

**JUNE/JULY 2022**

## contents

**Chairman's Column**  
page 2

**Annual Award Highlights**  
pages 2-5

**Celebrating a Year of Success**  
pages 6-7

**New Leadership Team**  
pages 8-9

**Member News**  
page 10

**Small Business Spotlight**  
page 11

**Meetings & Events**  
page 18

**New Members**  
page 21

**Ribbon Cuttings**  
pages 22-23



Over 400 Chamber members and guests attended the 114th Annual Meeting & Gala on May 12 at the Chattahoochee Country Club. Greater Hall Chamber incoming 2022-2023 Chamber Chair **William Bagwell**, *Homestead Investments*, **Kit Dunlap**, *President & CEO*, and 2021-2022 Chairman **Phil Sutton**, *Kubota Manufacturing of America*. See all the Gala highlights in this issue of BusinessLink!

## 2021-2022 Annual Business Awards

Small Businesses of the Year  
**Skyline Contracting**  
**Southern Baked Pie Co.**

Family Businesses of the Year  
**Mountain Fresh Creamery**  
**Wayne Capital**

Community Service Award  
**Rhonda Samples**  
Hall County Schools

Distinguished Citizen Award  
**Bob Swoszowski**  
McDonald's NEGA

WG Mealor Award  
**Philip Wilheit, Sr.**  
Wilheit Packaging

## save the date

**Tuesday, June 21**

South Hall Business Coalition  
Driving Club at Road Atlanta

**Tuesday, June 28**

Business After Hours  
Pro-Genex in Gainesville

**Tuesday, July 12**

Small Business Seminar  
Chamber & via Zoom

**Tuesday, July 26**

Business After Hours  
Georgia Mountain Food Bank



**LEADERSHIP HALL**

Founded in 1983, the Chamber's prestigious leadership program is now 1,000 alumni strong. Meet the NEW Leadership Hall County class on page 20.

featured member





## Building a world-class workforce



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

Each year, the incoming Greater Hall Chamber Chairman of the Board is asked to propose a theme for the year. For my term as chairman, I chose the theme "Building a World-Class Workforce." Although this theme may be somewhat cliché, it does go to the heart of what I wanted to communicate this year and really what I think the Greater Hall Chamber is all about.

I believe that the ability of a community to generate and sustain a skilled workforce is a reflection of community values and the real power behind economic growth and prosperity. This past year, I have been asked many times by the media if I thought we should slow down economic growth in Gainesville-Hall County because of the shortage of workers. Each time, my reply was the same – a resounding "NO!" – and, I'll tell you why.

This year, Hall County Schools graduated around 2,000 young folks, and some 500 students walked across the Gainesville High stage. I recently saw where Lanier

Technical College graduated some 1,100 students with degrees, diplomas and certificates. I don't have the exact number, but I imagine that we also had another 1,000 or so young people from our community graduating from colleges and universities all over the state. With these numbers and this kind of renewable human resources, there is no reason why we can't continue to grow our workforce and our economy.

Our community is the envy of economic developers across the state and country. We are unique in that we have a great balance of jobs in healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, public service and hospitality. We have so much to offer our young people. We just need to do a better job of matching them to the jobs we have right here at home.

I believe our educators elected officials and community leaders are on the right path. I am proud to say that the Chamber is sharply focused on supporting these efforts by bringing the right people together with the right spirit of cooperation and energy. I am so proud to be a part of this community and to have served as your Chamber Chairman. I thank my colleagues at Kubota, Kit Dunlap, the outstanding Chamber staff and the entire Board. The past 12 months have flown by, and it's been a year that I will not forget!

## Philip Wilheit, Sr. Receives Chairman's Award



**Philip Wilheit, Sr.** (left) received the **W.G. Mealor Chairman's Award** from Chamber Chairman **Phil Sutton**. Named for W.G. Mealor who served as Chamber chairman for nine years, the award is presented to a Chamber volunteer who has gone "beyond the call of duty." If there ever was a Mr. Chamber of Commerce – it's Philip. He has served on the Greater Hall Chamber Board an astounding 50 YEARS and served as board chair in 1982. He's served as chair of the Gainesville & Hall County Development Authority, a post that he has led for 42 years. He has been a member of the Gainesville-Hall County Economic Development Council for 31 years and chairman twice. He served on the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Board for 32 years, and as chairman in 2001. Philip has dedicated his life to making our community and our state the best it can be.

### VOLUME 27 ISSUE 12

McKemie West, Editor • Email: [kwest@ghcc.com](mailto:kwest@ghcc.com)  
230 E.E. Butler Pkwy • Gainesville GA 30501 • 770-532-6206 • [GreaterHallChamber.com](http://GreaterHallChamber.com)

#### Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce 2021-2022 Executive Committee

Chairman <b>Phil Sutton</b> , Kubota Manufacturing of America	Vice Chair, Government Affairs <b>Drew Echols</b> , Jaemor Farms	Vice Chairs Membership <b>Tammy Caudell</b> , Carroll Daniel Construction <b>Casey Ryals</b> , Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance	Executive Director Vision 2030 <b>Elizabeth Higgins</b>
Chairman-Elect <b>William Bagwell</b> , Homestead Investments	Vice Chairs, Education <b>Andi Farmer</b> , Milton Martin Honda <b>Lauren Armour Talley</b> , Lanier Technical College	Co-Chairs, HALLmark <b>Phil Bonelli</b> , Regions Bank <b>Brett Fowler</b> , Turner, Wood & Smith <b>Philip Wilheit, Jr.</b> , Wilheit Packaging	Senior Advisor <b>Carol Burrell</b> , Northeast Georgia Health System
Treasurer <b>Perry Barnett</b> , Rushton	Vice Chair, Economic Development <b>Glenn Barnes</b> , Georgia Power	Vice Chair, South Hall Council <b>Mike Zeiler</b> , Bitzer US	Immediate Past Chair <b>Brian Rochester</b> , Rochester & Associates
Vice Chair, Marketing <b>Missy Burgess</b> , Lanier Islands	Vice Chair, Community Development <b>Margaret Spratlin</b> , Longstreet Clinic	Chair, Vision 2030 <b>Tate O'Rourke</b> , Jackson EMC	Greater Hall Chamber President & CEO <b>Kit Dunlap</b>

#### 2021-2022 Board of Directors

<b>Christa Andrews</b> , Corporate Storage	<b>Tim McDonald</b> , Lanier Technical College
<b>Edward Asbridge</b> , Mayor, City of Flowery Branch	<b>Ashton Meeks</b> , Starke Family Office
<b>Brian Barfield</b> , AT&T	<b>Terry Merck</b> , American Yazaki Corporation
<b>Norman Baggs</b> , The Times	<b>Sheri Millwood</b> , Oakwood City Council
<b>Neal Booth</b> , Pinnacle Bank	<b>Dr. Kirsty Montgomery</b> , Lakeview Academy
<b>Haley Bower</b> , Clipper Petroleum	<b>Chris Nish</b> , Cottrell
<b>Chris Braswell</b> , The Norton Agency	<b>James Nix</b> , Mayor, City of Clermont
<b>Chris Brown</b> , Delta Community Credit Union	<b>Dr. Jeff Payne</b> , Capstone Property Group
<b>Whitney Brown</b> , Stewart, Melvin & Frost	<b>Todd Pennington</b> , McGarity's Business Products
<b>Dan Carey</b> , BB&T/TRUIST	<b>Michele Pucci</b> , Peach State Bank & Trust
<b>Mitch Clarke</b> , AccessWDUN	<b>Col. Stas Preczewski</b> , Riverside Military Academy
<b>Sean Couch</b> , Northeast Georgia Health System	<b>Chris Purvis</b> , First Citizens Bank
<b>Sam Couvillon</b> , Mayor, City of Gainesville	<b>Brad Puryear</b> , Mansfield Energy
<b>Shanna Cronin</b> , Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic	<b>Scott Rizzo</b> , Recro Pharma
<b>S. Wade Dale</b> , Mayor, City of Gillsville	<b>Vanesa Sarazua</b> , Hispanic Alliance Georgia
<b>Ashley Davis</b> , Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing	<b>Will Schofield</b> , Hall County School System
<b>Stacey Dickson</b> , Lake Lanier CVB	<b>Mulham Shbeib</b> , Mar-Jac Poultry
<b>Beth Downs</b> , Northeast Georgia Health System	<b>John Simpson</b> , Lakeview Academy
<b>Josh Everett</b> , New Leaf Landscape Services	<b>Dr. Anne Skleder</b> , Brenau University
<b>Emily Hayes</b> , Milton Martin Toyota	<b>Jackie Walters Slaughter</b> , Walters Management Co
<b>Richard Higgins</b> , Chair, Hall County Commission	<b>Terry Spicer</b> , King's Hawaiian Bakery
<b>Sam Hulsey</b> , United Community Bank	<b>Ahna Still</b> , Logically / Halski Systems
<b>Rick Humphrey</b> , Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta	<b>Kevin Strada</b> , The Atlanta Falcons
<b>Brooke Kalinauskas</b> , Conditioned Air Systems	<b>Joe Thomas</b> , Mayor, City of Lula
<b>Jay Kelly</b> , Signs by Tomorrow	<b>Kurt Ward</b> , Mayor, Town of Braselton
<b>Jay Kilroy</b> , Willis Investment Counsel	<b>Philip Wilheit, Sr.</b> , Wilheit Packaging
<b>Michael Lancaster</b> , Edward Jones Investments	<b>Dr. Jeremy Williams</b> , Gainesville City Schools
<b>David Lee</b> , Jackson EMC	<b>Robert Woody</b> , Liberty
<b>Dr. Kate Maine</b> , University of North Georgia	<b>Darryl Workman</b> , South State Bank
<b>Ward McCamy</b> , Bank of America	<b>John Wright</b> , Fieldale Farms

#### Greater Hall Chamber Staff

<b>Executive</b> Kit Dunlap, <i>President &amp; CEO</i> Gerri Collins, <i>Executive Assistant</i>	<b>South Hall Council</b> Kara Tate, <i>Vice President, Sales &amp; Programs</i>
<b>Economic Development</b> Tim Evans, <i>Vice President</i> Nikki Chandler, <i>Vice President Existing Industry</i> Ellie Parker, <i>Project Manager</i> Anna Hester, <i>Project Manager</i>	<b>Membership Development</b> Christen Wilbanks, <i>Vice President, Sales</i> Kara Tate, <i>Vice President, Sales &amp; Programs</i>
<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b> Mark VanTassel, <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Community Development</b> Robin Halstead, <i>Vice President</i>
<b>Education &amp; Leadership</b> Jason Pruitt, <i>Vice President</i>	<b>VISION 2030</b> Elizabeth Higgins, <i>Executive Director</i>
<b>Government Affairs</b> Kit Dunlap, <i>President &amp; CEO</i> Anna Hester, <i>Project Manager</i>	<b>Marketing &amp; Communications</b> Kemie West, <i>Business Link Editor/Consultant</i>
	<b>Greater Hall Chamber Welcome Center</b> 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.



# GREAT ADVENTURES START HERE

From the excitement of delivery to the first embrace, welcoming your child into the world is the beginning of one of life's greatest adventures. Soon, your new baby is meeting siblings and loved ones and, before you know it, you're celebrating even more firsts – a first birthday, first trip to the beach and first day of school. Start the adventure here.

 Northeast Georgia Medical Center

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Deliver at one of NGMC's two convenient locations in Braselton or Gainesville. | [nghs.com/adventure](https://nghs.com/adventure)

## Awards & Recognition

### Small Business of the Year Skyline Contracting



Skyline Contracting was founded 10 years ago, by **Wes Hall** (right) and **Terry Garrett** with a focus on commercial and residential roofing, siding, gutter, and paint. The growth Skyline has experienced came by the help of customers, who have continued

to refer them to their friends, family and colleagues. Tried, true and trusted – that’s Skyline Contracting, and they love telling new customers that most of their business comes from referrals. Skyline’s reputation of impeccable service and outstanding workmanship speaks for itself. Skyline works with many local organizations to help with building needs and maintenance, such as the Good News Clinic. They recently partnered with Jacobs Media to help local homeowners in need of maintenance and repairs. [skylineroofingcompany.com](http://skylineroofingcompany.com)

### Family Business of the Year Mountain Fresh Creamery



**Scott and Jennifer Glover** with daughter, **Eliza Jane**. The Glovers started Glo-Crest Dairy in 2000 on a rented farm. In 2011, they built Mountain Fresh Creamery and started bottling their own milk and ice cream in beautiful North Hall County. Scott is a

fourth-generation dairy farmer and today he and Jennifer milk around 210 cows, twice a day, every day and are dedicated to providing wholesome, all-natural products fresh from their farm to your family. The practices they have in place have been recognized with many agriculture/agribusiness awards, including being named Georgia’s “Cream of the Crop” for milk quality and production since 2004. They like to say that “Our milk is so fresh that the cow doesn’t even know that it’s gone!” They are involved in many state associations and encouraged all to experience “from the cow to the jug” with farm tours that begin at Glo-Crest Dairy and end at the Creamery with milk and ice cream samples. [mountainfreshcreamery.com](http://mountainfreshcreamery.com)

### Small Business of the Year Southern Baked Pie Company



**Amanda and Alex Wilbanks** founded Southern Baked Pie in 2012. The award winning company began with its first sale at Mule Camp Market and a whopping \$400 in the bank. Now with four (4) locations across the state, they masterfully create a variety of decadent flavors and specialty selections utilizing seasonal fresh fruit from local farmers and businesses. While born and baked in our hometown, Southern Baked Pie ships to corporate and individual clients nationwide. In 2017, the Caramel Pecan Pie was the Flavor of Georgia Grand Prize winner. Amanda is a UGA graduate and has been recognized in UGA’s 40 under 40. She’s formed alliances with Williams-Sonoma and Dean and

Deluca to sell pies and has been spotlighted on The Today Show, Oprah Magazine, Garden and Gun, Hallmark Channel, Taste of the South, and Country Living. [southernbakedpie.com](http://southernbakedpie.com)

### Family Business of the Year Wayne Capital



**The Wayne Family – Alex, Alan and Daren** – is a family of leaders. They are committed to bettering our community. The South Hall area is an important part of our

Hall County fabric, and the Wayne family is certainly a bedrock of that community. Alan took a keen interest in INK where he has served on the board for 14 years. Dinah, who passed away in 2021, made her mark as well and became a driving force for the revitalization of historic downtown Flowery Branch. She served on many boards, including State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, which was her passion. Wayne Capital creates and manages real estate investment funds. Alex has served Northeast Georgia Health System in many leadership capacities, and is current Vice Chair of the Board. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia and served as Chairman and on the Board of Trustees. Daren Wayne has followed in his mother’s footsteps and was appointed to the Technical College System of Georgia board. He’s a graduate of Leadership Georgia and a past chair of the North Georgia Community Foundation. [rpg-cre.com](http://rpg-cre.com)

# Awards & Recognition

## Distinguished Citizen Award

**Bob Swoszowski** | McDonald's NEGA



### **Bob and Wanda Swoszowski.**

Entrepreneur, philanthropist, and community leader **Bob Swoszowski** began his career with McDonald's in 1973 by opening three restaurants in Northeast Georgia. Today, Bob operates 21 restaurants throughout the region. During his time as owner/operator, Bob has received numerous industry awards – most notably the prestigious Ronald Award in 1979 and again in 2014. Bob and McDonald's NEGA support many nonprofits including Gateway Domestic Violence Center, Boy Scouts of America, Randy & Friends, and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank. He received the Volunteer of the Year for the American Red Cross and from Gainesville Parks

and Recreation. It's no wonder that Bob and Wanda were named the North Georgia Community Foundation's 2016 Philanthropists of the Year for their passionate support of area causes – giving time, leadership and financial support to so many over the years. He serves on the Board of Trustees for University of North Georgia, served on Brenau University's Board of Trustees, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Junior Achievement.

## Community Service Award

**Rhonda Samples** | Hall County School System



A North Hall High and UGA graduate, **Rhonda Samples** began her career as an educator with Hall County Schools at the age of 21. Today, Rhonda oversees Hall County's Career, Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) and Lanier College and Career Academy. Rhonda implements career and tech education programs as well as Work-Based Learning opportunities and has worked in partnership with the Chamber's Workforce Development Task Force since its inception in 2015 building partnerships with local businesses. She helped implement dual enrollment with Lanier Technical College and assists with the Youth Leadership Hall Program. Rhonda has received Teacher of the Year awards

from many organizations including Georgia Marketing Education, National Marketing groups, and Georgia Association of Technical Education. She was named the Georgia Technology Student Association's 2022 Administrator of the Year.

## Chairman Phil Sutton Recognized



Chairman Elect **William Bagwell**, *Homestead Investments* (left), recognized Chamber Chairman **Phil Sutton**, *Kubota Manufacturing of America*, with the Chairman's Gavel and plaque at the 114th Annual Meeting and Gala at the Chattahoochee Country Club on May 12. Sutton's term as chairman runs through June 2022.



**Philip Wilheit** (center) was the recipient of the **W.G. Meador Chairman's Award**. (L-R) **Jeff and Hart Payne**; **Philip and Mary Hart Wilheit**; **Addie and Philip Wilheit, Jr.**



# Celebrating a Year of Success



**Mars Wrigley Gainesville** celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021 with the dedication of a new employee pavilion. (L-R) **Kit Dunlap**, Chamber; **Glennis Barnes**, Georgia Power; **Anton Vincent**, Mars Wrigley North America, **Janice Brians** and **Matt Arends**, Mars Wrigley Gainesville.

The Chamber's **Economic Development Council (EDC)** 2021 year-end results: 16 new and expanding firms added 1,300 new jobs and \$240 million in capital investment to Gainesville-Hall County. Since 2015, the EDC has assisted 136 new and expanding businesses that have announced 7,000 jobs and \$1.7 billion in new capital investment.

Participation in the Chamber's **Small Business** programs continues to grow with 850 total seminar participants and 36 small businesses earning "Certified Small Business Partner" designation. The South Hall Business Coalition continues to focus on issues of importance to South Hall.



The Chamber and its business and nonprofit partners hosted **Community Vaccine Day** in October 2021. Healthcare workers administered 300 COVID Vaccines/Boosters and 300 Flu Shots to a diverse group of people from across the community. The **HealthSmart Wellness Expo is October 5** (7:30am- 1:30pm) at Lanier Technical College Ramsey Conference Center.

The **Workforce Development Task Force**, in its sixth year, reached a new milestone with dozens of Work Based Learning students working at some 30 area industries. Youth Apprenticeship programs for high school students continue to grow and combine academic and technical classroom instruction with work experience.

**Will Greehling**, a Quality Tech Apprentice at King's Hawaiian in Flowery Branch.



Eighty-nine (89) employers participated with onsite hiring at the Greater Hall Chamber's Spring Job Fair on March 30. The Chamber's **Fall Job Fair is Thursday, September 8** (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center and will feature dozens of local companies that are hiring.



Gainesville native Chad Shore's "Love Freedom" mural in Midland Gainesville.

**VISION 2030's Public Art program** has cataloged and installed over 200 art pieces throughout the community. The initiative's involvement in the **Highlands to Islands Trail** has been key in uniting greenways into one multi-use trail system.



# Celebrating a Year of Success



Chick-fil-A Gainesville is a **Partner in Education** with Chestatee High School and is one of 350 partnering organizations participating in the program with area schools.



Chamber members gather at Lanier College & Career Academy for **Network Over Coffee**. The monthly networking event meets at various venues across the community and offers members the opportunity to connect and exchange leads.

## Healthy Hall Awards of Excellence

recognize those in the healthcare industry in making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness. Dr. Frank Lake, retired, Northeast Georgia Physicians Group, received the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award.



**7th Grade Career Path Fairs** are held annually and are a collaborative initiative of the University of North Georgia and Lanier Technical College. The day-long events provide middle school students with an overview of the many career opportunities in Gainesville-Hall County.



**Youth Leadership Hall** 2021 consisted of 80 students selected from 12 private and public Hall County high schools. Over 1,100 students have graduated from the program that builds individual leadership skills, fosters positive group dynamics and seeks to increase civic and community involvement.



Long time Chamber member Hasty Pope Davies sponsored the fall 2021 **Business After Hours**, a popular monthly event sponsored by a Chamber member.



## New Leadership Team 2022-23



**William Bagwell**  
*Homestead Investments*  
Chamber Chairman 2022-2023

Chamber Chairman 2022-2023 **William Bagwell** is the managing member of Gainesville-based Homestead Investments and a fourth generation Hall County resident. He is involved in various investments including office space, warehouse space as well as industrial, commercial and timber land. William is the property manager of Northeast Georgia Real Estate. Like his forefathers, William has farming in his blood. He owned and operated 365 acre Homestead Farms in Canon, Georgia for many years, raising chickens, producing pure bred Black Angus cattle and overseeing timber production. William is a graduate of Presbyterian College in South Carolina. He is knowledgeable of the inner workings of the Greater Hall Chamber, as he formerly served on the staff as Vice President of Economic Development, Vice President of Existing Industry and Vice President of Government Affairs. William serves on the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and is a past Board chair of that Board as well as the North Georgia Mountains Authority. He is Vice Chair of the Gainesville and Hall County Development Authority and a member of the Gainesville and Hall County Economic Development Council. He has also served as a member of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees. He has served on the Boards of Lanier Technical College Foundation, Federal Farm Service Agency, the Arts Council and the Hall County Farm Bureau. William and his wife, Jennifer, have two grown children, William and Emmaline.



**Kit Dunlap**  
*President & CEO*  
Greater Hall Chamber

President and CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce since 1998, **Kit Dunlap** has spearheaded several multi-million dollar private business initiatives such as HALLmark, an initiative that has funded successful economic development, education and community programs, VISION 2030 and the Chamber building renovation in Downtown Gainesville. Kit's leadership has guided the Chamber to solid ground with a membership base of 2,400 individuals and a professional staff of 13 people. A native of Jasper, Alabama and a Brenau College graduate, Kit is at the top of the industry among fellow Chamber executives, receiving the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executive's top award, the Legacy Award, in 2018. She has a strong economic development background, serving on the Board of the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism (Georgia Department of Economic Development) for 10 years and as chairman for two years. She is a founding member of the Gainesville-Hall County Economic Development Council and served as the council's first chairman in 1992. She has served on the boards of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, SunTrust Bank Northeast Georgia and on the Board of Trustees at Brenau University. She serves on the board of the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) for the State of Georgia and is a past chairman of the organization.

Chamber Chairman 2022-2023 **William Bagwell** is the managing member of Gainesville-based Homestead Investments and a fourth generation Hall County resident. He is involved in various investments including office space, warehouse space as well as industrial, commercial and timber land. William is the property manager of Northeast Georgia Real Estate. Like his forefathers, William has farming in his blood. He owned and operated 365 acre Homestead Farms in Canon, Georgia for many years, raising chickens, producing pure bred Black Angus cattle and overseeing timber production. William is a graduate of Presbyterian College in South Carolina. He is knowledgeable of the inner workings of the Greater Hall Chamber, as he formerly served on the staff as Vice President of Economic Development, Vice President of Existing Industry and Vice President of Government Affairs. William serves on the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and is a past Board chair of that Board as well as the North Georgia Mountains Authority. He is Vice Chair of the Gainesville and Hall County Development Authority and a member of the Gainesville and Hall County Economic Development Council. He has also served as a member of the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees. He has served on the Boards of Lanier Technical College Foundation, Federal Farm Service Agency, the Arts Council and the Hall County Farm Bureau. William and his wife, Jennifer, have two grown children, William and Emmaline.



**Brett Fowler**  
*Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance*  
Chairman-Elect 2022-2023

Chairman-Elect **Brett Fowler** is long time Chamber supporter having served in many leadership roles. He served as Vice Chair of Membership Development for several terms, serves on the Gainesville Redevelopment Authority, and most recently co-chaired the HALLmark 2020-25 initiative. Brett is a partner and executive vice president of employee benefits at Turner Wood & Smith Insurance. He joined the agency in 2008 upon graduating from the University of Georgia. In addition to his Chamber involvement, Brett has been an active member of the Hall County community since moving back to Gainesville. He has served on many civic and nonprofit boards and committees including the Gainesville Jaycees (past president), United Way of Hall County (past campaign chair) and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank (past chairman), to name a few. Brett is a graduate of Leadership Hall County and is a member of Leadership Georgia 2022. Brett made his mark early and has been honored with many awards of distinction including Georgia Trend magazine's 40 Under 40 (2016), Gus Whalen Young Philanthropist Award (2016) and Gainesville Jaycees Young Man of the Year (2016). He is involved with youth sports and serves as a volunteer coach for baseball, football and basketball leagues, which is no surprise as Brett and his wife, Laura, have three young, active sons, Banks, Wells and Briggs.

## Greater Hall Chamber 2022-2023 Officers

Chairman <b>William Bagwell</b> <i>Homestead Investments</i>	Vice Chairs, Education <b>Andi Farmer</b> <i>Milton Martin Honda</i> <b>Lauren Armour Talley</b> <i>Lanier Technical College</i>	Vice Chair Community Development <b>Margaret Spratlin</b> <i>Longstreet Clinic</i>
Chairman-Elect <b>Brett Fowler</b> <i>Turner Wood &amp; Smith Insurance</i>	Co-Chairs, HALLmark <b>Phil Bonelli</b> <i>Regions Bank</i> <b>Philip Wilheit Jr</b> <i>Wilheit Packaging</i>	Vice Chairs, Membership <b>Tammy Caudell</b> <i>Carroll Daniel Construction</i> <b>Casey Ryals</b> <i>Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance</i>
Treasurer <b>Perry Barnett</b> <i>Rushton</i>	Chamber President & CEO <b>Kit Dunlap</b>	Senior Advisor <b>Brian Daniel</b> <i>Carroll Daniel Construction</i>
Vice Chair Economic Development <b>Glennis Barnes</b> <i>Georgia Power</i>	Vice Chair, Government Affairs <b>Drew Echols</b> <i>Jaemor Farms</i>	Immediate Past Chair <b>Phil Sutton</b> <i>Kubota Manufacturing of America</i>
Vice Chair, Marketing <b>Missy Burgess</b> <i>Lanier Islands</i>	Vice Chair, South Hall Council <b>Mike Zeiler</b> <i>Bitzer US</i>	
	VISION 2030 <b>Tate O'Rourke</b> , <i>Jackson EMC</i> <b>Elizabeth Higgins</b> , <i>Director</i>	





2022-2023 Chamber Chairman **William Bagwell**, *Homestead Investments*, and wife, **Jennifer**, with their children **William and Emmaline**.



2004-2005 Chamber Chairman **Rob Fowler**, *Turner Wood & Smith Insurance* (left) and wife, **Leslie**, and 2022-2023 Chair-Elect **Brett Fowler**, *Turner Wood & Smith Insurance*, and wife, **Laura**.

NOTHING HELPS  
**DRIVE**  
GEORGIA'S ECONOMY

QUITE LIKE  
**ACTUAL  
DRIVERS**

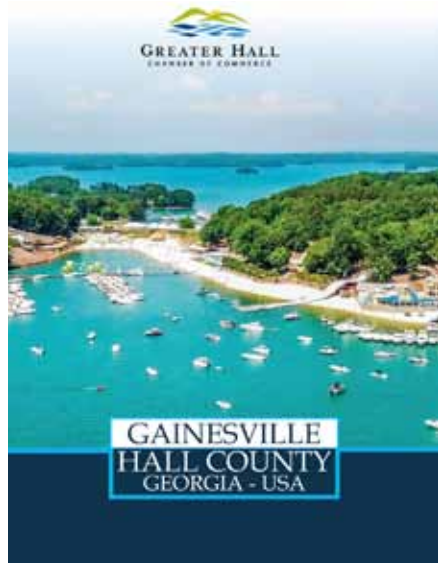


THAT'S WHY WE'RE INVESTING \$1M WITH THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TRAINING.

THE  
*Coca-Cola*  
COMPANY

**TCSG**

## NEW Community Magazine



The Greater Hall Chamber has partnered with The Times to publish the 2022 Community Magazine. The magazine is published every two years and is a guide to all that's happening in Gainesville-Hall County. **Now's the time to place your advertisement!** With over 80 pages of valuable content, the magazine is distributed to prospective new businesses, newcomers, visitors and business clients. This publication offers a premier outlet to showcase your business or organization. Advertisers receive complimentary copies of the magazine that will publish in August 2022. Reserve your space by emailing [marketing@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:marketing@gainesvilletimes.com).

(L-R) **Ron Quinn**, *President & CEO*, and **Terry Baker**, *Executive VP*, of **Peach State Bank** accepted a **Banky Award** from the **Institute for Extraordinary Banking** in April. The award recognizes community banks that have a commitment to the success of the local communities they serve, the small businesses they support, and the vital role that community banks play in our nation's economy. [peachstate.bank](http://peachstate.bank)



The **NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championship** was held May 10-14 at the Chattahoochee Golf Club. The **University of North Georgia** – supported by the **City of Gainesville**, **Greater Gainesville Sports Alliance** and the **Gainesville Convention & Visitors Bureau** – hosted the tournament. The University of Findlay Oilers from Ohio were named victors of the competition that included eight individual players and 18 teams representing 26 different schools across the U.S. Some 17 countries were represented at the event that brought in an estimated \$702,000 in over-all economic impact to Gainesville. [exploregainesville.org](http://exploregainesville.org)

- Gainesville Parks and Recreation (GPR)** held a groundbreaking in early June for **The Coop**, a youth sports complex named after longtime city parks director **Melvin Cooper**. The Coop, a 89 acre complex located off Old Cornelia Highway, will include five baseball fields, a multipurpose field, walking path, track and playground. GPR offers over 2,500 programs annually for participants of all ages and operates major facilities including the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, Gainesville Civic Center, Lanier Point Athletic Complex, and 21 parks for citizens and visitors to enjoy the great outdoors. [Gainesville.org/384/Parks-Recreation](http://Gainesville.org/384/Parks-Recreation)
- Gainesville City Schools** hosted a ceremonial street sign unveiling in May to honor **Major General Roy Bridges** who piloted the NASA Challenger space shuttle in 1985. Bridges is the only NASA Astronaut to graduate from Gainesville High School and was in attendance for this special event in his honor and visited Gainesville Exploration Academy students in his original flight suit. The elementary school is a NASA Partner School and students study the life and success of Bridges' career each year as part of their curriculum. [gcssk12.net](http://gcssk12.net)
- Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS)** is the first health system in the nation to provide the **highest level of safety by training its security team** with the Apex Virtual Reality Simulator. In training, a virtual reality simulator is worn on the head – like gaming devices – and provides realistic and immersive crisis intervention training through scenarios much like real life situations, allowing NGHS security officers can respond more effectively. [nghs.com](http://nghs.com)
- Located in Flowery Branch, **Eagle Ranch** provides a Christ-centered home, education and counseling for nearly 70 boys and girls. Children are given the structure, stability and time needed to work through a crisis situation in a program that collaborates with their families. Eagle Ranch's **Serve Saturday is September 10** and offers a great volunteer opportunity to give back to local children and families in crisis. The event includes a variety of serving opportunities such as painting fences, clearing riding trails, landscaping, cleaning/organizing, and more. Learn more and register at [eagleranch.org](http://eagleranch.org)
- United Way of Hall County (UWHC)** is the largest private funding source of health and human services in Hall County. UWHC is making a tangible impact by uniting the people, organizations and resources within our community to build a stronger, safer and healthier Hall County. UWHC recently launched a Volunteer Portal where nonprofits can upload volunteer opportunities and the community can find ways to get involved! For details, visit [unitedwayhallcounty.galaxydigital.com](http://unitedwayhallcounty.galaxydigital.com).
- Left Nut Brewing Co.** founder **Pap Datta** announced the six year old company has rebranded and changed its name to **Liquid Nation Brewing Co.** The brewery retains the same personnel, taproom and core values – only the name is changing. Liquid Nation creates specialty craft beers, ciders, and seltzers of all types and flavors and is located inside historic Chicopee Mills, which was erected in 1927 by Johnson & Johnson as a textile mill. [liquidnationbrewing.com](http://liquidnationbrewing.com)
- A partnership between the **University of North Georgia (UNG)** and **Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS)** will bring an additional 280 nurses to the workforce over the next five years through the new accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program. Roughly 20% of the UNG students accepted into the program are second-degree students who have a bachelor's or master's in another field of study. The goal is that students will enjoy working at NGHS and will pursue careers there upon graduation. [ung.edu](http://ung.edu)
- J's Place Recovery Center** announces **Kara Rebello** and **Lauren Thompson** as new Peer Recovery Coaches. J's Place helps ensure the success of people with substance use disorders by connecting them to local resources, addressing unmet community needs and providing a voice for those in recovery. Families are invited to celebrate recovery at **Carnival Day on Saturday, June 25** with games, fun, food and prizes. 664 Lanier Park Drive in Gainesville. [jsplacerecovery.org](http://jsplacerecovery.org)

Got news?

Email: [kwest@ghcc.com](mailto:kwest@ghcc.com)

## small business development

### Small Business of the Month Chicken Salad Chick



Cynthia Maldonado, manager, at **Chicken Salad Chick** on Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville.

**Chicken Salad Chick** (CSC) puts a twist on a delicious classic with made-from-scratch chicken salad in 12 original flavors, as well as gourmet soups, flavorful sides and delectable desserts. All of CSC's delicious scoops, sandwiches and side salads are prepared daily with fresh ingredients. Guests tell the staff that the restaurant make them feel like they are at a friend's house, filled with warmth, hand-prepared food and people who are happy to be there. Stop by Chicken Salad Chick during normal business hours and grab freshly made chicken salad, packaged in two shareable sizes for people on the go, called Quick Chicks. Chicken Salad Chick is open Monday-Saturday, 10:30 am – 8:00 pm. 678-921-3513. 1122 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville.

### Small Business Funding Resources



Lorra Lee, president, Small Business Access Partners (SBAP) presented the May Small Business Seminar on funding/financing resources for small businesses. (Front-Back, L-R) **Steve Naughton**, *Enterprising Solutions*; **Michele Piucci**, *Peach State Bank*; **Lorra Lee**, SBAP; **Courtney Rucker**, *Crème De La Crème Creations*; **Marsha Hopkins**, *Hopkins Associates*; **Shawnette Good**, *Joshua's Voice*; **Andrew Davenport**, *A New Veteran*; **Zachary Groover**, *Principal Financial*; **Keith Speed**, *Remedy Distillery*; **Chris Arrington**, *Double Cakes by Chris*; **Matt Waters**, *United Community Bank*; **Mia McKensey**, *Monat Global*.

## Small Business Seminars

### Tuesday, July 12

8:30 - 9:30 am | at the Chamber  
230 E.E. Butler Parkway in Gainesville

### "Work-Based Learning 101"

Work-Based Learning programs help jump start students into the workforce early, solve labor force issues for small businesses, and provide valuable learning opportunities. Join us and hear about the robust career learning programs and opportunities in our local schools from Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) professionals, Rhonda Samples and Natalie Smith. Learn about the benefits and how to get involved!



**Rhonda Samples**  
Director, CTAE  
Hall County Schools



**Natalie Smith**  
Coordinator, CTAE  
Gainesville City Schools

### Tuesday, August 9

8:30 - 9:30 am | at the Chamber  
230 E.E. Butler Parkway in Gainesville

### "Workforce Solutions for Small Business"



**Shelley Logan**  
Workforce Strategies  
Group

Having a well-rounded workforce is a vital part to thriving in small business. In 2019, **Shelley Logan and Greg Vitek** partnered to form **Workforce Strategies Group** (WSG), a consultancy that collaborates with employers, school systems, government, and service providers in efforts to build a skilled workforce. Employability Skills are the #1 need of all employers. Join Shelley as she shares tips of leading employees to be motivated to exceed expectations and exhibit a desire to learn. [workforcestrategiesgroup.com](http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com)

Register for IN PERSON or VIRTUAL Option online at [GHCC.com/events](http://GHCC.com/events).

No Charge for Chamber Members.

INFO: Ellie Parker, 770-532-6206 x111 · Email: [eparker@ghcc.com](mailto:eparker@ghcc.com)





LET'S TALK

*business*



# Powering Industry & Friday Night Lights

You have the vision, ingenuity and product to change the business landscape. Our team has the expertise and knowledge to help you every step of the way. Jackson EMC's Business Development Team is your resource to keep energy reliable and affordable now and in the future.



Your Power. Your Community.

[jacksonemc.com/business](http://jacksonemc.com/business)

- ◀ Jackson EMC's Business Development Team:  
Wade Johnson, Tate O'Rourke, Kevin Dodson,  
David Cleveland, John Skinner, Jennifer Fennell  
and Brandon Ashley

## economic development

### Transportation Forum 2022



(L-R) **Richard Higgins**, Chairman, Hall County Commission; **Kit Dunlap**, Chamber President & CEO; **Kevin Mullens**, District 1 Engineer, GDOT.



(L-R) **Tim Evans**, Chamber VP Economic Development; **Brian Rochester**, Rochester & Associates (event sponsor); **Russell McMurry**, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT); **Neal Booth**, Pinnacle Bank (event sponsor). Over 200 Chamber members and guests attended the Transportation Forum on April 26 at Lanier Technical College where GDOT, Hall County and Gainesville City officials discussed area projects.

## FALL 2022 JOB FAIR & Career Expo Thursday, September 8 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Gainesville Civic Center

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

**Employers: Meet Job Seekers Face-to-Face**

Recruit Qualified Employees

INFO: 770-532-6206

See who's hiring: [GHCC.com/JOBS](https://www.ghcc.com/JOBS)

## Workforce Development



**Carroll Daniel Construction's Apprenticeship Program** recently celebrated its latest class of graduates who will kick start their careers as field engineers. (Front, L-R) **Israel Vega**, **Weston Davis**, **Jhexon Galvez**, **Ashton Balizet** and **Burk Smith**. These graduates are all students at **Lanier Technical College** and represent several North Georgia high schools. The program is designed to help boost the construction industry and is part of the company's comprehensive workforce development program that also includes work-based learning for high school students and internships for college students pursuing degrees related to the industry, such as engineering, construction management and business. [carrolldaniel.com](https://www.carrolldaniel.com)

## economic development

### Statewide developers tour Hall County

Statewide economic development managers at Radial Property Group's 71,000 sf speculative industrial building in Tanners Creek Business Park (L-R) **Michelle Shaw**, Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD); **Tammy Caudell**, Carroll Daniel Construction; **John VanBrunt**, Electric Cities of Georgia; **Tim Kidder**, Radial Construction; **Dr. Kristen Miller**, GDEcD; **Alex Wayne**, Radial Property Group & Wayne Capital; **Tim Evans**, Chamber; **Daren Wayne**, Radial Property Group & Wayne Capital; **Brad Bowman**, Radial Property Group; **Ejane Caraway**, GDEcD; **Tim Bono**, Georgia EMC; **Cameron Barnhill**, GDEcD; **Fernanda Kirchner**, GDEcD. The Chamber's economic development team coordinated the event that included tours of projects in Gainesville, Oakwood, and Flowery Branch including Gainesville 85 Business Park and the Inland Port Terminal site in Gateway Industrial Centre. Community leaders discussed the business environment, workforce development efforts, healthcare, education and more.



### South Hall Business Coalition



The South Hall Business Coalition met at the Flowery Branch Depot and heard from the VISION 2030 team in May. (L-R) **Elizabeth Higgins**, Executive Director, VISION 2030; **Mayor Ed Asbridge** and **Renee Carden**, City of Flowery Branch; Vice Chair VISION 2030 **Tate O'Rouke**, Jackson EMC. Join the South Hall Business Coalition on **June 21** (9-10am) to hear an update from **Trip Campbell**, owner of **The Driving Club at Road Atlanta**. Reservations Required. \$5 Chamber Members; \$15 Non-Members. Info: Kara Tate, 770-532-6206 x103.

The South Hall Business Coalition is sponsored by **AccessWDUN**, **Logically/Halski Systems**, **Milton Martin Honda**, **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton**, **Signs by Tomorrow**, **South Hall Rotary** and **Store More Self Storage**.

### Agribusiness Awards 2022



Recipients of 2022 Agribusiness Awards (L-R) **Jackson and Brandon Chandler**, Chandler Equipment (Agribusiness Hall of Fame); **Rhonda Samples**, Hall County Schools (representing **Donna Ertzberger** (Friend of Agribusiness)); **John Moon**, Green Box Mushrooms (Agribusiness of the Year); **Todd Chapman**, Chapman Farms (Farmer of the Year). The Greater Hall Chamber's Agribusiness Awards Program increases recognition and appreciation of the agricultural community in Hall County and is a partnership of the Chamber, the Hall County Farm Bureau and UGA Extension Hall County.

## community development

### VISION 2030



Photo: Light Sources, Inc.



Over 400 people took part in the **Public Art Block pARTY** on May 6 at Midland Social in Gainesville. The 4th annual event was a great success, and all funds raised from the event will support public art projects in the community.

### Public Art Everywhere!

The **Leadership Hall County Class of 2021-22** recently completed their class project of painting a portion of the “If the Shoe Fits” mural in Midland Gainesville. The mural runs along the Highlands to Islands multi-purpose trail. [vision2030.org](http://vision2030.org)



## Residential Beautification Award



Gainesville resident **Jennifer Caputo**, 600 Ridgewood Avenue in Gainesville, is the recipient of the Chamber's **Spring 2022 Residential Beautification Award**. Most early mornings and many evenings you'll find Jennifer in her gardens weeding. She's also busy raising bees, feeding the koi in the pond, and training the Old China rose bushes – a variety of roses that have existed since before 1867 – to grow along her white picket fence. With many pollinator bushes and blooms come many varieties of birds and butterflies which lends itself to another hobby of drawing and painting. Jennifer's happiest when in the gardens be it with a paintbrush or glass of sweet tea and a good book! To learn more about the Chamber's residential and business beautification awards program, contact Robin Halstead, Chamber VP Community Development, 770-532-6206. [rhalstead@ghcc.com](mailto:rhalstead@ghcc.com)

## Honoring Judge John Girardeau



**Judge John Girardeau** (left) and **Judge Jason Deal**. Northeastern Judicial Circuit judiciary and court administration recently held a building dedication ceremony honoring John E. Girardeau. The Judicial Accountability Services dedication celebrates the foundation created by Judge Girardeau to build the robust network of accountability courts and other judicial programs which benefit our community today. The Hall County Drug Court was organized in 2000 under the direction of Superior Court Judge John Girardeau and is overseen today by Judge Jason Deal.



## community development

### Promoting Community Wellness

The Greater Hall Chamber and VISION 2030's **15th Annual HealthSmart Wellness Expo** is **Wednesday, October 5**, 7:30 am to 1:30 pm at Lanier Technical College, Ramsey Conference Center. Presented by **Northeast Georgia Health System**, this event is **FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** and promotes community wellness. The HealthSmart Expo includes **FREE** healthcare screenings with over 60 health and wellness exhibitors participating.

As part of the VISION 2030 HealthSmart Community Challenge, **2022 Most Fit Company Awards** will be presented at the **HealthSmart Breakfast on Wednesday, October 5** (7:30 am) at Lanier Technical College, Ramsey Conference Center. The awards program recognizes wellness, nutrition and fitness opportunities that outstanding companies provided for employees. **Excellent sponsorship opportunities available.** Call the Chamber, 770-532-6206, for sponsorship information.

# Health Smart

Interactive Health & Wellness EXPO

Wednesday, October 5  
7:30am - 1:30pm  
Lanier Technical College  
Ramsey Conference Center



**Deborah Mack**, Chamber Volunteer, is a big supporter of the HealthSmart Initiative. Mark your calendar for the HealthSmart 2022 Expo on October 5 at Lanier Technical College.

### Business Link is your Business-to-Business connection

## BUSINESS LINK



**Business Link** publishes the first Wednesday of each month in **The Times**, and is mailed to all chamber members.

Digital version available on [gainesvilletimes.com](http://gainesvilletimes.com) and [ghcc.com](http://ghcc.com).

For more information, contact:  
[MARKETING@GAINESVILLETIMES.COM](mailto:MARKETING@GAINESVILLETIMES.COM)



## DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.

"Your Security is our Business"

Serving Northeast Georgia  
Since 1993



**770-287-9605**

[info@ddsga.com](mailto:info@ddsga.com)



**WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR EVERY DATA NEED!**

## meetings & events

### South Hall Business Coalition

**Tuesday, June 21**

Driving Club of Road Atlanta

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

The Dog House | 5289 Winder Hwy in Braselton



Join us at the Dog House to hear an update from Owner **Trip Campbell** on the exciting things happening at **The Driving Club at Road Atlanta** and the Dog House, soon to be known as Café Octane Coffee Shop. The coffee shop is a 6,000 square-foot building located directly across the street from Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta and The Driving Club. Trip will discuss club updates, the coffee shop, and more importantly new developments around the P1 MotorBlock properties and business. [DrivingClubRA.com](http://DrivingClubRA.com)

Fresh Coffee | \$5 Members | \$15 Non-Members | Register: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

### Business After Hours

**Tuesday, June 28**

Sponsored by Pro-Genex

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

669 Lanier Park Drive | Gainesville



Meet the team, learn more, and enjoy networking, food and drink. Pro-Genex is a clinical laboratory focused on solving problems by delivering results for superior patient care and client satisfaction. Pro-Genex serves Northeast Georgia providers with its rapid testing solutions and excels in exceptional turnaround time, personalized customer service, rapid, accurate results and technology innovation. [pro-genex.com](http://pro-genex.com)

Prizes & Cash Drawing | \$5 Members | \$15 Non-Members | Register: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

### Business After Hours

**Tuesday, July 26**

Sponsored by

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

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

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | 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 our neighbors in North Georgia. Come learn how GMFB is growing the love in our community, and enjoy food, live music, and fellowship. You can also help GMFB prepare for their Empty Bowl lunch by participating in bowl painting at Business After Hours! [gamountainfoodbank.org](http://gamountainfoodbank.org)

Prizes & Cash Drawing | \$5 Members | \$15 Non-Members | Register: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

## calendar

### June

**Wednesday, June 15**

Issues Committee

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

**Thursday, June 16**

Chamber Executive Committee

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

**Tuesday, June 21**

South Hall Business Coalition

The Driving Club at Road Atlanta

with Trip Campbell, owner

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

5290 Winder Highway | Braselton

**Tuesday, June 21**

VISION 2030 Board of Directors

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

**Thursday, June 23**

Chamber Board of Directors

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

Gainesville Civic Center

**Friday, June 24**

Network Over Coffee

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

Sam's Club | Oakwood

**Tuesday, June 28**

Business After Hours

Pro-Genex

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

669 Lanier Park Drive | Gainesville

Stay Up-to-Date  
[GHCC.com/events](http://GHCC.com/events)

### July

**Wednesday, July 6**

Healthcare Committee

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

**Friday, July 8**

Network Over Coffee

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

Longstreet Cafe | Gainesville

**Tuesday, July 12**

Small Business Seminar

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber or via Zoom

**Tuesday, July 12**

Ambassadors Council

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

Scott's Downtown | Gainesville

**Wednesday, July 13**

Human Resource Council

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

**Wednesday, July 20**

Issues Committee

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

**Thursday, July 21**

Chamber Executive Committee

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

**Friday, July 22**

Network Over Coffee

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

McDonald's | Flowery Branch

**Tuesday, July 26**

Business After Hours

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

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

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gainesville

NOTE: No Chamber Board meeting in July.

## Thank You Event Sponsors!

AccessWDUN

Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Gainesville

BatesCarter

Caldwell Electrical Contractors

Chattahoochee Country Club

Chattahoochee Grill

Cochran Brothers Electric

Delta Community Credit Union

Driving Club at Road Atlanta

Gainesville Mechanical

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

Logically / Halski Systems

Milton Martin Honda

Northeast Georgia Health

System

Northeast Georgia Medical  
Center Braselton

Pro-Genex

Signs by Tomorrow

South Hall Rotary Club

Store More Self Storage

The Dog House

The Times

## networking events



Many thanks to **Rand and Macy Carswell**, owners of **Chattahoochee Grill**, for sponsoring Business After Hours in May with delicious food and great networking! Be sure to join us for the next **Business After Hours** at **Pro-Genex** on **Tuesday, June 28** (5-7pm). Info: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

Chattahoochee Grill is a family affair! VISION 2030 Executive Director **Elizabeth Higgins** (left) with her mother **Martha Jacobs** and husband **Tom Higgins**. Visit the Grill for delicious food and drink, and you'll often find Rand and Macy's families helping out around the restaurant.



(L-R) **Shanna Cronic**, *Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic*; **Tom Brown** and **Dr. Keylee Brown**, *Key Optique*; **Margaret Spratlin**, *Longstreet Clinic*, at Business After Hours.



Your success is how we measure ours.

*Nick Bruner CPA, Corporate Audit Partner and Noah Evans, Tax Senior*

From tax planning to business operations, our team at Rushton is focused on your individual and corporate growth with one goal in mind: **Success.**

 **RUSHTON**  
ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADVISORS | CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

770.287.7800 | [rushton.cpa](http://rushton.cpa)

GAINESVILLE | CUMMING | CARROLLTON

One of North Georgia's largest and fastest growing accounting firms

## Leadership Hall County



(L-R) **Lisa McCormack**, Regions; **Nick Swafford**, Gainesville Water Resources; **Ashton Lewis**, Starke Family Office; **Chelsea Sullivan**, Smith and Howard; **Jessica Palacios**, Cardinal Ridge Group; **Gio Holden**, Holden Law Firm; **Deana Harper**, Hall County Board of Education. Leadership Hall's Quality of Life program in June kicked off with breakfast at the **Gainesville Civic Center**. The class traveled to **Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville** where **Mildred Fockele**, Executive Director, led an overview and tour. At the **Quinlan Visual Arts Center**, Executive Director **Nairika Cornett** gave a presentation followed by a tour, treasure hunt and art activity. The class traveled to the **Chattahoochee Country Club (CCC)** where **Staci Crain** presented "Social Etiquette for Every Leader" followed by lunch hosted by **Matthew Collins**, General Manager, and **Vaughan Smith**, Food and Beverage Director. The class toured CCC and heard about **VISION 2030** from Chair **Tate O'Rourke**, Jackson EMC, and **Elizabeth Higgins**, Executive Director. At **Against the Clock**, the class participated in "Against the Clock Real Life Escape Games" led by **Eric Merrell**, Owner.

### Thank You Program Sponsors

BatesCarter | Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville  
Chattahoochee Country Club

The 40th Class of Leadership Hall County's graduation took place in early June. The 41st Class – 43 members strong – begins their year-long program in July. To learn more about Leadership Hall and program sponsorship opportunities, call 770-532-6206.



## Leadership Hall Class of 2022-2023

The Greater Hall Chamber's Leadership Hall County (LHC) program celebrated its 40th anniversary this year and educates emerging and existing leaders to be integral players in the future of our community. The Chamber announces and congratulates the 43 members of the 41st Class of Leadership Hall County. Since its inception in 1982, 1,000 men and women representing our diversity have completed this program and taken their place as leaders in the community. **41st Class of Leadership Hall County (2022-2023):**

**Josh Adams**, City of Gainesville Police Department  
**Matthew Anthony**, Jackson EMC  
**Heather Barrett**, Hall County Board of Education  
**Andrei Boyarshinov**, Northeast Georgia Health System  
**Cindy Campbell**, Rushton  
**Abigail Carter**, North Georgia Community Foundation  
**Greg Cochran**, Hall County Sheriff's Office  
**Deanne Collins**, Lanier Technical College  
**LaShay Crosby**, King's Hawaiian  
**Travis Davis**, Lawson AC & Plumbing  
**Kelly Grizzle**, Jackson EMC  
**Jennifer Herring**, University of North Georgia  
**Heather Herrington**, Hall County Treatment Services  
**Garrett Hibbs**, UGA Extension Office  
**Jordan Hussey**, J's Place Recovery Center  
**Parisia Johnson**, Longstreet Clinic  
**Carli Jones**, Jaemor Farms  
**Brian Kinney**, McDonald's of NEGA  
**Grant Lasseter**, Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance  
**Michael Mantooth**, Good News Clinics  
**Brian Martinez**, Truist  
**Maranda McGaha**, Elachee Nature Science Center  
**Meghan Mitchell Fernandez**, United Way of Hall County  
**Hillary Neff**, Northeast Georgia Health System  
**Mark Pettitt**, Hall County Board of Education  
**Betsy Pruitt**, Chick-fil-A Gainesville  
**Casey Ramsey**, Hall County Administration  
**Chase Reed**, Ryals Brothers  
**Tonya Sanders**, Gainesville City School System  
**John Shackleford**, Eagle Ranch  
**Patrick Shuler**, Hall County District Attorney's Office  
**Kyle Specht**, Bitzer US Inc  
**John Strupe**, Stewart, Melvin, & Frost  
**Cassie Sullens**, Syfan Logistics  
**Gregory Sutton**, DPM, Lanier Foot & Ankle  
**Renee Sweeney**, Georgia Notary Pro  
**Daphaney Teaver**, Sisu of Georgia  
**Lori Thompson**, Jacobs Media  
**Mark VanTassel**, Greater Hall Chamber  
**Mandy Volpe**, Interactive Neighborhood for Kids  
**James Watson**, City of Gainesville/Lake Lanier Olympic Park  
**Layna Weldon**, Layna Weldon State Farm  
**Payne Wright**, Carroll Daniel Construction



## welcome new members

### Agape Project of Georgia

Christen Lott Hunte  
PO Box 1129  
Gainesville, GA 30503  
- Non-Profit  
[Facebook.com/Agape-Project-of-Georgia-Inc](https://www.facebook.com/Agape-Project-of-Georgia-Inc)  
678-485-1997

### Avison Young Sam Simpson

425 Spring Street SE  
Suite 200  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Commercial Real Estate  
[avisonyoung.com](http://avisonyoung.com)  
770-532-9911

### Double E Properties

Elizabeth Evans  
439 Green Street, NW  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Commercial Real Estate  
404-925-4045

### Hardy Chevrolet

Mike Cormier  
2115 Browns Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Automobile Dealer  
[hardychevrolet.com](http://hardychevrolet.com)  
770-532-4389

### Macaroni KID Gainesville GA

Chelcee Wright  
(Home Business)  
Gainesville, GA  
- Publications & Publishing  
[gainesvillega.macaronikid.com](http://gainesvillega.macaronikid.com)  
678-665-3214

### Northwestern Mutual

Jaaziel Palacios  
(Home Business)  
Gainesville, GA  
- Financial Services  
[Linkedin.com/in/jaaziel-palacios](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaaziel-palacios)  
770-503-5978

### Riverbend Baptist Church

Dawn Mullican  
1715 Cleveland Highway  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Non-Profit  
[riverbendchurch.life](http://riverbendchurch.life)  
678-510-3820

### Robert Williams State Farm

Robert Williams  
3280 McEver Road  
Suite 111  
Buford, GA 30518  
- Insurance  
[statefarm.com](http://statefarm.com)  
864-923-6310

### SMARTech Construction

Adrienne Cloud  
6303 Crest Village Circle  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542  
- Drone Services  
[smartechconstruction.com](http://smartechconstruction.com)  
706-658-7791

### Standard Service Restaurant and Taproom

Glenda Thompson  
400 Jesse Jewell Parkway  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Restaurant & Catering  
[standardservicega.com](http://standardservicega.com)  
678-971-1025

### The Bradford House and Gardens

Cyndi Virgilio  
6648 McEver Road  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542  
- Conf/Convention Center  
[bradfordhouseandgardens.com](http://bradfordhouseandgardens.com)  
770-967-7821

### Waste Eliminator

Kacy Cronan  
514 Main Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
- Business Services  
[wasteeliminator.com](http://wasteeliminator.com)  
678-617-4620



Many thanks to **Northside Hospital** for sponsoring the Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament at Legacy Golf Club at Lanier Islands. (L-R) **Kathy Galbraith**, Director of Business Development, Northside Hospital; **Dr. Jeremy Statton**, Northside Hospital Orthopedics/Arthritis & Total Joint Specialists; **Kit Dunlap**, President & CEO, Greater Hall Chamber. See highlights from Hackers Holiday on page 24.

## Get Involved – Join a Chamber Committee



The **VISION 2030 Public Art Committee** (above) at the 4th Annual Block pARTY at The Chair Factory in Midland Gainesville. Make the most of your Greater Hall Chamber membership. Join a committee, and be a part of the Chamber's important work. Join VISION 2030 volunteers, or sign up for one of the many other program opportunities – healthcare, small business, government, community development, issues, member development, marketing and so much more. Info: Kara Tate, 770-532-6206 x103. Email: [ktate@ghcc.com](mailto:ktate@ghcc.com).

## Chamber position opening Vice President, Membership Events

The Greater Hall Chamber has a position opening in the Membership Development Division. Responsibilities include managing networking programs and events including Business After Hours, Business Before Hours, HealthSmart Wellness Expo, Business Expo, Chamber Chase 5K & 2 Mile Wellness Walk and the Annual Meeting & Gala. **Mail Resume:** Human Resources, P. O. Box 347, Gainesville, GA 30503. **Email Resume:** [resumes@ghcc.com](mailto:resumes@ghcc.com)

## Benefits of Chamber Membership

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

Join today.  
770-532-6206



## ribbon cuttings

### Family Promise of Hall County



Executive Director **Lindsey McCamy** cuts the ribbon for **Family Promise of Hall County (FPHC)**, a nonprofit whose mission is to empower low-income individuals and families experiencing homelessness to achieve independence by providing needed services. In December 2019, FPHC relocated to The Homestead. This facility allows FPHC to house all programs and services under one roof with the ability to serve more families, provide greater stability for clients and guests, and more efficient use of operational resources. The FPHC vision is a community where every family has a stable home, a sustainable income, and hope for a better future! 3606 McEver Road, Oakwood, GA. 770-535-0786. [FamilyPromiseHall.org](http://FamilyPromiseHall.org)

### Restroom Stalls and All



**Josh Williams**, vice president, and **Jim Southard**, president, cut a ribbon at **SouthCo Supply**, dba **Restroom Stalls and All**, a HUBZone-certified business in Gainesville. SouthCo Supply partners with the federal government, OEM contractors and general contractors to provide quotes and turnkey solutions for Division-10 projects. Specialties are kitting, integration, and emergency response preparatory kits and they perform installations, renovations, and life-cycle tool management. Products include commercial restroom partitions and accessories and specialty items such as display boards, signage, storage items, and more. 2258 Hardwood Circle, Gainesville, GA 30507. 770 857-3010. [restroomstallsandall.com](http://restroomstallsandall.com)

### Aesthetics 441 and IV Bar



(L-R) **Haley R. Lowman**, BSN, RN *Infusion Specialist*; **Theresa M. Panter**, MSN, FNP-C (*Cutting Ribbon*); **Sharon Jones**, LPN, *Licensed Esthetician*; **Michea Papp**, *Aesthetic Coordinator*, cut a ribbon to celebrate the opening of Aesthetics 441 and IV Bar in Gainesville. Aesthetics 441 and IV Bar is a medical spa providing the most up-to-date non-surgical treatments to enhance beauty and overall wellness for clients. With a full nursing staff, the highly trained, licensed medical team takes pride in offering top quality skin care products, injectables, lasers, and other cosmetic services to help clients achieve their goals. The infusion bar menu consists of a wide variety of vitamin and mineral blends along with a boost of hydration. 441 EE Butler Parkway, Gainesville, GA 30501. 470-441-4141. [aesthetics441.com](http://aesthetics441.com)

### Style Collectif



**Abby Murry**, owner, celebrated **Style Collectif's 4th Anniversary** with an open house and ribbon cutting (L-R) **Anna Bennett**, *House Dressing Interiors*; **Carla Walker**, *IHS Law, LLC*; **Tammy Caudell**, *Carroll Daniel Construction*; **Abby Murray**, *Style Collectif*; **Beverly Filson**, *The Norton Agency*; **Whitney Brown**, *Stewart, Melvin & Frost*; **Nikki Chandler**, *Greater Hall Chamber*; **Tate O'Rourke**, *Jackson EMC*; **Elizabeth Thompson**, *House Dressing Interiors*. Style Collectif is a contemporary women's boutique in Gainesville that offers a variety of brands in store and online. Styling services and closet edits are available by appointment. 1062 Thompson Bridge Road, Suite B4, Gainesville, GA 30501. [stylecollectif.com](http://stylecollectif.com)

## ribbon cuttings

### MyGeorgia Credit Union



**Tammy Harris** cuts a ribbon at **MyGeorgia Credit Union's South Hall Office**, 5900 Spout Springs Road, Suite W2, in Flowery Branch. MyGeorgia Credit Union has now evolved to serve the banking needs of more than 20,000 members in a 12-county district of North Georgia. Setting themselves apart from other financial institutions, their focus on members instead of profits allows for a full range of financial services specifically designed to meet members' needs and provide substantial savings with an overall scope of Helping People Afford Life™.



(L-R) **Joe Foster**, President cuts a ribbon at **MyGeorgia Credit Union's Gainesville Office**, located at 2601 Limestone Parkway in Gainesville. For more on MyGeorgia Credit Union, visit [mygacu.com](http://mygacu.com).

### Skogie's Lakefront Restaurant



Owners **Tony and Heather Jonovitch** cut the ribbon for **Skogie's Lakefront Restaurant** in Gainesville. Skogie's has reopened for the season and celebrated their newly renovated outdoor dining area with a ribbon cutting. The updates provide additional and improved seating options for guests while they dine outside and enjoy views of Lake Lanier. Live entertainment is offered Friday through Sunday, and an All-You-Can-Eat brunch buffet is available on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The buffet is \$14.99 and includes egg dishes, biscuits and pancakes. Boaters can park at Gainesville Marina's courtesy slips, or drive to the restaurant at 2151 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville. 678-450-1310. [Facebook.com/Skogieslakefrontrestaurant](https://www.facebook.com/Skogieslakefrontrestaurant)

## Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 8

**FALL Job Fair & Career Expo**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Gainesville Civic Center

Wednesday, OCTOBER 5

**HealthSmart Wellness Expo**

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Lanier Technical College | Ramsey Conference Center

Thursday, NOVEMBER 17

**Industry Appreciation Luncheon**

11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lanier Technical College | Ramsey Conference Center

Thursday, DECEMBER 8

**Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast**

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Lanier Technical College | Ramsey Conference Center

**Sponsorships Available!**

Info & Registration: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

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.

# Hackers Holiday Highlights

April 22, 2022

Legacy on Lanier Golf | Club Lanier Islands



Winner 1st Flight: **Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United Gainesville Team** (L-R) John Duffy, Fred Butler, T. Cody Elder and Moses Finch.



Winner 2nd Flight: **AT&T Team** (L-R) Brandon Hartley, Gavin Williams, Rich Johnson and Brian Barfield.

Winner of the \$1,000  
Cash Prize Raffle!

## Individual Medalists



**Andrew Thomason**  
Carroll Daniel Construction



Closest to the Pin  
**Terry Brown**  
Liberty



Womens Longest Drive  
**Kelly Miles**  
Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles



Mens Longest Drive  
**Ryan Brunatti**  
G & F Group



Winner 3rd Flight: **Economic Development Team** (L-R) Grant Cagle, *Electric Cities of Georgia*; Greg Syfan, *Syfan Logistics*; Shaun Dodson, *Georgia EMC*.

## Upcoming Chamber Events

**Tuesday, June 21**

**South Hall Business Coalition**  
The Driving Club at Road Atlanta  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
5290 Winder Highway | Braselton

**Tuesday, June 28**

**Business After Hours**  
**Pro-Genex**  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
669 Lanier Park Drive | Gainesville

**Tuesday, July 12**

**Small Business Seminar**  
"Work-Based Learning 101" presented by  
**Rhonda Samples**, *Hall County Schools*, and  
**Natalie Smith**, *Gainesville City Schools*  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber & via Zoom

**Tuesday, July 26**

**Business After Hours**  
**Georgia Mountain Food Bank**  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gainesville

**Tuesday, August 9**

**Small Business Seminar**  
"Workforce Solutions for Small Business"  
by **Shelley Logan**, *Workforce Strategies Group*  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber & via Zoom



Register online: [GHCC.com/EVENTS](http://GHCC.com/EVENTS)

THANK YOU Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament Sponsors!

Northside Hospital

AT&T · Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United Gainesville · Conditioned Air Systems  
Delta Community Credit Union · Gainesville Mechanical · Hydro Extrusion USA  
Liberty · Northeast Georgia Health System

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #92  
GAINESVILLE, GA

CAR-RT SORT