

# CHAMBERCONNECT

03

2026

- MAR 3 | South Hall Business Coalition
- MAR 4 | Healthy Hall Awards Luncheon
- MAR 10 | Small Business Seminar
- MAR 19 | Chamber Chase 5K
- MAR 24 | Business After Hours

## Leadership Hall County



The **Leadership Hall Class** participated in the "Make a Difference Day" at the **Georgia Mountain Food Bank** packing boxes of food for distribution to those in need in our community.

## Business After Hours



Thank you **Brenau University** and the **College of Business and Communications** for hosting Business After Hours. (L-R) **Nick Arceneaux**, *Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers*; **Jonathan Casas**, *Brenau University*; **Scott Boldt**, *CrossFields*; **Tanner Williams**, *Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers*. Don't miss the upcoming **Business After Hours on March 24** (5-7pm) at **Family Promise of Hall County**.



**GREATER HALL**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Chase 5K & 2 Mile Wellness Walk

**Thursday, March 19**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Riverside Preparatory Academy

Registration Fee

\$30 | \$35 after March 12

Awards

Fastest CEO, Team Spirit, Individual Awards, Fastest Team & More

Contest

Design Your Own Company T-Shirt



- Registered participants receive a race t-shirt
- Reserve a tent for your team
- Individual/Age Awards
- Finish line results & race times done electronically
- Awards, food, fun, fellowship & music after the race

Info:

Ellie Cardin

770-532-6206 x 115

[ecardin@ghcc.com](mailto:ecardin@ghcc.com)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Scan for sponsorship and registration info





Nearly 300 Greater Hall Chamber members and guests attended the Economic & Political Forecast featuring a panel discussion with local business and political leaders on the current economic and political climate in our community. (L-R) Panelist **Todd Donaldson**, *Carroll Daniel*; Chamber Chairman **Tim McDonald**, *Lanier Technical College*; Chamber Vice Chair Government Affairs **David Lee**, *Jackson EMC*; Panelist **Ryan Owen**, *Kubota*; Panelist **Frank Norton, Jr.**, *The Norton Agency*; Panelist **Matt Hanley, MD**, *Northeast Georgia Health System*; **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*; Moderator **Doug Carter**, *Don Carter Realty*.

## Small Business Seminar Tuesday, March 10

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



Join **Tom Jones**, Area Director, and **Stephanie Sokenis**, Business Consultant, with the **UGA Small Business Development Center in Gainesville** and learn about tools and resources

available to help you tackle the biggest challenges in your mature or startup business. See how you can work one-on-one with a consultant at no cost to identify challenges, clarify goals, plan next steps, use strategic planning to support decisions, growth initiatives, and operational improvements. [georgiaSBDC.org](http://georgiaSBDC.org)

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

### Small Business Council Sponsors



A delegation from the Greater Hall Chamber recently visited the State Capitol. (L-R) **Glennis Barnes**, *Georgia Power*; **Lt. Governor Burt Jones**; **Tim Evans**, *Chamber*; **Tim McDonald**, *Lanier Tech*; **State Senator Drew Echols**.

## HEALTHY HALL



### Awards of Excellence

**Wednesday, March 4**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Lanier Technical College  
Ramsey Conference Center

The Greater Hall Chamber's 9th Annual Healthy Hall Awards Program will spotlight those in the healthcare industry making a significant impact on our quality of life through excellence in health and wellness. [Register Here](#)

Reservations Required | Lunch Included | \$30 per person  
Table Sponsor \$500 (seats 8) | Info: [fdarquea@ghcc.com](mailto:fdarquea@ghcc.com)

# Ribbon Cuttings

## Gameday Men's Health



**Charles Darwin** cuts a ribbon at **Gameday Men's Health**, personalized men's health plans that are built to help men feel and be their best. Brain fog, daytime sleepiness, loss of muscle mass, depression, fatigue, reduced sex drive are just some of the symptoms of low testosterone. At Gameday, the first visit is free and includes a consult and in-house testosterone test. They also offer peptides, innovative ed treatments, medical weight loss and vitamins all in a man cave, guy friendly environment. [gamedaymenshealth.com](http://gamedaymenshealth.com)

## First Third Bank



**Christie Plum**, Financial Center Manager, cuts a ribbon at the newly opened **Fifth Third Bank** at Limestone Marketplace in Gainesville. Fifth Third is committed to strengthening communities by delivering innovative financial solutions by combining national resources with local leadership to support individuals, families, and businesses. Their mission goes beyond banking and focuses on building relationships that create long term financial confidence. Fifth Third invests directly in the neighborhoods they serve and is proud to provide accessible, forward-thinking banking designed to help our clients move forward with clarity and strength. [53.com](http://53.com)

# MARCH 2026

Tuesday, March 3

**South Hall Business Coalition**

9:00 - 10:00 am

Eagle Ranch | Chestnut Mountain

Wednesday, March 4

**Health Hall Awards Luncheon**

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Lanier Technical College

Friday, March 6

**Economic Development Council**

8:30 am | Lanier Technical College

Deal Economic Development Building

Tuesday, March 10

**Small Business Seminar**

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

Tuesday, March 10

**Ambassador Council**

3:45 pm | Jacobs Media/WDUN

Wednesday, March 11

**Network Over Coffee**

9:00 -10:00 am

Oakley on the Lake | Gainesville

Wednesday, March 11

**Human Resource Council**

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, March 17

**Vision 2030 Board of Directors**

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Chamber

Wednesday, March 18

**Issues Committee**

9:00 - 10:00 am | Chamber

Thursday, March 19

**Chamber Executive Committee**

12:00 pm | Chamber

Thursday, March 19

**Chamber Chase 5K**

6 pm | Riverside Preparatory Academy

Tuesday, March 24

**Business After Hours**

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Family Promise of Hall Co | Gainesville

Thursday, March 26

**Chamber Board Meeting**

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

# Meetings & Events

## Health & Wellness Committee



A comprehensive look at hospice and palliative care at Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center was discussed at the **Health & Wellness Seminar** with (L-R) Presenter **Mary Keith**, *Hospice House, Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS)*; **Dr. Rylie Veik**, *Northeast Georgia Medical Center Graduate Medical Education Resident*; Chamber Health & Wellness Committee Chair **Dr. Dave Westfall**, *NGMC GME*. Greater Hall Chamber Health & Wellness Seminars are free and open to all Chamber members. Seminars are held monthly with discussion focusing on community issues, services and important healthcare topics.

## Upcoming Healthcare Seminar

**Wednesday, April 1**

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

In Person at the Chamber or via Zoom

No Charge for Chamber Members

[Register Here](#)

## Leading the Way in Neuroscience



Michael Glanzman



Zain Boghani, MD

Join **Michael Glanzman**, Executive Director of Neurosciences for **Northeast Georgia Health System**, and **Dr. Zain Boghani**, a neurosurgeon with Northeast Georgia Physicians Group, for a high-level overview of the neuroscience services, featuring

its comprehensive clinical programs and specialized teams. They will dive deep into the neurosurgery program, exploring surgical treatment options and the seamless, coordinated care that defines the patient experience. Together, they will highlight how their multidisciplinary teams work together to serve and support communities throughout the region.

[nghs.com/neurosciences](https://nghs.com/neurosciences)

## South Hall Business Coalition



The **South Hall Business Coalition** met at the **University of North Georgia, Gainesville** in February and heard from **President Dr. Michael Shannon**. (L-R) **Brett Jackson**, *University of Georgia*; **Jay Kelly**, *Signs By Tomorrow*; **Micheal Shannon**, *University of North Georgia*; **Kris Stoutamire**, **Dan Kaiser** and **Hanna Smith**, *Associated Credit Union*.



(L-R) **Amy Palmer**, *Georgia Mountain Food Bank*; **Jim Syfan**, *Syfan Logistics*; **Renee Hayes**, *University of North Georgia*, at the recent South Hall Business Coalition meeting at the University of North Georgia Gainesville Campus.

## Coalition to meet at Eagle Ranch



The **South Hall Business Coalition** will meet at **Eagle Ranch** on **Tuesday, March 3** (9-10am). For 40 years Eagle Ranch has brought hope and healing to children and families in crisis. Come hear Executive Director **John Shackelford** share how their innovative whole-family approach is providing housing, education, and counseling to equip parents and children with powerful tools to restore relationships and rebuild trust. It's a meaningful

opportunity to learn, be encouraged, and explore how we can come alongside this mission. [eagleranch.org](https://eagleranch.org). Reservations required. \$8 Member; \$15 Non-Member. Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115.

[Email Ellie](#). Sign up online: [REGISTER NOW](#)

# Member News

## Glennis Barnes named Rotary Man of the Year



Greater Hall Chamber Immediate Past Chairman **Glennis Barnes**, Georgia Power, was named the Rotary Club of Gainesville Man of the Year, recognizing his achievements, leadership, and service to our community. Glennis was recognized for living by the Rotary's motto "Service Above Self," always willing to assist others. **Cathy Drerup** was named Woman of the Year for her leadership roles in the nonprofit sector, most notably as executive director of Challenged Child & Friends for some

20 years. **Brent Cochran** was named Rotarian of the Year Award; **Dr. Peter L. Henderson, Jr.** was awarded the Sidney O. Smith Fellowship Award; **Tommy Howard** was awarded the Guardian of Ethics Award; and, **Dr. Henry "Hank" Goble** was awarded the W. Lee Arrendale Vocational Excellence Award. [rotaryclubofgainesville.com](http://rotaryclubofgainesville.com)

## Major Updates at Lanier Islands Resort



Following the announcement of a multi-million-dollar room refresh at its Legacy Lodge and Lake Houses, **Lanier Islands Resort** debuts Georgia's only night-lit Par 3 course, **The Six**, at its Legacy Golf Course and a renovated clubhouse with expanded dining, 19th-hole bar and lounge, upgraded pro shop, and a versatile event area perfect for any occasion. The resort was recently honored with awards for outstanding wedding venues and services by 2026 WeddingWire. The Knot Worldwide inducted the resort into its **Best of Weddings Hall of Fame**. [lanierislands.com](http://lanierislands.com)



## Surgeon Launches New Podcast

**Dr. Kranti Peddada**, an orthopedic surgeon with **Peachtree Orthopedics**, launched a new podcast – **Bone Voyage: Your Journey to Better Bone & Joint Health** – to educate people about orthopedic problems and promote preventive care in musculoskeletal health. Tune in on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and YouTube.

- The **Quinlan Visual Arts Center** hosts nationally recognized artist and educator **Abner Cope** for a 4-day **Portrait Painting Workshop**, March 17-20. The workshop is open to all levels of artistic proficiency, offering a unique opportunity for emerging and experienced artists alike to deepen their understanding of portrait painting through structured instruction and hands-on practice. Learn more and register at [quinlanartscenter.org](http://quinlanartscenter.org).

- **The Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia** will honor **Kelly Anne Miles** of Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles with the **2026 Gainesville Woman of Distinction** at a luncheon on Wednesday, March 11 (11:30am) at Lanier Technical College, Ramsey Conference Center. For information and reservations, contact Lindsay Woodson at 706-621-5979 or [lwoodson@gshg.org](mailto:lwoodson@gshg.org).

- **Lila Westmoreland**, executive director of **Habitat for Humanity of Hall County**, announces that \$1,005,000 has been appropriated to the organization through the 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill. This will be a transformative investment in affordable housing for Hall County and allows Habitat for Humanity to bring a life-changing opportunity to even more of our neighbors in Hall County. [habitathallcounty.org](http://habitathallcounty.org)

- The **10th Annual Career Path Fair** for middle school students of Gainesville City Schools and Hall County Schools is underway. Organized by **Workforce Strategies Group**, this multi-school event brings together some 700 students to the campuses of Brenau University, Lanier Technical College, and University of North Georgia for career counseling. [workforcestrategiesgroup.com](http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com)

- **Brenau University's MBA program** was recently listed as the **#2 program in Georgia** for 2026 by [MBASchools.org](http://MBASchools.org). Criteria for the rankings includes transparent, data-driven methodology that evaluates key factors to determine program quality, accessibility and value. With more than a dozen concentrations, Brenau University has experienced faculty members, who have worked in the private sector and education. [brenau.edu/mba](http://brenau.edu/mba)

- **Chamber Chase 5K & 2 Mile Wellness Walk** returns this spring to Riverside Preparatory Academy. Join us for fun and fitness as 5K runners and spirit-filled walkers enjoy the 18th Chamber Chase. Sign up as a team or an individual. Awards include the Fastest CEO, Team Spirit, Individual Awards, Fastest Team and more. For sponsorship and race info, contact Ellie Cardin, 770-532-6206 x 115. [Email Ellie](mailto:Ellie). \$30; \$35 after March 12. Link to register: [RunSignUp.com/ChamberChase](http://RunSignUp.com/ChamberChase).

# Membership

## Business Showcase 2026

The new and improved **Business Showcase** was a big success with 60 exhibitors highlighting their products, services and innovations. The **Showcase Social** featured menu items from local restaurants and great networking opportunities.



(L-R) **Christen Wilbanks** and **Ellie Cardin**, Chamber; **Lori Thompson**, **Bill Maine**, **John Jacobs** and **Blakely Tipton**, Jacobs Media/WDUN; Chamber Ambassador **GG Mack**, Luxe Travel; **Robin Halstead**, Chamber.

## Logistics Forum



A panel discussed the Blue Ridge Connector at the Logistics Forum in February with updates on the project and surrounding infrastructure improvements. (L-R) **Tim Evans**, Greater Hall Chamber; **Chris Luebbers**, Norfolk Southern; **Taylor Worley**, Georgia Ports Authority; **Steve Syfan**, Syfan Logistics; **Jimmy Adams**, Corporate Storage; **Wesley Barrell**, Georgia Ports Authority.

## Small Business of the Month



**Felipe Darquea**, Chamber Economic Development Marketing Manager, presents **Madison Criddle**, Marketing Manager of **Gainesville Mechanical**, with the Small Business of the Month Award. Since 1989, Gainesville Mechanical has offered complete residential and commercial heating, air, and plumbing services throughout the Gainesville region. They have outstanding customer reviews and offer 24/7 service calls with highly trained technicians. A strong supporter of the Greater Hall Chamber, Gainesville Mechanical sponsors Small Business Council's programs, remains active in events, and is an ongoing investor of the Chamber's HALLmark initiative. Most recently, Gainesville Mechanical earned their 2025 Small Business Certification. [gainesvillemechanical.com](http://gainesvillemechanical.com)

## Network Over Coffee



Chamber **Network Over Coffee** events are held monthly at various locations in Gainesville-Hall County. Join fellow members for networking and lead development at the next event on **Wednesday, March 11 at The Oakley on the Lake**. For details, contact Christine Wilbanks, 770-532-6206x116. [Email Christen](#). [REGISTER HERE!](#)

# Welcome New Members

## **Anew You Refreshing Aesthetics**

Tammy Davenport  
(678) 696-8747  
[anewyouga.com](http://anewyouga.com)

## **Apex Painting & Coatings**

Amy Stanizke  
(770) 289-0887  
[apexcoatings.us](http://apexcoatings.us)

## **Atlantic Advanced Spine and Neurology Institute**

Kewei Yu  
(470) 268-6980  
[aasni.net](http://aasni.net)

## **Barbershop Don Luis**

Irais Gomez  
(925) 518-0454  
[barbershopdonluis.com](http://barbershopdonluis.com)

## **Bio-One of Athens**

Michael Viola  
(762) 257-6774  
[biooneinc.com/athens-ga](http://biooneinc.com/athens-ga)

## **Bob Thompson**

Individual Member

## **Brown Haven Homes Dawsonville**

C.C. Felty  
(678) 436-8540  
[brownhavenhomes.com](http://brownhavenhomes.com)

## **Century Fire Protection**

Olivia Keller  
(678) 361-0124  
[centuryfp.com](http://centuryfp.com)

## **Chattahoochee Disposal Services**

Melanie Hulseley  
(678) 400-6745  
[chatdisposal.com](http://chatdisposal.com)

## **Chroma Early Learning**

Melissa Leonard  
(678) 343-8471  
[chromaela.com](http://chromaela.com)

## **Cognitive Creative Media Services**

Therese Helmandollar  
(678) 756-2640  
[thecognitivecreative.com](http://thecognitivecreative.com)

## **CrossFields**

Scott Boldt  
(770) 424-9020 Ext 201  
[CrossFieldsConstruction.com](http://CrossFieldsConstruction.com)

## **Distribution Cooperative**

Jennifer Henry  
(678) 708-5105

## **DTS Glass & Mirror**

Tonya & David Mcguire  
(770) 743-9140  
[dtsglass.com](http://dtsglass.com)

## **Eagle ProServices**

J Phoenix  
(470) 806-1721  
[eaglepro-services.com](http://eaglepro-services.com)

## **Georgia's Own Credit Union**

Tito Starr  
(404) 874-1166  
[georgiasown.com](http://georgiasown.com)

## **HDPE Pipe Solutions**

Chad Sise  
(678) 699-7477  
[hdpepipesolutionsllc.com](http://hdpepipesolutionsllc.com)

## **Hilton Mechanical Contractors**

Nick Carlson  
(470) 297-5113  
[hiltonmechanical.com](http://hiltonmechanical.com)

## **Johnson Law Firm**

Beth Johnson  
(706) 230-5944  
[johnsonfirmga.com](http://johnsonfirmga.com)

## **Lanier Luxe Self Storage**

Kent Henderson  
(770) 861-8880  
[lanierluxestorages.com](http://lanierluxestorages.com)

## **Leigh Ann Paugh**

Individual Member

## **Progressive Abilities Support Services**

Kimberly Warren  
(888) 588-4818  
[progressiveabilities.org](http://progressiveabilities.org)

## **Qwik Pack & Ship USA**

Christian Caldwell  
(470) 290-5339  
[qwikpackshipusa.org](http://qwikpackshipusa.org)

## **Summit Spine and Joint Centers**

Caitlin Trimble  
(770) 962-3642  
[summitspine.com](http://summitspine.com)

## **Tile Factory Direct**

Alan Dewberry  
(678) 989-4242  
[tilefactory.com](http://tilefactory.com)



**GREATER HALL**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Student Art & Essay Winners



Arbor Day festivities included recognition of the "I Speak for the Trees" art and essay elementary student contest winners. (L-R) **Banks Fowler** (Enota), **Sonny Baize** (Enota), **Lola Defenbau** (Sardis), **Averi Rodriguez** (Chicopee Woods), **Amy Nazari** (Enota) and **Reese Williams** (Enota).

# Vision 2030 Public Art



(L-R) **Erin McIntosh** and **Josie Toney**, *University of North Georgia*; Vision 2030 Public Art Co Chairs **Allyson Everett**, *Gainesville Paint & Flooring*, and **Emilie Cis-co**, *The Norton Agency*, at an art appreciation event at the Boathouse attended by some 60 people. The **2026 Public Art Block Party is April 30** at Grove Street Station in Midland Gainesville. Tickets & Info: [PublicArtGainesvilleGA.com](http://PublicArtGainesvilleGA.com)


## CONTACT US

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