JOB

■ Continued from 1C

through a five-week training course. She didn't feel she had enough experience, but Lisenbey told her to take an application anyway since they'd be hiring for 60-70 other positions soon.

Del Taco is having trouble finding applicants after only a handful of people showed up to the last job fair it attended. Not many applications are coming online either.

"I mean it's great, people have a job and that's a good thing," said Siddiqi, who recently moved from New Jersey which he said never a shortage of applicants. "But for us, it's going to be very tough ... It's a process and it takes time. It's just a process we have to go through."

According to the Department of Labor's website, as of August 2018, Georgia's unemployment rate was at 3.8 percent while Hall County's was at 3 percent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' website said the national unemployment rate is 3.7 percent.

"The unemployment rate is so low, so it's kind of like we're trying to compete to get the candidates and it's kind of hard to find them," said Ale Garcia, operations manager with Axiom Staffing's on-site Kubota location. "We still have candidates come in daily, but the struggle is there."

AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Attendees interact with employers during the Fall Job Fair and Career Expo at the Gainesville Civic Center on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Many employers at Saturday's job fair shared that sentiment. Businesses are struggling to fill positions because many people already have jobs they're happy with.

That wasn't the case for Logan Smith, 28. He's working part-time as an English instructor at the University of North Georgia and Lanier Technical College, but is in need of something more steady, preferably in human resources, as his family grows.

"I'm just scoping it out," said Smith, who was sitting in a suit, filling out his first job application of the day. "I'm just looking for anybody that will take my resume."

He handed his resume to a few of the staffing agencies at the job fair and was hoping for the best.

King's Hawaiian was looking to talk with candidates like Smith in hopes of filling as many positions as possible at its bakery and distribution center in Flowery Branch.

"It's a struggle finding the right candidates for the position," said Athenee Pollard, recruiter with King's Hawaiian. "And you may find them, but because it's a candidates market right now, if they are offered an extra $2 an hour somewhere else, they're going to go."

10-14-18

HealthSmart

Interactive Health & Wellness EXPO

October 17

Open to the Public

7:30am - 1:30pm

FREE Health Screenings

Gainesville Civic Center

Door Prizes | 60+ Exhibitors | Free Shuttle

Special Guest Speaker

Dallas Gay

Join **HealthSmart Breakfast** speaker **Dallas Gay**, a Gainesville businessman, philanthropist and activist working to combat opioid abuse in our community and the state.

Wednesday, October 17
7:30 am at the Gainesville Civic Center. Reservations Required. 770-532-6206.

HealthSmart 2018 Presented by

Cigna

FREE Seminars

at the HealthSmart Expo

10:00 am - 11:00 am
"Farm to Table Living"
with **Tim & Tina Roberts**
Owners, 2 Dog Cafe

11:30 am - 12:30 pm
"Exercising for the Health of It"
with **Holli Lee**
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10-14-18

The only job he has ever had

AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Melvin Cooper is retiring as Gainesville's director of parks and recreation after 47 years working for the city and almost 30 years as parks director.

Melvin Cooper retiring after 47 years with Gainesville parks

BY MEGAN REED
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

Melvin Cooper will soon be retiring from the only job he has ever had.

Cooper has worked for the city parks department for 47 years and has been the director since 1989. He even did an internship for the department in 1970 while a student at the University of Georgia. He was first hired as a program coordinator and later held the role of assistant director for 16 years.

Cooper, who was born in Moultrie and spent most of his childhood in Commerce, said he has known he wanted to work in parks and recreation since he was 12 years old.

"I was working as a volunteer for the recreation department, dragging ballfields, backwashing the swimming pool, just kind of hanging out in the summer months when everybody else was on vacation. ... From the time I was 12 years old, I really knew what I wanted to do," he said.

Cooper has been working in Gainesville for about half of the parks and recreation department's existence — the department was established 94 years ago in 1924. The city's population has about tripled during Cooper's time with the department, and he said developments like email and social media make it easier for the department to communicate with both residents and other city staff.

"Change is inevitable, and you've got to be able and willing to change and keep up," Cooper said.

During his tenure as director, the Gainesville Civic Center has been renovated, Lake Lanier hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics and the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, along with many other facilities, opened.

Cooper's long tenure with Gainesville Parks and Recreation is not that unusual for the department. He said 13 of the department's 38 full-time staff members have worked there for at least 10 years. The people he has worked with have been his favorite part of the job, he said.

"Don't be afraid to hire people who are smarter than you are. Train them and let them do their jobs," Cooper said. "I've had some really good folks."

Julie Butler-Colombini, marketing and communications manager for the parks department, met Cooper when she was 5 years old. Her father and Cooper refereed and umpired together, she said. She has worked with Cooper at the parks department

■ Please see COOPER, 6A

10-15-18

AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Various awards fill a wall in Melvin Cooper's office at the Gainesville Civic Center on Thursday, Oct. 11.

COOPER

■ Continued from 1A

for 14 years.

"His door is always open, and that means so much to someone on staff. ... He is supportive of everyone who works for him," she said. "He makes it clear to everyone that he expects a certain level of excellence from everything that we do."

Cooper is a "bridge builder" who has forged partnerships with many organizations and people in the community, Butler-Colombini said.

"He's been at everything that we do. He's always there with a smile on his face and a hand extended, welcoming anybody that comes to an event, a ballgame or the Civic Center. That's just him," she said.

John Simpson, chairman of Gainesville's Parks and Recreation board, said Cooper has not just helped the parks department but the community as a whole.

"I feel like I'm working with a legend — a man that has been in the community for 47 years — it's quite an honor," Simpson said. "We're blessed to have Melvin Cooper not only as the director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation, but we're also blessed to have him in our community in the city of Gainesville."

When Cooper retires, he hopes to spend more time with family.

His wife, Deborah, has always been supportive and instrumental in the parks department's success, he said. They have two daughters, one who lives in St. Marys and one who lives in Texas.

Cooper learns his favorite jokes from his 8-year-old grandson — "Do you know what happens when a frog double parks? It gets toad" — and he hopes to spend more time in St. Marys with him.

"It's been a wonderful journey, but I think it's time for new direction and new emphasis," Cooper said.

Cooper's last day will be May 31. The national search for his replacement will begin Nov. 1.

10-15-18

Chamber expo focuses on healthy living, eating

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Healthy eating and living share top billing at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's 12th Annual HealthSmart Expo.

The event Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Gainesville Civic Center features a sold-out breakfast, free health screenings, seminars and access to nearly 50 health-focused vendors handing out information about services they offer.

Longstreet Clinic will conduct screenings for blood pressure, body mass index, cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose, carotid arteries, hearing and vision, as well as spine checks.

Fasting before screenings is recommended, and free McDonald's salads will be given to the first 100 people getting screened. Appointments aren't needed.

Also, a free flu shot will be offered with proof of identity and insurance card.

Scheduled seminars include:

■ "Farm to Table Living," 10-11 a.m., presented by Tim and Tina Roberts, owners of 2 Dog Cafe in Gainesville

■ "Exercising for the Health of It," 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., presented by Holli Lee, certified personal fitness trainer.

12th Annual HealthSmart Expo

What: Health screenings, workshops and vendors
When: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17
Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St.
How much: Free
More info: 770-532-6206

The 2 Dog Cafe owners will discuss "how to transition healthy eating and meal planning for meals at home," according to the chamber.

And Lee will "share a variety of exercises that everyone can do to stay healthy, no matter your age."

Door prizes will be presented throughout the day, including Fitbits, gift cards, a TV and massages from Spa on Green Street.

Free shuttle service will be offered at the civic center.

Those attending the breakfast will hear Dallas Gay, one of the organizers of Partnership for a Drug Free Hall, talk about the opioid epidemic and "what we are doing locally to address the tide of destruction caused by drug addiction."

Gay's grandson died in 2012 from an opioid overdose.

Also, the "Most Fit Company Awards" will be handed out during the breakfast.

Kit Dunlap, the chamber's president and CEO, said she believes holding the annual event is important "to highlight the health care services available in the community" and to offer the free screenings.

SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Mark Barton joins others Wednesday morning Oct. 11, 2017, at the Gainesville Civic Center for health screenings during the 11th annual Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce HealthSmart Expo. The free screenings involved cholesterol, blood pressure and hearing checks. 10-15-18

Vigil for babies who didn't make it

SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Jeremy Ewers, left, and Josh Lewis carry a heart-shaped float to the Lake Lanier shoreline Monday, Oct. 15, at Longwood Park during the Rock Goodbye Angel annual vigil for babies lost in miscarriage and stillbirth. Please see page 6A for more photos.

Parents speak names of children lost to stillbirth, miscarriage

A group of parents gathered on the shores of Lake Lanier on Monday evening to remember the infants they had lost.

The 50 to 75 people spoke the names of their children as they placed electric candles on a heart-shaped float that was then pulled into the lake at Longwood Park.

The event, put on annually by Rock Goodbye Angel, a nonprofit advocating for parents who have lost children in miscarriage and stillbirth, also included prayer and songs from Mark Miller of Atlanta.

As the lights flickered, the group silently watched before the gathering slowly dissolved into the night.

10-16-18

Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

Above: Atlanta musician Mark Miller performs Monday, Oct. 15, during an annual Rock Goodbye Angel candlelight memorial service at Longwood Park. Oct. 15, is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. **Below:** Ashlie Hogan places candles on a heart-shaped float Monday, Oct. 15,

10-16-18

HealthSmart

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10-16-18

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS
presents

CANCER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

HOPE

October 24th @ 11:30 am
Gainesville Civic Center

All Realtor and Affiliate members who are fighting cancer or are cancer survivors, please join us in celebrating the gift of life at our Hall County Board of Realtors monthly luncheon.

All participants encouraged to wear pink!

PLEASE go online to RSVP for this Special Luncheon.

Judie Crawford, President of HCBOR, is a breast cancer survivor

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10-19-18

Mother Son Halloween Dance Party

When: 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 23
Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville
How much: $25-60
More info: 770-531-2680, parkandrec@gainesville.org, www.gainesville.org

10-4-18

MOTHER SON HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY

When: 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 23
Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville
How much: $25-60
More info: 770-531-2680, parkandrec@gainesville.org, www.gainesville.org

10-11-18

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When: 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 23
Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville
How much: $25-60
More info: 770-531-2680, parkandrec@gainesville.org, www.gainesville.org

10-18-18

Measuring their health

Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

Lanier Technical College practical nursing student Lakeiva Faust measures the height of Dale Hunter on Wednesday, Oct. 17, during the annual HealthSmart Expo at the Gainesville Civic Center. Those getting the screenings could get their results at a table set up by Gainesville-based Longstreet Clinic.

HealthSmart Expo draws crowds to screenings, vendors, seminars

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Amber Lindsey was getting a healthy break from her two children, both in school.

But the Dahlonega woman was also interested in keeping her overall well-being strong, as she strolled among the 50 vendors with tables spread out across the Gainesville Civic Center Wednesday, Oct. 17.

"I don't get to relax and get out a lot, so this is kind of my oasis," she said. "I get to learn new things. I come every other year, and I always check to make sure my blood is good and everything."

In addition to exhibits, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's 12th Annual HealthSmart Expo featured free health screenings for blood pressure, body mass index, cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose, carotid arteries, hearing and vision, as well as spine checks.

Free flu shots also were offered with proof of identity and insurance card.

Also featured were seminars on "Farm to Table Living" and "Exercising for the Health of It." Door prizes were given throughout the day, including

■ Please see **EXPO, 8A**

Young Living Essential Oils owner Lisa Carr, left, discuses the prioduct at her booth with Ella Carr Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the annual HealthSmart Expo.

10-18-18

EXPO

■ Continued from 1A

Fitbits, gift cards, a TV and massages from Spa on Green Street.

Going table to table, there was plenty to learn about products.

Lisa Carr, a certified health specialist representing Healthy Living Essential Oils, had aromatherapy at her table, but also personal care products, such as soaps, lotions and makeups, all with natural ingredients.

Young Living also offers healthier options for food, beverages, grains and multivitamins.

"You need to be proactive in working on your health," Carr said. "We love and need doctors, but it's great when we're not sick. That's what (the products) are about."

Kicking off the event was a breakfast featuring Dallas Gay, one of the organizers of Partnership for a Drug Free Hall, as the guest speaker. He talked about the opioid epidemic and actions being taken to address the problem.

Gay's grandson died in 2012 from an opioid overdose.

Also, during the breakfast, the chamber handed its annual "Most Fit Company Awards" to ProCare Rx in the category of businesses with more than 251 employees; Boehringer Ingelheim, businesses with 51-250 employees; and Georgia Poultry Improvement Association, businesses with 50 or less employees.

SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Visitors to the annual HealthSmart Expo at the Gainesville Civic Center crowd into the Lanier Room on Wednesday, Oct. 17, for free health screenings.

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS
presents

CANCER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

HOPE

October 24th @ 11:30 am
Gainesville Civic Center

All Realtor and Affiliate members who are fighting cancer or are cancer survivors, please join us in celebrating the gift of life at our Hall County Board of Realtors monthly luncheon.

All participants encouraged to wear pink!

PLEASE go online to RSVP for this Special Luncheon.

Judie Crawford, President of HCBOR, is a breast cancer survivor

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10-5-18

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Celebrating the 10th Consecutive Year as our Premier Sponsor!

Preview Party: ($50 tickets)
Nov. 1, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

General Admission: ($5 tickets)
Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chaired by:
Katie Crumley, Jenny Floyd
Morgan Wood

To purchase tickets for Preview Party visit nghs.com/marketplace

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10-21-18

EDITORIAL

Cooper's dedication deserves a dedication

After 47 years serving Gainesville's parks, director should have one named for him

It's not often someone sticks with a job for 47 years.

But it's clear Melvin Cooper found his passion and found it early.

The retiring director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department started working for the department as an intern in 1970 while he was in college at the University of Georgia. He returned to work full time in 1972 and never left. And the city has benefitted from that passion ever since.

He's become a leader in his field for numerous reasons.

Cooper has said it's just in his personality to strive for excellence. And he's brought that to the department, which has on numerous occasions earned Agency of the Year from the Georgia Recreation and Park Association.

Julie Butler-Colombini, marketing and communications manager for the parks department who has worked with him 14 years, said "he makes it clear to everyone that he expects a certain level of excellence from everything that we do."

Part of that excellence is keeping priorities straight, with a focus on the community he serves.

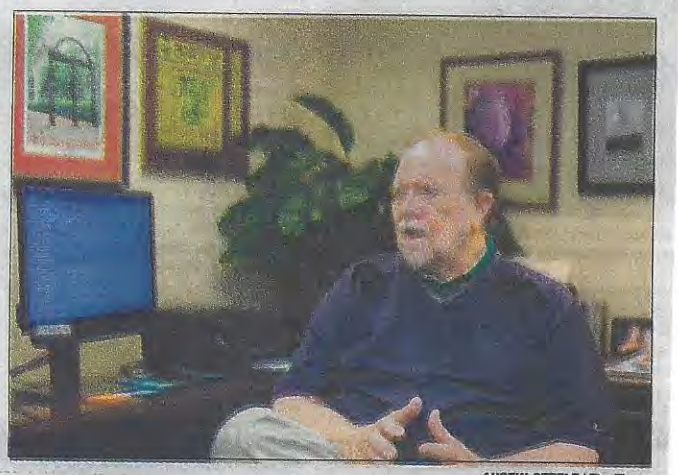
Though the population has about tripled since he started, he still makes time to visit with community members enjoying the parks or various city events.

That personal touch remains important as the city grows, but so does the work of the department in general.

Its services are a vital piece of providing quality of life to Gainesville's residents, old and new. A thriving parks and leisure system makes the city a desirable place to live and work.

Myriad recreation leagues appeal to parents looking to instill in their children a sense of teamwork and character, both priorities for Cooper.

Special events such as the upcoming 15th Annual Mother Son Halloween Dance, Trick or Treat on the Trail and later Christmas on Green Street, offer ways for residents to come together and enjoy their community and their families.



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Melvin Cooper, Gainesville's parks director, speaks during an interview at the Gainesville Civic Center on Oct. 11, 2018. Cooper is retiring after 47 years working for the city and 30 years as parks director.

The city's parks offer similar opportunities for quality time with friends and loved ones as well as spaces to play and exercise. More structured fitness opportunities are also available at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, a facility added 10 years ago and one in which Cooper can be proud.

"I was out on the deck the day that we opened up the pool, and it was kind of like me watching a baby being born," Cooper said on the center's 10th anniversary this year.

Cooper has also worked to build relationships and partnerships, such as those at Allen Creek Soccer Complex and the Lake Lanier Olympic Park, to best serve the community with the resources available.

And those from other agencies have come to rely on him.

Hall County Parks and Leisure Services Director Mike Little has said he depends on Cooper for his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Merrianne Dyer, former superintendent of the Gainesville school system, has said Cooper had a "steady hand" in working on the excellence of the facilities and programs and called the beautiful parks the "hallmark of Melvin's work."

Greg Johnson, director at Elbert County Parks and Recreation, noted on the parks department's Facebook page that Cooper is "one of the most respected men" in his field.

In his time, much has changed in Gainesville and the parks department from the advent of social media and demand to market the department using those new tools to societal changes that often demand rethinking ways to serve Gainesville.

While Cooper recalls driving a bus to the city's neighborhoods in previous years to pick up children for day camps — no paperwork required — programs have shifted since then.

The city will continue changing as Cooper leaves the helm. His are big shoes to fill, but he's set the department up for success and we're confident it will remain on course.

And his service to the city should be celebrated with more than cake and flowery words. After almost 50 years of devotion to Gainesville, we would suggest its leaders find a way to honor Melvin Cooper's name. Cooper Park has a nice ring to it.

10-21-18

THE TIMES | GAINESVILLETIMES.COM

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The Times

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10-21-18

Trick or Treat on the Trail brings candy, zoo, games

BY ASTA CEESAY
aceesay@gainsevilletimes.com

For the little ones, Halloween is all about candy, candy and more candy, but the Trick or Treat on the Trail is going to give those sweet treats a run for their money.

More specifically, the rabbits, goats and llamas might be stealing the show.

At the event, trick or treating will still be the most important activity, but it offers kids more than just a sugar overload. Along with the 150,000 pieces of candy, they will have a petting zoo, face painting, temporary tattoos, games and bounce houses, so kids will have plenty of opportunities to use up their sugar rush fueled energy.

The best part is that everything is free.

JENNIFER LINN | The Times

Armando Luna, 8, and Jazlynn Luna, 8, race to get candy as Ayanna Rico, 6, and Joshua Luna, 7, tag along at Gainesville Parks and Recreation's Trick or Treat on the Trail at Midtown Greenway in Gainesville.

This year is expected to be the biggest year yet, with 15 "houses" creatively decorated and sponsored by local businesses.

"It actually has the feel of going house to house because each of our sponsors has a little, painted 8-foot, plywood house front," said Julie Butler, marketing manager for Gainesville Parks and Recreation.

Trick or Treat on the Trail is set for the Midtown Greenway, which is walking distance from the Gainesville Police Department, from 3 – 5 p.m. — while there is still plenty of sunlight.

"It is the safest way to trick or treat," Butler said. "This has become the trick or treating event for a lot of the kids in our community who don't have safe sidewalks in their neighborhoods, so it's become quite the community favorite."

Costumed kids can gather their stashes of candy, play games and have fun without parental fears about sending their kids going door to door.

And people can do a little good amidst the candy hauls and adorable goats. The event encourages families to help with their food drive for the Georgia Mountain Food Bank, so make sure to bring canned food items.

The Oct 27 event has steadily grown in size each year and is expected to bring out thousands of kids this Halloween.

"It's the perfect opportunity for the community to come out and trick or treat in a safe place and for us to give back to our community and park system and really offer something that's special," said Butler.

Trick or Treat on the Trail

When: 3-5 p.m. Oct. 27
Where: Midtown Greenway
How much: Free

10-18-18

TRICK OR TREAT ON THE TRAIL

What: Candy, petting zoo, bounce houses, games and face painting
When: 3-5 p.m. Oct. 27
Where: Midtown Greenway, 682 Grove St., Gainesville
How much: Free
More info: 770-531-2680, jbutler@gainesville.org 10-18-18

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How much: Free
More info: 770-531-2680, jbutler@gainesville.org 10-25-18

Gainesville Parks & Recreation

TRICK OR TREAT On the Trail

3pm-5pm

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Midtown Greenway | 682 Grove Street

directly behind the Public Safety and Fire Complex

Don't forget to bring *a canned food item* for the Georgia Mountain Food Bank!

FREE

Trick or Treating | Petting Zoo

Bounce Houses | Games

Tons of Candy | Lots of Fun!!

Ages: 12 and under

For More Information, Call 770.531.2680 *or visit* www.gainesville.org/special-events

All fun and games

Top: Elle Redmon throws a baseball at pins during Trick or Treat on the Trail at Midtown Greenway on Saturday, Oct. 27. **Left:** Attendees stand in line for candy. **Bottom:** Tyler Spradley, dressed as Batman, rolls down a hill.

Photos by **AUSTIN STEELE** The Times

10-28-18

ON THE TRAIL TO SOME SWEET TREATS

AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Kasey Pursley of Pinnacle Bank hands out candy during Trick or Treat on the Trail at Midtown Greenway on Saturday, Oct. 27. **More photos on page 3C**

10-28-18

JOHNNY VARDEMAN
vardeman1956@att.net

See how much you can recall of bygone days

You date yourself if you remember:

When two pool rooms sat side by side on Gainesville's Main Street just south of the Collegiate Grill. And George and Margene Brown kept the Collegiate humming.

When WDUN studios were across Main Street upstairs over Hardy's Studio and the Gainesville News.

When the weekly Gainesville News morphed into the daily Gainesville Morning News, operating for less than two years before going out of business.

When what were then the Gainesville Daily Times and Radio Station WGGA were in the same building on West Spring Street where Ninth District Opportunity is now.

When the only legal place to buy beer in Gainesville was in the Salvage House on Oak Street.

When Holly Drive off Green Street in Gainesville was called Grape Street, leading to an area named Sandy Flats.

When cruisers backed their cars into parking places on Gainesville's downtown square to watch other cruisers cruise.

When the Dixie-Hunt was one of three hotels in downtown Gainesville and its mezzanine was the meeting place for civic clubs and other organizations.

When Brenau students were required to wear coats to cover their shorts going to physical education classes.

When a chapel bell summoned Brenau students to vespers, change of classes and lights out at night.

When the Northeast Georgia Fair was a major event sponsored by Gainesville Jaycees off Shallowford Road every fall.

When Gainesville High School, Industrial Leagues and American Legion baseball teams played baseball on what is now Bobby Gruhn football field in City Park.

When L.P. McNeal Jr. operated Lakeshore Lanes bowling alley in what became Lakeshore Mall.

10-25-18

When swimmers churned up the waters of three Gainesville swimming pools: Green Street, Fair Street and Pine Street.

When the Mayflower Café on the corner of Broad and Main in Gainesville stayed open all night.

When, across the street, Jimmy Wood pumped gas at his Standard Oil service station.

When three major churches were within a block of each other on Gainesville's Green Street: First Baptist at the corner of Green and Washington, First Presbyterian at the corner of Green and Brenau Avenue, and First Methodist between Brenau Avenue and Academy Street on Green Street.

When Cobb's pool room was next to the Chew and Chat Café on Athens Street, and Price and Thompson's pool hall was next to the Roxy Theater.

When Clore's Café was a popular eating place on North Bradford Street downtown.

When professionals, politicians and blue-collar workers mixed to eat their veggies and fried chicken, gossip and talk politics at Jake's Cafeteria on MLK Boulevard in Gainesville.

When Holly's Landing on old Thompson Bridge Road was the go-to place for a sumptuous buffet.

When Gainesville and Fair Street high schools had the only football teams in the county.

When the only post office in Gainesville was behind the Federal Building at the corner of Green and Washington streets.

When poultry companies and other groups fashioned elaborate floats for the Poultry Parade that wound through Gainesville streets packed six deep with people.

When ambulances from Ward's, Vickers and other funeral homes responded to accident and other emergency calls.

When Winn-Dixie was where Memorial Park Funeral Home is today on Gainesville's Ronnie Green Parkway.

When Produce Row off old Athens and Church streets south of downtown Gainesville was the place to go for fresh veggies and fruit, etc.

When in the summertime, you went up Cornelia Highway (now Old Cornelia Highway) to buy your peaches from any number of stands along the way.

When Sears Roebuck was just a catalog sales office in the corner building on West Washington Street at Maple, and WLBA radio station was next door.

When the Boys' Club was in an old house on Sycamore Street, now E.E. Butler Parkway.

When Colonial Stores was in what most recently was Turner-Wood-Smith insurance agency building on Brenau Avenue downtown.

When families occupied every house on Gainesville's Green Street.

When Home Federal Savings and Loan put on their annual curb market around its building at the corner of Green and Washington streets.

When "Down Yonder" reverberated through the Civic Building (now Civic Center) as square dancers worked up a sweat in the un-air-conditioned building, and Teen Tavern rocked-and-rolled in a space in the basement.

Johnny Vardeman is retired editor of The Times. He can be reached at 2183 Pine Tree Circle NE, Gainesville, GA 30501; phone 770-532-2326; email vardeman1956@att.net.

10-28-18

27th Annual

Marketplace

Welcomes Merchants!

Preview Party: November 1, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. ***(Tickets $50)***
General Admission: November 2, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. ***(Tickets $5)***
November 3, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To purchase tickets for Preview Party or for more information, visit **nghs.com/marketplace** or call **770-219-1830.**

Proceeds benefit Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County

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The Crystal Plate kids
Morgan & Trey Wood

2 Dog Restaurant and Catering (Gainesville) 2 Dog is more than a restaurant, it's a movement

Beaded with Love by Sydney Phillips (Gainesville) Quality, trendy, handmade jewelry

Beautiful Chaos (Newnan) Handcrafted jewelry

Bee's Knees & Nectar (Gainesville) Fashionable ladies apparel, handbags and jewelry, and young girl's latest fashions

Best Friends Finds (Dunwoody) Christmas and collegiate décor

Billie's Pecans and More, Inc. (Crenshaw, MS) Homemade flavors

Four Sisters and Friends (Silverwear) (Woodstock) Unique handcrafted jewelry designed with semi-precious stones, beads, pearls and vintage finds. Collections of sterling silver and Turkish jewelry.

Full Bloom Nursery (Clermont) Vintage home & garden décor, pottery, plants

Gift N' Green (Cumming) Gifts - Eco friendly products

Gypsy Threads, LLC (Gainesville) Women's clothing, bath & beauty

House Dressing Interiors (Gainesville) Home décor, furniture, accessories

Image Boutique (Gainesville) Ladies'

Purchase Effect (Gainesville) Handmade leather purses, journals, jewelry

Rahab's Rope (Gainesville) Handmade, fair-trade jewelry, scarves, gift items

Rodan & Fields (Clermont) Skincare: redefine, soothe, unblemish

Shamrock and Peach LLC (Roswell) Irish art, cookbooks, linens & tours of Ireland

SISU (Gainesville) One-of-a-kind handmade gifts

Snooty Hooty Too LLC (Hoschton) Handcrafted sterling silver & natural gemstone jewelry with complimentary on-site engraving

The Orange Iris (Marietta) Beautiful, high-quality monogramed children's clothing, linens, and gentlemen's gifts

The Vintage Peach Boutique (Hoschton) Clothing, jewelry, home goods

Three Birds Studio (Cumming) Hand soldered jewelry

Totally Wicked Designs (Cumming) Jewelry - limited edition artisan pieces

Tween Bee (Gainesville) Trendy fashions for teens

Usborne Books & More (Atlanta) Entertaining, educational books for children of all ages

Catherine Lacey (Scottdale) Using silver, copper and stones, artwork is inspired by the flow and look of ribbon, fabric and lace

Charleston Shoe Co. (Charleston, SC) Offers affordable, comfortable hand-made cobblestones-cocktails shoes

Ciao Bella Boutique (Montgomery, AL) Glenda Gies vintage inspired, sophisticated handbags

Clara's Cookies (Buford) Homemade bite sized thin cookies in 3 flavors

Dario Perla Collection (Gainesville) Custom men's shirts, ties, clothing & accessories

Discovery Toys (Buford) Educational toys, books and games

Distressed Vintage Designs/ Magnolia Charms (Flowery Branch) Distressed one of a kind vintage tees and custom made beaded jewelry, repurposed Louis Vuitton handbag jewelry

Dot Dot Smile (Alpharetta) Unique Clothing Line for Girls 6 - 12 months up to 12/14

Earth Soaps (Mount Airy) All natural handcrafted soaps and bath accessories

Elachee Nature Science Center (Gainesville) Nature related gifts

Elmari Designs (Suwanee) Hand-crafted jewelry using deerskin, italian leather, sterling, pewter, copper & venetian italian murano

Erin London (Clarkesville) Women's apparel

Family Jewels & Purse Strings (Gainesville, FL) Romantic, chic handbags, jewelry, and baby clothing & gifts

(Norman Park) Jams & Jellies, salsas, pepper jelly, pickled products (Grandmas' recipe)

Leigh-Anne Gross O'Brien Fine Art (Gainesville) Watercolor & acrylic paintings

Lipsense by Senegence (Alpharetta) Longlasting lipstick & makeup

Looms and Lighting (Gainesville) Vintage rugs and lighting

Lou's Seaside Gifts (Clarkesville) Caribbean sea glass jewelry, hand wrapped crocheted crystal necklaces

LRC Products (Oakwood) Custom wooden wall art, letter signs

LuLaRoe by McFabulous Fashions, LLC (Commerce) Women & children's leggings & apparel

LW Glass & Fiber Studio (Blairsville) Wearable art, handwoven alpaca vests & scarves, handblown glass beads

Nest Feathers (Oakwood) Home accessories, gifts, scarves, jewelry

Nothing Bundt Cake (Duluth) Signature frosting drizzled over a variety of Bundt cakes

Oil + Ve (Roswell) Bottles of flavored oils, aged balsamics

Oliver Farm Artisan Oils (Pitts) Cold pressed, unrefined, non-GMO oils. Gluten-free flours

Painting Delightfuls (Flowery Branch) Christmas themed ornaments, hand-painted vintage furniture pieces, etc.

Parrish Hoag Art (Atlanta) Marketplace 2018 Feature Artist, watercolor & acrylic paintings

Provence Antiques (Decatur) English & French antiques

(Gainesville) Fresh baked & hand-made pies, new cookbook, and merchandise

Spider Monkey Paparazzi Jewelry (Gainesville) Comtemporary jewelry

Stephanie Kenney Designs (Atlanta) Upscale, unique jewelry

Storyology Design (Grayson) Vintage handmade jewelry

Strawberry Tree Farms (Manlius, NY) DIY gourmet-in-minutes soups and seasonings

Style Collectif (Gainesville) Stylish, comtemporary clothing for women

Sundara (Gainesville) Unique one-of-a-kind clothing and accessories

Sydney's Dollhouse (Montezuma) Children's clothing, dolls, gifts

The Crystal Plate Kids (Gainesville) Children's clothing & gifts

The Family Apothecary (Winder) Organic skincare & aromatherapy, herbal teas, essential oils

The Gainesville Ballet Company (Gainesville) Nutcrackers, holiday items and ornaments

The Gift Box (Gainesville) Gift Items

The Golden Phae Company (Roswell) 100% all natural skin creams/ cosmetics

The Honey Baked Ham Company & Café (Gainesville) Boxed lunches & tea

The Medical Center Auxiliary (Gainesville) Susansnaps, Southern Straws Cheese Straws, Georgia Sourdough and Marketplace notecards and totes with signature art by Parrish Hoag

(Gainesville) Baseball tee's with sports & Christmas appliques and reversible children's dresses

Whirled Piece Cookies (Gainesville) Assortment of fresh baked jumbo gourmet cookies

Wool & Flax (Gainesville) Women's high fashion

Worthwhile Pursuits (Macon) Interactive Children's books and toys, Find me Funzy the Fox

Artist's Row Merchants

Alison Odom (Gainesville) Watercolor and acrylic paintings

Beth Blanc (Cumming) Handcrafted Artisan Jewelry

Designs by Laurel Leigh (Athens) Handmade jewelry, painted ornaments, original art

Emily Gaddy (Gainesville) Author of Go Bulldogs and Roll Tide Roll

Jenny Highsmith Lettering (Marietta) Hand lettered artwork

Jewel with Young Living (Hoschton) Savvy Minerals Makeup & Cleansers using Shea Butter, Lavender & Peppermint Oils

Quilted Wall Inspirations (Gainesville) Quilted art for walls and pillows

Pot of Gems (Duluth) Handcrafted jewelry using wire wrapping and stringing techniques

The Art Colony

- **Sara Oakley and Mary Beth Stager** (Gainesville) Fine art and handcrafted original jewelry and accessories
- **The Bobbsey Twins** (Hoschton) Handcrafted cuff bracelets, collage on wood

10-28-18

HealthSmart

Interactive Health & Wellness EXPO

Wednesday, October 17

Gainesville Civic Center
7:30 am - 1:30 pm

FREE Health Screenings • Open to the Public
Free Wellness Seminars! Great Drawings!

No Appointment Needed!

Glucose • Cholesterol • Triglycerides Testing
Blood Pressure Checks • BMI Calculation
Carotid Artery Screening
Hearing & Vision Screenings

The 12th Annual HealthSmart Expo features **FREE Community Health Screenings** for men and women 18 and older. Screenings provided by **Longstreet Clinic** with **McDonald's** salads to 1st 100 people screened. 60+ Expo Exhibitors! **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**! Free **SHUTTLE SERVICE**!

HealthSmart Breakfast Speaker

Dallas Gay, chairman of Protein Products, a philanthropist and activist working to combat opioid abuse in our community and the state is speaker at the **HealthSmart Breakfast at 7:30 am on Wednesday, October 17 at the Gainesville Civic Center**.

Most Fit Company Awards

Awards will be presented at the breakfast in 3 company size categories with judging criteria including wellness, nutrition and fitness opportunities provided for employees. Space limited. Reservations required: 770-532-6206.

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