

JULY 2021

contents

Chairman's Column
page 2

Workforce Development
page 4

South Hall Business Coalition
page 5

Small Business of the Month
page 6

Meetings & Events
page 7

Member News
page 10

Ribbon Cuttings
page 14

New Members
page 15

save the date

Tuesday, July 13
Small Business Seminar
IN PERSON or via Zoom

Tuesday, July 20
5K Team Captains Orientation
Drop by at the Chamber

Thursday, August 12
Business After Hours
Georgia Mountain Food Bank

2020-2021 Silver Shovel Award Recipients



Outstanding Chamber Volunteers & Silver Shovel Award Recipients (Front, L-R) **Jordan Hussey**, J's Place Recovery Center; **Sheri Millwood**, Oakwood City Council; **Shelley Logan**, Workforce Strategies Group; **Dr. Patrick Fulbright**, UGA Small Business Development Center. (Middle, L-R) **Loren Funk**, Longstreet Clinic; **Patrick Larson**, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission; **Vaughan Smith**, Chattahoochee Country Club; **Nick Bruner**, Rushton. (Back, L-R) **Terry Spicer**, King's Hawaiian; **Casey Ryals**, Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance; **Matt Waters**, United Community Bank; **Bill Hall**, Murray Plastics; **Andrew Davenport**, A Good Look Home Inspection; **Dr. David Westfall**, NGMC Graduate Medical Education; Not Pictured, **Beth Downs**, Northeast Georgia Health System.

WORKFORCE development

The Workforce Development Task Force seeks to build a sustainable workforce for Gainesville-Hall County that possesses the skills needed by employers today and in the future. See page 4 for current initiatives.

featured member



Northeast Georgia
Medical Center



Building a world-class workforce



Phil Sutton
Kubota Manufacturing of America, Chairman,
Greater Hall Chamber

I am honored to assume the role of chairman of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and humbled to be asked to serve this community that I now call home. I appreciate the work of the Chamber's leadership and an unparalleled staff, along with the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time and talent to make our Chamber dynamic – 113 years and running!

Sustaining and building a skilled, world-class workforce remains a top priority for the Chamber. Now in its seventh year, the Greater Hall Workforce Development Task Force continues to partner business and industry leaders with educators to implement youth apprenticeships, work-based learning programs, student career fairs, skill-training boot camps and dual enrollment initiatives. The Task Force has made great strides and will continue its mission to develop talent for area employers.

Gainesville-Hall County leads our region in trade, health-care, education, industry, retail, recreation and cultural pursuits. Businesses, large and small, make long term investments in our community because of its stability, skilled workforce, visionary leadership and quality of life. As a catalyst for business success, the Greater Hall Chamber takes pride in developing programs and initiatives that grow companies and create jobs.

Workforce Development is not just a local issue – it is a state and national issue affecting all business, from manufacturers and healthcare providers to retailers and small businesses. I hope you will embrace the importance of our future through our workforce development efforts as we work together to create new programs, promote existing programs and build a world-class workforce.

Our diverse culture, location on Lake Lanier, gateway to the Blue Ridge mountains, valuable public/private partnerships, outstanding educational systems, dedication to the arts, thriving economy, and strong business leadership continue to make Gainesville-Hall County the greatest place in the nation to raise a family, to work and to play. I look forward to being a part of leading the Greater Hall Chamber to another outstanding year.



Governor Brian Kemp (left) with **Phil Sutton** at a plant tour of Kubota Manufacturing of America.

Meet Chamber Chairman Phil Sutton

Indiana native Phil Sutton is Vice President of Administration for **Kubota Manufacturing of America** in Gainesville and **Kubota Industrial Equipment** in Jefferson. He has been with Kubota for 16 years and is responsible for accounting, HR, safety, legal affairs and IT, as well as government and community relations and the Foreign Trade Zone. Governor Nathan Deal appointed Phil to the State Board for the Technical College System of Georgia and the State Board for Workforce Development. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Agribusiness Council. Phil is a retired veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he served in various capacities in his 20 year career, including Law Enforcement Operations, Criminal Investigations, Antiterrorism and Public Affairs. He has a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University, a Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University, and is a graduate of the 187th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Phil and his wife, Sue, live in Lula and have two adult sons and two granddaughters.

BUSINESS LINK

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

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 2021-2022 Executive Committee

Chairman Phil Sutton , <i>Kubota Manufacturing of America</i>	Vice Chair, Government Affairs Drew Echols , <i>Jaemor Farms</i>	Vice Chairs, Membership Tammy Caudell , <i>Carroll Daniel Construction</i> Casey Ryals , <i>Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance</i>	Senior Advisor Carol Burrell , <i>Northeast Georgia Health System</i>
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2021-2022 Board of Directors

Christa Andrews , Corporate Storage	Terry Merck , American Yazaki Corporation
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Mitch Clarke , AccessWDUN	Michele Pucci , Peach State Bank & Trust
Sean Couch , Northeast Georgia Health System	Col. Stas Preczewski , Riverside Military Academy
Shanna Cronin , Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic	Chris Purvis , First Citizens Bank
Ashley Davis , Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing	Brad Puryear , Mansfield Energy
Stacey Dickson , Lake Lanier CVB	Scott Rizzo , Recro Pharma
Beth Downs , Northeast Georgia Health System	Vanesa Sarazua , Hispanic Alliance Georgia
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Jim Grier , Mayor, City of Lula	John Simpson , Lakeview Academy
Emily Hayes , Milton Martin Toyota	Dr. Anne Skleder , Brenau University
Richard Higgins , Chair, Hall County Commission	Jackie Walters Slaughter , Walters Management Co
Sam Hulsey , United Community Bank	Terry Spicer , King's Hawaiian Bakery
Rick Humphrey , Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta	Ahna Still , Halski Systems
Brooke Kalinauskas , Conditioned Air Systems	Kevin Strada , The Atlanta Falcons
Jay Kelly , Signs by Tomorrow	John Turner , Northeast Georgia Health System
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Michael Lancaster , Edward Jones Investments	Philip Wilheit, Sr. , Wilheit Packaging
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Tim McDonald , Lanier Technical College	John Wright , Fieldale Farms
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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>
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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

American Yazaki to undergo expansion

American Yazaki Corporation (AYC) is planning a 25,000 square foot expansion to the existing warehouse to meet customers' increased volumes. Located in Gainesville, AYC manufactures blow molded fuel tanks and ink cartridge bottles. This will be the fourth expansion since the company was started in 2009. The company is partnering with Carroll Daniel Construction to complete this expansion. AYC currently has 32 employees and is now hiring additional employees for the increased customer needs. Applicants should apply in person at 2735 Tumbling Creek Road in Gainesville.



Annual Economic & Political Forecast

The Chamber's **Annual Small Business Economic & Political Forecast** is **September 14 (8:00-9:30am)** at **Lanier Technical College**. Don't miss lively discussion with local business and political leaders on the current economic and political climate and the effects on small business and our community. Hosted by Lanier Technical College, the forecast is **FREE** for Chamber Members, \$15 Non Members. Includes light breakfast. Seating is limited. Advance registration required. Register now at [GHCC.com/EVENTS](https://ghcc.com/events). For more on Chamber Small Business Seminars or how you can become a **CERTIFIED Small Business Partner**, contact Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x111 or email alewis@ghcc.com

Chamber Human Resource Council



The Chamber's Human Resource (HR) Council had its first in-person meeting of the year in June at **Carroll Daniel Construction** with 26 in attendance and another dozen participating via Zoom. (L-R) **Nikki Chandler**, Chamber VP Existing Industry; Chamber HR Council Chair **Cassie Sherman**, Carroll Daniel Construction; HR Council Vice Chair **Shannon George**, *pdblowers*; **Taylor Groves**, HR Generalist, and **Brooke Depre**, Employee Benefits Specialist, Carroll Daniel Construction. **Tracy Moon**, an attorney at **Fisher & Phillips** in Atlanta, presented updates on Employment Law and COVID-19. Tracy is a valuable Chamber partner, often presenting timely information to the Safety Council and HR Council. The HR Council meets monthly to discuss industry issues. Membership is limited to existing industry HR managers and currently has 70+ HR professional members. Info: Nikki Chandler, 770-532-6206. nchandler@ghcc.com

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Workforce Development



WorkSource Georgia Mountains

Under the leadership of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and the Technical College System of Georgia, WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) serves young people ages 16-24 who need assistance in completing education or finding/maintaining employment. The goal is to provide skill tools to lead these young people to self-sufficiency.

WSGM recently opened a new Youth Center – Route 180 – to provide a safe place for young adults for career planning, tutoring, workshops, skills training, entrepreneurship skills, mentoring and peer groups. WSGM recently conducted its first, free, four-day Employment Bootcamp for students in Hall County to complete interviews with local employers, and additional bootcamps are in the works. To participate, applicants need to display motivation and intermediate to advanced knowledge of soft skills as well as having an interest in pursuing a career path with a local manufacturing employer. WSGM is also offering the Electro-Mechanical / Refrigeration Academy (5 weeks) and Welding Academy (4 weeks) for students to obtain experience and/or certification. For Info: [Facebook.com/wsgm.youth](https://www.facebook.com/wsgm.youth)



Job Fair & Career Expo on September 9



Greater Hall Chamber Job Fairs are the perfect forum for companies hiring to recruit new employees. Hiring managers meet hundreds of job candidates face-to-face in a convenient location in a short span of time. **Recruit qualified employees at the Job Fair on Thursday, September 9, 2021 (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center.** The event is free and open to the public and is a partnership of the Greater Hall Chamber, Gainesville Area Employers Committee, Lanier Technical College and the Georgia Department of Labor. Exhibit & Sponsorship Info: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111 or alewis@ghcc.com

Workforce Development Task Force

The mission of the Greater Hall Workforce Development Task Force is to build a sustainable workforce for Gainesville-Hall County that possesses the skills needed by employers today and in the future. The Task Force collaborates with area employers, educators and business leaders to create new initiatives, market existing programs, remove barriers and influence perceptions. Work-Based Learning or Youth Apprenticeship Info: Nikki Chandler, 770-532-6206. nchandler@ghcc.com

Work-Based Learning Recognition

The **Hall County School System's Work-Based Learning (WBL)** staff held an end of the year appreciation program for the WBL Advisory Committee. The committee oversees the WBL program and seeks to build a sustainable workforce for Gainesville-Hall County. Awards were presented for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, recognizing organizations that have made an impact on workforce development in our community.

Carroll Daniel Construction – 2020 New Industry Partner of the Year

Dennis Stockton, Lanier Technical College – 2020 Advocate of the Year

Atlanta Rehabilitation & Performance Center – 2020 Existing Industry Partner of the Year

Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing – 2021 New Industry Partner of the Year

Greg Worley, Kubota – 2021 Advocate of the Year

IMS Gear – 2021 Existing Industry Partner of the Year



(L-R) **KayLynn Samples**, WBL Coordinator, North Hall High School; **Rhonda Samples**, Executive Director, Hall County Schools CTAE; **Cree Aiken**, WBL Coordinator, Johnson High School; **Deana Harper**, WBL/Youth Apprentice Coordinator, Hall County Schools; **Jill Ledford**, **Brian Daniel** and **Shane McClellon**, Carroll Daniel Construction, WBL 2020 New Industry Partner of the Year.



(L-R) **Rhonda Samples**, Hall County Schools CTAE; **Ashley Davis**, Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing, WBL 2021 New Industry Partner of the Year; **Holli Howard**, WBL Coordinator, Chestatee High School; **Karen Filchak**, WBL Coordinator, Cherokee Bluff High School; **Staci Crain**, WBL Coordinator, East Hall High School; **Kristi Sims**, WBL Coordinator, North Hall High School.

economic development

South Hall Business Coalition



The Chamber's **South Hall Business Coalition** met at **Elachee Nature Science Center** in May (L-R) South Hall Council Vice Chair **Terry Merck**, *American Yazaki Corporation*; **Sarah Bell**, *President & CEO, Elachee Nature Science Center*; **Kit Dunlap**, *President & CEO, Greater Hall Chamber*; **Amy Bradford**, *Director of Operations, Elachee Nature Science Center*.



Lanier Islands hosted the **South Hall Business Coalition** at **Legacy Lodge** in June (L-R) **Brenda McMillian**, *Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority*; **Missy Burgess**, **Grier Todd**, **David Gross** and **Valentina Velasquez**, *Lanier Islands*. Lanier Islands donated two sets of waterpark passes as door prizes, and winners were **Pat Jones**, *City of Oakwood*, and new Chamber member, **Kimberly Munier**, *American Casual Living*.

The South Hall Business Coalition meets monthly on topics and issues important to the South Hall community. The next meeting is **Tuesday, August 17 (9-10am) at Lanier College & Career Academy** with an **Education Update** by **Will Schofield**, *Superintendent, Hall County School System*. The coalition is sponsored by **AccessWDUN**, **Halski Systems**, **Milton Martin Honda**, **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton**, **Signs by Tomorrow**, **South Hall Rotary** and **Store More Self Storage**. GHCC.com/EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS, NICK BRUNER

JAYCEES
YOUNG MAN OF THE YEAR



At Rushton, we are proud our community recognizes what we have known for over 15 years. **Nick Bruner** exemplifies every quality of the prestigious Young Man of the Year award. Generous with his time and expertise, Nick has a passion for helping others, and it shows in his love for community, family and business.

Congratulations to our partner & friend, Nick Bruner.

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small business

Small Business of the Month Sherry's Bait & Barbeque

Owners **Terry and Sherry Richards** opened their unique restaurant and bait shop in 2013. Because of his love of lake life and fishing, after 30+ years of working in the corporate world, Terry pursued his dream of opening a fishing business. Located on Dawsonville Highway just west of Sardis Road, they offer fresh dine-in and take-out meals of delicious BBQ, ribs and all the fixin's. They have a food trailer and catering services, along with fishing convenience items including live bait and a wide variety of fishing tackle. For the serious fishing folks, they have a Certified Fish Weighing Scale. 2807 Dawsonville Highway, Gainesville, GA 30506. 678-971-5607. sherrysbaitandbbq.com



Terry Richards, Sherry's Bait & Barbeque

Upcoming Seminar

Tuesday, August 10 We're Back IN
Small Business Seminar PERSON!

"Workforce Solutions for Small Business"

Presented by **Shelley Logan** and **Greg Vitek**
Workforce Strategies Group

9-10 am | Chamber In Person OR via Zoom
230 E.E. Butler Parkway in Gainesville
No Charge for Chamber Members

Access to a skilled workforce is crucial for the success of any small business. Join business partners, Shelley Logan and Greg Vitek, Workforce Strategies Group, to learn how local workforce solutions, such as apprenticeship programs and work based learning opportunities, can create a competent workforce, address the growing skills gap and support a company's growth strategy. workforcestrategiesgroup.com

Become a Chamber 2021
CERTIFIED Small Business
Partner by participating in 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

Info

Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111

Small Business Success Seminar Tuesday, JULY 13

9-10 am | via Zoom *or* IN PERSON

at the **Chamber** (230 EE Butler Pkwy in Gainesville)



J. Casey Ryals
Hall County Farm
Bureau Insurance

Making Sense of Your Next Wise Move

Sometimes the way to truly "win" the day-to-day hustle is to change direction completely. **Uncover what is really guiding your work's journey and examine how you can enjoy higher productivity and satisfaction at work and in life.** Local businessman and author, J. Casey Ryals, Agency Manager, Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance, will share the principles of self-management outlined in his book, *Last to Least*. Participants will learn what self-management is and why it is important. **Register for IN PERSON or VIRTUAL option online at GHCC.com/events.**

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meetings & events

Business After Hours Thursday, August 12

5:00-7:00 pm *IN PERSON!*

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive in Gainesville

Georgia Mountain Food Bank (GMFB) knows that love means making sure that families have food, and they work hard every day to get food to neighbors in North Georgia. Come learn more about how GMFB is growing the love in our community at this Business After Hours event. Hosted at GMFB, the event will focus on the Food Bank's role in feeding those dealing with food scarcity, both before, during and after this pandemic year. You can also help GMFB prepare for their Empty Bowl lunch by participating in bowl painting at BAH! Bowl painting will be available for a \$10 donation per bowl and is a wonderful way to support the Food Bank's efforts to provide ONE MILLION MEALS from the proceeds of Empty Bowl. Enjoy food, music and fellowship as we join back together! \$5 Chamber Member; \$15, Non-Member. Details: Mandy Lathem, 770-532-6206 x 115. mlathem@ghcc.com



Business Before Hours Friday, August 20

7:30-9:00 am *IN PERSON!*

First Citizens Bank

643 E.E. Butler Parkway | Gainesville 30501

As one of America's largest family-controlled banks, First Citizens Bank (Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender) is known for building financial strength that lasts for personal, business, commercial and wealth management clients. Founded in 1898, First Citizens Bank provides a broad range of financial products and operates a network of branches in 19 states that include many high-growth markets. For more information, visit [FirstCitizens.com](https://www.FirstCitizens.com). First Citizens Bank. Forever First®.

Come meet the bank staff and enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Details: Mandy Lathem, 770-532-6206 x 115. mlathem@ghcc.com



calendar

July

Friday, July 9

Network Over Coffee

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

The Baker's Daughter | Gainesville

Tuesday, July 13

Small Business Seminar

"Making Sense of Your Next Wise Move"

Presented by **Casey Ryals**, *Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance & Author*

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

In Person at Chamber *or* via Zoom

Tuesday, July 13

Ambassadors Council

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Scott's Downtown | Gainesville

Wednesday, July 14

Human Resource Council

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 15

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20

Chamber Chase Team Captains

Drop-by Orientation

Between 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, July 21

Issues Committee

"Lake Lanier Olympic Park 25th Anniversary"

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

In Person at Chamber *or* via Zoom

Friday, July 23

Network Over Coffee

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Chicopee Woods Golf Course

2515 Atlanta Highway in Gainesville

Note: No Chamber Board of Directors Meeting in July.

INFO:

[GHCC.com/events](https://www.GHCC.com/events)

August

Wednesday, August 4

Healthcare Committee

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, August 10

Small Business Seminar

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

In Person at Chamber *or* via Zoom

Tuesday, August 10

Ambassadors Council

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Break Water Grill | Flowery Branch

Wednesday, August 11

Human Resource Council

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 12

Business After Hours

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gainesville

Friday, August 13

Economic Development Council

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | UNG Gainesville

Tuesday, August 17

South Hall Business Coalition

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Lanier College & Career Academy

Tuesday, August 17

Vision 2030 Board Meeting

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18

Issues Committee

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, August 19

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Friday, August 20

Business Before Hours

First Citizens Bank

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

643 E.E. Butler Parkway | Gainesville

Thursday, August 26

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center



Book
a primary care appointment



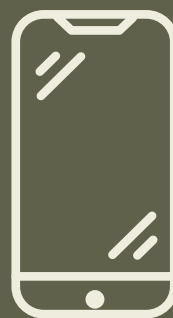
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Find
an ER near you



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a video visit



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for after-hours questions



Set up
an E-Visit

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To find the best care option for you, visit: ngpg.org/care



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Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Randy & Friends



Local non-profit ministry, **Randy & Friends**, announces new officers (L-R) **Sandra Deal**, Treasurer; **Alan Wallhausen**, President-Elect; **Alana Rochester**, President; **Steve Murray**, Past President. Not pictured, **Marty Owens**, Secretary. Randy & Friends, founded by Randy and Marty Owens, is a Bible-based ministry for post high school students to continue their education and prepare them for employment and life skills for independence and a beautiful life. The ultimate goal is for individuals to find employment that fits their talents. Be on the lookout in Downtown Gainesville for painted rock messages by students of Randy & Friends, spreading bright notes of encouragement. randyandfriends.org

Jackson EMC Electric Vehicle Promotion



Jackson EMC's **David Lee** shows **Kit Dunlap**, Chamber President & CEO, the company's new electric vehicle.

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (JEMC) is committed to supporting its membership with information about Electric Vehicles (EV) and recently had the company's Tesla EV on hand at the Greater Hall Chamber Board of Directors meeting. David Lee, Gainesville District Manager, Jackson EMC, said, "The Jackson EMC EV is in the community to provide opportunities for education about electric vehicle technology and its advantages. Jackson EMC offers a Level 2 EV charger rebate for its members." Anyone interested can use online tools to determine if an EV is the right fit at jacksonemc.com/ev.

- The Town of **Braselton's Main Street program** earns national re-certification from Main Street America. The program recognizes exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization. Braselton first achieved accreditation in 2015. downtownbraselton.com

- **Sisu Integrated Early Learning** announced **Jamie Reynolds** is stepping down as CEO & Executive Director. **Carla Baker**, Director of Program Operations, and **Gloria Farrell**, Chief Financial Officer, will divide the leadership role and serve as Co-Executive Directors for the next year. Formerly Challenged Child & Friends, Sisu is a learning environment where children 6 weeks to 6 years with special needs learn and interact alongside their typically developing peers. mysisu.org

- **Lake Lanier Olympic Park's 2021 BEACH BASH** is **Friday, July 16 from 5-10pm**. Let the kids have a BLAST in the kids' zone complete with an inflatable waterslide, games and sand play area. Food trucks and beer/wine vendors will offer lots of tasty dinner options, so come hungry! There will be a Hula Hoop and Limbo contest, followed by a FREE concert at 7pm. Get ready for a great time at the Beach Bash! [Facebook.com/lakelanierolympicvenue](https://www.facebook.com/lakelanierolympicvenue)

- **My Sister's Place**, a ministry that has provided shelter for homeless women and children since 2000, received the keys to a Honda Odyssey van this past week, thanks to a generous donation from **Syfan Logistics of Gainesville**. **Brandee Thomas**, Executive Director for My Sister's Place, said the gift will make a major difference in what the ministry can do for the women and children who live at the shelter.

- **Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC)** has made an estimated **\$3.2 billion positive financial impact on the community and state** according to a report by the Georgia Hospital Association. In 2019, NGMC generated \$3,293,684,240 in revenue; provided over \$59 million in total estimated charity care; and sustained nearly 21,000 full-time jobs throughout the region and state – in addition to nearly 9,000 employees directly employed by Northeast Georgia Health System. The over \$59

million in total estimated charity care does not include unpaid bills that are written off or the nearly \$11 million NGMC provided in community outreach such as free screenings and health education. nghs.com

- **Summer MusicFest™ 2021** continues as **The Arts Council** announces upcoming family-friendly, outdoor concerts from the new Gladys Wyant Performing Arts Pavilion at the Smithgall Arts Center in Downtown Gainesville. **The Highwaymen** (Outlaw Country) is **Saturday, July 17**. **Riverstreet** (Classic Rock) is **Saturday, August 7**. Bring a picnic and chair, or get an upfront view by reserving a table for 8. Show starts at 8:00 pm. Gates open at 6:00 pm. For tickets, call 770-534-2787 or visit theartsCouncil.net

- **Frank Simpson**, CCIM SOIR, founder of **The Simpson Company** has joined **Avison Young** as a Principal and Managing Director in Northeast Georgia. Simpson and 16 real estate professionals from the company will meet client needs across office, industrial, retail, multifamily, agency leasing, and more in Avison Young's Atlanta offices. The team will also help deliver client service across the Southeast, where Avison Young has strong presence throughout Florida and the Carolinas. avisonyoung.com

- **Georgia Veterans Outreach Project** will host a **free Legal Clinic on July 10**. Veterans in Georgia will be connected with lawyers for advice via phone, computer, or in-person at an office in Gainesville. Lawyers will provide brief services on veteran and military benefits, family law, housing, and other civil legal issues. Lawyers will not help with criminal law issues. For details, call 706-542-6439 or email scherr@uga.edu

- The Greater Hall Chamber has a position opening – **Vice President of Finance & Administration**. Full time position, and experience is required. Responsible for managing HR, IT, financial activities, cash receipts and disbursements, payroll and 401K and investment properties. Send resume: resumes@ghcc.com

Got news?

Email: kwest@ghcc.com

membership development

AT&T Summer Learning Academy

AT&T's free summer online externship learning program is open to all high school and college students and is comprised of both training modules and live events featuring expert speakers with a focus on Personal Development, Business, Technology and insights on life at AT&T and WarnerMedia. Live content runs July 12-July 23. Upon completion, students receive a digital badge from Credly that can be shared as a transcript, posted to LinkedIn and social media and listed on a resume. learn.att.jobs



Girls Unlimited: Backpack Drive on July 31

Girls Unlimited LLC is holding **Unlimited Laps: Back to School Drive** on **Saturday, July 31 (5-7m)** at **Midtown Greenway**, 682 Grove Street in Gainesville. Come out and support Girls Unlimited and watch their Board of Directors run laps to raise funds for scholarships for female students in Gainesville-Hall County! Each pledge of \$25 will go toward scholarship funds. Community resources will be available as well. Girls Unlimited LLC is focused on developing confidence, leadership skills and self-awareness through mentorship, educational events and cultural experiences. For details on Girls Unlimited LLC and Unlimited Laps, email Dorreka Faulkner at girlsunlimitedllc@gmail.com. GirlsUnlimitedLLC.com



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New Braselton Cancer Center now open

Braselton Cancer Center, located inside Medical Plaza 1 on the campus of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Braselton, opened to patients in June and is a collaborative effort between **Northeast Georgia Medical Center**, **Longstreet Clinic** and **Northeast Georgia Physicians Group** (NGPG). With continued growth in the Braselton area, the unified space welcomes cancer patients with ease and accessibility. Longstreet Clinic and NGPG are integral parts of NGMC's Cancer Services program, which provides care for almost 3,000 new cancer patients each year. NGMC is also an affiliate of **Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University**, which offers patients closely coordinated treatment plans and access to more than 275 existing therapeutic clinical trials and research projects led by some of the top clinical investigators in the country. Learn more at nghs.com/cancer.

Hall Recovers Night of Awareness

J's Place Recovery Center and community partners are planning the **2nd Annual Hall Recovers Night of Awareness** on **Tuesday, August 31 (6:30-8:30pm)** at **Roosevelt Square in Downtown Gainesville**. The event, presented by **Northeast Georgia Health System**, is held on International Overdose Awareness Day and recognizes those we have lost as a result of substance use disorder and honors those in recovery. Speakers will represent all facets of those impacted by substance abuse. Individuals and advocates of recovery will be highlighted with the event culminating in a candlelight vigil recognizing loved ones we have lost. The event is open to the public, and event planners are hoping the community will come out and show support. For event details or to send a name of a loved one to be included in the candlelight vigil, email Jordan Hussey at executive.director@jsplacerecovery.org.



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community development

Avita Community Partners

New Behavioral Health Crisis Center opens in Hall County



Cindy Levi, CEO of Avita Community Partners, cuts a ribbon to open Hall County's **new Behavioral Health Crisis Center** at 2467 Old Cornelia Highway in Gainesville. With funding from the state and some two years of planning, the facility houses 30 patient beds, six for those with developmental disabilities in crisis, as well as a 15 person observation unit. Levi stated, "In the past, we've seen individuals experiencing a mental health crisis have long wait times in emergency departments that really aren't set up for that type of treatment. This facility allows individuals to come straight here, and they can receive an assessment then treatment as well." Levi said the center can help those who are experiencing a crisis and need voluntary or involuntary commitments, have issues with substance use, and have developmental disabilities and are in crisis. The average length of stay is 4-5 days in the crisis stabilization unit, and before patients are discharged, they are connected to ongoing support in the community. Avita Community Partners was formed by the 1993 Georgia State Legislature and promotes safe, stable and meaningful lives for citizens in a 13-county area of Northeast Georgia. 800-525-8751. Crisis Hotline: 800-715-4225. avitapartners.org



Downtown Gainesville Shuttle Service

DOWNTOWN GET-AROUND, an 8-person club car service is available on the Downtown Gainesville Square. The free service runs 10am-9pm/Monday-Saturday, rain or shine, making it convenient for visitors to access downtown restaurants, retailers and City events. Drivers continuously loop the square and downtown area in search of passengers, who may hail the GET-AROUND or wait to be picked up at the Main Street Parking Deck (across from Carroll Daniel Construction), Hall County Parking Facility (next to Gainesville Administration Building) or marked 5-minute loading areas. The service, exclusive to downtown, is the City's latest effort to help restaurants and retailers maintain their customer base while economic development projects unfold nearby. gainesville.org

New Developments in Flowery Branch



The **Flowery Branch City Council** broke ground for the **Farmer's Market**, a new attraction located off Railroad Avenue behind the Flowery Branch Depot. (L-R) **Joe Anglin**, **Amy Farah**, **Mayor Mike Miller**, **Leslie Jarchow**, **Edward Asbridge** and **Chris Mundy**. The Farmer's Market is part of \$5.2 million in public improvements. Also planned are downtown parks, streetscapes and walkways. The efforts are part of a public-private partnership with Atlanta-based The Residential Group, which is developing an apartment-retail building on Main Street. The Flowery Branch Farmer's Market is open Thursdays (3:30-6:30pm) through October on the lawn of City Hall, 5410 Pine Street in Flowery Branch. flowerybranchga.org

Hall County Parks & Leisure Services



Hall County Board of Commissioners hosted a grand reopening of **Murrayville Park**. Located at 5666 Bark Camp Road in Murrayville, the park closed in 2011 due to a lack of funding during the economic downturn. Updates include the addition of four tennis courts, a new playground, renovated pavilion, restrooms, refurbished ballfields, and the repaving of park roads. Renovations were funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VII funds. Murrayville Park is one of **26 parks overseen by Hall County Parks & Leisure Services** along with three community centers. Parks throughout Hall County feature many amenities including amphitheaters, dog parks, campgrounds, disc golf, tennis, basketball, RV parks, boat ramps, fishing piers, soccer complex, agriculture center, walking trails, splash pad, playgrounds, and much more. hallcounty.org

membership development

Matt Waters Named Ambassador of the Year

Congratulations to **Matt Waters**, *United Community Bank (UCB)*, Chamber Ambassador of the Year. Matt is a graduate of the 2016 Leadership Hall County Class. Since then, he has fulfilled many volunteer roles with the Chamber – serving on the Ambassador Council, volunteering as a Team Captain for the 2021 Membership Campaign, and leading his team to the #1 spot. Matt currently serves as the 2021-22 co-chair of the Ambassador Council with Jessica Palacios, *Cardinal Ridge Group*. Matt is a native of Gillsville and has been with UCB since 2010. He serves as treasurer for South Hall Rotary and resides in Lula with his wife and son.



Ambassadors: The Face of the Chamber

The Chamber's Ambassador Council celebrated an end of year party at **Topgolf Buford**. (Top row) **Richie Aitkin**, *American Family Insurance*; **Derrick Cheeks**, *Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance*; **Jeff Williams**, *Conditioned Air Systems*; **Matt Bonds**, *Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance*; **Chris Purvis**, *First Citizens Bank*.



(Middle row) **Kayla Loudermilk**, *My Georgia Credit Union*; **Kara Tate**, *Greater Hall Chamber*; **Rena Pendley**, *American Cancer Society*; **Renee Sweeney**, *Georgia Notary Pro*; **Christen Wilbanks**, *Greater Hall Chamber*; **Kathline Collins**, *Collins Property Group*. (Bottom row) **Tracy Herter**, *Netchex*; **Layna Weldon**, *State Farm Insurance*; **Leslee Shaw**, *Diversified Resource Group*; **Meghan Mitchell**, *United Way of Hall County*; **Angela Banks**, *Georgia Notary Pro*. The next Ambassador Council meeting is Tuesday, July 13th at Scott's Downtown at 3:45 p.m. To get involved, contact Kara Tate at 770-532-6206 or ktate@ghcc.com

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ribbon cuttings

Gypsy Threads Boutique



Friends and employees cut a ribbon at **Gypsy Threads Boutique**. (L-R) **Logan Kiser**; **Lydia Libasci**, employee; **Chris Ray**; **Taylor Wilson**, owner; **Margie Wilson**; **Vadie Watanabe**, employee; **Sylina Libasci**; **Karen Wilson**; **Randi Jarrard**. Gypsy Threads is a women's boutique inspired by bohemian and bold trends! The clothing store and trendy online boutique opened in 2015 and was purchased by Taylor Wilson in 2019. After a big move to the Downtown Gainesville Square in April 2020 and a long year of the pandemic, they were finally able to have a ribbon cutting at the new location! 210 Bradford Street NE, Gainesville, GA 30501. 678-971-4679. MyGypsyThreads.com

Chattahoochee Christian School



Chattahoochee Christian School (CCS) is a fully accredited K-8th school located in Clermont. CCS's teachers are Georgia or ACSI certified. Biblical Worldview education is provided and modeled throughout their curriculum. CCS is a member of the Georgia Association of Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools. (L-R) **Jeff Williams**, *Conditioned Air Systems*, with CCS employees, **Kelly Ramsey**, **Kelton Reynolds**, **Martha Hynson**, **Karla Pulliam**, Principal **Debbie Thomas**, **Isaac Hucks**, **Alex Jelly**, **Gavyn Reynolds**, **Harrison Jackson**, **Ensley Cain**, **Micah Pulliam**, **Fiona Varvaro**; **Matt Bonds**, *Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance*. 640 Main Street, Clermont, GA 30527. 770-983-9433. ChattahoocheeChristian.org

Concord Baptist Church



Carrie Carruth, *Habersham Campus Ministry Assistant*, cuts the ribbon for **Concord Baptist Church** in Clermont. Concord's mission is to Make Disciples Everywhere. Concord is one church in multiple locations, with campuses in Clermont, Dahlonega, Habersham, Cleveland, and Concord Iglesia Bilingue in Habersham. The church is involved in ongoing mission efforts internationally in Brazil, Haiti, Mexico, Uganda, and Canada. 640 Main Street, Clermont, GA. 770-983-7272. ConcordGo.com

Good Samaritan Ministries



Jackie Powers, Executive Director, **Hagen Ferguson**, Operations Manager, and volunteer board members cut the ribbon for **Good Samaritan Ministries of Northeast Georgia (GSM)**. GSM was founded to assist and minister to people and families who are in need, primarily through the distribution of food. GSM also assists with furniture (when available), job placement training, and health screening. GSM allows individuals and families to register for food monthly and encourages them to visit the food bank during a 30 day period as often as needed to receive breads, sweets, fruits and vegetables, which are freely given. GSM's goal is to help men, women and children meet their food needs and supply them with much needed resources. 1220 McEver Road, Gainesville, GA 30504. 770-532-3371. GSFoodMinistries.com

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.



welcome new members

Collection Services of Athens

Susan Blankenship
110 Newton Bridge Road
Building A
Athens, GA 30603
706-549-2263
- Business Services
csathens.com

Creative Kitchens of Atlanta

Chris Herrington
5315 Gainesville Street
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
678-316-3130
- Appliance Repair & Service
creativekitchensofatl.com

Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin-Robbins

Robert Botas
5913 Spout Springs Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
770-965-9265
- Restaurant
dunkindonuts.com
baskinrobbins.com

K. L. Vick Construction

Kenneth Vick
200 West Academy St., NW
Suite C
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-297-7773
- Construction

Patriot Services Inc.

Cara Vick
200 West Academy St., NW
Suite C
Gainesville, GA 30501
678-449-7738
- Non-Profit
patriotservicesinc.org

The Atwater

Alysia Jackson
1000 Overbrook Drive
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
470-252-7327
- Apartments
liveatwater.com

Member participation and involvement are keys to success. The Greater Hall Chamber offers a variety of ways to capitalize on opportunities to help grow your business.

Online Membership Directory · Networking Opportunities & Events
Forums, Seminars & Committees · Volunteer Opportunities & Community Involvement
Advertising, Publicity & Sponsorship Opportunities · Business Referrals · Ribbon Cuttings
Make Valuable Business Connections – Join today! Call 770-532-6206.

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Dozens of new Chamber members recently attended a break-fast and orientation at Lanier College & Career Academy. (L-R)

Eli Ledford, Regions Commercial Banking Intern; Vice Chair Membership **Phil Bonelli**, Regions Bank; **Julie Johnson**, Lanier Color Company; Vice Chair Membership **Brett Fowler**, Turner, Wood &

Smith Insurance; Incoming Vice Chair Membership **Tammy Caudell**, Carroll Daniel Construction. New members were able to meet Greater Hall Chamber board members and staff and learn about membership benefits and opportunities. The complimentary breakfast program was sponsored by **Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance** and **Chase for Business**.



CrossFit NE Georgia



Angie and Blake Bryant, Owners, cut a ribbon at **CrossFit NE Georgia**, a world class facility offering Group Training, Personal Training and Nutrition Coaching. Book a Free No Sweat Intro to allow the team to show you what they have to offer! 2491 Hilton Drive, Gainesville, GA 30501. 770-282-5109. crossfitnega.com

Chamber Chase 5K & 2 Mile Wellness Walk

IN PERSON!
Tuesday, September 21 | 6:00 pm
Lanier Islands

The Greater Hall Chamber's 14th Annual Chamber Chase 5K & 2 Mile Wellness Walk returns this fall to beautiful Lanier Islands. Join us on September 21 for fun and fitness as 5K runners and spirit-filled walkers enjoy this lakeside race. Sign up as a team or an individual.

Register Online: RunSignUp.com/ChamberChase

Race Time: 6:00 Runners | 6:10 Walkers

Registration: \$30 | \$35 after September 7th

Awards: Fastest CEO, Team Spirit, Fastest Team & More

Contest: Company T-Shirt Design

Great Sponsorships: Sign up now!



- Reserve a Tent for Your Team
- Individual/Age & Team Awards
- Awards/Food/Fun after the race

Team Captains Meeting

Interested in entering a team for the Chamber Chase 5K & 2-Mile Wellness Walk on September 21? Drop by the Chamber (230 EE Butler Parkway in Gainesville) for an **Open House & Team Captains Meeting on Tuesday, July 20 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Register, and get all the event details. An official from RunSignUp will be present to help register your team. Details: Mandy Lathem, 770-532-6206 x 115 • mlathem@ghcc.com

- Register Teams & Individuals
- Get a copy of the Course Map
- Reserve a Tent for Your Team
- Learn about the T-Shirt Design Contest
- Check Out Individual and Group Awards
- Obtain Sponsorship Information



SIGN UP AS A RACE SPONSOR!

INFO: 770-532-6206

FALL 2021 *IN PERSON!* JOB FAIR & Career Expo

Thursday, September 9
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Gainesville Civic Center
— Open to the Public —



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A program of the Greater Hall Chamber, Gainesville Area Employer Committee, Lanier Technical College and Georgia Department of Labor.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, August 12

Business After Hours

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | 1642 Calvary Industrial Drive in Gainesville

Friday, August 20

Business Before Hours

First Citizens Bank

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
643 E.E. Butler Parkway in Gainesville

Thursday, September 9

Job Fair & Career Expo

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

Tuesday, September 14

Small Business Economic & Political Forecast

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Lanier Technical College

Ramsey Conference Center

Tuesday, September 14

Business After Hours

Hasty Pope Davies Law Firm

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

529 Green Street | Gainesville

Register for Chamber events online at GHCC.com/EVENTS



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