

CHAMBERCONNECT

08

2026

AUG 05 | Health & Wellness Seminar
AUG 11 | Small Business Seminar
AUG 11 | Finance & Admin Forum
AUG 13 | Business After Hours
AUG 21 | Business Before Hours
AUG 25 | South Hall Business Coalition

jobfair



Thursday, September 10

10am - 2pm | Gainesville Civic Center

Employers!

- Meet Job Seekers
- Hire On-site
- Open to the Public
- 1,000+ Attendees

Link **HERE** or Scan to
Register for Booth



Exhibit Info

Chamber Member \$350 | Non-Member \$500 | Add \$50 for electricity
Robin Halstead, 770-532-6206 | rhalstead@ghcc.com

See Who's Hiring: [GHCC.com/JOBS/](https://ghcc.com/JOBS/)



Workforce Development Summit



The Greater Hall Chamber hosted a Workforce Development Summit in July at Lanier College & Career Academy. Hall County Schools co-hosted the event and sponsored lunch. Panelists and presenters included (front, L-R) **Natalie Smith**, Gainesville High School; **Tammy Rauch**, WorkSource Georgia; **Nikki Chandler**, Chamber VP Exisiting Industry; **Felipe Darquea**, Chamber EcD Marketing; **Patty Walters Laine**, Chief Judge, Hall County Probate Court; **David Witman**, Atlanta Rehab; **Tim Evans**, Chamber President & CEO. (Back Row, L-R) **Rhonda Samples**, CTAE Executive Director, Hall County Schools; **Cory Addison**, Lanier Technical College; **Cole Kaminski**, Kubota Manufacturing of America. The Chamber's own Felipe Darquea shared his journey as a Work-Based Learning high school student, serving as an intern for the Chamber during college, and now on staff as a full time employee responsible for Economic Development marketing and social media strategies.

Small Business Development



The Chamber's July Small Business Seminar was led by Tess Helmandollar of The Cognitive Creative and Growth Pro Partners with discussion on "Building a Business that Outlasts You." (L-R) Small Business Council Chair **Steve Naughton**, Enterprising Solutions; **GG Mack**, GG Mack Luxe Travel; **Hayley Rogers**, Helping Hands Insurance; **Tess Helmandollar**, The Cognitive Creative; **Selena Singh**, Cochran Brothers Electric; **Felipe Darquea**, Chamber.

Executive Leadership



Greater Hall Chamber Chair **Melissa Tymchuk**, *Chief Strategy Executive & Chief of Staff, Northeast Georgia Health System*; **Tim Evans**, *President & CEO*; Chair-Elect **Tate O'Rourke**, *Business Development Manager, Jackson EMC*.



Immediate Past Chamber Chair **Tim McDonald**, *Lanier Technical College*, and wife, **Kim**, with Chamber Chair **Melissa Tymchuk**, *Northeast Georgia Health System*, and **Tim Evans**, Chamber, at the June Board of Directors meeting at the Gainesville Civic Center.

2026-2027 Executive Committee



Front, L-R: **John Simpson**, *Lakeview Academy*; **Hannah Warner**, *Georgia Power*; **Lila Westmoreland**, *Habitat for Humanity*; **David Lee**, *Jackson EMC*; **Christa Andrews**, *Corporate Storage*; **Melissa Tymchuk**, *Northeast Georgia Health System*; **Tammy Caudell**, *Carroll Daniel*; **Doug Carter**, *Don Carter Realty*; **Tate O'Rourke**, *Jackson EMC*. **Back, L-R:** **Brett Fowler**, *Turner Wood & Smith Insurance*; **Glennis Barnes**, *Georgia Power*; **Casey Ryals**, *Ryals Brothers*; **Tim McDonald**, *Lanier Technical College*; **Alex Wayne**, *Wayne Capital*; **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*; **Philip Wilheit Jr.**, *Wilheit Packaging*; **Nick Bruner**, *Rushton*; **William Bagwell**, *Homestead Investments*; **RK Whitehead**, *Willis Investment Counsel*. Not Pictured: **Missy Burgess**, *Lanier Islands Resort*; **Juli Hayes**, *Jr Achievement*.

Programs & Events

South Hall Business Coalition



Angela Gary, Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer at **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton**, gave an update on all that's happening at the hospital at the South Hall Business Coalition meeting in June. Don't miss the upcoming meeting on August 25 at [Trainz.com](https://www.trainz.com) in Flowery Branch.

In partnership with **WomenSource**, the Greater Hall Chamber hosts the first **Women in Business** networking event. Join us for insightful connections and collaborations on **Friday, August 14, 8:30-9:30am**, at the Chamber. Women Only! Details, Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206. [Email Christen](#).



South Hall Business Coalition Tuesday, August 25

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Trainz.com

4195 Industry Way | Flowery Branch



Founded by Scott Griggs in 1975 as a teenager in his family's garage, Trainz.com is now the largest buyer of model trains in North America. Come visit their new home in Flowery Branch, and tour the 73,000 square foot warehouse where they receive, research, and sell model trains and other collectibles. Growing from a small garage operation to a massive warehouse, Trainz now employs over 100 people and is the high technology leader in the model railroading industry. [trainz.com](https://www.trainz.com)

\$8 Chamber Member | \$15 Non-Member | Light Breakfast
Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206 x 116. [Email Christen](#)

Link to Register: [SHBC at Trainz.com](https://www.shbc.com)

The South Hall Business Coalition is sponsored by **AccessNorthGa**, **CertaPro Painters of Northeast Georgia**, **King's Hawaiian**, **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton** and the **University of North Georgia**.

Small Business of the Month Johnny's BBQ



Johnny's BBQ first opened in Gainesville in 1990 with Johnny and Deborah Mallard as the original owners. Tarpe and Judy Ward purchased the business in 1995 and continued the tradition of served Gainesville and North Georgia for 25 years until their much deserved retirement in 2019. Johnny's was then acquired by Judy's nephew/employee of 20 years, Zack Ivey, who is devoted to continuing the tradition of serving Gainesville and North Georgia delicious BBQ. Johnny's offers dine in, carry out as well as deliveries when available. They also offer onsite catering and have catered events ranging from 50 to 1,000 people. Zack and his team hickory smoke fresh pork, beef, brisket, chicken, ribs, and wings daily. They also serve great sides like brunswick stew, coleslaw, baked beans, chips, and hot crinkle cut fries. Zack states, "We have been blessed with the continued support of our community for thirty years and work very hard to maintain fresh quality foods." johnnysbbq.com

Health & Wellness Seminar Wednesday, August 5

9-10 am | In Person at the Chamber *or* via Zoom

Pulmonary Nodules: Analysis & Diagnostic Testing



Craig Brown, MD



Join **Dr. Craig Brown**, a pulmonary specialist with **Northside Hospital Diagnostic Clinic**, for this important discussion on pulmonary nodules. Only now are we starting to understand how nodules can be analyzed and assessed with greater accuracy. The first step is to understand what type of nodule we are dealing with, then understanding what diagnostic modalities are available so we can accurately diagnose any potential harmful diseases. The earlier we find these diseases, the easier it is for to treat them. northsidediagnosticclinic.com

No Charge for Chamber Members.
Link [HERE to REGISTER](#).

Meetings & Events

Vision 2030 NextGen



Vision 2030's NextGen group gathered in June at **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville** for an overview of the Green Tower and a tour of the helipad. It was a great turnout with 40 young professionals connecting and learning more about our community. NextGen meets at Elachee Nature Science Center on September 24 for food and fun sponsored by Northside Hospital. Learn more about NextGen by contacting Anna Hester at 678-971-6212 or anna@ghcc.com.

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

Finance & Administrative Forum

Reducing Tax Liability & Improving Cash Flow Through Tax Credits



Josh Hollum
Client Development
Advisor, TaxCredible

Whether you're actively growing, training your team, or simply want to know what you might be leaving on the table, this session will show you where to look and how to claim those credits.

Tuesday, August 11

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Carroll Daniel

330 Main Street in Gainesville



All businesses look for ways to reduce their tax liability and improve cash flow. Tax credits are one of the most direct ways to do this; however, most businesses don't know what they qualify for, or are not aware credits exist. Josh Hollum with TaxCredible, the largest submitter to the State of Georgia for the Retraining Tax Credit, breaks down what's available and why so much goes unclaimed. Drawing on work helping businesses reduce tax liability and free up cash flow through state and federal credits, Josh will discuss what qualifies, what doesn't, and how the dollars you recover can help you fund your next hire, invest in your business, or simply let you breathe easier at tax time. [Link HERE to Register.](#)

Lunch Included

\$15 Chamber Members

\$20 Non-Members

Free for HR Council Members

Reservations Required

Nikki Chandler

770-532-6206 x 108

nchandler@ghcc.com

AUGUST 2026

Wednesday, August 5

Healthcare & Wellness Seminar

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

Tuesday, August 11

Small Business Seminar

8:15 - 8:30 am Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am Program

Chamber or via Zoom

Tuesday, August 11

Finance & Administrative Forum

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Carroll Daniel | 330 Main Street | Gainesville

Tuesday, August 11 & Wednesday, August 12

Executive Committee Retreat

Lanier Islands Resort

Thursday, August 13

Business After Hours

5:00-7:00 pm | Love Your Story

4436 Thompson Bridge Road | Gainesville

Friday, August 14

Women in Business Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am | Chamber

Tuesday, August 18

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, August 19

Issues Committee

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Friday, August 21

Business Before Hours

7:30 - 9:00 am

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gainesville

Tuesday, August 25

South Hall Business Coalition

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Trainz.com

4195 Industry Way | Flowery Branch

Thursday, August 27

Chamber Board of Directors

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

Membership

Welcome New Chamber Members

Aflac Insurance

Andrea Brock
(770) 639-0800
aflac.com/andreabrock

Alex Co & Consulting

Alejandra Negrete
(770) 826-5476
alexandcoconsulting.com

Blueprint Risk Consulting

Ioana Radu
(678) 235-4422
blueprintriskconsulting.com

Brett Willis Law

Brett Willis
(770) 600-1271
brettwillislaw.com

Candlewood Suites by IHG

Rebecca Johnson
(678) 971-4822
candlewoodsuites.com/oak-woodga

Clothing with a Purpose

Julie Goodin
(770) 364-4688
ClothingwithaPurposega.com

Coker Equipment Company

Garrett Rowland
(770) 532-7066
cokerequipment.net

Container South

Sheridan Renfroe
(404) 254-6306
ContainerSouth.com

Express Oil Change

Tire Engineers
Tony Arnett
(770) 375-0471
expressoil.com

Flow Therapy

Lauren Verlander
(770) 935-1111
flowtherapy.com

Georgia Banking Company

Dennis Bradley
(678) 557-5875
georgiabanking.com

Georgia Select Roofing

Christopher Earls
(678) 316-6899
georgiaselectroofing.com

Glory Roofing

Greg Oglesby
(706) 656-0391
gloryroofingllc.com

Honor HVAC

Joe Nolan
(678) 365-6299
honorhvac.com

Hoopla at the Hive

Roxanne Woods
(804) 651-6881
instagram/hooplaatthehive

KENDO

Hannah Kim
(470) 326-5252
tahanatural.com

LivingonLakeLanier.com

Teresa Smith
(770) 654-4173
livingonlakelanier.com

McGraw Manufacturing

Mike McGraw
(678) 696-3236
mcgrawmanufacturing.com

MJR Solutions

Dustin Jordan
(706) 601-1808
mjrsolutions.us

Mulberry Springs Vineyard and Winery

Mark Faul
(678) 472-6327
mulberrysprings.com

OfficeMax

Pushkar Durve
(770) 532-7970
officedepot.com

Pinnacle Advisory Partners

Robin Bailey
(404) 647-7404

The Pixel Man

Anita Moore
(706) 429-8269
thepixelman.com

Tiny Planet Counseling

Maureen Czaykowski
(678) 982-4483
tinyplanetcounseling.com

Trustus Realty

Eun Kim
(404) 991-0092
keyadvisors.us

TTRC INC

Luis Correa
(678) 920-6350
sunf.com

Sponsorship Opportunities

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Fall Job Fair

10am - 2:00 pm | Gainesville Civic Center
PLATINUM - \$2,250
GOLD - \$1,500 | SILVER - \$1,000

Thursday, OCTOBER 1, 2026

HealthSmart Wellness Expo

7:30am - 1:30pm | Gainesville Civic Center
PLATINUM - \$4,000 | GOLD - \$3,000
EXHIBITOR LUNCH - \$2,500
SILVER - \$2,000 | BRONZE - \$1,000

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Industry Appreciation Lunch

11:30am - 1:00pm | Lanier Technical College
PLATINUM - \$5,000 | GOLD - \$2,500
SILVER - \$2,000 | BRONZE - \$1,000
TABLE - \$500

Small Business Seminars

Annual Sponsor Fee - \$1,600 (6 max)

South Hall Business Coalition

Annual Sponsor Fee - \$1,500 (6 max)

Business After Hours

Sponsorship - \$700 per event

Business Before Hours

Sponsorship - \$350 per event

Leadership Hall County

Graduation - \$1,500 | Bus - \$1,750
Lunch - \$1,000 | Program - \$900
Breakfast - \$600 | Snack - \$300

Youth Leadership Hall County

Graduation - \$1,500 | Lunch - \$1,000
Program - \$900 | Breakfast - \$600
Snack - \$300

Chamber Board Meeting

Lunch Sponsor Fee - \$1,000

New Member Breakfasts

Sponsorship - \$500 per event

Vision 2030 Next Gen

Annual Sponsorship Fee - \$500

INFO: Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206 x 116. Email: cwilbanks@ghcc.com

Member News

Truist Executives Meet Chamber Staff



Truist team members (L-R) **Matt Freimuth**, Market President, North Georgia, and **Brian Martinez**, Vice President & Commercial Banker, recently stopped by the Greater Hall Chamber to introduce **Katie Saez**, Regional President, Georgia and Alabama, and to discuss market perspectives with **Mark VanTassel** and **Tim Evans**. Truist is a longtime Chamber partner. The Gainesville main branch is located at 455 Jesse Jewell Parkway with several more locations in the Greater Hall area. Truist Financial Corporation is a top-10 U.S. bank with over \$500 billion in assets. Formed by the 2019 merger of BB&T and SunTrust, Truist serves some 15 million clients. truist.com

Decoy to Relocate to Gainesville Square

Owner **Rand Carswell** announced that **Decoy** is relocating to the heart of Historic Downtown Gainesville Square at 104 Main Street. The move marks a new chapter as the restaurant transforms into a gathering place for dining, live entertainment, interactive games, and unforgettable events – all under one roof. Expected to open in early 2027, Decoy has been completely reimagined to become a place for everything from business lunches and family dinners to date nights, late-night entertainment, and watch parties for the biggest sporting events. The new Decoy will feature a chef-driven menu, handcrafted cocktail program, DJ-driven nightlife, golf simulators, Duckpin bowling lanes, and an outdoor patio. The current 123 Green Street location will remain open through 2026. EatPlayDecoy.com



DECOY
EAT. DRINK. PLAY.

Huntington Bank Acquires Cadence



Huntington

Community banking leader **J.D. Meador** is Division President at **Huntington National Bank**, formerly Cadence Bank. Located at 500 Jesse Jewell Parkway, Huntington Gainesville has a collective 40 years of banking experience. The recent acquisition brings

the 160-year-old brand to Gainesville-Hall County and surrounding North-east Georgia markets. huntington.com

- **Vallant Bank** – the name may be new to you, but the bank branches are full of familiar faces. Created as part of a partnership between **Pinnacle Bank** and Dublin-based **Morris Bank**, two of Georgia's longest-standing community banks, Vallant Bank is proud to build on a shared foundation of local relationships, face-to-face service and a neighborly commitment to every person who walks through our doors. vallantbank.com

- **Gainesville Goes Pop** by Chris Hobé is on exhibit at **Smithgall Arts Center**, 331 Spring Street in Gainesville, through September 18. The California born pop artist, also known as ArtRevolts, creates a box for the world to think outside of. Each piece incorporates different layers and iconic nostalgic imagery from comic books, music, logos and patterns. **Live music and outdoor concerts are scheduled for August 8th and 14th** at the Smithgall Arts Center. Buy lawn seats, purchase a table up front, and preorder a catered meal. Details and tickets: theartscouncil.net

- The **9th Annual Good Samaritan Golf Tournament** is **Tuesday, September 15** at Country Land Golf Course in Cumming and raises awareness and funds for the Good Samaritan Ministries. Founded over 60 years ago, Good Samaritan assists those in need with a variety of services including food distribution, toiletries, furniture, counseling, job placement training, health screenings, and more for individuals and their families. In 2025, the organization distributed over two million pounds of food, serving 160,000 individuals, including more than 21,000 children and nearly 12,000 senior adults. Learn more about Good Samaritan and the golf tournament at gsfoodministries.com

- The **University of North Georgia** (UNG) invites the community to its inaugural open house and academic festival – **Next Fest** on **Saturday, August 29** (9am-2pm) at the UNG Gainesville Campus in Oakwood. Guests of all ages can enjoy FREE, family friendly, hands on learning activities, live entertainment, food, and fun! It's a chance to experience the university, engage with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners, and enjoy a day filled with discovery and celebration. Details: Amanda Smith at amanda.smith@ung.edu or 678 696 2988.

- **Tallulah Falls School's (TFS) 12th Annual Twin Rivers Challenge** is set for October 24. This cycling event raises funds for student scholarships and offers three routes: 70, 46, and 25 miles. With the leaves at peak color in late October, this is the perfect time to visit the region known for its scenery and hospitality. TFS welcomes cyclists across the Southeast to experience the Twin Rivers Challenge. Registration includes a t-shirt, SAG stop access with plenty of snacks and beverages, sweep drivers, and lunch back on campus complete with a local blue-grass band! Register at TwinRiversChallenge.com.

Community

Business Before Hours

Friday, August 21 | 7:30 am

Georgia Mountain Food Bank

1642 Calvary Industrial Drive | Gainesville

Business Before Hours

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN
FOOD BANK
'til no one is hungry

Warehouse & Waffles



JOIN US ON
AUGUST 21ST, 2026

7:30 – 9:00 AM

1642 Calvary Industrial Dr.
Gainesville, GA 30507


GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RSVP 770)534-4111 or email Frontdesk@GMFB.org

We look forward to seeing you!

Link to Register: [Warehouse & Waffles](#)

Business After Hours

Thursday, August 13 | 5-7pm

Love Your Story Future Campus

4436 Thompson Bridge Road | Gainesville



In 2017, Founder Abigail Burle gave birth to triplets 16 weeks early and spent many months navigating disability and caregiving. **Love Your Story** is a nonprofit that creates spaces of belonging for families impacted by disability and medical complexity through free temporary housing, caregiver support programs, and inclusive community initiatives. Join us at the future home of the **Dream With Us Campus**, connect with local leaders and members, and hear the vision for what is being built. Enjoy networking, refreshments, music, giveaways, and an inside look at the project. loveyourstory.us

Networking | Door Prizes | Cash Prize Drawing

\$8 Chamber Members | \$15 Non-Members

Christen Wilbanks, 770-532-6206 x 116, cwilbanks@ghcc.com

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Day



Northeast Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is planning its **2nd Annual FCA Day**. Presented **Syfan Logistics** and **America's Home Place**, FCA Day is set for **Saturday, August 15** (4-9pm) at **Skitts Mountain Farms** in Clermont. The family-friendly celebration brings businesses, athletes and the community together for an unforgettable day packed with live music, food trucks, hot air balloons, carnival-style games and attractions, and a spectacular fireworks show to close out the night. Last year, 60 local businesses helped raise over \$300,000 for the ministry of FCA in Northeast Georgia. Local businesses are encouraged to participate by sponsoring the event or setting up vendor booths, helping showcase the strong community spirit that defines the North Georgia area. All proceeds will directly support the FCA programs for the 2026-27 school year, empowering student-athletes to grow in faith, leadership, and service both on and off the field. Tickets, \$20 per person (at the gate day-of or online). Sponsorships and tickets: northeastgfca.org/fca-day

HALL Recovers Night of Awareness



J's Place Recovery Center and community partners host the **7th 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. 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

Ribbon Cuttings

Red Wing Shoes of Gainesville

provides quality built footwear designed to last with a great selection of premium boots, work boots, steel toe and safety toe boots and shoes from brands such as Red Wing, Irish Setter, and Vasque. Their store associates will guide you through the Ultimate Fit Experience to ensure you receive the best fit for your work boot needs. Their boots are crafted with premium leather from their own tannery. Red Wing takes pride in their excellent products and customer service. 1110 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville. redwingshoes.com



Red Wing Shoes of Gainesville

ABODE at Magnolia Bluff



Sean Farrell and Jordan Reese cut a ribbon at **ABODE at Magnolia Bluff** at 6804 Spout Springs Road in Flowery Branch. Discover comfortable and modern townhome living in a welcoming community designed to fit your lifestyle. ABODE's spacious homes feature thoughtfully designed floor plans, stylish finishes, and convenient amenities, all in a desirable location close to shopping, dining, and everyday essentials. With homes currently available, now is the perfect time to find the space you'll love coming home to. abodemagnoliabluff.com

Preferred Capital Management



Damiean McNeese, Megan Locke, Scott Hogan, Cindi Hogan and Lindsey Billings cut a ribbon at **Preferred Capital Management (PCM)** at 200 Main Street, Suite 200 in Gainesville. With over 30 plus years of experience and 25 years of being in business, PCM is a wealth management and financial planning firm dedicated to helping individuals, families, and businesses pursue their financial goals through personalized planning and investment management. The team takes a client focused approach, building long-term relationships based on trust, transparency and responsive service and provides guidance in retirement planning, investment management, estate planning coordination, and wealth preservation strategies. By combining experienced advice with tailored solutions, PCM helps clients navigate life's financial decisions with confidence. pcmofga.com

Ribbon Cuttings

Flow Therapy Clinic

Representatives of **Flow Therapy** and **Northeast Georgia Health System** participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June at the new Flow Therapy clinic at 1650 Jesse Jewell Parkway in Gainesville. The joint venture expands access to advanced noninvasive cardiovascular care in Gainesville and the surrounding region. The partnership introduces counterpulsation therapy (also known as external counterpulsation, ECP), a noninvasive outpatient treatment for patients living with persistent symptoms of ischemic heart disease. The new clinic is the first clinic of its kind in the state of Georgia. flowtherapy.com



North Georgia Audiology & Hearing Aid Center



Co-owners and Audiologists **Dr. Jessica Allen** and **Dr. C. Brooke Means** cut a ribbon at **North Georgia Audiology & Hearing Aid Center's** new location at 660 Lanier Park Drive in Gainesville. Founded in 2013, North Georgia Audiology is a locally owned, independent, women-owned audiology practice known for its award-winning care, experienced audiologists, and state-of-the-art technology. Patients receive personalized treatment plans, including comprehensive hearing evaluations, hearing aids, tinnitus management, earwax removal, cochlear implant services, and ongoing hearing care for patients of all ages. YourHearingLink.com

The James Longstreet Museum at the Historic Piedmont Hotel



A ribbon cutting was recently held to open **The James Longstreet Museum at the Historic Piedmont Hotel** at 827 Maple Street in Gainesville. (Row 1) **Bob Shepard, Jeff Pierce** (Curator), **Steven Serrao** (US Marshall). (Row 2) **Rev. Ken Lambert, John LaForge, Gov. Nathan Deal, Megan Wade, Richard Pilcher, Maria Pilcher.** (Row 3) **Doug Smith, Fr. Heiu Ha, Bonnie Reynolds, Dr. Douglas Young, Dan Paterson, Robert Farrell.** The James Longstreet Museum is a 100% volunteer run organization that operates exclusively through gifts and donations. The organization promotes the life and legacy of Gen. James Longstreet, his family, and their contributions to Northeast Georgia. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Admission is free. longstreetsociety.org

Ribbon Cuttings

Sybil Hall Behler, market manager, and local vendors cut a ribbon at the **Hall County Farmers Market**, a nonprofit community market dedicated to supporting local farmers, growers, bakers, and artisans. Since 1973, the market has provided a welcoming place to shop for fresh, locally grown produce, handmade goods, baked treats, flowers, and more. Through seasonal events, educational programs, and family-friendly activities, they strive to strengthen local agriculture and foster community connections and a gathering place where supporting local means investing in the people and businesses that make Hall County thrive. hallcountyfarmersmarket.org



Hall County Farmers Market

Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers



Participants at the **Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers** ribbon cutting at 3455 Wind-er Highway in Oakwood (L-R) **Shane Ward**, Regional Director; **Tony Arnett**, Regional Manager; **Paul Henson**, Manager; **Gabby Taylor**, **Conard Belt**, **Daniel Moreno**, **Afredo Taylor**, **Michael Nickle** and representatives from Advance Auto. Founded in 1979 with a single store in Birmingham, Alabama, Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers has grown into a national leader in automotive service with more than 400 stores across the country. The brand remains synonymous with convenient, high-quality automotive service at a great price. expressoil.com

Dogwood Pavilion at Longwood Park



Gainesville Parks and Recreation (GPR) recently celebrated the grand opening of the new **Dogwood Pavilion at Longwood Park**. A ribbon-cutting ceremony featured members of the GPR Board, Gainesville City Council and project partners. **City of Gainesville officials** (L-R) **Bryan Lackey**, City Manager; **Abigail Guzman**, City Council Ward 4; **Zack Thompson**, Mayor; **Angela Sheppard**, Deputy City Manager. The project enhances one of the community's premier waterfront destinations. In addition to the pavilion with kitchen and restroom facilities, the \$3.5 million project includes a new pedestrian bridge, new playground and parking improvements. GPR offers more than 2,500 programs annually for participants of all ages; operates major facilities, including Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, Gainesville Civic Center and Lanier Point Athletic Complex; and maintains 21 parks. gainesville.org

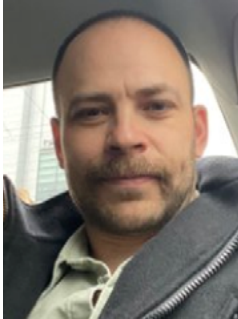
Small Business

Small Business Seminars

Tuesday, August 11

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

“Superpowers that AI can Unlock for Your Business”



Ben Nichol
Forward Deployed
Engineer

AI is a superpower. We know it's powerful, but few people understand how to wield it. Join Ben Nichol, a Forward Deployed Engineer, and learn how to grasp the simple and easy while considering the complex and profound implications for AI on your business today. Nichol's work is centered around embedding with businesses, understanding their needs, and helping them to understand and deploy AI powered solutions. Before working in AI, Ben spent over 15 years in the games industry working for organizations like Red Bull, the New York Mets, and Mr. Beast.

Tuesday, September 8

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

“Expanding Business and Education Partnerships”



Technical colleges and universities are an excellent resource for small businesses seeking talent, development and funding support. Join **Dr. Shatrela Washington-Hubbard** as she discusses ways you can expand capabilities by partnering with higher education institutions to build a talent pipeline, provide upskilling opportunities for current employees, and pursue research and grant funding. Dr. Washington-Hubbard is the **Dean of the Jacobs College of Business & Media at Brenau University**. Her research agenda focuses on topics in entrepreneurship, experiential learning, and career development. brenau.edu



No Charge for Chamber Members

INFO: Felipe Darquea, 770-532-6206 x 111, [Email Felipe](mailto:Felipe@ghcc.com)

Ambassador of the Year



Congratulations to **GG Mack** with **GG Mack Luxe Travel**, the Greater Hall Chamber's Ambassador of the Year. GG has served as an outstanding Ambassador and always goes out of her way to make new members (and longtime members) feel welcome. She attends ribbon cuttings, grand openings, Business After Hours and more – always with a big greeting and a bright smile. GG is known as “Your Dancing Travel Agent,” as she moved from the ballroom floor as a professional dancer and entertainment company owner

to a premium travel agent. She's a luxury travel concierge, a Certified Elite Cruise Counselor, and a top-producing specialist with elite partnerships across the globe, including Celebrity Cruises, Sandals Resorts, Windstar Cruises, and several river cruise brands. ggmacktravel.com

The Greater Hall Chamber is adding to its Team!

Intern – Economic Development

Part-time administrative and clerical duties
Submit resumes to resumes@ghcc.com

CONTACT US

770-532-6206

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

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

Felipe Darquea
ED Marketing
[Email Felipe](mailto:Felipe@ghcc.com)

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

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

GREATERHALLCHAMBER.COM