

CHAMBERCONNECT

12 &
01
2025-26

DEC 04 | Business After Hours
DEC 11 | Eggs & Issues Breakfast
JAN 08 | South Hall Business Coalition
JAN 21 | Marketing Workshop
JAN 27 | Economic & Political Forecast

Member Networking Events



Business After Hours at **Northside Hospital Diagnostic Clinic's** newly renovated offices in Gainesville. (L-R) **Shanna Cronic**, retired, NHDC; **Chad Bolton** and **Erin Green**, Northside Hospital.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, December 4

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Hall at Bourbon Brothers



Join us for an evening of music, food and drink! Hosted by Bourbon Brothers, Hall County's best live music and event center, and The Hall, a full-service event center and live music venue bringing you all your favorite artists while serving up Southern staples from sister restaurant right next door.

bourbonbrothersga.com • thehallga.com

Door Prizes | Networking | Cash Prize Drawing

Economic & Political Forecast

Tuesday, January 27

8:30 am Lanier Technical College
Ramsey Conference Center

Join us for a panel discussion with local business and political leaders on the current economic and political climate and the effects on business and our community.



Matt Hanley, MD
President & CEO
NEGA Health System



Todd Donaldson
Sr VP, Preconstruction
Carroll Daniel



Frank Norton, Jr.
CEO & Chairman
The Norton Agency



Ryan Owen
VP, Administration
Kubota Manufacturing

Reservations Required

\$15 Chamber Member | \$25 Non-Member
\$200 Table (seats 10)

Includes Light Breakfast

Ryan Jackson 770-532-6206 x 110 | [Email Ryan](mailto:ryan@chamberconnect.com)

Scan to Register



Greater Hall Chamber's Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast

Thursday, December 11

7:30 am - 9:30 am

Lanier Technical College
Ramsey Conference Center



Featuring a Panel Discussion with the Hall County Legislative Delegation



Senator Drew Echols
49th Senate District



Senator Bo Hatchett
50th Senate District



Rep. Lee Hawkins
27th House District



Rep. Brent Cox
28th House District



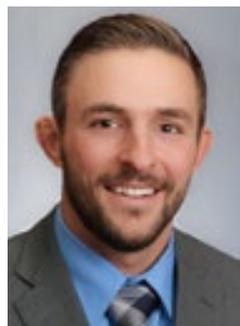
Rep. Matt Dubnik
29th House District



Rep. Derrick McCollum
30th House District



Rep. Emory Dunahoo
31st House District



Rep. David Clark
100th House District



Rep. Soo Hong
103rd House District

**Open
to the
Public**



\$40 Chamber Member | \$50 Guest | \$400 Table (8) | Reservations Required | Full Buffet Breakfast
Reservations: Gerri Collins, 770-532-6206 x 106. Email: gcollins@ghcc.com | GreaterHallChamber.com

Small Business

Planning for Success in 2026



The recent **Small Business Seminar** focused on business planning with **Andrea Corona of Tax Savings Advisors**, and **Britt Sawyer of Sawyer Media Group**. (L-R) Small Business Council Chair **Steve Naughton, SCORE**; **Justin Hicks, i9 Sports**; **Britt Sawyer**; **Andrea Corona**; **Philip Elliott, Peachy Portable Potties**.

Small Business Seminar Tuesday, December 9

8:15 - 8:30 am Networking | 8:30 - 9:30 am Program
In Person at the Chamber *or* via Zoom

What the One Big Beautiful Bill Means for You



Christina Page, CPA
Rushton



Jennifer Pazdzior, EA
Rushton

Rushton's tax specialists Christina Page and Jennifer Pazdzior will provide a clear, practical look at how the sweeping One Big Beautiful Bill legislation affects individuals and small business owners. They'll break down what's changing, what's staying the same, and what it all means for your future.

rushton.cpa

No Charge for Chamber Members

[Register Here](#)

Small Business Council Sponsors

Anderson Computer Network Services
Caldwell Electrical Contractors • Cochran Brothers Electric Co
Gainesville Mechanical • Small Business Access Partners

Small Business of the Month



Brian Brown, owner of CertaPro Painters of Northeast Georgia.

Locally owned and operated **CertaPro Painters of Northeast Georgia** provides residential and commercial painting services to the communities around Lake Lanier, up to Hiawassee, and over to Lavonia. While CertaPro Painters® is North America's largest painting company, franchise owners Brian and Julia Brown live right here in Hall County. CertaPro's founders created a company focused on removing the uncertainty and anxiousness for customers, and Brian and Julia's team delivers on this concept with detailed proposals and exceptional communication throughout the process. Their CertaPro Painters® team members are skilled professionals who take great pride in their work. They will arrive on time, keep you informed, deliver what is promised and guarantee their work. Giving back is very important to the Browns as they are active in their church and strong supporters of Georgia Mountain Food Bank. certapro.com/northeast-ga/

Networking Over Coffee

Join Chamber members and friends for networking before work. Network Over Coffee meetings are held bimonthly at various member businesses and restaurants in Gainesville-Hall County.

Friday, December 5

T-Mobile

9:00 - 10:00 am

5900 Spout Springs Road
Flowery Branch

Friday, January 30

McAlister's Deli

9:00 - 10:00 am

1799 Jesse Jewell Parkway
Gainesville

Friday, January 16

Atlanta Speedwerks

9:00 - 10:00 am

470 Woodsmill Road, Suite E
Gainesville

Friday, February 13

Peachtree Orthopedics

9:00 - 10:00 am

1524 River Place, Suite 200
Braselton

INFO: Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206, cwilbanks@ghcc.com

Meetings & Events

South Hall Business Coalition



The Greater Hall Chamber's South Hall Business Coalition recently heard an **Economic Development Update** by **Tim Evans**, President & CEO of the Greater Hall Chamber. The breakfast meeting was held at Jack's Public House and sponsored by Tony Funari and Funari Realty. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, Chamber; South Hall Council Chair **Alex Wayne**, Wayne Capital; **Scott Griggs**, Trainz.com; **Tony Funari**, Funari Realty, and the **Funari Realty Team** – **Kelly Ann Rhodes**, **Tiffany Ivey**, **Bianca Herrera**, **Mary Ellen Heishman**, **Cindy Keller** and **Beckham Hunter**.

Farm City Breakfast



The **Annual Farm City Breakfast** was hosted by **UGA Extension Hall County**, **Hall County Farm Bureau**, and the **Greater Hall Chamber**. **Garrett Hibbs** (left), UGA Extension Hall County, and Keynote Speaker **Tony Llano** (center), University of Georgia College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, are pictured with **FFA and 4H students from Hall County Schools**. Since 1955, the National Farm City Council has supported educational programming to build interdependence between rural and urban citizens, and the President of the U.S. has annually proclaimed the week leading to and including Thanksgiving Day as National Farm City Week. Agriculture is the number one industry in Georgia, contributing \$83 billion to our state's economy each year. Hall County's agriculture and agribusiness provides 6% of the total value at \$5.5 billion. This makes us the largest single contributor of the state's total agricultural value. We are also ranked first in the state for the number of jobs related to agriculture, with over 17,000.

Upcoming

Wednesday, December 3

Health & Wellness Seminar

9:00 - 10:00 am

Chamber *or* via Zoom

Thursday, December 4

Business After Hours

The Hall at Bourbon Brothers

5:00 - 7:00 pm | Downtown Gainesville

Friday, December 5

Network Over Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 am

T-Mobile | Flowery Branch

Tuesday, December 9

Small Business Seminar

8:30 - 9:30 am

Chamber *or* via Zoom

Wednesday, December 10

Human Resource Council

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, December 11

Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast

7:30 - 9:30 am

Lanier Technical College

Tuesday, December 16

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Thursday, December 18

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, January 7

Health & Wellness Seminar

9:00 - 10:00 am

Chamber *or* via Zoom

Thursday, January 8

South Hall Business Coalition

8:30 am - 9:30 am

INK | Oakwood

Wednesday, January 21

Marketing Workshop

8:30 - 10:30 am

Brenau Downtown Center

Tuesday, January 27

Economic & Political Forecast

8:30 - 10:30 am

Lanier Technical College

Scan for the
Chamber Events
Calendar





Marketing Workshop Wednesday, January 21

8:30 -10:30am | Brenau Downtown Center

Finding Your Voice

How Brands Stay Authentic in an AI World

When artificial intelligence can generate content, automate campaigns, and predict consumer behavior, what keeps your brand truly unique?

The team at Forum Communications will discuss how organizations can maintain a consistent, authentic brand presence in an AI-driven environment. They'll discuss the intersection of storytelling, digital and traditional marketing tactics, and the importance of building a voice that is unmistakably human, no matter the platform or technology.



Forum's Katie Dubnik, visionary and connector, and Nick Kastner, brand and digital director, will lead discussion on using AI in efficient and practical ways and ensuring your brand stands out as real, relatable and relevant in an ever-crowded (and noisy) marketplace.

\$25 Chamber Member • \$40 Non-Member • Registration Required
Info: Ellie Cardin 770-532-6206 x 115, ecardin@ghcc.com



Discover the heartbeat of our local economy at the Business Showcase where businesses from across the region come together to highlight their products, services and innovations.

Tuesday, February 24

2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

Whether you're a business owner, a professional looking to expand your network, or a curious community member, this event is your chance to engage directly with local businesses and entrepreneurs. Browse booths, make connections, and see what makes the Greater Hall business community thrive. Stick around for the Showcase Social (5-7pm) to keep the conversations going over food and drinks!

INFO

Chamber Member Exhibit \$350

Non-Member \$550

No Admission Fee & Open to the Public

Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115

ecardin@ghcc.com

GreaterHallChamber.com

Scan to Register



Happenings

Focus on Community Wellness



Lanier Technical College's Erika Bongart presented the recent **Health & Wellness Seminar** on the importance of medical imaging credentials. (L-R) Chamber Chairman **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College; **Erika Bongart**, Lanier Technical College; **Dr. Ryan Almodovar**, GME Resident; **Mende Fox**, Lanier Technical College; **Dr. Philip Kimsey**, Foothills Functional Medicine.

South Hall Business Coalition

Thursday, January 8

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

INK Interactive Neighborhood for Kids
6332 Grand Hickory Drive | Braselton



Come hear from Director **Charlie Bramwell** and Associate Directors **Jenny Staley** and **Cortney Murray** of **INK**. They'll share exciting updates about the new, state-of-the-art facility and innovative programs designed to inspire and engage young minds. See firsthand how INK is creating impactful learning experiences for children and families. inkfun.org

Reservations Required | \$8 Member; \$15 Non-Member | [REGISTER NOW](#)
Info: Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115 or ecardin@ghcc.com

Logistics Forum

Wednesday, February 25

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

The Boathouse

Lake Lanier Olympic Park



Join us for a panel discussion on the Blue Ridge Connector with updates on surrounding infrastructure improvements. The Blue Ridge Connector is scheduled to open in Spring 2026. [REGISTER NOW](#)

Reservations Required | \$50 Member; \$60 Non-Member | \$500 Table
Info: Ryan Jackson, 770-532-6206 x 110 or rjackson@ghcc.com

Health & Wellness Seminar

Wednesday, December 3

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

In Person at the Chamber or via Zoom

When Caregiving Gets Legal

Learn what you need to know about caregiving for aging parents from Josh Nelson, JD, CEO and owner of Nelson Elder Care Law. With advanced training in both law and taxation, he helps Georgia families protect their loved ones and their assets during life's most difficult transitions. As Vice Chair of the Elder Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, Nelson frequently speaks to groups about the practical steps families can take to reduce stress, prevent crisis, and plan with confidence.

nelsoneldercarelaw.com



Josh Nelson, JD
Nelson Elder Care Law

No Charge for
Chamber Members
[Register Here](#)

Czech Exchange Visit



The Greater Hall Chamber's Economic Development team and Lanier Technical College hosted a business delegation from the Czech Republic on November 14. The delegation was led by Honorary Consul General Monika Vntrlikova and included business and workforce development leadership representatives on an exchange visit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 21

[Marketing Workshop](#)

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Brenau Downtown Center

Tuesday, February 24

[Business Showcase 2026](#)

2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

Tuesday, January 27

[Economic & Political Forecast](#)

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Lanier Technical College

Wednesday, February 25

[Logistics Forum](#)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Boathouse at LLOP

Member News

Gainesville Glows: Lanterns & Lights



A new holiday lights show closes out **Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville's** 10th anniversary celebration. **Gainesville Glows: Lanterns & Lights** debuted in late November and runs through January 4. The show features displays of lighted woodland animals and other décor designed especially for the Gainesville Garden. Imagine a 45- to 60-minute stroll through romantic luminaria-lined pathways surrounded by colorful uplit trees. Look for tall metal lanterns that cast intricate shadows on meandering walkways. Take pics in a tunnel of light, roast s'mores on the event lawn and more! Info & Tickets: atlantabg.org/gainesvilleglows/

A Mission to Preserve Greenspace



Brent Hoffman, founder of **North Georgia Land Trust**, and **Tony Herdener**, chair of the **Vision 2030 Greenspace Committee**, visited with the **Hall County Board of Commissioners** at the Government's retreat in Hiwassee in November. (L-R) **Commissioners Kathy Cooper, Billy Powell, Gregg Poole, Chairman David Gibbs, Brent Hoffman, Tony Herdener**. Tony and Brent discussed the importance of adding more greenspace in our community and presented ways Hall County can support the preservation of more land in growing Hall County. The North Georgia Land Trust is a community-based nonprofit with a mission to conserve land and create greenspace throughout the region. Established in 2023, the Trust comes at a pivotal time as commercial and residential growth sweeps across our region. northgeorgialandtrust.org

- **Justin S. Sheffield**, an associate at the law firm of **Stewart Melvin & Frost** in Gainesville, was accepted into Class III of the Southeast Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Justin earned his J.D. degree magna cum laude from the Georgia State College of Law and joined Stewart, Melvin & Frost in 2023. The Southeast Fellows Institute was created to develop the profession's future leaders in trust and estate law through a series of in-depth educational presentations led by outstanding subject matter experts in each field from across the U.S. smf-law.com

- In addition to educational training programs, the **UGA Small Business Development Center** provides confidential, no cost, one-on-one consulting (by appointment) to owners of for-profit businesses in Georgia. As the holiday season ramps up, it's a perfect time to refocus on the goals that will carry your business into the new year. From consulting to hands-on training and market research, they can help you navigate today's business landscape with clarity and support. georgiasbdc.org

- **Junior Achievement of Northeast Georgia's Business Hall of Fame** highlights the careers and public service of some of the area's most outstanding citizens. The 16th Annual Hall of Fame Gala on February 5 at Lanier Technical College will celebrate the induction of the **Syfan Family** (Jim, Greg and Steve Syfan) as well as **Dixie Truelove & Mike Smith**, as they join the prestigious list of laureates who have enriched the community through their business leadership and civic and professional achievements. georgia.ja.org/gainesville-hall-of-fame

- **Pinnacle Bank** and **Morris Bank** announced a strategic combination of the two community banks. The combined company will operate 35 branches throughout many of Georgia's fastest growing markets. **Jackson McConnell**, Chairman & CEO of Pinnacle, said uniting the two institutions will strengthen their ability to serve people and businesses in communities across the state and allow them to focus on continued growth by sharing core banking services with more community customers.

- Four North Georgia nonprofits will share \$200,000 in Opportunity Grants from the **North Georgia Community Foundation** to expand youth programs, education initiatives, recovery services and accessibility projects across the region. Gainesville-Hall County recipients included the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier** that will use funds to launch a new middle school program at the Walters Club in Hall County, and **J's Place Recovery Center** that will use funds open a second facility in Dawson County for peer recovery coaching, employment and résumé support, access to local treatment resources and services for individuals affected by substance-use disorder.

Ribbon Cuttings

I AM & ME

Maurice Cantrell, Jonna Cantrell (Co-Owner), **Elissa Hester** (Owner), and **Marlon Hester**, cut a ribbon for **I AM AND ME**, a women's empowerment organization dedicated to guiding women through all seasons and struggles of life. They offer small, intimate coaching groups of no more than 12 women, creating a safe space for growth, confidence building, and real connection. Services are free of charge, ensuring every woman has access to support and community. Led by a Maxwell Leadership – trained coach, the program blends personal development principles with practical tools to help women rise, lead, and transform their lives. 3485 McEver Road, Suite 206, Gainesville 30504. iamandme.com



Savage Farms of Clermont



The **Savage family**, along with friends, cuts a ribbon at **Savage Farms of Clermont**. The family farm specializes in raising quality beef for consumers and offers a variety of Christmas trees available for visitors to choose and cut during the holiday season. They believe that time spent with the people you love cannot be measured, and the Savage Farms goal is that when you visit, time slows, hearts are merry and memories are made. 5624 Dahlonga Highway in Clermont. savagefarms.org

Dentistry for Children and Family Orthodontics



Dentistry for Children and Family Orthodontics held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the relocation to Limestone Ridge, with an updated, modern space designed to support exceptional care for patients. The practice provides compassionate pediatric dental care and comprehensive orthodontic services for patients of all ages with a mission to elevate the standard of dental care for children by delivering a welcoming, child-friendly experience and personalized treatment tailored to each family's needs. Dentistry4Children.com | FamilyOrthodontics.com

Marie Clark, Senior Regional Director of Operations; **Dr. Joby George**, Orthodontist; **Joann Diaz**, Regional Director of Operations NE; **Jodi Pessoa, DDS**; **Dr. Shannen Dalton**, Orthodontist; **Lisa Shilman, DDS**, Georgia Pediatric Dental Clinical Director; **Venta Freeman, DDS**; **Jessica Yi, DMD**; **Cynthia Almaguer**, Operations Manager; **Sia Grable**, Referral Outreach Marketing Director; **Amy Leftoff**, Senior Director of Doctor Relations; **Samantha Gibbs**, HR Business Partner, and team members.

Membership

Welcome New Chamber Members

Avery Rose Fitness

dba Workout Anytime Gainesville
Brian Munhall
(470) 387-0645
workoutanytime.com/gainesville

CHR Steak Dry-Aged Prime Steakhouse

Jeremy Green
(678) 696-5111
chrsteak.com

Club de Brands

Arlene Rodriguez
(678) 358-5848
clubdebrands.com

Core5 Industrial Partners

Patrick McCann
(540) 935-8719
c5ip.com

CoreEdge HR Consulting

Leslie Damon
(404) 772-4242
CoreEdgeHRConsulting.com

Deep Roots Marketing

Philip Stancil
(770) 404-8257
deeproofs.marketing

Downtime Automation Group

Jeff Armour
(404) 884-7262
downtime-automation.com

Exchange Bank

Heather Cook
(478) 452-4531
exch.bank

Jake Martin & Son Contractors

Donna Dayton
(770) 531-0014
jakemartinandson.com

Refined Parking Solutions

Joseph Lee
(404) 379-3405
refinedparking.com

Semiotic Marketing International

Terri Sawyer
(678) 997-3021
smidifference.com

Therapak Inc.

dba Resonant Clinical Solutions
Jeff Smith
(470) 266-6687
therapak.com

True North Strategies

Bernard Reynolds
(404) 862-5615
truenorth-inc.com

Tune, Inc

Abi Tuiasosopo
(888) 591-7221
energybytune.com



Brian Brown, owner of CertaPro Painters of Northeast Georgia,

was recognized as "Small Business of the Month" at the Greater Hall Chamber Board Meeting in November. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, Chamber; Vice Chair Membership **John Simpson**, Lakeview Academy; **Brian Brown**; Greater Hall Chamber Chairman **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College.

CONTACT US

770-532-6206



South Hall Business Coalition Economic Update meeting attendees (L-R) **Oliver McClellan**, Flowery Branch City Council Member, **Tonya Parrish**, City Manager, Flowery Branch, and Mayor-Elect **Renee Carden**, Director, Department of Fun, City of Flowery Branch.

Christen Wilbanks
VP, Member Operations
[Email Christen](mailto:Christen@ghcc.com)

Marissa Maynor
VP, Membership Sales
[Email Marissa](mailto:Marissa@ghcc.com)

Ellie Cardin
VP, Events
[Email Ellie](mailto:Ellie@ghcc.com)

Robin Halstead
VP, Community Dev
[Email Robin](mailto:Robin@ghcc.com)

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

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