of 2022 and meet in person. Nominations for a new class will take place in January 2022. For more on Leadership Hall County, contact Andi Tippens, Chamber Vice President of Education, 678-971-6331, email andi@ghcc.com, or online at *GHCC.com/education/leadership-hall-county*.

Youth Leadership Hall

After arriving for breakfast at Lanier College & Career Academy, Youth Leadership heard from **Nikki Chandler**, Vice President of Existing Industry for the Greater Hall Chamber. The students then traveled to North Hall's Glo-Crest Dairy & Mountain Fresh Creamery where owners, **Scott and Jennifer Glover**, gave an overview and tour of the farm. At Bitzer US, **Mike Zeiler**, Plant Manager, greeted the class an gave a tour of the industry followed by lunch. The Economic Development and Industry Program concluded with **Terry Spicer**, Operations Training Manager at King's Hawaiian. Thank you program sponsors: **McDonald's**, **Bitzer US, King's Hawaiian** and **Lanier College & Career Academy**.

Cherokee Bluff High School's **Lacy Ferbrache** learns how to milk a cow from **Scott Glover**, owner, Glo-Crest Dairy and Moutain Fresh Creamery.

membership development

Network Over Coffee

Greater Hall Chamber members at a recent Network Over Coffee at **Diletto Bakery** in Gainesville. (Clockwise from bottom left) **David Pelletier**, *Black Fade Media;* **Betsy Bean**, *BoomAthens;* **Jeremy Howard**, *Sam's Club;* **Angela Banks**, *Georgia Notary Pro;* **Renee Sweeney**, *Georgia Notary Pro;* **Reid Mason**, *Thrivent Financial;* **Matt Waters**, *United Community Bank;* **Christen Wilbanks**, *Greater Hall Chamber;* **Ramez Faza**, *Smoky Springs Retirement Community.*

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the next **Network Over Coffee on Wednesday, April 14 (9-10am) at Haydee's Café in Oakwood**. Come meet and network with other professionals and try out one of Haydee's fresh breakfast plates! Network Over Coffee gatherings are held bi-monthly at various locations throughout Hall County. Call Kara or Christen for more information on this and other networking opportunities. 770-532-6206.

Sam's Club in Oakwood hosted Network Over Coffee in March. (L-R) **Reid Mason**, *Thrivent Financial;* **Angela Banks**, *Georgia Notary Pro;* **Leslee Shaw**, *Diversified Resource Group;* **Jeremy Howard**, *Sales Manager, Sam's Club*; **Sandra Todd**, *Member Experience Manager, Sam's Club;* **Michael Rybasack**, *Club Manager, Sam's Club;* **Namon Collins**, *Allstate Insurance;* **Tracy Herter**, *Netchex;* **Renee Sweeney**, *Georgia Notary Pro.*

Vision 2030 Public Art

"2020 Volunteer of the Year" by Georgia Recreation & Park Association

Hammock Hollow at Laurel Park is a large interactive art piece designed for people to enjoy sitting and viewing the lake and the park. Using recycled sail cloths, three permanent hammocks were created as a feature of the structure.

The Georgia Recreation and Park Association recognized the **Vision 2030 Public Art Committee** as the "2020 Volunteer of the Year" last fall. With a combined 49 parks in Gainesville-Hall County, **Gainesville Parks & Recreation** and **Hall County Parks & Leisure Services** joined together to nominate the committee for its ongoing initiatives to make Gainesville-Hall County a better place to live, work and play. The volunteer art committee is comprised of dozens of art lovers, government officials, business leaders, local university representatives and artists. Throughout our parks, visitors enjoy sculptures; painted pianos; 8 x 8-foot free range art pieces installed in facilities and throughout our trails; and a multitude of brightly painted chicken bike racks designed to pay tribute to our poultry heritage.

"Every great community has great art," said Vision 2030 Chair **Tate O'Rouke**, Jackson EMC. "Our goal is to build on the region's love of all forms of art and for public art to be displayed in accessible and visual areas of our community."

Since 2013, over 200 public art pieces have been installed in Gainesville-Hall County. The art program's success is due to private and public fundraising, multiple partnerships, and a commitment from local government officials, as well as business and civic organizations. Through fundraising, donations, and time, these art projects have added greatly to our community, and importantly, with no cost to taxpayers. *vision2030.org*

VISION 2030 PUBLIC ART

Art in the Park

Vision 2030 Public Art Party

Hammock Hollow Ribbon Cutting

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Laurel Park

Info: Elizabeth Higgins, *ehiggins@ghcc.com*

Residential Beautification Awards

It's that time of year! The Chamber's Beautification Committee is seeking nominations for the 2021 Residential Beautification Award from various sections of Gainesville-Hall County. Award nominations are made by neighbors and friends and selected by the Beautification Committee. Since 1994, the Greater Hall Chamber has recognized homeowners that are helping beautify our community. This initiative helps promote the importance of landscape enhancements and recognize those that are making a difference. Nomination deadline is May 1. For more information on Residential or Business Beautification Awards, contact Robin Halstead, Chamber VP of Community Development, 770-532-6206. Email: *rhalstead@ghcc.com*

HEALTHY HALL
Awards of Excellence

2021 Healthy Hall Awards

Recognizing those in the healthcare industry in Gainesville-Hall County making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness.

Supriya Mannepalli, MD
Northeast Georgia Health System
Community Impact Award

Jim Butts, MD, Retired
NEGA Diagnostic Clinic
Good News Clinics
Lifetime Achievement Award

John Browning, MD, Retired
Longstreet Clinic
Visionary Leader Award

Clifton Hastings, MD
Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Physician of the Year

Richard Weber, DMD
District 2 Public Health
Dentist of the Year

Cheryl Bittel, CNS
Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Nurse of the Year

Northeast Georgia Health System's (NGHS) **Carol Burrell**, *President & CEO;* **Supriya Mannepalli, MD**, *Infectious Disease Specialist;* **Sandy Bozarth**, *Director, Infection Prevention & Control;* **John Delzell, Jr., MD**, *VP, Medical Education*, at the Healthy Hall Awards Luncheon on March 2. NGHS was the presenting sponsor of the event.

Luca Di Benedetto
ATEX, Inc.
Corporate Achievement Award

Dr. Janeane Walker
Northeast Georgia Medical Center
Graduate Medical Education
Healthcare Education Award

Loren Funk
Longstreet Clinic
Healthcare Worker of the Year

Danny Webb, DNP, FNP-C
Northeast Georgia Health System
Advance Practice Provider of the Year

Matthew Crumpton
Northeast Georgia Health System
Healthcare Worker of the Year

Jordan Hussey
J's Place Recovery Center
Outstanding Achievement in Behavioral Health

Longstreet Clinic's (L-R) **John Browning, MD**, *Retired;* **Loren Funk**, *COO;* **Danny Webb**, DNP, FNP-C; **Holmes Marchman, MD**; **Mimi Collins**, *CEO,* at the Healthy Hall Awards program at Lanier Technical College.

The Greater Hall Chamber Board of Directors
Chair Brian Rochester | Chair-Elect Phil Sutton
President & CEO Kit Dunlap
invites you to the

113th Annual Meeting & Gala

Thursday, May 13, 2021

6:00 p.m.
Chattahoochee Country Club
3000 Club Drive in Gainesville

GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Recognizing 2020-2021 Award Recipients
- Small Business of the Year
- Family Business of the Year
- Silver Shovel Award Winners
- W.G. Mealor Chairman's Award
- Community Service Award
- Distinguished Citizen Award

Outdoor Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program 7:00 p.m.
Space Limited to 175 Guests
Reservations Required
$90 per person; $160 Couple
Mandy Lathem, 770-532-6206
mlathem@ghcc.com

ART IN THE PARK

2030 VISION PUBLIC ART

Join Vision 2030 Public Art volunteers, family and friends on **Friday, May 7** (6-9pm) for **Art in the Park** at **Laurel Park**. This is a free event with live music, food trucks, drinks and artwork to purchase. **Hall County Parks & Leisure** and Vision 2030 Public Art are celebrating the recent addition of Hammock Hollow installed at Laurel Park. To commemorate the collaboration, a ribbon cutting will take place followed by a "Block pARTy" where original artwork will be for sale, all for less than $100. The free ART IN THE PARK event at Laurel Park, 3100 Cleveland Highway in Gainesville. Info: Elizabeth Higgins, *ehiggins@ghcc.com*

Transportation Forum

Virtual Conference

Wednesday, May 4

10 a.m. via Zoom

Featuring

Russell McMurry
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation

Kelvin Mullins
GDOT District 1 Engineer, City of Gainesville & Hall County

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Register Online: **GHCC.com/EVENTS**

Get the latest info on area projects!

Upcoming Chamber Events

Tuesday, April 13
Small Business Seminar
"Tools to Help You Work Smarter" presented by **Stephanie Sokenis**, *SmallBiz Ally*
9:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Friday, April 23
Hacker's Holiday Golf
Annual Golf Tournament
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
Lanier Islands

Tuesday, April 27
South Hall Business Coalition
Outdoor Networking
9:00 a.m. | Lanier Raceplex
5301 Winder Hwy in Braselton

Wednesday, April 28
2021 Agribusiness Breakfast
Annual Recognition Awards
Sponsored by **Jackson EMC**
7:30 a.m. | Jaemor Farms
Reservations: 770-536-3461

Wednesday, May 4
Virtual Transportation Forum
Featuring GDOT Officials
10:00 a.m. via Zoom
Register for this event and more events online at
GHCC.com/EVENTS

GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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