



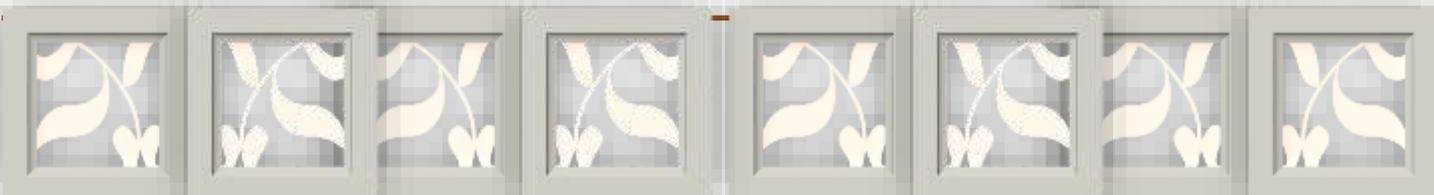
IN THE NEWS

December 2018

Parks & Recreation Programs
Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community Center
Gainesville Civic Center
Lake Lanier Olympic Center
City / County Issues
Miscellaneous



Gainesville Parks and Recreation Agency
830 Green Street
Gainesville, GA 30501



DECEMBER/JANUARY



- 2** **Christmas on Green Street**
 4:30-7:15 p.m. Downtown Gainesville, 830 Green St., Gainesville. Free.
- 2** **"The Nutcracker" Presented by Gainesville Ballet**
 2 p.m. Brenau University's Pearce Auditorium, 202 Boulevard, Gainesville. \$14-28. 770-532-4241.
- 6** **Lego Club**
 5-6 p.m. Hall County Library System, Murrayville Branch, 4796 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville. 770-532-3311, ext. 171, bhood@hallcountylibrary.org. Free.
- 6** **Three Perfect Gift Projects in One Day – Christmas Paintings with Joan Darflinger**
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quinlan Visual Arts Center, 514 Green St. NE, Gainesville. 770-536-2575, info@qvac.org. \$125-150.
- 7** **Appalachian Culture: Myths, Realities and Musical Traditions**
 4-5 p.m. Hall County Library System, Murrayville Branch, 4796 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville. 770-532-3311, ext. 171, bhood@hallcountylibrary.org. Free.
- 11-13** **"Mamma Mia!"**
 7:30-9:30 p.m. Gainesville High School, Pam Ware Performing Arts Center, 830 Century Place, Gainesville. lettsani@gmail.com. \$5-10.
- 18** **Christmas Songs & Stories with John Berry**
 7:30-9:30 p.m. Brenau University's Pearce Auditorium, 202 Boulevard, Gainesville. \$25-45. johnberry2018.brownpapertickets.com.
- 20** **Holiday Craft Day**
 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hall County Library System, Murrayville Branch, 4796 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville. 770-532-3311, ext. 171, bhood@hallcountylibrary.org. Free.
- 15** **Rivers, Rock and Reflections with Judy Bynum George**
 Jan. 15, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29. 5-7 p.m. Quinlan Visual Arts Center, 514 Green St. NE, Gainesville. 770-536-2575, paula.lindner@quinlanartscenter.org. \$50-145.
- 17** **Studio Workshop in Oils or Pastels**
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quinlan Visual Arts Center, 514 Green St. NE, Gainesville. 770-536-2575, paula@qvac.org. \$350.
- 19** **New Year New You Expo**
 Lakeshore Mall, Gainesville 9:30 AM - 12:00 noon
- 27** **North Georgia Bridal Expo**
 Gainesville Civic Center 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM



DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

JANUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Member Announcements

ber of Commerce

- Consider **Lake Lanier Olympic Park** for your organization's leadership retreat or board meeting with great views, top quality AV equipment, the option to bring in your own food and beverages, ample parking and the opportunity for great team building with Dragon Boating – not only fun, but also can help your employees or volunteers aspire to a higher level of competitiveness and teamwork. lakelanierolympicvenue.org
- **Dr. Buddy Langston**, a retired Gainesville physician, was recognized by the Georgia Hospital Association with a "Physician Hero" award. Dr. Langston is a retired pediatrician who located to Gainesville in 1966 and has a long history of service to the community.
- **Georgia has been ranked the #1 Place to Do Business in the U.S.** for the 6th consecutive year by *Site Selection*, an economic development publication. Georgia is the first state to hold this ranking for six consecutive years under leadership by the same governor.
- **Katie Dubnik**, president of **Forum Communications**, announced the company is on the University of Georgia Alumni Association's 2019 Bulldog 100 list of fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by UGA alumni. Forum specializes in marketing, PR, creative communications, branding, web design and development, graphic design, social and digital media. forumspeaks.com
- Founded in 1993, **Magical Night of Lights at Lanier Islands**, one of the longest lasting and highest attended holiday lighting venues in the country. Recently refurbished, the light show is open now through January 6. Margartaville at Lanier Islands has transformed Georgia's best summertime playground into **License to Chill Snow Island**, a winter park with the fastest snow tubing

hill in North America at 400 feet long with 10 lanes! Other features include an ice skating rink, snow-clad beach bar, 13 winter-themed carnival rides, Santa's Surf Shack at LandShark Landing with St. Nick, sleigh rides and more. Open through February 24. lanierislands.com

- **The Norton Agency** announces **Brent Williams, CCIM** as Vice President and head of strategic growth for the Commercial Asset Management Division. Brent brings experience in asset management as well as lending solutions and investment sales and leasing. Norton is the region's largest asset management company with a portfolio of over \$350 million and 700,000+sf of property.

nortoncommercial.com/asset-management

- With a record 19,722 students enrolled, the **University of North Georgia (UNG)** grew 5% in the 2018 fall semester. Among Georgia's public colleges and universities, UNG's increase is the 3rd largest, behind Middle Georgia State University at 6.3% growth and Georgia Tech at 11.4%. ung.edu

- **Fortis Solutions Group** announced the acquisition of **Premier Georgia Printing & Labels** in Flowery Branch, a full service labels, packaging, folding carton, offset and flat sheet printing company. Serving customers in the Southeast, Premier recently became SQF certified, evidencing its commitment to food safety and quality assurance. FortisSolutionsGroup.com

- **Primary Care Clinics of Georgia**, the office of **Dr. David Hocker**, is relocating to 1990 Limestone Circle, Suite 100 Gainesville, GA 30501 effective 1/1/19. 770-536-1004. pccog.net

GOT NEWS?

Email: kwest@ghcc.com

12-4-18

Upcoming Chamber Events

Thursday, December 6
South Hall Business Coalition
 "Non Profit Community Forum"
 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 The Venue at Friendship Springs

Friday, December 7
New Member Orientation
 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, December 11
Small Business Seminar
 "9 Strategies for Networking"
 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, December 12
Network Over Coffee
 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
 Randy & Friends

Thursday, December 13
Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast
 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
 NEW Lanier Technical College

Tuesday, December 18
Business After Hours
 Interactive Neighborhood for Kids
 999 Chestnut Street in Gainesville

Wednesday, December 19
Lunch 'n Learn
 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Fairfield Inn & Suites

Tuesday, January 29
Marketing Workshop
 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Brenau Downtown Center

Thursday, February 21
Business EXPO 2019
 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Gainesville Civic Center

12-4-18

December 2018

Wednesday, December 5

Healthcare Committee

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Thursday, December 6

South Hall Business Coalition

"Non Profit Community Forum"

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | The Venue at
Friendship Springs | Flowery Branch

Friday, December 7

New Member Orientation

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, December 11

Small Business Seminar

"9 Strategies for Authentic Networking"

7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, December 12

Network Over Coffee

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Randy & Friends

470 A Woodsmill Road | Gainesville

Wednesday, December 12

Healthcare Consortium

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

Thursday, December 13

Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

NEW Lanier Technical College

2535 Lanier Tech Drive | Gainesville

Tuesday, December 18

Business After Hours

Interactive Neighborhood for Kids (INK)

Sponsored by Northeast Georgia

Health System

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

999 Chestnut Street | Gainesville

Wednesday, December 19

Issues Committee

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, December 19

Lunch 'n Learn

Speaker: TRACS Group

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fairfield Inn & Suites

1755 Browns Bridge Road | Gainesville

Thursday, December 20

Chamber Executive Committee

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Chamber

*NOTE: The Chamber Office will be closed
for Christmas Holidays on Monday,
December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.
No Board of Directors meeting in December.*

JANUARY 2019

Tuesday, January 8

Small Business Seminar

"Make 2019 Your Best Year!"

7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

★ Thursday, January 24

Chamber Board of Directors

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

Tuesday, January 29

Marketing Workshop

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Brenau Downtown Center

*NOTE: The Chamber office will closed on
Tuesday, January 1 for New Years Day.*

Get all the details and register for events
online: GreaterHallChamber.com

12-4-18

Business EXPO | February 21

Exhibits & Sponsorships Available

The Greater Hall Chamber continues its BUY LOCAL initiative with **Business EXPO 2019** presented by **MegaPrint** on Thursday, February 21, 11:30 am - 6:00 pm at the Gainesville Civic Center. Exhibit space and sponsorships are now available. The event is **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Annual Business Luncheon

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Business EXPO

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Business After Hours & A Taste of Gainesville

- Member Exhibit \$300 | Non-Member Exhibit \$500
- Non-Profit Exhibit \$200
- The Expo kicks off with Annual Business Luncheon
- Sponsorships at a variety of levels including booth, promotion and ads
- Business-to-Business networking and leads development
- A Taste of Gainesville with menu samples from area restaurants
- Business After Hours with prizes and giveaways
- No Admission Fee

Business EXPO

2019

Presented by

MEGAPRINT
SIGNS • GRAPHICS • PRINTING

Business EXPO 2019 will feature over 65 booths and is open to the public. The Annual Business Luncheon kicks off the event at 11:30 am followed by an afternoon of networking and lead development. Promote your brand or service! A Taste of Gainesville concludes the event at Business After Hours with outstanding door prizes and menu items from area restaurants. Details, Mandy Lathem, 770-532-6206. Email: mlathem@ghcc.com

12-4-18

Frances Meadows



Willie Frances Jenkins Meadows was the first African-American to be elected to the Hall County Board of Commissioners in 1992.

The popular aquatic center in Gainesville is named for her.

Meadows died in 2002 while in her third term as the county's District 4 commissioner, but she made quite a mark before her passing.

"She helped anybody that she could help," said Kerri Camp, daughter of Meadows. "She was a role model to my sister, brother and I as well as other members of the family and really of the community."

Before her time in office, Meadows was already working with the local community at Gainesville State College, which is now the University of North Georgia. She worked there for about 30 years, Camp said.

"She touched a lot of people that way," she said. "She was just awesome, outstanding."

And in addition to education, Meadows had some other interests.

"She was a big proponent of the parks, which is why the aquatic center is named for her," said Glen Kyle, executive director of Northeast Georgia History Center.

"She left some big shoes to fill," Camp said. "There's not one word you can put on her, really."

12-9-15

'Skaters will be coming from miles around to skate here'

Residents share likes, dislikes about skateboard park to be built in Gainesville

BY JOSHUA SILAVENT
jsilavent@gainesvilletimes.com

The recent release of a conceptual design for Gainesville's first skateboarding park brings construction of the long-awaited project one step closer to fruition.

And though the design has been met with mostly positive reviews from local youth, old-school skaters and other "stakeholders" who spoke with *The Times*, there is still an opportunity to make changes that some would like to see.

Michael Graham, deputy director of the city's parks and recreation department, said the hope is "to finalize the concept soon and then get an updated estimate of probable cost for the construction."

A plan to break ground on the project in July still remains the "ideal situation," Graham added.

The parks department will build the approximately 20,000-square-foot skate park at the intersection of Pine and High streets in the midtown section of the city.

Wally Hollyday, a California-based skate park designer, created the design that Lose Design of Lawrenceville will use for construction.

The project is meant to incorporate drops, rails, pipes, ramps, bowls and other elements that define both park and street-style skating.

"This park really reflects the street-skating style and identity of our skaters," said resident Fred LaValley, who participated in public input meetings on the project earlier this fall. "The design team's approach to letting us be part of designing it is ingenious, and allows the park to



NICK BOWMAN | *The Times*

Jayden Parr flips his board while skating at Sardis Enrichment School on Friday, Dec. 7. Parr is one of the skateboarding and science students of Sardis teacher Jasen Spinks, who drafted a 1,700-signature petition supporting the creation of a skate park in Gainesville.

be unique. Skaters will be coming from miles around to skate here. A lot of us are still in near disbelief that it's really happening."

Indeed, the push to develop

a skate park is years in the making and became one of the most requested facilities in the parks department's master plan.

Jasen Spinks, a teacher at

Sardis Enrichment School in Hall County, spearheaded a petition that garnered about 1,700 signatures from local

■ Please see **SKATE, 4C**

SKATE

Continued from 1C

residents supporting the construction of a skate park.

He even incorporates skating into some science curriculum while teaching by showing students how the sport can illustrate Newton's laws of motion.

"The plans look good," Spinks said. "The park concept design caters to the street skaters and the vert skaters. It has good flow and I believe will be loved by the skaters of Gainesville and beyond."

Resident Michael L. Lynch said he believes parks officials are doing a great job pushing this project and engaging the public about it.

"After attending the public meeting and providing my thoughts, I submitted photographs of design elements from street skateboarding spots in Gainesville's history," Lynch said. "I was pleased to find many of these elements incorporated within the final conceptual design. What remains to be told is if the conceptual design will be brought to life in full."

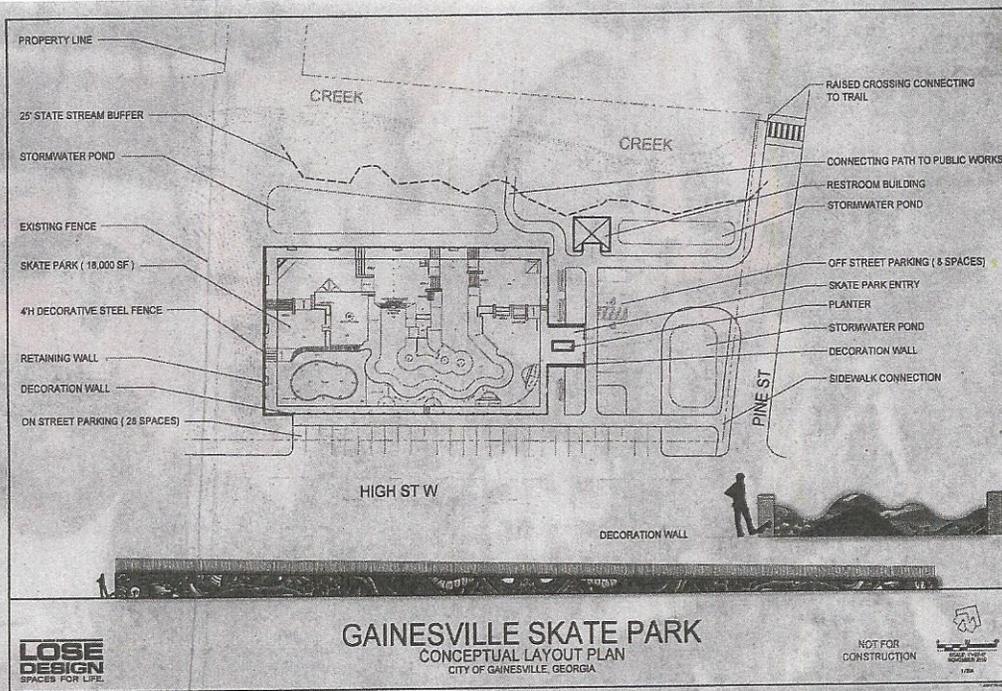
Graham said that feedback on the design received thus far has already generated new ideas, such as the addition of shading elements in the park's seating area.

But some other concerns remain.

"I'd like to see a different shaped bowl," said resident Joe Rademacher. "The kidney shape didn't work well at Fowler Park in Forsyth County. Perhaps something along the lines of a peanut shape like at Brook Run Skate Park (in Dunwoody)."

And beyond the physical attributes the park will include, Lynch said he hopes the project won't become a substitute for the sport's true nature — born of the streets.

"My own fear, however, is that in the process of obtaining a public skate park, we will see an increasing level of punishment for street skateboarding within the city of Gainesville," he added. "It is a fear that I hope never comes to fruition, but provided the history, proves most likely."



LOSE DESIGN
SPACES FOR LIFE

GAINESVILLE SKATE PARK
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT PLAN
CITY OF GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GAINESVILLE | For The Times

Gainesville skate park conceptual layout plan.



Leonardo Rodriguez, pictured in Sardis Enrichment School on Friday, Dec. 7, designed a model skate park as a proposal for the park soon to be constructed in Gainesville.

Photos by NICK BOWMAN The Times

Left: Trace Dunwoodie, front, practices a stance with Adam Riley, an IT employee at Sardis Enrichment School who helps teacher Jasen Spinks.



Sardis Enrichment School students Makaylah Terveen, front, Leonardo Rodriguez and Hailey Webb skate on Friday, Dec. 7. Sardis teacher Jasen Spinks has used skateboarding in his lessons on physics.

12-9-18



Students in Jasen Spinks' skateboarding "cluster" at Sardis Enrichment School are looking forward to the creation of Gainesville's first skate park. Spinks uses principles of skateboarding in his classes to teach his students physics.



JOHNNY VARDEMAN
vardeman1956@att.net

Youngsters got their game on in Roper Park

Before youth sports became so organized, young people in the Roper Park neighborhood around Virginia Circle off Thompson Bridge Road in Gainesville "got up" baseball and football games at the park. No coaches and few, if any, spectators or parents.

The Roper Park field's "fence" was Thompson Bridge Road, and if you hit the ball over the road, it was a home run, according to Fletcher Carter, one of the players way back when. But Van Peebles, another young participant, said nobody could do that.

The park today has a real ball diamond, playground, picnic pavilion and tennis courts.

In Carter's young mind, "Roper Park seemed to just sort of appear." He remembers such "teammates" as Peebles, Donnie Smith, Phillip Sumlin, Pete Whiten, Norman Bramlett, Ronnie Delk, Allen Doveton, Joe Wiley, Jimmy Henson and Sammy Harmons, among many others who would gather to play at the park or a nearby pasture, which he called "the center of our universe."

Roper Park was the main attraction, but Vern Sayre's Cake Box Bakery nearby ran a close second. On an early morning, the youngsters were lured by the sweet smell of doughnuts cooking at the bakery.

12-6-18

"After following the creek that flowed through the pasture and behind the bakery," Carter recalled, "we would enter through the back door to be surrounded by metal racks filled with large trays of sheer pleasure."

Getting their fill, they then would climb into the back of the Sealtest Milk truck and polish off the remaining doughnuts with pints of ice cold chocolate milk.

Roper Park came about Feb. 3, 1955, when W.A. Roper deeded the land to the City of Gainesville strictly for park and recreation purposes.

Roper, known as "Cousin Arthur," was somewhat of a character around Gainesville, a successful Realtor and insurance agent.

His Roper Hill off

Cleveland Road, now covered with apartments, was once a picnic area with a mountain view.

When he died at age 86 in July 1963, The Times called him a "Realtor, humanitarian and humorist who had inspired newspaper readers for years with his column, 'Cousin Arthur.'"

His car struck a truck on Thompson Bridge Road the day he died, but doctors said a heart attack killed him.

Roper had told editors at The Times that of all the business and civic activities of his life, writing the newspaper column was the most rewarding and fun thing he did.

His columns, often including poems, were reprinted in newspapers, magazines and church publications all over the country. He wrote of his childhood days plowing behind a mule and working in a garden.

The newspaper wrote that Roper's religion, wit and love of country were reflected in his writings. He didn't mind teasing his many friends through his column, but never in an unkind way.

Roper wrote the "Cousin Arthur" column for The Times without pay. He once appealed to readers to lobby The Times for "at least \$1 a week." That never happened, but he continued to write his column.

Roper often was called on to speak to church groups, and one of his favorite pastimes was attending campmeetings and church dinners-on-the-ground.

In Gainesville, he partnered with W.A. Carlisle and W.H. Slack in the real estate business and acquired large holdings of property.

For a while, Roper dealt in real estate in Florida, and he was the one who proposed to Gen. Sandy Beaver of Riverside Military Academy that it build a campus in Hollywood, Fla. For many years, the school alternated between the Florida campus and the one in Gainesville.

His generosity to his church, First Baptist on Green Street, and to the community was well known. The gift of land for Roper Park was an example, and six decades later, it continues to be enjoyed by people of all ages.

12-16-18

Roper, known as 'Cousin Arthur,' was somewhat of a character around Gainesville, a successful Realtor and insurance agent.

Gainesville City Council meeting: Three things to know

BY MEGAN REED
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

In its final meeting of 2018 the Gainesville City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 18, will vote on new members for the city's parks board, a donation to maintain the city's cemetery and the meeting schedule for 2019.

Parks and Recreation Board

The council will vote on the reappointment of John Simpson and Chris Romberg to the city's Parks and Recreation Board. Councilmembers will also vote to appoint Robert Washington to the board, taking the seat of Jeffrey Goss.

The board has been tasked with finding a replacement for Melvin Cooper, the city's parks director who will be retiring in May after 47 years with the department.

Donation to Alta Vista Cemetery

A woman's will requested that \$25,000 be donated for the maintenance of Alta Vista Cemetery, and the council will vote to accept the donation.

Dolores Irene Dobbins, from Texas, died in 2017 and had requested that the donation be made in memory of David E. Twitty, who died in 1978 and is buried at Alta Vista.

Meeting calendar for 2019

The council also will vote on the meeting calendar for 2019.

Work sessions, where councilmembers hear presentations on upcoming meeting items, are on Thursday mornings, with meetings following on Tuesday evenings.

With some exceptions to account for holidays, meetings are held every other Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway.

The first two meetings of 2019, on Jan. 8 and Jan. 22, were already approved as part of the 2018 meeting calendar.

Gainesville City Council

When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18

Where: Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway

12-18-18

