

CHAMBERCONNECT

05

2026

MAY 05 | Small Business Seminar
MAY 06 | Health & Wellness Seminar
MAY 07 | 118th Annual Meeting & Gala
MAY 13 | Annual Transportation Forum
MAY 14 | Business After Hours
MAY 19 | South Hall Business Coalition

Business After Hours



Many thanks to our friends at **NoFo Brew Co** for hosting Business After Hours. Join us on **May 14 at Livano Limestone Springs** for an evening of networking, live music, refreshments, and a first-hand look the luxury apartment community. livanolimestone-springs.com

118th Annual Meeting & Gala Thursday, May 7, 2026

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Boathouse
Lake Lanier Olympic Park



Black Tie Optional
Sunset Cocktail Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner & Program 7:30 p.m.
\$200 per person | \$1,600 Table (seats 8)

Reservations



We invite you to a lakeside evening of celebration marking the Chamber's 118th year and honoring the leaders and businesses that shape our community. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Lake Lanier, this signature event features the presentation of Annual Business Awards, recognizing outstanding small and family-owned businesses, along with individual honors for exceptional leadership and distinguished service. The evening will also include the Passing of the Gavel, as we welcome our incoming executive leadership and usher in a new year for the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. Info: Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115. [Email Ellie](#). Link [HERE](#) for Reservations.



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Transportation Forum



Wednesday, May 13

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Lanier Technical College
Ramsey Conference Center

Featuring
Commissioner Russell McMurry
Georgia Department of Transportation

\$30 Chamber Member | \$40 Guest | \$300 Table Sponsor (seats 8)
Includes Lunch | Reservations Required
Gerri Collins, 770-532-6206 x 106
Email: gcollins@ghcc.com
Link to Register: [Transportation Forum Reservations](#)

In This Issue

Agribusiness Award Recipients
Small Business of the Month
Member News | Ribbon Cuttings



The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce presented its **2026 AgriBusiness Awards** at a breakfast in April at Jaemor Farms. The program increases recognition and appreciation of the agricultural and agribusiness community in Hall County and is a partnership of the Chamber, Hall County Farm Bureau and UGA Extension Hall County. (L-R) Georgia State Senator **Drew Echols**; **Phil Bonelli**, Hopewell Farms, with sons **Weston and Benny** (Farmer of the Year); **Garrett Hibbs**, Hall County Extension (Friend of Agriculture); Program Presenter **Charlie Westbrook**, retired Cobb Vantress; **Dr. Louise Zavala**, Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network (AgriBusiness of the Year); **Dave Neff** (Hall of Fame). Not Pictured, **Emory Dunahoo** (Friend of Agriculture).

Vision 2030



Led by Chairs **Tate O'Rouke**, Jackson EMC; **Juli Hayes**, Junior Achievement; and Executive Director **Anna Hester**, the **Vision 2030 Board of Directors** recently participated in an Art Walk through Midland Gainesville. Vision 2030 is a community-led initiative sponsored by the Greater Hall Chamber and functions as a group of volunteers who champion long-term goals defined by local citizens. Learn more at vision2030.org



Anna Hester, Vision 2030 Executive Director, with **Allyson Everett** and **Hillary Neff** at the Art Walk.

VISION 2030
PUBLIC ART

Ribbon Cuttings

Rick's Mobile RV Service



Owners Rickey and Sarah Blalock cut a ribbon at **Rick's Mobile RV Service**. The repair and maintenance mobile service can assist with your RV, whether you are having issues at a campground, a storage facility or at home. As seasoned campers with over 25 years of experience, the Blalocks work to allow you to focus on family and enjoy your time off, free from the worries of RV issues and maintenance. ricksmobilervservice.com

Selah Studios & Events



Owner Courtney Dahlsten, her husband **Drew** and children, cut a ribbon at **Selah Studios & Events**. Selah is a business that brings people together. Whether you are documenting momentous occasions or seasons in your life, or coming to together to celebrate something or someone bigger than yourselves, Selah is here to host it all. Selah is Gainesville's newest creative space. Selah is where beautiful work (and meaningful moments) come to life. selahgainesville.com

Promote your BUSINESS with a Ribbon Cutting

It's a free service if you're a member of the Greater Hall Chamber. Not a member? Join now, call Marissa Maynor at 770-532-6206. [Email Marissa](mailto:marissa@greaterhallchamber.com)

MAY 2026

Friday, May 1

Network Over Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 am | McAlister's Deli

Tuesday, May 5

Small Business Seminar

8:15 - 9:30 am | Chamber or via Zoom

Wednesday, May 6

Health & Wellness Seminar

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

Thursday, May 7

118th Annual Meeting & Gala

6:00 - 9:00 pm | The Boathouse
Lake Lanier Olympic Park

Wednesday, May 13

Transportation Forum

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Lanier Technical College

Wednesday, May 13

Human Resource Council

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, May 14

Business After Hours

5:00 - 7:00 pm | Livano Limestone Springs

Friday, May 15

Network Over Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 am | First Citizens Bank

Tuesday, May 19

South Hall Business Coalition

9:00 - 10:00 am | Mimaki

Tuesday, May 19

Vision 2030 Board of Directors

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, May 20

Issues Committee

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Thursday, May 21

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 pm | Chamber

Thursday, May 28

Chamber Board Meeting

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Lanier Technical College

Ribbon Cuttings

Lanier Legacy Group



Adam Hicks, Founder/Owner and Counselor at Law, and his team cut a ribbon at **Lanier Legacy Group (LLG)**. Located at 200 Main Street in Gainesville, LLG helps families plan for the future with confidence. Through personalized estate planning, they work to protect your assets, honor your wishes, and create lasting peace of mind for you and your loved ones. They support clients through estate administration and asset alignment, ensuring every detail is carried out smoothly and your plan works exactly as intended. lanierlegacygroup.com

Men's Wearhouse



Trudi Mixon, Regional Manager, **Darya Lewis**, Store Manager, and the team at **Men's Wearhouse**, cut a ribbon at the store at 867 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville. Men's Wearhouse is one of the largest specialty retailers of men's tailored clothing and formal wear in the US, with hundreds of stores nationwide. They provide affordable, high-quality menswear for all occasions, including business, weddings, and special events. Product assortment includes: suits and tuxedos, dress shirts and sport coats, casual wear and accessories with designer and private-label brands. menswarehouse.com

Blessed & Highly Flavored by Jen



Owner/Baker **Jennifer Sepulveda**, family and staff, cut a ribbon at **Blessed & Highly Flavored by Jen**. Located at 3640 Mundy Mill Road in Gainesville, the bakery has something for everyone! Stop by the shop to enjoy personal cake tins, macarons, and a number of other sweet treats. BHF by Jen offers custom orders, specializing in cakes and decorated sugar cookies. They also love working with businesses by offering logo cookies, and event dessert catering! bhfbjjen.com

Ribbon Cuttings

Bella's Iris Flower & Gift Shop



Iris Lawson cuts a ribbon at **Bella's Iris Flower & Gift Shop**. Located at 475 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville, the shop specializes in a wide array of custom creations and designs for all occasions. From engraved fresh flower to corporate gift boxes and seasonal surprises, they offer thoughtful and unique gifts for every moment. 770-539-0378.

Lash & Glow Studio



Owners **Rachel Watkins** and **Sarah Blackburn** with **Chloe Higgins** and their families cut a ribbon at **Lash & Glow Studio**. Located at 860 Oak Street in Gainesville, Lash & Glow specializes in providing a wide range of beauty services such as eyelash extensions and much more. The team of skilled professionals is dedicated to helping you look and feel your absolute best. Whether you're looking for a relaxing spa experience or a flawless look for a special occasion, Lash & Glow caters to all your beauty needs. lashandglow.info

Distribution Cooperative



Distribution Cooperative, Inc. (DCI) serves six non-profit health systems in Georgia. DCI began business in 2000, providing warehousing, inventory, and delivery functions to its Member Patron hospitals. The operational aspects of DCI include 24/7 on-demand, and 7 days per week scheduled medical-surgical primary distribution services. The DCI mission is to provide excellent supply and distribution services to Member Patrons at the lowest cost possible. 678-708-5105

Meetings & Events

Health & Wellness Seminar

Wednesday, May 6

9:00 am - 10:00 am

In Person at the Chamber or via Zoom

No Charge for Chamber Members

[Register Here](#)

"Assistive Technology"



Emily Major
Legacy Link



For a person without disabilities, technology makes LIFE EASIER. For a person with disabilities, technology makes LIFE POSSIBLE! **Emily Major** is program monitor and assistive technology coordinator at **Legacy Link**, a local non-profit linking aging adults and adults with disabilities to the support they need and deserve. Emily is passionate about helping aging adults and advocates for a healthy aging population. Join us as we learn from Emily the latest technologies assisting those with disabilities or limitations. legacylink.org

Health & Wellness Seminars are held monthly with discussion on health and wellness services, issues and other important topics.

Small Business Seminar

Tuesday, May 5

8:15 - 8:30 am Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am Program

In Person at the Chamber or via Zoom

No Charge for Chamber Members

[Register Here](#)

"Why Managers Often Fail to Lead"



Jack Enter
Leadership Development & Training Executive

Most organizations create a culture where staff are effective in accomplishing the organizational mission. Many individuals, however, are often ineffective when promoted to supervisors and managers. Why do effective individuals become ineffective at practicing leadership attitudes and behaviors? Get the answers from **Jack Enter**, a leadership development and training executive for 42 years. He's lectured across the globe while authoring two books. He'll examine factors such as training, ineffective modeling, loss of relational connection and accountability, and how to turn these factors around to cultivate effective leaders.

Small Business Council Sponsors



South Hall Business Coalition

Tuesday, May 19

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Mimaki USA

4851 Thurmon Tanner Parkway
Suite 100 in Flowery Branch

\$8 Chamber Member

\$15 Non-Member

[Register Here](#)



Join the South Hall Business Coalition for an engaging meeting hosted by Mimaki USA, a global leader in innovative digital printing and cutting technology. Founded in Japan in 1975, Mimaki develops advanced solutions for industries including sign graphics, textiles, industrial printing, and 3D manufacturing, serving customers in more than 150 countries. Come tour their new headquarters in Flowery Branch, continuing its commitment to innovation and growth in the region. Don't miss this look into one of South Hall's cutting-edge manufacturing companies. mimakiusa.com

Reservations Required | Light Breakfast Included
Info: Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115. [Email Ellie.](#)

South Hall Business Coalition Sponsors



Coalition Tours King's Hawaiian



Kelly Frisbie, Drew Echols and Tate O'Rourke

The South Hall Business Coalition met at King's Hawaiian Bakery for an overview and tour of the plant in Flowery Branch where their flagship sweet rolls are produced. King's Hawaiian expanded its facility last year with a new 150,000-square-foot bakery, creating over 160 new jobs and now provides over 800 jobs for the Hall County community.

Member News

Will White Joins Candler Real Estate



Gainesville native **Will White** has joined **Candler Real Estate** as Senior Commercial Sales Associate. He specializes in Hall, Banks, Lumpkin, Elbert and Franklin Counties representing industrial/retail/office buildings, large residential acreage tracts, and large timber/recreational tracts. Will has extensive local knowledge, national relationships and state-of-the-art investments analysis software to advise clients on whether to sell, hold, buy or lease a specific type of Real

Estate in any geographical area. His many years in the business and successful completion of numerous transactions have given Will the tools to assist any Buyer or Seller needs. Will is a member of The Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors and achieved Multi-Million Dollar sales every year he has been in the Commercial Real Estate business. candler.com

New Co-Working Space at The Times

A new premium co-working space has opened at **The Times** building on Green Street, bringing a modern, flexible and affordable workspace to Downtown Gainesville. **Pressworks Work Club** welcomed community members during an open house in April, offering a first look at the space as it begins operations. The 24/7 co-working hub is designed for professionals, entrepreneurs and creatives looking for an alternative to traditional office settings. The space blends industrial and organic design elements, with natural wood tones, leather seating, greenery and soft lighting aimed at creating a comfortable, productive environment. Learn more at pressworkswc.com.



Wisdom Project 2026 Program



The Wisdom Project 2030 was initiated in 2012 under the Vision 2030 Initiative of the Greater Hall Chamber. Its mission is to capture the wisdom of residents aged 55 and older, known as Wisdom Keepers,

and leverage their knowledge and leadership to benefit the Gainesville and Hall County community. Participants in the program engage in eight full-day sessions, which include interactive learning, networking, and discussions with community leaders. These sessions provide a multi-faceted view of local issues, opportunities, and community development efforts, allowing participants to explore ways to contribute their skills through advocacy and volunteer projects. To learn more and to apply for the upcoming sessions, visit wisdomproject2030.org.

- **Tax Savings Advisors** is hosting a **Tax & Legal Strategy Summit** on May 2 (10am - 3pm) at the Gas South Convention Center in Atlanta. Speakers include **Mark J. Kohler**, *Tax Attorney & CPA*, and **Camille Viera-Hewell**, *Certified Tax Advisor*. The summit will provide advanced tax and wealth protection strategies for business owners and investors, asset protection frameworks, wealth building systems for entrepreneurs, and how to avoid costly financial mistakes. Register at taxsavingsadvisors.net

- The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at **Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton** is the first in the state to be officially designated by the Georgia Department of Public Health as a Level II unit based on the national standards from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Although NGMC Braselton has operated as a Level II NICU since receiving state approval back in 2016, this new designation formally validates that the unit meets or exceeds nationally established standards for risk-appropriate neonatal care. nghs.com

- **Eagle Ranch's Family Fest 2026** is June 20th – a free party with tons of fun activities, including festival games, inflatables, cotton candy, and more. Food trucks and vendors will be on hand with great food and goodies for purchase! Run the Ranch 5K is back with a new, chip-timed course; challenging but runner and walker friendly so all can join in on the fun. Family Fest is FREE, but you must register online to reserve your admission. Registration for the 5K, Fun Run and Nature Walk events is a great price, with a special discount for families. Link to Register: [Eagle Ranch Family Fest](http://EagleRanchFamilyFest).

- The **Dixon Classic 2026** is August 3 at Chicopee Woods Golf Course. All net proceeds go to benefit The Blane Dixon Fallen Heroes Fund, a fund of the North Georgia Community Foundation, that assists the family of any Hall County first responder who is killed in the line of duty. For details, call or text Kayla Dixon at 706-870-4077. For registration and sponsorship information link to the [Dixon Classic Golf Tournament](http://DixonClassicGolfTournament).

- The **Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier** is excited to announce the return of one of the most anticipated community events of the year – **the 2026 Duck Derby** – taking place May 2 at Lake Lanier Olympic Park from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Twenty thousand rubber ducks will splash into the water and race toward the finish line so that one lucky winner will win the grand prize of \$10,000 while supporting kids and teens who benefit from the programs and services of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier. Fun for the whole family with games, bounce houses, a petting zoo, food trucks, music, live entertainment, face painting and more. To adopt a duck, visit [2026 Duck Derby](http://2026DuckDerby).

Membership

Brenau announces naming of the Jacobs College of Business & Media



Martha, Jay and Anna Jacobs

Brenau University announces the naming of the Jacobs College of Business and Media, recognizing the family's enduring philanthropic support of the institution, their legacy of community service, and their role as pioneers who have shaped the media landscape for 77 years.

"This gift will transform the college to enhance programs and provide support and expand opportunities for faculty and students," Brenau President David L. Barnett, Ph.D., said. "John W. Jacobs Jr. was a pioneer in broadcasting in Gainesville, a long-time supporter of Brenau and a long-serving chair of our Board of Trustees. Jacobs Media Corporation and the Jacobs family have long partnered with Brenau's business and communication programs, and this naming is a fitting way to honor their legacy to the university and the community."

As outlined in a new agreement signed by the Jacobs family, funds will be used to support the college, including facility upgrades, programmatic and faculty support, fellowships and scholarships, and other investments in Brenau's business and media programs. The Jacobs College Scholarship for Business and Media will be created as an endowed scholarship fund for deserving undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the college. brenau.edu

Small Business of the Month



Nelson Elder Care Law was recognized as **Small Business of the Month** at the Greater Hall Chamber's recent Board of Directors Meeting. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, Greater Hall Chamber; Co-Vice Chair of Membership **John Simpson**, Lakeview Academy; **Roxie Wharton** and **Kristin Edwards** of **Nelson Elder Care Law**; Co-Vice Chair of Membership **Beth Downs**, Northeast Georgia Health System; Chamber Chairman **Tim McDonald**, Lanier Technical College.

At Nelson Elder Care Law, the focus has always been simple: helping Georgia families feel prepared, protected, and confident about the future through thoughtful, proactive elder law and estate planning. A recipient of a 2025 Best of Georgia Award, the firm has guided families for more than a decade through critical decisions involving long-term care planning, asset protection, probate, estate planning, and guardianship or conservatorship. At the heart of its philosophy is the belief that good planning should bring peace of mind rather than pressure, empowering clients with clear education and transparency so they can make informed choices that align with their goals and values. What sets the firm apart are innovative solutions like the Absolute Protection Trust™ and advanced Medicaid planning strategies that can help safeguard up to 100% of a client's assets, all delivered with a commitment to clarity and long-term security. Beyond the office, Nelson Elder Care Law actively engages the community through partnerships with local organizations, senior living communities, and professionals, offering educational workshops, lunch-and-learn events, and resources to strengthen informed families and communities. This dedication to both clients and the community has built lasting trust and relationships, and as the firm continues to grow its presence in Hall County and beyond, its mission remains steadfast: to help families plan ahead, protect what matters most, and navigate the future with confidence. nelsoneldercarelaw.com

Welcome New Members

Addix Biotech
Ana Maria Pierce
(645) 214-3695
addix.bio

Costar Group
Daniella Paez
(404) 326-9491
costar.com

Moranos Home Inspections
Connor Moranos
(404) 669-6338
moranosinspects.com

America's Thrift Stores
Nathan Miller
(205) 948-6811
americasthrift.com

Dawn Communications
Coleman Wendl
(706) 973-8497

Peachtree Immediate Care - Gainesville
Thais Sartor
(404) 709-1961
peachtreemed.com

Blessed & Highly Flavored by Jen
Jennifer Sepulveda
(678) 780-6421
bhfbbyjen.com

DM Promo Trends
Martha Chaves
(770) 625-0209
dmpromotrends.com

Red Wing Shoes
Shawna Dasilva
(678) 971-4143
redwingshoes.com

Boehringer Ingelheim
Animal Health USA
Sheryl Ripka
(770) 536-8787
boehringer-ingelheim.com

Dynamic Event Co. by JB JAMS
Judy Bradley
(770) 318-4284
dynamiceventco.com

Saunders Real Estate
Russell Dye
(770) 284-6474
saundersrealestate.com

Boot Barn
Zaria Davies
(770) 535-1752
bootbarn.com

Get It Fast Printing
Nick Pope
(404) 556-4064
GetItFastPrinting.com

Sheila Davis Group
Sheila Davis
(770) 235-6907
sheiladavisgroup.com

CHI Insurance Agency
Chelsey Hogan
(706) 609-9811
thechiagency.com

iBranch Insurance
Janeth Ochoa
(678) 450-8003
goldenroosterinsurance.com

iBranch Insurance

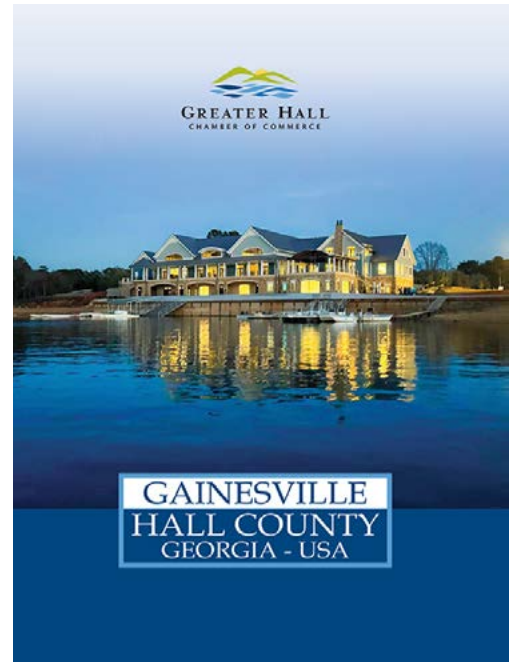


Owners **Janeth Ochoa** and **Genaro Mata** and Office Manager **Marias Arias** and team at **iBranch Insurance**, a trusted insurance agency dedicated to helping individuals, families, and businesses protect what matters most. They offer a full range of personal insurance solutions, including auto, home, renters, condo, motorcycle, boat, and RV coverage, as well as life insurance options. Commercial insurance offerings including general liability, workers comp, commercial auto, property, and business owner policies. iBranch also offers essential surety bonds, including title bonds, probate bonds, and contractor bonds, giving clients reliable support for legal and business requirements. ibranchinsurance.com

New 2026 Community Magazine

Advertising opportunities are available for the **Chamber's NEW 2026 Community Magazine**, published in partnership with The Times. The magazine is published every two years and is a guide to all that's happening in our community with over 80 pages of valuable information on economic development, healthcare, housing, education, tourism and much more.

Copies of the magazine will be provided to advertisers. To showcase your business and reserve your space, email marketing@gainesvilletimes.com



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thursday, May 14

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Livano Limestone Springs

3700 Limestone Ridge | Gainesville

Join us for an evening of networking, live music, refreshments, and a first-hand look at Livano Limestone Springs, a luxury apartment community. From the clubhouse and resort-style pool to the 24-hour fitness center, every detail at Livano has been intentionally crafted with people and the lives they live in mind. Whether you're exploring your next home or simply looking to grow your professional network in a beautiful setting, we'd love to welcome you. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Cash Prize Drawing | Networking | Food & Drink

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)

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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