

CHAMBERCONNECT

08

2025

AUG 05 | South Hall Business Coalition

AUG 06 | Health & Wellness Seminar

AUG 12 | Small Business Seminar

AUG 15 | Business Before Hours

AUG 21 | Business After Hours



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kubota Manufacturing Expands



Kubota President **Yuichi Kitao** and **Governor Brian Kemp** at the recent Grand Opening of **Kubota Manufacturing of America's** new manufacturing facility in Gainesville.

Kubota Manufacturing of America (KMA) recently held a grand opening at its new 700,000 square-foot, \$190 million facility and home for manufacturing front-end loaders for ALL Kubota tractors worldwide. The facility, located



off Hwy 365 in Gainesville, brings 500 jobs and is the company's most advanced with increased automation for improved safety and quality. The new facility is across the road from a \$90 million research and development facility that began operations in 2022. Kubota maintains a strong base in Gainesville-Hall County, where a large portion of its employees are located across multiple facilities. kubota-kma.com

Business After Hours



Thank you **Cork It Gainesville** for hosting an outstanding networking event. (L-R) **Jack Simon**, *Alaga Logistics*; **Darin Workman**, *Spherion Staffing*; **Melissa Kennebrew**, *MBK Financial Services*; **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*; **Blake Allen**, *Cork It Gainesville*; **Sharon Lee**, *Pinnacle Strategic Advisors*. Meet us for **Business After Hours on August 21 at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center** and connect with local business professionals while enjoying great food, drinks and lively conversation.

Gainesville-Hall County Metro named the leading Small Metro for Best Business Climate

Business Facilities magazine's Annual Rankings recognize cities and metro areas for Business Climate, Tech Talent, Corporate HQ, Manufacturing, and more.

Business Facilities revealed the top-ranked cities and metro regions in the publication's 2025 Annual Rankings Report. Focused on 60+ categories relevant to corporate relocation and expansion decisions, rankings have served as a valuable resource for site selection teams for more than two decades.

Leading Small Metros for Best Business Climate as Top 5:

Gainesville, GA; St. George, UT; Idaho Falls, ID; Bend/Redmond, OR; and Midland, TX.

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Tim Evans President
& CEO Greater Hall
Chamber

SPLOST Reduces Property Tax Burden

The Hall County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to call for a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum to be placed on the November 4 election ballot.

Hall County has had an active SPLOST program since 1985, funding major infrastructure, roads, public safety facilities and vehicles, parks, trails and libraries over the last 40 years.

Along with water and sewer infrastructure, vast road improvements, bridges, and upgrades in fire and emergency services, projects that have been funded through SPLOST over the last four decades include Elachee Nature Science Center, Sardis Creek Park, Highlands to Islands Multi-Use Trail, Chicopee Woods Agriculture Center, Hall County Detention Center, Animal Control Facility, South Hall and North Hall libraries, Health Department, North Hall Community Center, Gainesville/Hall County Senior Center, and so many more.

This SPLOST referendum is **NOT a new tax – it is a RENEWAL of the current 1% sales tax** used to fund capital outlay projects. If passed by Hall County voters, the proposed SPLOST program would be the ninth program of its kind for the County and would remain active for six years. **It is estimated that some 40% of SPLOST dollars raised in Hall County come from out-of-county residents.**

Lake Lanier attracts 14 million people to our county a year, and with patients and visitors to the Northeast Georgia Health System, students and families of our higher education facilities, and the many other commuters, visitors and travelers, we have a unique opportunity to collect sales tax dollars for projects throughout Gainesville-Hall County without placing the burden solely on property owners.

SPLOST IX is estimated to generate approximately \$440 million, and would help fund several notable projects, including:

- *New South Hall Park & Active Life Center, among other park improvements and restoration projects*
- *Extension of the Highlands to Islands Multi-Use Trail System*
- *Judicial Complex expansion*
- *Spout Springs Road Widening Project Phase II*
- *Road resurfacing throughout Hall County*
- *Intersection improvements, specifically along McEver, Mount Vernon and Joe Chandler roads*
- *A new Hall County Sheriff's Office Training Center, along with vehicle replacements and equipment*
- *Relocation and/or construction of a new fire station, along with ambulance replacements and upgrades to the 911 system*
- *Allocation of \$95 million to the nine municipalities in Hall County, based on population density*

To learn more about SPLOST IX and why you should vote "YES," visit hallcounty.org/398/SPLOST.

King's Hawaiian Expansion



Governor Brian Kemp recently announced that family-owned King's Hawaiian is expanding its Oakwood operations and will invest some \$54 million and create 135 new jobs.

The expansion will add a new

production line for additional flavors of King's Hawaiian Pretzel Bites. This sixth major expansion since 2010 is a testament to the company's deep roots in Hall County.

"This expansion represents a major milestone in our journey, and we're thrilled to continue growing our ohana in Hall County," said Mark Taira, CEO of King's Hawaiian. "For 15 years, Georgia has been an essential part of our success. The support from Lanier Technical College, Georgia Quick Start, and the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in helping us train and develop talent to grow our business."

King's Hawaiian has become a cornerstone of our regional economy and a shining example of a company that invests in both business and community. Founded more than 70 years ago in Hilo, Hawaii, the company is dedicated to providing original recipes and Aloha Spirit for three generations. kingshawaiian.com

Mimaki USA Grand Opening



Don Knox, General Manager, Ken VanHorn, Sr., Vice President, and **Naoya Kawagoshi, President,** cut a ribbon to celebrate the opening of Mimaki USA's new corporate office in Flowery Branch. The facility combines an expanded showroom, training and warehouse with administrative spaces. The building dedication featured a traditional Japanese kagami biraki ceremony for good luck. Mimaki is a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting plotters. 770-364-6299. mimakiusa.com

Programs & Events

Health & Wellness



Dr. Kristina Carlson with the **Northside Hospital Diagnostic Clinic** (NHDC) discussed preventative care at the recent Health & Wellness Seminar. (L-R) **Dr. Dave Westfall**, *Northeast Georgia Medical Center GME*; **Dr. Kristina Carlson**, *NHDC*; **Shanna Chronic**, *NHDC*; **Margaret Spratlin**, *Longstreet Clinic*; **Chad Bolton**, *NHDC*.

Health & Wellness Seminar

Wednesday, August 6 9:00 -10:00

am | Chamber or via Zoom

“Robotic Surgery in Women’s Healthcare”



Keshma Saujani, MD, FACOG, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist at Longstreet Clinic, Saujani will be discussing the benefits of DaVinci robotic surgery in gynecological procedures. Dr. Saujani delivers obstetric patients and performs minimally invasive GYN surgery, including robotic procedures, at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, where she has also served as chair of OBGYN Services. She was named Chamber Healthy Hall Physician of the Year in 2023 and is recognized

as a Surgeon of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery and Robotic Surgery by the Surgical Review Corporation. Dr. Saujani also is the developer of LuvDub and Belly Booth, pregnancy apps available for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. Health & Wellness Seminars are held monthly with discussion on medical, health and wellness services, issues and other important topics. No charge.

[Register Now](#)



Small Business Development



Shane Gaddy, managing partner/financial planner with **Strong Gaddy Lee (SGL) Wealth Management**, was the guest speaker at the Small Business Seminar in July. (L-R) Small Business Council Chair **Steve Naughton**, *Enterprising Solutions*; **Shane Gaddy**, **Jodi Abercrombie** and **Paty Lopez**, *SGL*; **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*.

Small Business Council Annual Sponsors

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

South Hall Business Coalition



The **South Hall Business Coalition** met at the **Atlanta Falcons Training Camp** for exclusive overview of the NFL and Atlanta Falcons operations. (L-R) **Mckenna Kauffmann**, *City of Gainesville*; **Kevin Strada**, *Atlanta Falcons*; **Ed Asbridge**, *City of Flowery Branch*; Chamber South Hall Council Vice Chair **Alex Wayne**, *Wayne Capital*; **Chris Millman**, *Atlanta Falcons*; **Zach Propes**, *Hall County Government*; **Sean and Jay Kelly**, *Signs By Tomorrow*. The South Hall Business Coalition will meet on **Tuesday, August 5 (9-10am)** at **Performance Foodservice** in Oakwood. [Register Now](#)

South Hall Business Coalition Annual Sponsors

AccessWDUN | **CertaPro Painters of Northeast Georgia**
King’s Hawaiian | **Northeast Georgia Health System**
Signs By Tomorrow

Meetings & Events

Georgia Economic Developers



A group of professional economic developers attending the **Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA)** Spring Workshop conference at Chateau Elan participated in a tour of Kubota Manufacturing of America's KMA 4 facility in Gainesville that manufactures ATVs and RTVs. Taylor Worley, Georgia Ports Authority, then delivered a construction progress update onsite as he navigated the group around the Blue Ridge Connector premises.

Caldwell Electrical Groundbreaking



Caldwell Electrical Contractors broke ground in the Gainesville 85 Business Park on their new 75,000 square foot facility fabrication, distribution, service, and corporate headquarters. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, Chamber; **Sam Couvillon**, Mayor of Gainesville; **Daniel Caldwell**, President & CEO, Caldwell Electrical Contractors; **Brian Daniel**, Carroll Daniel Construction; Chamber Vice Chair Economic Development **William Bagwell**, Homestead Investments. With 37 years in the electrical contracting business in Hall County, Caldwell Electrical needed additional space to grow their business and continue to service their commercial and industrial clients. Caldwell Electrical is working with a local construction team led by **Carroll Daniel Construction**, **Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing**, **Simpson Trucking & Grading** and **Rochester DCCM**.

AUGUST 2025

Friday, August 1

Network Over Coffee

9:00-10:00 am

Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club

Tuesday, August 5

South Hall Business Coalition

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Performance Foodservice | Oakwood

Wednesday, August 6

Health & Wellness Seminar

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

Friday, August 8

Economic Development Council

8:30 am | Jackson EMC

Tuesday, August 12

Small Business Seminar

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

Tuesday, August 12

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, August 13

Issues Committee

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Wednesday, August 13

Human Resource Council

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Friday, August 15

Business Before Hours

7:30 am | Georgia Mountain Food Bank

Thursday, August 21

Executive Committee

12:00 pm | Chamber

Thursday, August 21

Business After Hours

5:00-7:00 pm | Quinlan Arts Center

Friday, August 22

Network Over Coffee

9:00-10:00 am

McAlister's Deli | Gainesville

Thursday, August 28

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00-1:30 pm | Gainesville Civic Center

Scan for the
Chamber Events
Calendar



Membership

Silver Shovel Award Recipients



The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce presented its **Annual Silver Shovel Awards** at the Board of Directors Meeting in June. Silver Shovel Awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals serving the Chamber. These volunteers have gone above the call of duty in serving the Chamber and promoting its action plan, initiatives, goals and mission. Congratulations to all our winners! (Front, L-R) **Danielle Perkins**, Murray Plastics; **Phil Dennis**, Georgia Mountain Food Bank; **Janice Ramirez**, Cadence Bank; **Tonya Parrish**, City of Flowery Branch; **Lisa Giles**, Pinnacle Bank; **Ashley Davis**, Lawson Air Conditioning & Plumbing; **Taylor Worley**, Georgia Ports Authority. (Back, L-R) **Juli Hayes**, City of Gainesville & Junior Achievement; **Alex Wayne**, Wayne Capital & Radial Property Group; **Annie Harvey** and **Madi Boyles**, Nothing Bundt Cakes Gainesville; **Chris Wiley**, Gainesville Fire Department; **Kyle Hinnant**, McGarity's Business Products; **Kelly Grizzle**, Performance Foodservice; **Ross Stevens**, Lanier Technical College/Ramsey Conference Center.

Business BEFORE Hours Friday, August 15

7:30-9 am | Georgia Mountain Food Bank

Warehouse & Waffles

Join us before work for breakfast catered by **Tupelo Honey** with networking with Chamber friends. We'll gather in the warehouse at the Georgia Mountain Food Bank and enjoy waffles, networking food and fun.

Free | Complimentary Breakfast | Door Prizes

Business AFTER Hours Thursday, August 21

5-7 pm | Quinlan Visual Arts Center

Don't miss this end of summer gathering at the Quinlan with light bites, beer, wine and games. Enjoy an exciting exhibition featuring sculptor Kevin Chambers, landscape master Ester Deen and artists of the Georgia Art League. Come mingle with art enthusiasts, play team building games and share experiences of positivity and camaraderie.

Cash Prize Drawing | Networking | Food & Drink

Membership

Welcome New Members

A&A Termite and Pest Control

Dwayne Lee
(770) 578-0443
aatermite.com

Back Alley Cycle & Flow

Allison Barta
(770) 580-0382
backalleycycleflow.com

Bryan Scott

(404) 895-9145

Georgia Festival of Trees

Angie Ulibarari
954-729-3878
gafestivaloftrees.org

Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance

Trey Burns
803-546-3895
Gfbinsurance.com

Integrity Healthcare Agency

Jane Fisher
470-717-2952
integrityhealthcareagency.com

Krause Family Hyundai of Gainesville

Shawn Evans
(470) 768-7680
gainesvillehyundai.com

North Georgia Senior Resources

Megan Parrish
(678) 230-7391
northgeorgiaseniorresources.org

Oakwood Family Dental

Khushbu Mody
470-577-9777
oakwoodfamilydental.com

Preferred Capital Management

Scott Hogan
(678) 584-2220
pcmofga.com

Scott Horowitz

404-408-7188

Tax Savings Advisors

Camille Viera Hewell
(770) 561-4744
taxsavingsadvisors.net

TLJ America

Helen Kim
(970) 770-3123
tljus.com

Wrap World

Krystal West
678-818-1150
wrapworld.com

Your Health

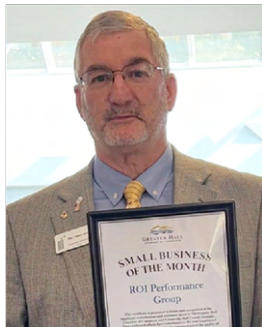
Savannah Simmons
864-636-9134
yourhealth.org

Zips Car Wash

Lacey Pinkerton
(855) 947-7927
zipscarwash.com

ROI Performance Group

July Small Business of the Month



Jim Custer of ROI Performance Group

(ROI PG). Founded in 1993, ROI PG is affiliated with International Development Services, a nationally recognized business management consulting and tax advisory firm. Both organizations seek to help clients maximize the return on their investment (ROI) and is dedicated to delivering the highest quality services in business consulting, operational analysis, and strategic tax

planning – all tailored specifically to meet the unique needs of small to mid-sized business owners. Jim is an active member of the Greater Hall Chamber and is engaged with various nonprofit organizations, representing a commitment to Servant Leadership. roipg.com

MEMBER NEWS

The Atlanta Business Chronicle's "CFO of the Year" rankings included **Mulham Shbeib**, chief financial officer of **Mar-Jac Poultry**, as one of three finalists among all Georgia CFO's. After many years in public accounting, Shbeib founded a boutique CPA firm based in Washington, DC. He joined Mar-Jac, one of the largest poultry processing companies in the US, some 15 years ago. Most recently he has overseen the company's \$171 million expansion in Gainesville.

Abby Loggins, president of the **Junior League of Gainesville-Hall County**, announced a major milestone with the distribution of its one millionth diaper through its largest community initiative, the **Diaper Bank of North Georgia**, ensuring that families across the region have access to an essential resource – diapers. In 2024 alone, the Diaper Bank distributed over 360,000 diapers – a 60% increase from the previous year. gainesvillehall.jl.org

The University of North Georgia's Starlight Celebration & Fireworks is **Saturday, August 16** at the G.W. Bailey Amphitheater on the Gainesville Campus. Gates open at 6:00 pm. \$10 per car; \$20 for bus, van or larger (cash only). Reserved tables for six are available (\$125 and includes 2 parking passes). Event proceeds support UNG student scholarships. Info: Shannon Shockley, 678-717-3947, Shannon.Shockley@ung.edu

Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) was named a Hospice Honors Elite recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst, recognizing fewer than 5% of hospice organizations nationwide. Hospice of NGMC offers expert care focused on comfort, dignity and quality of life, whether care is provided in the hospital, at home or in a long-term care facility. nghs.com/hospice

Jackson EMC's communication team earned top national recognition in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) **Spotlight on Excellence Awards**. The team received two Gold Awards for outstanding efforts to connect employees and serve members through impactful communication and engagement. jacksonemc.com

Consider **Station 300 Gainesville** for your next corporate event whether you're planning a team-building day, a company celebration, or just a fun outing for your staff with private event spaces, full service bar and catering options and state-of-the-art bowling lanes and arcade. For more information or a quote, email Mariah Reed at eventsgainesville@station300.com

Carroll Daniel Construction announces the opening of its newest office location in Mobile, Alabama. Headquartered in Gainesville, Carroll Daniel now has six offices throughout the Southeast and provides project planning, engineering, procurement and construction services for industrial and public markets. carrolldaniel.com

Ribbon Cuttings

Katie Vaughn, Stephanie Peralta, Owners **Alethea Tucker** and **Jeremiah Grawcock**, **Lexie Gower** and **Karina Ar-menta**, cut a ribbon at Unfiltered Beauty Medspa (UBM), a new luxury destination for face and skin rejuvenation in Gainesville. The team at UBM places great emphasis on creating a trusting, supportive, and empowering relationship throughout their clients' aesthetic and wellness journey and offers Dermal filler, Neurotoxin biostimulators, facials, chemical peels, microneedling, IPL, laser hair removal, radiofrequency microneedling for face or body skin tightening, weight loss with compounded Semaglutide or Tirzepatide, and IV Therapy. UBM is your one stop shop for all things aesthetics, skincare and wellness and is excited to bring a little "Glow Up" to the Gainesville Community. 654 Dawsonville Hwy, Suite B, Gainesville, GA 30501. 470-577-7771. unfilteredbeautymedspa.com



Unfiltered Beauty MedSpa

Storage Sense Gainesville/Mountain View



Philip Edwards, property owner, cuts a ribbon at **Storage Sense**, a provider of secure and convenient self-storage units. The facility at 2928 Mountain View Road in Gainesville is conveniently located near Browns Bridge and McEver roads and serves nearby areas such as Oakwood, Chicopee, and Hall County. Residents of neighborhoods like Lakeshore Heights, Mundy Mill, and Downtown Gainesville will find self-storage options perfect for personal and business needs. With easy access from Lake Lanier and surrounding areas, Storage Sense Gainesville/Mountain View is your trusted choice for flexible and reliable self-storage. Reserve your unit online today! 470-826-3144. storagesense.com

Peach State Bank Braselton

Peach State Bank's **Allyson Ame-zlua, Maritza Williams, Mike Underwood, Kim Anderson**, Branch Manager (scissors), **David Dyer, Jennie Parr** and **Grace Cross** cut a ribbon at the new **Peach State Bank & Trust Braselton**. Celebrating its 20 years of serving the community, Peach State's Braselton Grand Opening was celebrated with a BLT luncheon, raffle items given away throughout the day and homemade peach ice cream, ending the day with a ribbon cutting. 1502 Friendship Road, Braselton, GA 30548. 770-536-1100. peachstate.bank



Ribbon Cuttings

Dr. Khushbu Mody, owner, and **Jackie Dawson**, office manager, cut ribbon at **Oakwood Family Dental**. Known for creating beautiful, healthy smiles, Oakwood Family Dental is now helping patients glow beyond the dental chair with the addition of aesthetic services. The practice recently introduced Vybe RF Microneedling and the Tetra CO2 Laser with CoolPeel®, two advanced skin rejuvenation treatments that target fine lines, acne scars, sun spots, texture, and skin laxity—with zero to minimal downtime. This expansion reflects the team's commitment to whole-patient wellness, blending trusted dental care with modern, non-invasive skincare solutions—all under one roof. 3885 Mundy Mill Road, Suite 116, Oakwood, GA 30566. 470-577-9777. oakwoodfamilydental.com



Oakwood Family Dental

Northeast Georgia Rehabilitation Institute



Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) and **Lifepoint Rehabilitation** cut a ribbon at **Northeast Georgia Rehabilitation Institute (NGRI)**, a 40-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Gainesville on Limestone Parkway. (L-R) **Marty Mann**, Lifepoint Health; **Kevin Matson**, NGHS; **Ismailu O. Agbaje, MD**, medical director for NGRI; **Kevin Gohman**, executive director for NGRI; **Russ Bailey**, Lifepoint Rehabilitation; **Cleve Haralson**, Lifepoint Health; **Dave Stark**, Lifepoint Rehabilitation. Northeast Georgia Rehabilitation Institute is the result of a joint venture partnership between NGHS and Lifepoint Rehabilitation. Lifepoint Rehabilitation will manage day-to-day operations, as the facility joins Lifepoint's network of more than 45 inpatient rehabilitation facilities nationwide. NGRehabInstitute.com

The Oakley on the Lake

The Oakley on the Lake is a modern event venue located on the shores of Lake Lanier in Gainesville. With both indoor and outdoor spaces, it offers a stunning lakeside backdrop for weddings, corporate events and social gatherings. The venue features a spacious reception area, covered ceremony pavilion, and luxurious bridal and groom suites – a customizable, elevated setting for any celebration. Join us at **A Night in White: Dîner en Blanc** at The Oakley on the Lake on **Saturday, August 16** (5:30-9:00pm). The community-centered event is open to anyone looking for a fun and unique evening. Inspired by the Parisian tradition, the event features live music, lakeside ambiance, and a festive table décor competition. For info and tickets, call 770-561-3661, or visit theoakleyvenue.com.



Ribbon Cuttings

Morgan Wingler, MaryJane Robson, Matt Dorminey, Carly Harrington, Clayton Kramer, Tom Lennon and Laura Kramer cut a ribbon at **Floor Coverings International of Northeast Georgia**, a local, veteran-owned flooring company that brings the showroom to your home. With a wide variety of hardwood, carpet, tile and vinyl and expert guidance every step of the way, the team is committed to delivering high-quality flooring and a stress-free experience from selection to installation. Proudly serving homeowners throughout the Northeast Georgia area with personalized service and attention to detail. 706-525-5595. floorcoveringsinternational.com



Floor Coverings International of NEGA

The Big Chill



Irene Clary (scissors) cuts a ribbon at **The Big Chill** with friends, staff and family - **Brooke Borders, Mary Margaret Griffin, Baker Davenport, David Sinyard, Hal Shaw and Trevor Calvert**. The Big Chill is Gainesville's Boutique Spirits, Wine and Beer Store offering customized orders, gift wrapping and friendly service for your day to day needs as well as personal consultations for your large gatherings. Let the The Big Chill assist you with your next event whether it be a small family gathering, wedding, corporate or holiday party. 1210 Thompson Bridge Road in Gainesville. 678-971-1199. thebigchillgainesville.com

Tax Savings Advisors

The **Tax Savings Advisors Team** (front) **Alejandra Arango, Todd Hewell, Camille Viera, Andrea Corona, Maria Carillo**. (back) **Rebeca Marquez, Diana Castaneda, Araceli Rodriguez, Daena Del Angel, Carmen Oliveras, Sarai Rosillo, Jose De Leon**, cut a ribbon at the firm in Gainesville. Tax Savings Advisors specializes in helping business owners, professionals, and individuals maximize their tax efficiency, protect their assets, and achieve financial peace of mind. With over 20 years of experience and a bilingual team, they offer expert guidance in tax planning, business structuring, and IRS resolution services. taxsavingsadvisors.net



Community

The Legacy of an Entrepreneur



In the late 1960s, McDonald's was regarded as a risky venture, as the restaurant failure rate was higher than in most American industries. Still, **Bob Swoszowski** and brother-in-law Frank Markette took the risk. The two aspiring entrepreneurs opened four McDonald's restaurants in North Georgia in the early 1970s. Upon Frank's

untimely death, Bob became the sole owner. He acquired, closed, and sold locations strategically, growing to a total of 21 restaurants by 2020. Throughout his career, Bob received numerous awards from McDonald's, including the prestigious Ronald Award, which he was given twice. Bob retired from McDonald's this year, making him one of the most tenured owner/operators in the system. Throughout his nearly 52 year career, Bob has been deeply supportive of our community, and with his wife, Wanda, continues to support dozens of nonprofits in Hall County. They have provided scholarships to over 30 students at Brenau University, the University of North Georgia, and local high schools. Their most recent passion is a matching fundraising campaign for the Beyond Dementia Coalition. Bob's entrepreneurial spirit and his family's legacy of generosity will live on in our community for generations – we are so appreciative.

Hall Recovers Night of Awareness

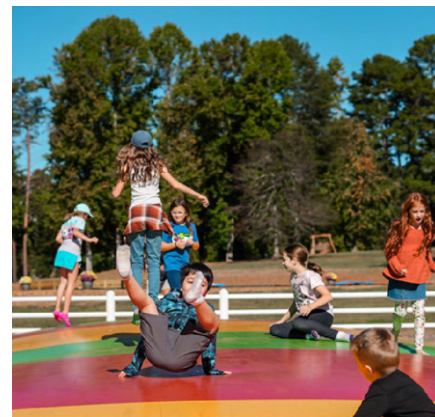


J's Place Recovery Center and community partners host the **6th Annual HALL RECOVERS Night of Awareness** on **August 31** (6:30-8:30pm) at **Midland Greenway in Gainesville**. Presented by Northeast Georgia Health System, the event is held on International Overdose Awareness Day and recognizes those we have lost as a result of substance use disorder while honoring those in recovery. Multi-sport athlete **Quincy Carter**, a UGA and NFL standout quarterback and MLB player, will discuss his battle with addiction and road to recovery. Individuals and advocates of recovery will be highlighted with the event culminating in a candlelight vigil recognizing loved ones we have lost. For event details or to send a name of a loved one to be included in the candlelight vigil, visit HALLRecovers.org

FCA Day

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Northeast Georgia is hosting a **Back-to-School Bash** on **Saturday, August 9** (4-9pm) at **Skitts Mountain Farms** in Cleveland. With an anticipated 2,000+ attendees, FCA Day included fun for all ages with carnival games,

hot air balloon rides, a petting zoo, live music, mini golf, food trucks and much more. A Fireworks Show caps the day off at 9pm. Fun and adventure for the entire family. Tickets, \$20 per person; Kids 2 and Under FREE. Sponsorships and tickets: northeastgafca.org



Vision 2030



Vision 2030's **NextGen Meet & Mingle** in June included a tour of the newly renovated **Bobby Gruhn Field** followed by food, drink and network-ing at **City Park Pizza**. (L-R) **Adam Lindsey**, *Athletic Director for Gainesville City School System*; **Grant Lassiter**,

Turner Wood & Smith; NextGen Chair **Ashley Davis**, *Lawson Heating & Air*; **Anna Hester**, *Chamber*; **Ansley Rochester**, *Northeast Georgia Health System*; **Trey McPhaul**, *City Park Pizza* (Event Sponsor) The upcoming **NextGen Meet & Mingle is September 9 at Standard Service** in Gainesville. Link to learn more and [Register](#).

Work-Based Learning

Gainesville High School's Work-Based Learning (WBL) students earned over \$1.6 million in the last school year with 321 WBL students working with over 175 business partners. **Hall School District WBL** business partners and mentors not only provided employment and internships for over 900 WBL students, but also present career opportunities that can change the trajectory of students' lives. The district held an appreciation luncheon with awards to outstanding partners. **YMCA of Gainesville** received the Existing WBL Partner of the Year; **Orbital Energy Service** was the New WBL Partner of the Year; **Michelle Whitt** of **ZF** received the WBL Community Advocate of the Year; and, **Rodney Pressley** received the WBL Advocate of the Year Award. Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Executive Director, **Rhonda Samples**, remarked that "the partnerships between WBL and local business and industry are vital to fostering and retaining talent here in Hall County. Creating the pipeline of young employees is the best investment companies can make in their workforce."

Upcoming Seminars

Tuesday, August 12

8:15 - 8:30 am: Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am: Program

In Person at the Chamber *or* via Zoom

Digital Marketing: Tools & Tactics That Work



Robbie Parks
UGA SBDC

Robbie Parks is a business consultant and nationally recognized speaker with the **University of Georgia Small Business Development Center**. She empowers entrepreneurs with the knowledge and strategies they need to be competitive in an ever-evolving business landscape. In this session, you'll discover the top 10 digital marketing trends driving small business success today. From AI and generative engine optimization to the enduring power of email marketing, you'll learn what actually works.

Tuesday, September 9

8:15 - 8:30 am: Networking

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

Fostering a Cybersecure Workplace Culture



Abdul Hussain
Delta Community
Credit Union

Learn how to create a cyber-secure workplace culture at this seminar led by **Abdul Hussain**, VP of Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer at **Delta Community Credit Union**, Georgia's largest credit union and one of the largest credit unions in the nation. Abdul has many industry-leading IT and security certifications and over 20 years of experience developing IT security strategies and building infrastructure systems for large scale global enterprises.

No Charge for Chamber Members INFO: Emily Pearce,
770-532-6206 x 111. [Email Emily](mailto:emilyp@ghcc.com)

Big Peach Running Co. – Braselton June Small Business of the Month



Big Peach Running Co. – Braselton's **Zack and Abby Loggins** and **Ryan Kyranakis** offer a friendly spot where runners, walkers and fitness fans of all lev-els feel right at home. It's the only locally owned Big Peach loca-tion in Hall County, and the team is known for their expert gait analysis and person-alized fitting process, making sure every guest gets gear that feels just right. They're also big on giving back by offering

free group runs every Monday at 6:30 p.m. and teaming up with local healthcare providers for Lunch and Learn sessions that support community wellness. bigpeachrunningco.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

Christen Wilbanks
VP, Member Operations
cwilbanks@ghcc.com

Marissa Maynor
VP, Membership Sales
mmaynor@ghcc.com

Ellie Cardin
VP, Events
ecardin@ghcc.com

Emily Pearce
ED Marketing Manager
epearce@ghcc.com

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

GREATERHALLCHAMBER.COM