

CHAMBER CONNECT

05
2025

MAY 02 | New Member Breakfast
MAY 06 | Business After Hours
MAY 07 | Health & Wellness Seminar
MAY 13 | Small Business Seminar
MAY 15 | Annual Meeting & Gala

Business After Hours



Thank you **JT Stratford Wealth Management** for hosting an outstanding networking event with great food, drink and fellowship. (L-R) JT Stratford's **Courtney Tyner, Bryan Hogan, Hunter Parker, Travis Echols and Gus Hames** at Business After Hours. Don't miss **Business After Hours** on **May 6** at the **Habitat for Humanity of Hall County ReStore** for an evening of music, tacos and margaritas while we network and celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Issues Committee



(Front, L-R) State Representative **Matt Dubnik** and State Senator **Drew Echols** presented the program at the Greater Hall Chamber's April Issues Committee meeting and provided a review of the legislative session. (Back, L-R) **Tim Evans**, Chamber President & CEO; Chamber Government Affairs Vice Chair **David Lee**, Jackson EMC; Chamber Chairman **Glennis Barnes**, Georgia Power.

117th Annual Meeting & Gala Thursday, May 15

Chattahoochee Country Club



Chamber Chairman **Glennis Barnes**, Georgia Power, and Chair-Elect **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College.

Join us for an Elegant Evening Celebrating a Year of Success with the Presentation of the Annual Business Awards.

Scan for Reservations

Black Tie Optional
Outdoor Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program 7:00 p.m.
\$150 per person | \$1,600 Table (seats 10)
Info: Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In This Issue

Committee Meetings | New Members
Ribbon Cuttings | Hackers Holiday Highlights
Youth Leadership | Upcoming Events



Tim Evans President & CEO
Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

Small Business is Big Business in Gainesville-Hall County

The Greater Hall Chamber will recognize our Small and Family Businesses of the Year at the upcoming 117th Annual Meeting & Gala on Thursday, May 15. Small Business is big business in Hall County and in addition to recognizing small business success, your Chamber offers resources, networking, and economic development support.

Of the 5,957 businesses registered in Hall County, 99% of those are independently owned small businesses that bring character, innovation, jobs and vitality to our economy. Their success is deeply intertwined with the health of our region.

National Small Business Week is May 4-10, and we hope that brings more awareness to the importance of supporting local businesses. Each time you shop locally, dine at a neighborhood restaurant, or hire a local service provider, you are directly investing in the prosperity of our community.

How your Greater Hall Chamber Supports Small Business

The Chamber is proud to champion the small businesses that make our community unique and advocate for policies that promote entrepreneurship. We offer programs specific to small business, including: Marketing Workshops, Monthly Small Business Seminars, Small Business Guide of Partners and Resources, and Small Business of the Month Recognition.

Small businesses are more than just economic contributors — they are community builders, innovators, and local heroes. As we look toward the future, it is essential that we continue to support and celebrate the small businesses that make our community strong. We are stronger when we shop locally, invest locally, and do business together.

Join us for an Elegant Evening CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS

Presented by the Board of Directors of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Chairman
Glennis Barnes | Chairman-Elect Tim McDonald | President & CEO Tim Evans

117TH ANNUAL MEETING & GALA Thursday, May 15th 6:00 p.m. at the Chattahoochee Country Club

Annual Business Awards

Small Business of the Year & Family Business of the Year
W.G. Mealor Chairman's Award
Community Service Award & Distinguished Citizen Award

Black Tie Optional

Outdoor Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program 7:00 p.m.

\$150 per person · \$1,600 Table (seats 10)

Sponsorships

Platinum \$3,500 · Gold \$2,500

Reservations Required

Reservations & Sponsorships:
770-532-6206 x 115 · ecardin@ghcc.com



Scan the QR Code
for Reservations
and Sponsorships



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Programs & Events

South Hall Business Coalition

Thursday, May 8

Lanier Islands Resort

9:00-10:00 am

Legacy Lodge



Join the South Hall Business Coalition at **Lanier Islands Resort** for a presentation by **Matthew Bowling**, President of Lanier Islands. While we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lanier Islands this year, Matthew will update us on all the exciting news for the 2025 Summer Season, including Georgia's first water slide coaster! Enjoy breakfast and great networking. [CLICK HERE to register.](#)

The South Hall Business Coalition is sponsored by **AccessWDUN**, **King's Hawaiian**, **Milton Martin Honda**, **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton**, **Signs by Tomorrow** and **South Hall Rotary**.

\$8 Chamber Member | \$15 Non-Member | Light Breakfast
Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115. [Email Ellie](#)

Health & Wellness



Kranti Peddada, MD, of **Peachtree Orthopedics** discussed the essential factors for maintaining strong and healthy bones and joints throughout life. (L-R) **Dr. Rosalie Mattiola**, Northeast Georgia Medical Center Graduate Medical Education Resident; **Dr. Kranti Peddada**, Peachtree Orthopedics; **Dr. Philip Kimsey**, Foothills Functional Medicine; **Dr. Deanne Collins**, Lanier Technical College.

The **Health & Wellness Seminar** on **May 7** (9-10am) will discuss developments in maternal healthcare education programs. In partnership with HOPE for Georgia Moms, Northeast Georgia Health System's Women & Children's Center and Center for Simulation & Innovation is making critical strides in addressing maternal health risks. Through specialized training programs, NGHS is equipping healthcare providers with the skills needed to respond effectively to life-threatening obstetric emergencies. Attend in person or via Zoom. [Link to register and learn more.](#)

Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament



The First Place Team was **AT&T**. (L-R) **Brandon Hartley**, **Gavin Williams**, **Brian Barfield** and **Rich Johnson**,



The Second Place Team was **Pinnacle Bank**. (L-R) **Nathan Hamby**, **Alan Howard**, **Luke Kinsey** and **Carter Cagle**.



Mens Longest Drive
Luke Kinsey
Pinnacle Bank



Womens Longest Drive
Tammy Miller
Coca-Cola Bottling Co



Closest to the Pin
Tony Sanders FCL
Builders

Thank You Tournament Sponsors!

Northside Hospital

AT&T • Caldwell Electrical Contractors • Carroll Daniel Construction
Coca-Cola Bottling UNITED Gainesville • Gainesville Mechanical
Jackson EMC • Margaritaville at Lanier Islands • Milton Martin Honda
Northeast Georgia Health System • Turner Wood & Smith Insurance

Meetings & Events



Forum Communications' **Katie Dubnik** and **Nick Kastner** presented the **Marketing Workshop** with over 80 members in attendance. The program addressed agile marketing with valuable tips for success. (LR) **Nick Kastner**, *Forum*; **Missy Burgess**, *Lanier Islands Resort* (event sponsor); **Katie Dubnik**, *Forum*; **Linda Barton, PhD**, *Brenau University* (event host); **Steve Naughton**, *Enterprising Solutions*.



The **South Hall Business Coalition** recently met at **King's Hawaiian** for an overview and tour of the bakery, followed by a tasting of the sweet rolls fresh from the oven.



Nearly 100 Commercial Real Estate (CRE) professionals and community leaders met and discussed demographics, development trends and logistics at the Chamber's recent meeting, hosted and sponsored by Jackson EMC. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*; CRE Co-Chairs **Floyd Baldwin**, *IPG*, and **Tate O'Rouke**, *Jackson EMC*; **Drew Addison**, *IPG*; Chamber Chairman **Glennis Barnes**, *Georgia Power*; **Ryan Jackson**, *Chamber*; **Will Wright**, *Atlanta Regional Commission*; **Lauren Price**, *Georgia EMC*; **Taylor Worley**, *Georgia Ports Authority*.

MAY 2025

Friday, May 2

New Member Breakfast

9:00-10:00 am | Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Tuesday, May 6

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Horizon Academy

Tuesday, May 6

Business After Hours

5:00-7:00 pm | Habitat for Humanity ReStore
2380 Murphy Blvd in Gainesville

Wednesday, May 7

Healthcare & Wellness Seminar

9:00-10:00 am | Chamber or via Zoom

Thursday, May 8

South Hall Business Coalition

9:00-10:00 am | Lanier Islands Resort

Thursday, May 8

Vision 2030 Block pARTy

6:00 - 8:00 pm | Historic City Hall

Friday, May 9

Network Over Coffee

9:00 am | Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville

Tuesday, May 13

Small Business Seminar

8:30-9:30 am | Chamber or via Zoom

Tuesday, May 13

Ambassador Council

3:45 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, May 14

Human Resource Council

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, May 15

Executive Committee

8:30 am | Chamber

Thursday, May 15

117th Annual Meeting & Gala

6:00 - 9:00 pm | Chattahoochee Country Club

Wednesday, May 21

Issues Committee

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Thursday, May 22

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00-1:30 pm | Lanier Technical College

Friday, May 23

Network Over Coffee

9:00 am | The Laurel at Flowery Branch Apts

Membership

Welcome New Members

AVA Oakwood

Taylor Scalera
404-854-4429
avaoakwood.com

Butch's at White Sulphur Farms

Mary Hemmer
(470) 290-5348
butchsmarket.com

CON-SEN-SUS Consulting

LeTrell Simpson
(678) 997-1232

El Salvador Restaurant

Ronald Araujo
(470) 290-5151

ESKOLA Roofing & Waterproofing

Ashley Feltner
(678) 920-4873
eskolaroofing.com

Espera Cooper, Inc

Martha Robertson
(678) 696-8872
nova.espera.com

HIPnation

Vicky Cooke-Thornton
(770) 855-4201
hipnation.com

JB PRO South

Ben Shirley
(706) 424-1166
jbprosouth.com

Kargo Technologies Corp

Dan Wallace
(253) 240-6361
mykargo.com

Lydia J. Sartain, P.C

Katie Adams
(470) 252-5001
lydiasartain.com

Mathnasium of Flowery Branch

Gary McKenney
(770) 847-6284
mathnasium.com/flowerybranch

Oconee State Bank

Kevin Jones
(706) 769-6611
oconeestatebank.com

Quinn Residences

Crescent Valley
Jessica Epley
(678) 910-6405
crescentvalleyhomes.com

Resurgens

Ellen Comeaux
(404) 226-8985
resurgens.com

Southcreek Luxury Properties

Susan Verlander
(770) 855-5204
southcreekluxuryproperties.com

The Crest at Oakwood

McKenah Medlin
(470) 470-6228
crestoakwood.com

Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen & Bar

Amanda Stevens
(678) 207-3300
tupelohoneycafe.com

United Pump and Controls, Inc.

Jessica Benton
(770) 662-0440
unitedpump.com

Scan to the QR Code to
Join the Chamber Now!



New 7 Brew coffee stand in Oakwood



Max Pontrelli, COO of Rocket Brew (a franchise group of 7 Brew), cuts a ribbon for the new coffee stand in Oakwood. **7 Brew** is a drive-thru concept revolutionizing the coffee industry that offers over 20,000 unique drink combinations. From the original Blondie, a caramel and vanilla breve, to 7 Energy, smoothies, shakes and teas, there is something for everyone at 7 Brew. The company prioritizes cultivating kindness and joy with every drink. To celebrate the opening and ribbon-cutting of its newest location in Georgia, 7 Brew Oakwood presented a donation to the **Humane Society of Northeast Georgia**, and **Erin Askounis** was on-site to receive the donation. 7brew.com

MEMBER NEWS

Kristie Turner, a planner with the **Hall County Government Planning & Zoning Department** has been named director of Development Services, effective May 19. She previously served as the county planner/ interim building department manager in Casper, Wyoming. hallcounty.org

Elachee Nature Science Center welcomes **Chris Romberg** to the team as the new Director of Park Operations. Chris brings his extensive experience and passion for the outdoors to support Elachee's conservation and land management efforts in the Chicopee Woods Area Park. elachee.org

Georgia Heart Institute (GHI) announces **Haley Harrison** as Vice President, with oversight of the heart and vascular services of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS). Harrison most recently served as executive director of Piedmont Heart and previously worked with NGHS as a clinical simulation nurse educator. GHI is one of the largest cardiology practices in the region with over 120 clinicians and 12 locations. georgiaheartinstitute.org

Eagle Ranch's Family Fest is June 14 with tons of activities, including festival games, inflatables, cotton candy, and more. Food trucks and vendors will be on hand and Benefit Races (Run the Ranch 5K, Fun Run, and Nature Walk) are affordable, with a special discount for families. Online registration is required for FREE admission. Visit eagleranch.org to sign up.

The Rotary Club of Gainesville's **4th annual Midland Music Fest** is Saturday, May 24 at 5pm. Enjoy Live Music at the Amphitheater at the Midland Greenway. Featured artists include The Wildflowers (A Tom Petty Tribute), Cole Grover Music, and the Midland Fest Family Band. Tickets, \$20 presale; \$25 at the door. Tickets: midlandmusicfest.com

Dana Miller has joined **The Children's Center for Hope & Healing** as the new Director of Development, responsible for increasing financial support to sustain and expand programs dedicated to stopping the cycle of child sexual abuse and to preventing the exploitation of children.

hopeandhealingga.org

Education & Leadership

Youth Leadership Hall Class of 2026

The Greater Hall Chamber announces the 21st class of Youth Leadership Hall (YLH) with 80 students representing all 12 public and private high schools in Gainesville-Hall County. Initiated in 2005, the program now has 1,320 student graduates. A program for high school juniors and seniors, YLH seeks to provide an investment in the community's future leadership by fostering interest in the community and inspiring students to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Cherokee Bluff High School

Alaina Jordan
Ansley Buday
Connor Cook
Cree Carter
Emma Hall
Gavin Price
Jaden Scarbrough

Chestatee High School

Adelyn Romero-Gomez
Alan Guajardo
Bethany Turpen
Ella Kinsey
Natalie Sykes
Peyton Kennedy
Tania Correa Garcia

East Hall High School

Elizabeth Newberry
Emma Bagwell
Emmanuel Hernandez
Eva Sanchez
Haley Barton
Sterling Clendenning

Flowery Branch High School

Carson Peacock
Elizabeth Harris
Emma Henry
Gage Breakfield
Julianna McDonald
Kaylee Baker
Rylan Guilbeau
Cooper Sease

Gainesville High School

Alexandra Gomez
Brooklyn Phillips
Callie Carlisle
Eliza Norton
Elizabeth Jessup
Hayden Graham
Jacob Norton
Rhett Griffin
Sawyer Fleming
Tayler Nguyen
Virginia Rogers
William Rogers
Zion Clark

Johnson High School

Elena Hernandez Quinteros
Harbor Landers
Kailyn Artman
Layda Obenauf
Oscar Jimenez Gonzlez
Sarahi Argueta
Zealand McCain

Lakeview Academy

Anabelle Baxter
Hannah Cobb
Isabekka Caplan
Jackson Kirchner
Knowles Thompson
Parker White

Lanier Christian Academy

Anna Grant
Anna Simeone
Elisabeth Knuteson
Khue Duong

Lanier College & Career Academy

Yazmine Hernandez
Abraham Flores Carter
Alexandria Noriega
Katherine Cardona-Flores

North Hall High School

Ansley Fauscett
Daniel Jones
James Floyd
Madison Etter
Rey Zavala
Sara Gross
Tucker Toms

Riverside Military Academy

Caleb Young
Christopher Olmstead
Colton Meeks
Konstantin Kolotov
Nathaniel Onasanya

West Hall High School

Ansley Martin
Jemma Analeigh Perez
Orenstine Imanishimwe
Antonella Gaiti Ocando
Annie Lasseter
Jemma "Ricky" Brooks

The 2025 Class of Youth Leadership Hall graduated with a ceremony at Lake Lanier Olympic Park where the students enjoyed Dragon Boat Racing.

For more on Youth Leadership or Leadership Hall County: Lisa McCormack, 770-532-6206, or lmccormack@ghcc.com



Ribbon Cuttings

Falcon Landing by D.R. Horton

Tim Arnold, Atlanta West Division President, cuts a ribbon at **D.R. Horton's** new home community – **Falcon Landing**. Located on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, the community will offer variety of townhomes and single-family homes. Residents will have access to the lake with 56 available boat slips. Located off Chestatee Road past the Cool Springs Road intersection, Falcon Landing offers easy access to Highway 53, GA-400 and I-985. The homes in Falcon Landing will be zoned for Sardis Elementary, Chestatee Middle, and Chestatee High Schools. All D.R. Horton homes are built with integrated smart home technology to both simplify and secure your life and home. drhorton.com



British Swimming of Jackson/Hall County



Owner **Val Jones** cuts a ribbon at the **British Swim School of Jackson-Hall County** at 1755 Browns Bridge Road in Gainesville. British Swim School is the premier learn-to-swim provider for people of all ages, offering programs for children ages 3 months through adults. They use gentle, progressive teaching methods and a survival-first approach to help people of all experience levels become safer, stronger swimmers. The safe, fun and effective instructional program has been the preferred choice for parents/students for over 40 years. britishswimschool.com

Waypoint by D.R. Horton

Shaun Phelps, Division Vice President of City Operations for D.R. Horton Atlanta West, cuts a ribbon for **Waypoint**, a new community of townhomes offering modern living in the heart of Flowery Branch. From 1,857 square feet, these homes combine style and functionality with open concept layouts, luxury vinyl flooring, quartz coun-tertops, and stainless steel appliances. Waypoint is packed with amenities for all ages, including a playground, covered pavilion, and open lawn, perfect for relaxing afternoons. The homes in Waypoint are zoned for Flowery Branch Elementary, West Hall Middle, and West Hall High School with proximity to I-985 and I-85. drhorton.com



Community

Residential Beautification Award



It took every bit of a year for **Nancy Sykes** to completely renovate her 928 square foot home at 419 Prior Street in Gainesville – our Residential Beautification Award Recipient. The home she calls “**Little Cottage Pink Door**” was built in 1910, making it 115 years old. Everything in the house, including the wiring, plumbing, HVAC, roof, and more had to be replaced. Nancy said, “This cottage is perfect for me. I love history and often think of the stories related to this house. It survived the great tornado in 1936, and my inspector said the wood in the house is so hard that you can’t possibly drive a nail into it!”

Nancy Sykes at her home at 419 Prior Street in Gainesville.

Hanley, NGHS President & CEO Gainesville Coca-Cola Partnership



Chamber Chair Elect **Tim McDonald** (left) and President & CEO **Tim Evans** (right) welcomed **Matt Hanley, MD**, new President and CEO of **Northeast Georgia Health System**, at the Chamber's April Board of Directors meeting. Hanley relocated from St. Louis and took over the position from Carol Burrell who recently retired. nghs.com

Thank you **Gainesville Coca-Cola United Bottling Company** for your continued support and partnership with the Greater Hall Chamber and for sponsoring the Chamber's Board of Directors meeting in April. (L-R) **Steven Shows**, Gainesville Coca-Cola, **Nikki Chandler**, **Marissa Maynor** and **Ellie Cardin**, Chamber; **Cassidy Cunningham**, **Quinn Seay**, **David Crouse**, Gainesville Coca-Cola United Bottling Co.

Vision 2030



Don't miss Vision 2030's **Public Art Block Party** on **May 8** at the **Historic Gainesville City Hall** with food trucks, music and art by local artists for sale for \$100 or less. Proceeds from the event will fund new public art in our community.

Scan for tickets:



Local artists and businesses collaborated to create community and share their art with Downtown Gainesville at the Art Walk in April. **Oliver Villanueva**, a 4th grader at Tadmore Elementary, and his teacher **Elizabeth Egan** were on hand for the highlighting of his art, now installed at the Hunt Tower in Downtown Gainesville.

AgriBusiness Awards



AgriBusiness Award Recipients were honored at a breakfast at Jaemor Farms on April 23. (L-R) **Senator Drew Echols**, Jaemor Farms; **Nath Morris**, AgriBusiness Man of the Year; **Randall and Denise Conner**, Friend of Agriculture; **Johnny Vardeman**, Agriculture Hall of Fame; **Jim Henderson**, Agriculture Hall of Fame; **Jerry Truelove**, Farmer of the Year; **Garrett Hibbs**, UGA/Hall County Extension. AgriBusiness Awards are presented annually by the Chamber, the Hall County Farm Bureau, and UGA Extension Hall County. The event was sponsored by **Jackson EMC**.

UPCOMING

Friday, MAY 2
New Member Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Tuesday, MAY 6
Business After Hours
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Thursday, MAY 8
Public Art Block Party
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Historic Gainesville City Hall

Thursday, MAY 15
117th Annual Meeting & Gala
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Chattahoochee Country Club



Scan for the Chamber Events Calendar

For Event Sponsorships:
Ellie Cardin, VP Events
770-532-6206 x 115
Email: ecardin@ghcc.com

Small Business

Upcoming Seminar

Tuesday, May 13

8:15 - 8:30 am: Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am: Program

In Person at the Chamber or via Zoom



Christopher Greene
University of North GA

What is AI?

Christopher Greene, an esteemed academic and innovation leader, is director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at UNG. He will discuss Artificial Intelligence (AI), the different types of AI, and how it is applied in various industries, such as healthcare, finance, and entertainment. He'll cover its potential benefits, challenges, and ethical considerations.

ung.edu

Sponsored by AccessWDUN, Caldwell Electrical Contractors, Delta Community Credit Union, Gainesville Mechanical, Small Business Access Partners and The Times.

No Charge for Chamber Members INFO: Emily Pearce,
770-532-6206 x 111. Email Emily

Become a Chamber CERTIFIED Small Business Partner by participating in six (6) Small Business Seminars in a year.

CERTIFIED Partners Receive

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

To learn more, contact Emily Pearce
770-532-6206 x 111
epearce@ghcc.com

Station 300

Small Business of the Month



Station 300 was recognized as the Small Business of the Month at the Chamber's recent Board Meeting. (L-R) Chamber Chairman-Elect **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College; **Cheyenne Ergle**, general manager, Station 300; Membership Development Co-Chairs **Beth Downs**, Northeast Georgia Health System, and **John Simpson**, Lakeview Academy.

Station 300 Gainesville, a family-owned bowling center, located on Browns Bridge Road, provides a top-quality bowling experience at family friendly prices so bowling guests and families return again and again. Along with bowling they offer an arcade, a full menu and a full bar, for adults. Go check out Station 300 and see all they have to offer. station300gainesville.com



The Greater Hall Chamber is adding to its Team!

Intern – Economic Development

- Part-time position
- Administrative & clerical duties
- Economic and Membership Development
- Social Media assistance

Submit resumes to resumes@ghcc.com

CONTACT US

770-532-6206

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VP, Member Operations
cwilbanks@ghcc.com

Marissa Maynor
VP, Membership Sales
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Ellie Cardin
VP, Events
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Emily Pearce
ED Marketing Manager
epearce@ghcc.com

GOT NEWS? Email Kemie West, kwest@ghcc.com