

CHAMBERCONNECT

10

2025

OCT 2 | HealthSmart Expo
OCT 9 | South Hall Business Coalition
OCT 14 | A.I. Resource Fair
OCT 17 | Business Before Hours
OCT 23 | Business After Hours

Business After Hours



Thank you **Lanier Islands Resort** for all the fun and games at Business After Hours at the Game Changer Fun Center in September. (L-R) **Isaac Teasley**, *All-N-One Auto Repair*; **Alejandra Carrillo** and **L.C. Teasley**, *L.A. Automotive*; Chamber Chairman **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College. Don't miss **Business After Hours** on **Thursday, October 23** at **Bennett Farms** in North Hall County. Enjoy light bites, beverages and networking while getting and inside look at this beautiful new event venue.

Business Beautification Award



El Salvador Restaurant is the Chamber's **Business Beautification Award** recipient. Owner **Ronald Araujo** received the honor for the extensive renovation of the restaurant at 857 Bradford Street in Gainesville. El Salvador offers menu filled with authentic Salvadoran dishes and the best pupusas and Salvadoran inspired cocktails around. The friendly staff and inviting atmosphere create a welcoming environment for a great dining experience.

All for Hall YES SPLOST



Smoother Rides

SPLOST repairs and enhances our roads to reduce traffic headaches and wear-and-tear on vehicles in our fast-growing communities.

Stronger Communities

SPLOST helps build foundational services that benefit everyone and supports public safety to strengthen Gainesville-Hall County.

Greener Spaces

SPLOST funds and preserves the valuable outdoor spaces that make Hall County a place we all want to call home.

For Continued Progress

Voting YES to renew SPLOST on November 4 will not increase our current sales tax. 40% of SPLOST dollars come from those who live outside Hall County. Renewing SPLOST helps build a stronger, healthier Hall County — for today and generations to come.

— Early Voting Begins October 14 —



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





Melissa Tymchuk
*Chair-Elect, Greater Hall
Chamber of Commerce*

ALL FOR HALL

Stronger Communities. Smoother Rides. Greener Spaces.

The SPLOST one penny sales tax offers a practical solution for funding major community improvements — while keeping property taxes down for residents. Since 1985, Hall County has had an active SPLOST program that has funded major infrastructure, roads, public safety facilities and vehicles,

unique opportunity to collect sales tax dollars for projects throughout Gainesville-Hall County without placing the burden solely on property owners. SPLOST IX offers a pragmatic approach to funding essential infrastructure without raising our property taxes. This renewal of the 1% sales tax has proven effective and has contributed approximately \$1 billion to projects over four decades.

SPLOST IX includes parks and greenspace enhancements like South Hall Park, extensions to the Highlands to Islands Trail, as well as targeting high-impact areas where road resurfacing is needed, such as the intersections of McEver, Mount Vernon and Joe Chandler roads.

SPLOST's 40-year legacy of building and protecting places like Elachee Nature Science Center, Chicopee Woods and countless parks has convinced me the penny tax is worth my vote. Join me as we support continued progress. Vote YES on November 4th. To learn more about SPLOST IX and why you should vote "YES," visit hallsplost.com.

as well as parks, trails, community centers and libraries. A renewal of SPLOST will not increase our current sales tax; it will remain the same. And, one of the greatest benefits of SPLOST is that some 40% of SPLOST dollars raised in Hall County come from out-of-county residents and visitors.

Lake Lanier attracts 14 million people to our county a year, and with patients and visitors to Northeast Georgia Health System facilities, students and families of our higher education facilities, and the many other commuters, visitors and travelers, we have a

Greener Spaces

Whether it's Laurel Park, River Forks, Cherokee Bluffs, Tadmore Park, Chicopee Woods, Elachee Nature Science Center, the Highlands to Islands trail, or beyond, the public green spaces of Hall County have all received a significant boost from SPLOST funds — both in construction and improvement projects. Voting YES to renew SPLOST will provide new facilities and ballfield improvements, including the new South Hall Park and Active Life Center, improve park facilities and ballfields in Lula and Gillsville, and park improvements at Sardis Creek Park, as well as extend the Highlands to Islands trail.

Smoother Rides

SPLOST funds have paved and widened hundreds of miles of roads throughout Hall County, decreasing traffic problems and motor vehicle accidents. SPLOST funds helped build the roundabout at the intersection of Hog Mountain and Cash roads and replaced the Hubert Stephens (Wahoo Creek) and Joe Chandler (North Oconee) bridges. Voting YES to renew SPLOST will help complete major road projects throughout all of Hall County including the widening of Spout Springs Road, as well as improve dangerous intersections — especially along McEver Road. Help maintain and make our roads better.

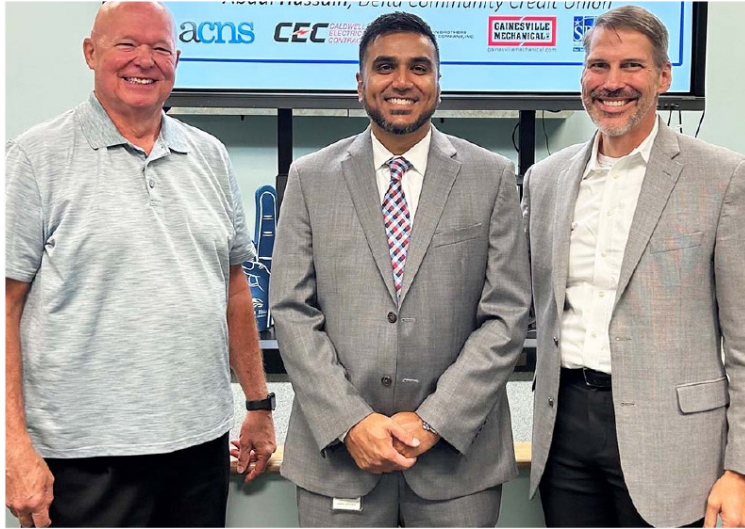
Stronger Communities

Previous SPLOST funds helped build fire stations in multiple locations, replaced out-of-date ambulances, and even constructed Hall County's Fire Rescue Training Center — all of which strengthened the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. The SPLOST renewal will ensure these services are maintained at the highest levels and will help update Hall County's oldest fire station, deliver the latest in quick-response technology for ambulance services, provide safety equipment and vehicle updates for the Sheriff's Office, as well as complete a judicial complex expansion.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Programs & Events

Small Business Development



Abdul Hussain, VP of Information Security & Chief Information Security Officer, **Delta Community Credit Union (DCCU)**, presented the recent Small Business Seminar on Cyber Security. (L-R) Chamber Small Business Council Chair **Steve Naughton**, **SCORE**; **Abdul Hussain**, **DCCU**; **Tim Evans**, **Greater Hall Chamber**. Don't miss the upcoming **A.I. Resource Fair on October 14 at the University of North Georgia** Gainesville Campus. [Register Now](#)

Small Business Seminar Tuesday, November 11

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

Planning for a Successful 2026



Camille Viera-Hewell
Tax Savings Advisors



Britt Sawyer
Sawyer Media Group

No Charge for Chamber Members INFO:
Emily Pearce, 770-532-6206 x 111
[Email Emily](#)

Join us for this seminar, and plan ahead for 2026. Learn about tax planning from **Camille Viera-Hewell**, owner of Tax Savings Advisors, and on marketing strategies from **Britt Sawyer**, owner of Sawyer Media Group. Get all the latest on business planning to ensure your small business is set up for success.

Small Business Council Sponsors

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

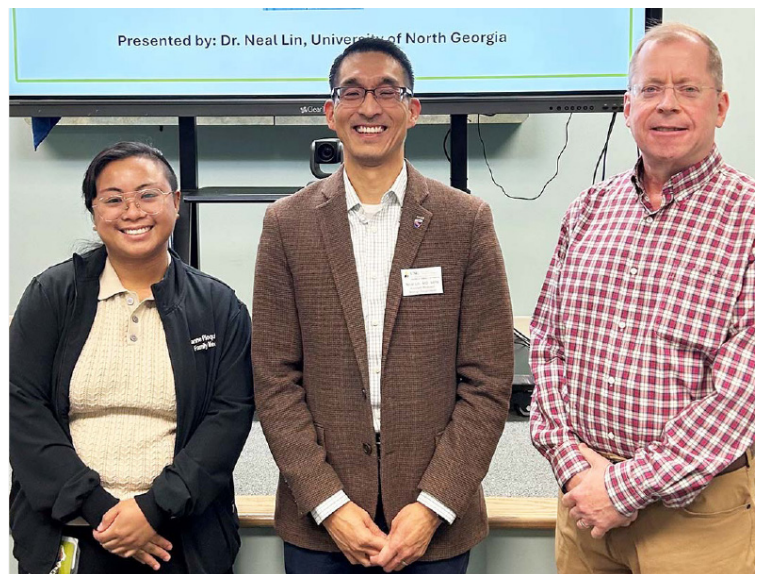
Small Business of the Month



Office Pro's **Patrick Locke**, **Jessica Cordova** and **Christie Huff** with Chamber Vice Chair of Membership **John Simpson**, **Lakeview Academy**. The 58,500 square foot office and distribution center in Gainesville serves a wide area, delivering competitive pricing and dependable service.

Why Choose Office Pro's - Your Featured Company of the Month? For over 20 years, Office Pro's has helped businesses create smarter, more efficient work environments with quality new and pre-owned furniture and workspace solutions. They offer complete office solutions including a copy center, office supplies with easy online ordering, business cards, laminating, spiral binding, custom stamps, flyers, and more with an in-house graphic designer available by appointment. Office Pro's helps you design, move, and manage a better place to work. Whether supplying copy center needs, office essentials, or a workspace that fosters success and culture, Office Pro's looks forward to serving you for the next 20 years and beyond! officeprosonline.com

Health & Wellness



Dr. Neal Lin discussed the alarming increase in thyroid cancer rates in Northeast Georgia at the recent Health & Wellness Seminar. (L-R) **Dr. Dianne Pioquinto**, Resident, **Northeast Georgia Medical Center GME**; **Dr. Neal Lin**, **University of North Georgia**; **Dr. Philip Kimsey**, **Foothills Functional Medicine**.

Meetings & Events

HR Council



The Greater Hall Chamber's **HR Council** recently met with attorneys from **Smith, Gambrell & Russell** (SG&R) who spoke to the group on how to address employee concerns and new developments in non-compete agreements. (L-R) **Melanie Arroyo**, American Yazaki; **Marisol Perez**, Fieldale Farms; **Nanma Okeani**, SG&R; **Nikki Chandler**, Chamber; **Matthew W. Clarke** and **Cali Kerr**, SG&R; **Maria Barajas**, ATEX; **Christy Phillips**, Corporate Storage, **Kaiti Holcomb**, Fieldale Farms; **Tammy Rauch**, WorkSource Georgia; **Matthew Van Dyke**, SG&R.



FREE Health Screenings

18 years of age & older – No appointment needed

Administered by Longstreet Clinic

Glucose • Cholesterol • Triglycerides
Blood Pressure • Body Mass Index
Hernia Screening • Thyroid Neck Checks
Heart Murmur • Fall Risk • Flu Shots

Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206, ecardin@ghcc.com

HealthSmart Wellness Expo

Thursday, October 2

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

Open to the Public



October 2025

Wednesday, October 1

Network Over Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 am

The Oakley on the Lake | Gainesville

Thursday, October 2

HealthSmart Expo

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

Wednesday, October 8

Issues Committee

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Wednesday, October 8

Human Resource Council

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, October 9

South Hall Business Coalition

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Lanier College & Career Academy

Friday, October 10

Economic Development Council

8:30 am | Oakwood City Hall

Tuesday, October 14

A.I. Resource Fair

8:30 am - 10:30 am

UNG - Gainesville Campus

Thursday, October 16

Executive Committee

12:00 pm | Chamber

Friday, October 17

Business Before Hours

7:30 am | Hulse, Oliver & Mahar

Tuesday, October 21

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Thursday, October 23

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Eagle Ranch

Thursday, October 23

Business After Hours

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Bennett Farms

Friday, October 24

New Member Breakfast

9:00 am | Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Economic Development

Fall Job Fair



Nearly 900 job seekers attended the Chamber's Fall Job Fair on September 11 at the Gainesville Civic Center. Some 50 companies that are hiring were on hand, and job applications were completed onsite. The Chamber will host its **Spring Job Fair on Thursday, April 2** (10 am-2 pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center. Details: Robin Halstead, 770-532-6206. rhaldstead@ghcc.com



Farm City Breakfast

Tuesday, November 18

7:30 am - 9:00 am North Hall

Community Center 4175

Nopone Road | Gainesville



Keynote Speaker
Anthony N. Llano

Director of Industry Partnerships & Project-Based Learning at UGA's College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

The Annual Farm City Breakfast highlights Hall County Agribusiness and is a partnership of UGA Hall County Extension, Georgia Farm Bureau and the Greater Hall Chamber.

Complimentary Breakfast | No Charge

Registration required. To RSVP, please call Karen Davis at the Hall County Extension office at 770-535-8293.



BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

Friday, October 17

7:30 am | Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar
200 E.E. Butler Pkwy in Gainesville

Join us at the law offices of Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar (HOM) for networking before work while enjoying a continental breakfast and a chance to win great prizes! For over 100 years, North Georgia families and businesses have turned to HOM for proven legal counsel, serving generations of family business owners. homlaw.com

Door Prizes | Networking | Breakfast

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, October 23

5-7 pm | Bennett Farms 4593
Mt Vernon Road in Gainesville

Join us at beautiful Bennett Farms and enjoy light bites, beverages, and networking! The new venue, nestled on 65 acres in North Hall County, is the perfect gathering place for celebrations and community. Whether it's a wedding, reunion, or festive event, guests come for the charm — and leave with lasting memories. bennettfarmsga.com

Cash Prize Drawing | Networking | Food & Drink

Membership

Welcome New Members

Briggs Truck & Rail

Jason Christopher
(678) 599-9000
briggsequipment.us

Bright Illustrations

Bonnie Bright
(760) 831-5997
brightillustrations.com

Core Roofing Systems

Brian Dixon
(470) 717-5787
coreroofing.net

Custom Canine Unlimited

AJ Vargas
(678) 862-1044
customcanineunlimited.com

D4C Dental Brands

Kwon Pediatric Dentistry
Dentistry for Children
Family Orthodontics
Sia Grable
(404) 450-2184
kwonsmiles.com

Dive Educators

Howard Chalmers
(770) 967-8885
diveeducators.com

Elder Law of Georgia

Katie Davis
(678) 316-6976
elderlawofgeorgia.com

Fidelis Services Group

Thomas Pagsisihan
(678) 630-0700
linkedin/thomas-pagsisihan

Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers

Tanner Williams
(678) 936-2627
fyzical.com/gainesville

I9 Sports

Justin Hicks
(470) 349-6766
i9sports.com

Mary's Mexican Taste

Mary Acevedo
(678) 936-7184
marysmexicantaste.com

mind+body pilates

Karin Carlson
(512) 657-5080

North Georgia Luxury Homes

Melonie Erickson
(904) 993-5676

Origins Spine & Joint Physicians

Will Ross
(706) 521-8413
originsspine.com

Panda Express Buford

Rachel Razon
(678) 482-8379
pandaexpress.com

Randstad

Angela Brown
(770) 534-9625
randstadusa.com

Southwyck Homes

Shelby Greis
(678) 929-7075
southwyckhomes.com

Thrive Ortho & Spine

Samantha Free
(770) 906-4353
thriveorthoandspine.com

Victory Medical Services

Tabitha Johnson
(404) 453-6010
victorymedservices.com



Mathnasium of Flowery Branch and the McKenney family team of **Gary McKenney, Center Director; Iris, Assistant Director; Anna, Lead Instructor; Joel and Marc, Instructors**, cut a ribbon at the learning center located in the Village Shoppes of Flowery Branch on Spout Springs Road. Locally owned and operated, the center is dedicated to helping students build a deep understanding of math through customized learning plans and expert instruction. Whether your child is struggling, needs a boost in confidence, or is ready for advanced challenges, Mathnasium offers the support they need to succeed. mathnasium.com/flowerybranch

MEMBER NEWS

Mudassar Ahmed, MD joined **Georgia Heart Institute** (GHI), the heart and vascular service line of Northeast Georgia Health System, as chief cardiology officer. Dr. Ahmed specializes in minimally invasive treatments for heart valve disease and most recently served as system medical director for the cardiovascular service line at North Memorial Health in Minneapolis. He will continue to practice medicine while providing GHI's clinical oversight and physician leadership. With a multi-disciplinary team of experts treating nearly every type of heart and vascular disease and participating in leading national research, GHI provides advanced care that ensures lasting heart health for generations. georgiaheartinstitute.org

Candler Real Estate invites you to celebrate their third year in business at a party including clients, family and friends on Thursday, October 9 from 4-7pm at their office at 135 Maple Street in Gainesville. Details: 770-988-6383. candler.com

Station 300 Gainesville, a family-owned bowling center, invites you to **Jingle & Mingle on October 9** (11am-1pm). This exclusive event offers a free tasting of their new catering menu showcasing offerings for company parties and events. Station 300 is the perfect venue for celebrations, team building activities, and company gatherings. Make your reservation at events@station300.com.

Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville is blooming with fall activities and the celebration of its **10th Anniversary this year**. Through November 2, scarecrows fill the woodlands and are stuffed with creations by local artists, members, crafters and youth groups. Experience Halloween Horticulture crafting on October 18. Learn more about the Garden at atlantabg.org/gainesville-garden

Labrisha Scott, director of **Brenau Catering**, invites you to a **Catering Showcase** at the **Northeast Georgia History Center on October 14** at 2pm for an exciting culinary event filled with delicious food and drinks. No admission fee. Register to BrenauCateringShowcaseFall25. Check out Brenau's catering menus at Brenau.CaterTrax.com.

Steve Mickens, CEO of the **Boys & Girls Club of Lanier** (BGCL), received the Georgia Boys & Girls Clubs Area Council's CEO of the Year Award at the Council's Hall of Fame Dinner at Lanier Islands in September. Mickens was recognized for his outstanding leadership and commitment to youth development. Founded in 1954, the BGCL serves more than 4,700 children annually in Hall, Habersham and Forsyth counties. boysgirlsclubs.com

Ribbon Cuttings

Your Health



Samantha Harris, *President of Operations*, and **Chris Little**, *COO*, cut the ribbon at **Your Health**, a care team model that focuses on meeting patients wherever they are, whether at home, in their physician's office, or through telehealth. Your Health believes healthcare should go beyond treating problems – it should prevent them. By blending advanced technology with a personal touch, Your Health provides seamless, value-based care to help you live your healthiest life. yourhealth.org

Zips Car Wash



Chaz Mathis, *Site Manager at Zips Car Wash*, celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of the Flowery Branch location with a ribbon cutting. Zips upgraded the interior and exterior of the location, as well as implementing improved team member training, bringing together an overall improved customer experience for the Flowery Branch community. 4040 Winder Hwy in Flowery Branch. zipscarwash.com

Panda Express



The **Panda Express Buford Team** cuts a ribbon at the new restaurant on Lanier Islands Parkway. Panda Express is the largest Asian dining concept in the nation. Family-owned and operated since 1983, the eatery is best known as a trailblazer for creating a wide variety of recipes, like The Original Orange Chicken and award-winning Honey Walnut Shrimp. The Buford team is thrilled to be part of the community and invites all to try authentic American Chinese favorites! Dine in, take out, or order online for a quick pick-up at order.pandaexpress.com

Ribbon Cuttings

Trainz



Scott Griggs cuts a ribbon at **Trainz**, the largest buyer of collectible model trains in North America. Trainz.com has been in operation since 1997 and sells model trains via their website and on eBay. The business employs over 100 staff at the 73,000 square foot warehouse in Flowery Branch. Griggs got his start selling model train parts from his parents' garage back in 1975, and the business grew from there. Trainz.com is Great Place To Work certified and was included for the second year on Fortune's list of Best Workplaces in Retail, coming in #17 in the small to medium category. trainz.com

United Pump & Controls



Miles Benton, CFO/COO; **Carolyn Benton Bowman**, wife of founder **Bruce Benton**; **BJ Benton**, CEO Emeritus; **Travis Benton**, President/CEO, cut a ribbon at **United Pump & Controls**, a third-generation, family-owned business established in 1973. United serves the petroleum equipment industry, specializing in the design, sales, service, testing and compliance, and installation of fuel systems. From underground storage tanks to dispensers and nozzles, if it touches fuel at a gas station, they work on it. unitedpump.com

The Chapel at Lanier Islands Resort



Matthew Bowling (with scissors), president of **Lanier Islands Resort**, cuts a ribbon at the new chapel, dedicated to his grandmother, Sara D. Williams, and garden, dedicated to his mother, Mendy Williams Bowling. The development starts a new chapter for the resort that has become one of the Southeast's leading lakeside retreats. Lanier Islands is proud to serve families, wedding parties, and corporations with its collection of accommodations, event venues and attractions. As the resort's crown jewel, Lake Lanier is one of the nations most popular lakes with 690 miles of shoreline. lanierislands.com

Small Business

Artificial Intelligence Resource Fair

Tuesday, October 14

8:30 am - 10:00 am

University of North Georgia

Gainesville Campus | Cleveland Ballroom

The AI Resource Fair features the best and brightest local resources for small businesses and is a great place to network and connect with free advice, strategies and tips to help you succeed and grow your business. Hear from a panel of knowledgeable business professionals. Whether you're an AI beginner or an AI pro, there's information for everyone.

Panel of Experts



Phil Bonelli
Roundtable
Advisors



Nick Kaster
Forum
Communications



Dr. Margaret Ryder
Lanier Technical
College



Bryan Scott
Go Fight Win



Gainesville West
Jesse Jewell Parkway

Scan to Register



\$15 Chamber Member | \$25 Non-Member | Includes Breakfast | Reservations Required
Emily Pearce, 770-532-6206 x 111 | epearce@ghcc.com

South Hall Business Coalition



The South Hall Business Coalition met at **Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta** (MRR) for an update on the 2025 Petit LeMans. (L-R) **Glennis Barnes**, Georgia Power; **Jamie Howe**, Motorsports Announcer; **Tim Evans**, Chamber; South Hall Council Chair **Alex Wayne**, Wayne Capital; **Rick Humphrey**, Kelsi Miller and **Bradley Weber**, MRR. The Council meets on **October 9** (9am) at **Lanier College & Career Academy** to hear an **Education Update** with superintendents **Will Schofield**, Hall County Schools, and **Dr. Jeremy Williams**, Gainesville City Schools. Learn about all that's happening in our school systems and exciting plans for the 2025-2026 school year. [Register Now](#)

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