

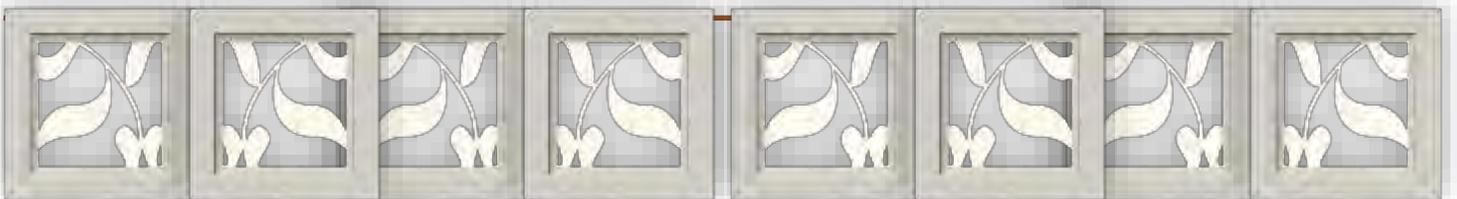
# IN THE NEWS

*September 2019*

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



## TRUCK



Jensen Cocuran, 1, checks out the inside of an excavator with his father, Jonathan, during the Touch A Truck event at City Park.

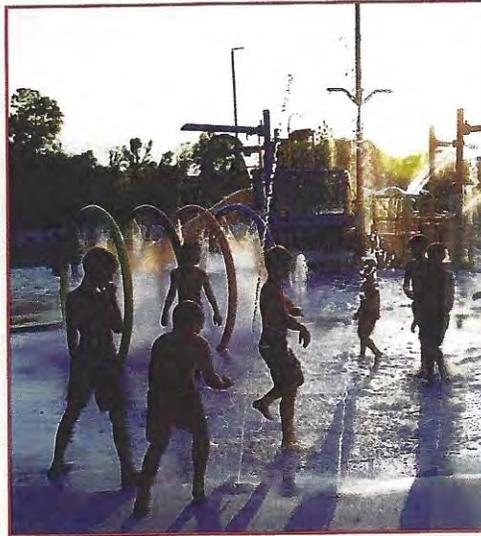


Attendees check out an excavator during the Touch A Truck event at City Park.

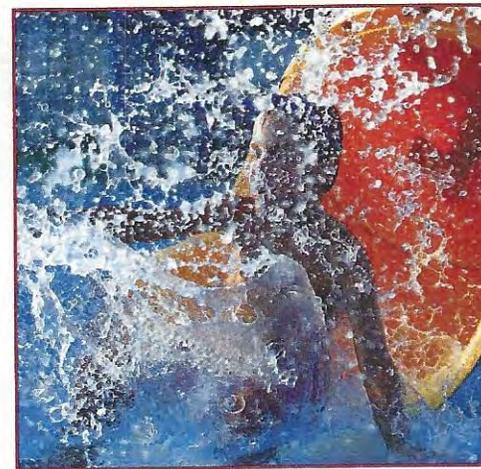


Attendees check out a medical helicopter during the Touch A Truck event at City Park.

## SPLASH



Children play in an outdoor splash zone during Family Splash Bash at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville. Gateway Domestic Violence Center puts on the event to assist in funding its services to help victims of domestic violence.



Water splashes as children make their way down a slide during Family Splash Bash at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville.

## SWIM



Devin Horan, part-owner at Swim Gainesville, leads children in a series of exercises during an open water swim series at Clarks Bridge Park in Gainesville.

9-1-19

# Gainesville prioritizes tourism

## City splits communication, tourism job into 2 positions

BY MEGAN REED

mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

Gainesville is growing and changing and so is its tourism and communications staff.

A position that directed both fields, most recently held by Nikki Perry, has now been split into two

positions — a tourism director and a public relations manager.

Robyn Lynch, previously executive director of Lake Lanier Olympic Park, is Gainesville's new tourism director and officially started the job Aug. 26.

Lynch will oversee the Gainesville Convention and Visitors

Bureau, managed by Regina Dyer, and Main Street Gainesville, the city's downtown program that is managed by Kristen Redmon.

"I'm just going to come in and manage the strategic planning and where we need to go, and then work with both (Dyer and Redmon) to move both of those pro-

grams forward," Lynch said.

The city is still seeking a public relations manager, and City Manager Bryan Lackey said Thursday that candidates are being interviewed. The salary for the additional position is being advertised as ranging from \$45,635.20 to \$73,028.80 annually.

The combined salaries of those in the office now, \$197,163.20, is the same as it was before the restructuring, but the advertised position will be an additional cost. Lackey said the city had already budgeted for the position.

Since TV 18, the local government access channel, went off the air Dec. 31, the city has wanted to increase its online and specifically

■ Please see **TOURISM, 4A**

7-1-19

# TOURISM

Continued from 1A

social media presence, Lackey said. The public relations manager will be able to devote more time to those responsibilities, he said.

And as tourism has evolved in Gainesville, Lackey said the city needed someone to focus on it.

Tourism numbers weren't available; Dyer said the state tracks tourism by county, but no specific numbers are available for Gainesville yet. Staff members are working to get a city-specific number, and that would require looking at events and venues. Dyer said she currently uses a state formula to estimate economic impact of events and looks at hotel-motel tax reports to track tourism.

One focus of growth in tourism for the city is its Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

Lynch said the city needs to take advantage of its accessibility to the lake, particularly at that park, which was shared between the city and Hall County but became a Gainesville park July 1. The venue had a \$6 million economic impact last year, Lynch said, and it hosted the International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat World Championships, the largest event on Lanier since the 1996 Olympics.

An increase in Gainesville's hotel-motel tax will fund improvements at the park, which Lackey said will include boathouse renovations, a meeting space and possibly a wedding venue. The city will also hire a new Olympic Park director to fill Lynch's former position.

Lynch said the city will work with park staff to bring in additional regattas like the American Collegiate Rowing Association national championships held there in May.

"We're seeing conferences that might have been further in town coming out here because we have the amenities and capabilities of hosting those larger meetings and conferences," Dyer said. "... We're looking to diversify with our sporting (events) and amping up our conferences."

For example, the Georgia State Square Dance Conference will be at the Gainesville Civic Center in September, and about 300 people are expected, Dyer said. The Longstreet Society will be bringing about 50 people to the Piedmont Hotel in October. The city's newest venue, the Ramsey Conference Center at Lanier Technical College, is also bringing large events such as Division of Family and Children Services meetings that have generated about 200 hotel stays over a four-week period, Dyer said.

But one challenge can be finding enough hotel rooms in the city to accommodate these larger events, Dyer said.

"There are times when we have to seek outside Gainesville or Hall County to house participants. When we have a large event, we try to fill everything we have in Gainesville, then look further out," she said. "... There's not enough inventory."

That could soon change, though — the former Regions building on Green Street will be converted into a boutique hotel, and Lackey said other developers have reached out about building hotels in the city.

Dyer is usually the contact for large events and conferences held in Gainesville, and she helps tourists find accommodations for their groups and things to do while visiting the city. The lake can be an asset in recruiting these events, both for its recreation opportunities and its scenic views, she said. Fishing tournaments alone had a more than \$1 million economic impact last year, she said.



Lackey



Lynch



Dyer

are going to work on," Lynch said.

Lynch said Gainesville Parks and Recreation will help tourism staff plan events along the greenway and in city parks.

The city owns a piece of property along the Midtown Greenway near the Georgia Chair Factory building that will become a small park for people to rest as they exercise on the greenway.

"We just think the opportunities are huge for growth, from all the way down to the Georgia Chair site and all the way up to the City View site (near the pedestrian bridge)," Lackey said.

Redmon will be collabo-

rating more with the city's community and economic development department, which was recently renamed to take on more responsibilities beyond the traditional zoning issues. Main Street Gainesville's boundaries were expanded earlier this year to include the midtown and Brenau University areas.

Main Street is also participating in a pilot program with the Georgia Municipal Association to create spaces where people want to gather together. Partners include the Gainesville Police Department, the Hispanic Alliance GA and local Realtors.

The alleys downtown will

be Main Street's first project, she said.

"Our places that we are really honing in on right now are the alleys downtown," Redmon said. "They may or may not have a negative stigma associated with them right now, but with the partnerships that we're forming ... we're going to bring some new life to those, like the one behind Atlas (Pizza)."

Redmon said through some conversations with community members, she learned that people would like to see more spaces where smaller groups can sit, interactive art pieces and more lighting. The city is also considering hosting

food truck events in those spaces, she said.

A revamping of the first floor of the administration building on Roosevelt Square will also include a visitors center and restrooms for public use during events.

Construction will likely be done within the next year, and officials hope the new entrance to the building will be more welcoming. The visitors center, currently housed in the former City Hall on Roosevelt Square, is not Americans with Disabilities Act compliant and may be more difficult to find, Lackey said.

Other incoming developments on city-owned property could provide new tourist destinations or accommodations. In September, officials are expected to announce the developers chosen for the 6.8-acre site on the southern end of the Jesse Jewell Parkway pedestrian bridge and the 4-acre former Hall County Jail site in midtown. Both could inspire further growth in midtown, along with the Highlands to Islands Trail, a multi-use path that runs through the area.

"Definitely with the greenway and the expansion of businesses in midtown, we're going to see a lot of activity in that area soon, not just during the day when you have businesspeople, but in the evening with programming and different things that we

9-1-19

# JOIN US!

The Times  
gainesvilletimes.com

## HEALTHY AGING EXPO

Free to the Public!  
**at Frances Meadows  
Aquatic Center**

1545 Community Way, Gainesville



Wednesday, September 25th  
from 9AM-Noon

Frances Meadows Aquatic Center  
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**Join Us for...**

Prizes • Exhibitors • Speakers  
Health Screenings and much more!

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Northeast Georgia Health System

9-1-19

## economic development

# Job Fair & Career Expo Tuesday, September 24

2 pm - 6 pm

Gainesville Civic Center | Open to the Public

Over 70 employers and hiring managers will be onsite as job seekers see first hand employment opportunities.

## Exhibitors

Ace Hardware  
Associated Credit Union  
Avita Community Partners  
Axiom Staffing  
BOS Staffing  
Brenau University  
BTB  
Cantrell - Gainco Group  
Carroll Daniel Construction  
Carter's  
City of Gainesville  
Classic Window Coverings  
Conditioned Air Systems  
District 2 Public Health  
**Express Employment Professionals**  
Gainesville Mechanical  
Gainesville Water Resources  
Georgia Dept of Driver Services  
**Georgia Department of Labor**  
Georgia Dept of Transportation  
Goodwill of North Georgia  
Hall County Government

Heavy Equipment Colleges of America  
Hire Dynamics  
Hydro Extrusion North America  
**Integrity Staffing Solutions**  
Jackson EMC  
Kelly Services  
KIK Custom Products  
King's Hawaiian  
Koch Foods  
Kubota Mfg. of America  
**Lanier Technical College**  
Legacy Link  
Longstreet Clinic  
Magnolia Windows & Doors  
Marel  
**Mars Wrigley Confectionery**  
Martin Docks  
Massey Services Inc  
**McDonald's**  
MedLink Georgia, Inc.  
Mincey Marble Manufacturing  
Modern Woodmen of America  
Northeast Georgia Health System

Northside Hospital  
Onin Staffing  
Overdrive Logistics  
**Panera Bread**  
Perdue Farms  
Performance Food Service  
Pest Control Insulation, LLC  
Milton's  
Pilgrim's  
PrideStaff  
ProCare Rx  
Ring Container Technologies  
Salford BBI  
SKF USA Inc.  
**Spherion Staffing**  
The Davis Companies  
The Sherwin-Williams Company  
University of North Georgia  
Voice Nation  
Wagner Staffing  
WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Zebra Technologies  
ZF Gainesville

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Job Fair Info

Amanda Leweis | [alewis@ghcc.com](mailto:alewis@ghcc.com)

770-532-6206 x 111

Learn more online: [GreaterHallChamber.com](http://GreaterHallChamber.com)

9-5-19

The **August Lunch 'n Learn** was hosted by **Watkins Total Healthcare** (L-R) **Brandi Barr**, *Ace Hardware Corporation*; **Phil Palacios**, *Cardinal Ridge Group*; **Darryl Workman**, *South State Bank*; **Tim Burachenko**,



*Watkins Total Healthcare*; **Brad Lloyd**, *Advanced Professional Practices*; **Christen Wilbanks**, *Greater Hall Chamber*. Guest Speaker **Tim Burachenko** presented '**Living Well for Life**' a brief, fun and enlightening program that explains the many facets of a healthy lifestyle and

the role that chiropractic plays in keeping you mobile for your entire, long life. **The next Lunch 'n Learn is September 18 at Lake Lanier Olympic Park** with **James Watson**, Park Manager, as the guest speaker. Enjoy networking during lunch by attending these monthly events. Details: **Christen Wilbanks**, Chamber VP Membership Sales, 770-532-6206 x 116 or [cwilbanks@ghcc.com](mailto:cwilbanks@ghcc.com)

4 September 2019 | [GreaterHallChamber.com](http://GreaterHallChamber.com)

9-5-19

## Gainesville's new Tourism Director

**Robyn Lynch**, former Executive Director of Lake Lanier Olympic Park has joined the **City of Gainesville** as the new Director of Tourism. Robyn's responsibilities include overseeing the Gainesville Convention & Visitors Bureau and Main Street Gainesville. City Manager **Bryan Lackey** stated, "There will be an extensive transition period, as keeping the momentum going strong at Lake Lanier Olympic Park is very important to us, as we begin to search for the new executive director." Robyn will work closely with **Regina Dyer** and **Kristen Redmon** to enhance the promotion of tourism and economic development in the community. [gainesville.org](http://gainesville.org)

10 September 2019 | [GreaterHallChamber.com](http://GreaterHallChamber.com)

9-5-19



**Eric Langshur**  
NYTimes Best Selling  
Author & Co-Founder,  
Abundant Venture Partners

## Nationally reconized speaker featured at HealthSmart

Most people know how important the role of physical health plays in our lives. What they may not know, however, is the equally vital role mental wellbeing plays in our overall health. Eric Langshur, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Start Here: Master the Lifelong Habit of Wellbeing* and successful business entrepreneur/CEO will be the Chamber's HealthSmart Breakfast keynote speaker on October 16 to reveal why

it is important to take care of our mental health and wellbeing in the same manner that we care for our physical health. His presentation – **Training the Skill of Wellbeing** – will focus on a topic that affects us all, in an engaging and interactive session, based not only on his personal experience of seeking wellbeing in his own hectic life but also on specific data that clearly links productivity and mental wellbeing.

Langshur will present a simple but revolutionary idea: **just as we train our bodies for physical fitness, we can train our brains for well-being, resulting in optimized energy and productivity.** He will share practical tips which focus on feeling less anxious, overwhelmed, and stressed, while increasing productivity, feeling a stronger sense of meaning and contribution, and building stronger relationships with family, friends and coworkers. He'll explain how this idea can be put in to practice. His words will spur us on to be a thriving, healthier community and unveil why **"Reaching Out is HealthSmart"**. Learn about Eric Langshur at [mindful.org/notice-shift-rewire-brain](http://mindful.org/notice-shift-rewire-brain) and make plans to join us at **HealthSmart on October 16.** See page 11 for details.

## REACHING OUT is HealthSmart

Mental Health and Wellness is the focus of the HealthSmart Expo this year as we seek to educate the community and promote services for better care for each and every citizen. *More on page 11.*

featured member



# Job Fair September 24

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

See who's hiring  
on page 6!



**Open to the Public • No Entry Fee**  
**Hiring Managers On Site**  
**Free Shuttle**

### Attention Job Seekers!

70+ employers will be on hand for a great opportunity to learn about area companies that are hiring. Be prepared to meet employers face-to-face and complete job applications on site.

**More info: 770-532-6206**

*The Job Fair is a partnership of the Greater Hall Chamber, the Gainesville Area Employers Committee, Lanier Technical College and the Georgia Department of Labor.*

# calendar

## September

**Tuesday, September 10**  
**Small Business Resource Fair**  
7:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
Business Incubator at Brenau University

**Ambassadors Council**  
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
2 Dog Cafe | Gainesville

**Wednesday, September 11**  
**Network Over Coffee**  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
Longstreet Cafe | Riverside Terrace Cville

**Human Resource Council**  
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Luna's | Gainesville

**Friday, September 13**  
**Economic Development Council**  
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

**Tuesday, September 17**  
**South Hall Business Coalition**  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta

**Vision 2030 Board of Directors**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Chamber

**Wednesday, September 18**  
**Issues Committee**  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

**Lunch 'n Learn**  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Lake Lanier Olympic Park

**Thursday, September 19**  
**Chamber Executive Committee**  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Chamber

**Business After Hours**  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Chattahoochee Country Club

**Tuesday, September 24**  
**Job Fair & Career Expo**  
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Gainesville Civic Center

**Wednesday, September 25**  
**Network Over Coffee**  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
Haydee's Café | 3204 Atlanta Highway

**Thursday, September 26**  
**Chamber Board of Directors**  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Eagle Ranch | Chesnut Mountain

## October

**Tuesday, October 8**  
**Small Business Seminar**  
7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

**Thursday, October 10**  
**Business After Hours & Annual Tailgate Party**  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Conditioned Air Systems | Gainesville

**Wednesday, October 16**  
**HealthSmart 2019**  
Kickoff Breakfast: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
Expo: 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Gainesville Civic Center

**Tuesday, October 29**  
**South Hall Business Coalition**  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
University of North Georgia  
Gainesville Campus | Nesbitt Building

## November

**Wednesday, November 13**  
**Industry Appreciation Luncheon**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Chattahoochee Country Club | Gainesville

## December

**Thursday, December 12**  
**Eggs & Issues Breakfast**  
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
Lanier Technical College

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

9-5-19

# 2019 HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL



Photos by TRENTON TALBOT | For the Times

**Top left:** Participants wearing their life jackets watch from the shore during the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival at Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville on Saturday, Sept. 7. The festival was a free, all-day event on the water that included presentations and dances from Asian culture, races, music and food. **Top right:** Participants sit in their boat. **Left:** Spectators watch events at the festival. **Bottom right:** Two boats are seen at the festival.





AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Dragon boats are prepared to be raced in during the Annual Dragon Boat Challenge at Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

### Atlanta Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 7

**Where:** Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.dragonboatatlanta.com](http://www.dragonboatatlanta.com)

9-5-19



Times file photo

Dannella Burnett of Encore Elite Events writes on a type of lantern that will be used in the upcoming Lanier Lantern Festival.

### Lanier Lantern Festival

**When:** 4-10 p.m. Sept. 14

**Where:** Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road

**How much:** Free

**More info:** [www.lanierlanternfestival.com](http://www.lanierlanternfestival.com)

9-12-19

# Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival returns to Lake Lanier

The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival returned to Lake Lanier Olympic Park Saturday, Sept. 7, for a free, all-day event on the water.

"It's very exciting," said Tracy Barth, deputy festival director. "This has always been my favorite event for the community, especially at the Lake Lanier Olympic Park."

The festival has been held in Gainesville at the Olympic venue since the early 2000s, bringing a cultural experience that isn't normally found in Hall County. The event included presentations and dances from Asian culture, races, music and food.

■ For more photos, see page 3C



The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival returned to Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville on Saturday, Sept. 7, for a free, all-day event on the water that included presentations and dances from Asian culture, races, music and food.

TRENTON TALBOT | For the Times

9-8-19

- See the new plans for midtown sites
- Meet the developer and learn about what else it has built
- Brush up on the background of these city-owned properties

# Gainesville is 'popping'



An artist's portrayal shows retail and apartments planned for the 6.8-acre lot at the end of the pedestrian bridge over Jesse Jewell Parkway.

Image courtesy Dynamik Design

## City unveils development plans for midtown land

BY MEGAN REED  
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

The pedestrian bridge over Jesse Jewell Parkway could become the "bridge to somewhere," if plans announced Thursday by Gainesville officials come to fruition.

Pedestrians crossing the bridge from Roosevelt Square into the new development would first see restaurants or retail on either side, white in color to match the bridge.

A plaza area toward the back of that space would serve as a gathering spot in front of a four-story apartment building with a fitness club on the ground floor. The apartment complex's pool and amenities would be behind the building, along with parking and two smaller four-story apartment buildings.

Across College Avenue and Main Street from the first phase of the development would be more apartments and about half the retail and restaurant space of the first phase.

Mayor Danny Dunagan said Gainesville is "popping," noting yet-to-be-announced development plans from Doug Ivester for the

### About this story

Gainesville officials Thursday unveiled plans for two midtown pieces of property the city owns.

In the past decade-plus, The Times has reported about the city's plans for one of these lots, including visions that didn't come to fruition amid the Great Recession. More recently, reporters uncovered information about the city's \$10 million purchase of that same lot it once owned. The Times also followed the city's purchase of land where the Hall County Jail once stood, which at the time had a paying tenant who vacated shortly thereafter. Both properties have now been vacant for years as officials dreamed of midtown revitalization. The Times is now digging into this developer's proposal and what the city may be promising in return.

vacant lot on the downtown square and a recently announced plan for a boutique hotel at the old First National Bank building.

"I'm very excited that we are going to have a bridge to somewhere, and it's something that our community is going to be proud of for a long time," he said of the bridge that quickly earned the moniker "bridge to nowhere" after original plans for the property fell apart amid the Great Recession.

Gainesville officials had recently been seeking mixed-use developments, hoping to bring more residents to downtown and

midtown. The city issued a request for proposals earlier this year for the two midtown properties, also asking that developments be pedestrian-friendly, incorporating the Highlands to Islands Trail that winds through downtown into midtown.

City Manager Bryan Lackey said Atlanta developer Terwilliger Pappas' idea was the best fit, in part because the firm wanted to develop both properties.

The 6.8-acre site at the end of the pedestrian bridge would become

■ Please see **PLANS, 7A**  
9-13-19

# PLANS

■ Continued from 1A

home to 220 apartments and 10,000 square feet of retail space, according to plans submitted by Terwilliger Pappas.

The second phase of the project will put 180 apartments and 5,000 square feet of retail space at the 4-acre site where the Hall County Jail once sat at the intersection of Main and Parker streets.

Terwilliger Pappas will spend about \$80 million on the project, which is expected to take about four years to build. The city owns both properties and will sell them to developers, although City Manager Bryan Lackey said the sale price is still being negotiated. The pedestrian bridge lot's assessed value, according to tax records, is about \$1.6 million, while the old jail site is valued at about \$1.3 million.

Terwilliger Pappas has completed 23 projects since it was founded in 2013, including developments in Decatur and Atlanta, along with apartments at Suwanee Town Center that opened last year.

Greg Power, Terwilliger Pappas' executive vice president, said Thursday that the apartments in Gainesville would rent for about \$1,200 to \$2,000 a month.

Dunagan said he was looking forward to seeing more people living downtown.

"Ever since I've been on the council, and prior council members, we have wanted downtown living," he said. "This will be a great asset for Brenau (University), for the students and their professors, and for residents at (Northeast Georgia Medical Center). In fact, I wouldn't mind living over there once it gets built."

Lackey said the development could help kick off growth in midtown.

"We think it's just going to start a chain reaction, coming from downtown, it's going to accentuate and actually make our downtown even better for more people as they flow along the (Highlands to Islands) trail system," he said. "... It's just going to jumpstart more and more development, redevelopment, from commercial, retail and even better industrial."

Officials have identified midtown as an area with potential for growth and are working on other projects in the area, including a small park near the Georgia Chair Factory and a skate park at High and Pine streets.

The land at the southern end



Image courtesy Dynamik Design

An artist's portrayal shows retail and apartments planned for the 6.8-acre lot at the end of the pedestrian bridge over Jesse Jewell Parkway.

of the pedestrian bridge has long been identified by city officials as a property that could play a major role in midtown redevelopment.

About an acre of the pedestrian bridge property previously housed the city's police and fire headquarters. Gainesville sold that land to developers in 2008 as the city was building a new public safety complex on Queen City Parkway. Those developers then acquired other pieces of land, bringing the total property size to 6.8 acres. Developers had planned to build a hotel with a conference center and two 11-story office buildings, but as the recession hit, those plans fell through.

When the city sold the land to

developers, however, it entered into an agreement with the Gainesville Redevelopment Authority that required the developers to fund the design, permitting and construction of the pedestrian bridge. The city agreed to reimburse the developers when the project was done, or no later than Feb. 15, 2017.

In February 2017, the city upheld that agreement and paid the developers almost \$2.5 million to reimburse them for the bridge, although nothing was ever built on the property after the bridge opened in 2012.

The city purchased the land back from developers in November 2018, paying \$10 million and

taking over a contract on the property from the Northeast Georgia Health System.

The former jail site has also been empty for several years, since the jail was demolished in 2017. The city paid Hall County \$7.2 million for the property in 2012. When the city bought the property, it entered into a lease agreement with the Correction Corps of America, which was operating an immigrant detention facility there, using lease payments from CCA to pay the bonds. When CCA vacated the facility in 2013, the city was left with more than \$6 million in debt. Lackey said Thursday the remaining debt is about \$4.2 million.

Both the properties are located in the Midtown Tax Allocation District, meaning the developer could apply to receive tax funding for the project. The TAD basically borrows cash from the expected rise in property taxes that will come with the development. The City Council has final say on whether a project can participate. The properties are also in a federal qualified opportunity zone and a state opportunity zone. The federal program allows some taxpayers to defer payments on investments in struggling areas, while the state program allows businesses to qualify for a tax credit of up to \$3,500 per job created.

# Shore Sweep volunteers clear 30 tons of trash from Lanier

BY KENNETH HUCKS  
khucks@gainesvilletimes.com

Volunteers picked up an estimated 30 tons of trash from the shoreline of Lake Lanier on Saturday as part of the Lake Lanier Association's 31st annual Shore Sweep.

About a thousand volunteers showed up to 12 different sites to clean up trash, which often flows into the lake when storms pass through, Lake Lanier Association Executive Director Jennifer Flowers said.

"The trash comes from either on-lake uses — like we have a lot of the larger dock floats that we do get — or it's anything within the Lanier watershed or the basin of Lanier," Flowers said. "So all the rivers that feed into Lanier bring trash with them everytime it rains. Any parking lot around this area that has trash in it — if that washes off, it's gonna eventually end up in Lake Lanier."

As trash builds up, it can make an area not only unattractive but also become dangerous to wildlife as trash breaks down into smaller pieces.

"It seems like it's not a big deal, but as it gets to be microplastics or even styrofoam breaking down — then it just ends up in the environment, and animals can eat it and that sort of thing," Flowers said.

Many volunteers came just wanting to make Lake Lanier look its best, Shanda Sexton, the executive director of Keep Hall Beautiful, said.

Some came with local businesses but many were unaffiliated with a group.

"Really it's just something that they can get out here to do, and they like to be able to help within their community," Sexton said of the volunteers. "A lot of them live in this area and they want to see it clean and keep their recreational usage of the lake as clean and safe as possible."

# Shore sweep this weekend at Lanier

Volunteers will be descending upon Lake Lanier on Saturday for the Lake Lanier Association's 31st annual Shore Sweep.

Twelve sites across the lake will host more than 1,000 volunteers on Sept. 14, where they will be roaming the banks and waters of Lake Lanier to hunt and remove trash. During the 31 years of the event, more than 2 million pounds of trash has been removed from the shore of Lake Lanier.

"It's a treasure hunt. You never know what you'll find since trash moves down into Lake Lanier from as far away as Helen," said longtime Shore Sweep site captain Cynthia Cochran. "One of the best parts of the day is the feeling of instant gratification, knowing you're seeing immediate results from your hard work. It's a great opportunity to help clean our drinking water source."

Shore Sweep efforts include Hall, Dawson, Forsyth and Gwinnett counties.

Although the official event doesn't kick off until Sept. 14, the shore sweeping efforts have already begun with the opening of advance drop sites. Across the lake, eight sites only accessible by boat are open for those who want to get a head start on cleaning the lake.

On Saturday, these sites will close, and the trash — along with everything else found — will be taken to the 12 Shore Sweep sites across the lake. Locations and coordinates for the advance sites can be found online at [www.lakelanier.org](http://www.lakelanier.org).

"The focus of Shore Sweep has changed over the years along with the predominate type of trash that we find. In years past it was primarily bottles, cans and leisure type trash. We now have 12 million annual visitors to Lanier but the trash is trending towards heavy, industrial type trash like dock floats, which makes our boating community and dwellers invaluable with collection and disposal," said

LLA Shore Sweep Organizer Bonny Putney.

Volunteers can go to any of the 12 shore sweep locations from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help clean up. The locations are:

- Aqualand Marina
- Balus Creek Park
- Clarks Bridge Olympic Park
- Don Carter State Park
- Gainesville Marina
- Lake Lanier Islands
- Longwood Park
- University Yacht Club
- War Hill Park in Dawson County
- Bald Ridge and Port Royale marinas in Forsyth County
- Gwinnett Park in Gwinnett County

Volunteers will be provided trash bags and participants will receive a T-shirt. Volunteers can register in advance by visiting [lakelanier.org](http://lakelanier.org).

Staff reports

9-12-19

David Hood, a resident living near the lake, said what drew him to Shore Sweep was a sense of local pride. He said he had been doing this kind of cleanup work on a smaller scale at home before finally deciding to help with the community effort.

"We live on the edge of the lake so it means a lot to us to have a clean place to use and to enjoy," Hood said. "We've done it around our house and just done it up there. We just want to be able to help make a difference."

For the Lake Lanier Association, initiatives like Shore Sweep are part of the organization's mission to maintain the lake and ensure it stays a pillar of Hall County.

"Lake Lanier is such an important part of our community and kind of identifies us," Flowers said. "So a shoreline that's just littered completely with trash is not beautiful and no one wants to come and swim in it and boat in it and see that when they come to events."

9-15-19



KENNETH HUCKS | The Times

Justin Davis picks up trash Saturday, Sept. 14, at Clark's Bridge Park during the 31st annual Shore Sweep organized by the Lake Lanier Association.

9-15-19

# 28th Annual Marketplace

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Marketplace Preview Party**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019**

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

**Tickets available online  
beginning Oct. 1 at  
[nghs.com/marketplace.](https://nghs.com/marketplace)**

**General Admission**

**November 8 & 9**

For more information,  
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**Chairs**

Katie Crumley, Jenny Floyd  
& Morgan Wood

**Great selection of  
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9-15-19

# Job Fair

## Tuesday, September 24

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center



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Carter's  
Caravana  
Chattahoochee Country Club  
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9-15-19

# Dozens of vendors gathering Sept. 25 for Healthy Aging Expo

BY NICK WATSON  
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gainesvilletimes.com

Dozens of vendors will gather Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center for the Healthy Aging Expo.

The Heart Center and Northeast Georgia Medical Center Diabetes Services will provide their respective carotid and glucose screenings.

Audiologist Marilyn Schorn Bellows of Gainesville Hearing Services said they test hearing on people of all ages, "from babies on to people in their 100s."

"Hearing aid technology has improved immensely over the years and kind of improves every 12 to 18 months with the advent of new products ... There's bluetooth connectivity nowadays, which people really, really like," Schorn-Bellows said.

Through Medicare, there are plans that offer hearing services and discounts on



Times file photo

Linda Space, left, speaks with Amanda Dixon, the marketing coordinator for Gastroenterology Associates of Gainesville P.C., during the Healthy Aging Expo Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

hearing aids, she said.

In recent years, Schorn-Bellows said they have been focusing on co-morbidities, or simultaneous chronic diseases or conditions, with hearing loss

including dementia, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

"We've been really telling people how important

■ Please see AGING, 5A

## Healthy Aging Expo

**Where:** Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, 1545 Community Way, Gainesville, GA

**When:** Sept. 25, 9 a.m. to noon

9-21-19

## AGING

■ Continued from 1A

hearing is as a gateway to the brain and how important it is to keep sensory stimulus coming in," she said.

Your CBD Store owner Cecily Sharp, said people can come in for consultations and explain more about how the cannabidiol works. The store offers CBD products without THC,

the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

Breaking down the age demographics of her customers, there are two large groups that are 50-80 and 25-35.

The younger generation is usually looking for help with stress, anxiety and focus, Sharp said.

"Usually, they are looking for help for pain management a lot of times. Arthritis is another big thing," Sharp said of her older customers, adding sleep help is another main concern.

9-21-19

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**



The Times  
gainesvilletimes.com

# HEALTHY AGING EXPO

**Wednesday,  
September 25th  
9am-Noon**

**FRANCES MEADOWS**  
AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER  
1545 Community Way, Gainesville

## VENDORS

- 1-2 The Heart Center  
*(providing carotid screenings)*
- 3 NGMC Diabetes  
*(providing glucose screenings)*
- 4 NGMC Oncology
- 5 NGMC Sepsis program
- 6 NGHS Respecting Choices Program
- 7 NGHS Trauma
- 8 NGMC Rehabilitation Institute
- 9 NGMC Hospice
- 10 NGMC Joint Care Center
- 11 NGMC Bariatrics
- 12 NGPG Vascular Center
- 13 NGPG Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine
- 15 The Vitamin Shoppe
- 16 The Spa on Green Street
- 17 The Insurance Source
- 18 NE GA Diagnostic Clinic
- 22 American Hearing Aid
- 23 Home Instead Senior Care
- 24 Mundy Mill Dental
- 25 Ashton Senior Living
- 26 Longstreet Clinic
- 27 Your CBD Store
- 28 Gainesville Hearing
- 29 Specialty clinic
- 30 Judy Paul-Keller Williams
- 31 Gardens of Gainesville
- 32 Watkins Total Health Care
- 33 Gastroenterology Associates
- 34 Optimal Hearing
- 35 Voxxlife
- 36 Legacy Link
- 37 Manor Lake
- 38 Kimbrough Law
- 39 North Ga. Tennis Assoc
- 40 BULLI
- 41 Allergy, Asthma and Sinus

Frances Meadows Aquatic Center will be offering the following classes **FREE** during the event:

### Land Classes - Wellness Room

- 9am Total Fitness (Wellness Room)
- 9:30am Boxing Fitness (Held in Underground Fitzone)
- 10am Zumba (Wellness Room)
- 11am Strength In Motion (Wellness Room)
- 11am Your Ride - Spin Class (Held in Underground Fitzone)
- 12pm Gentle Yoga (Wellness Room)

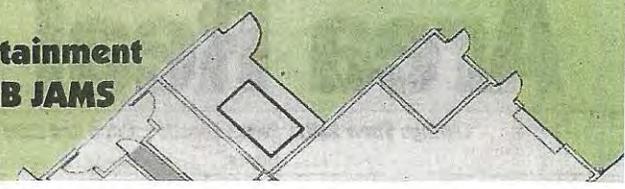
### Water Classes - Warm Pool

- 9am Aqua Attitude
- 10am Water Works
- 11am Gentle Movements

### FREE Health Screenings

- Carotid Artery Screening
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Allergy Screenings

**Entertainment  
by jB JAMS**



19 North Ga. Audiology  
20 BGW Dental  
21 Lakeshore Squares

42 BEMER  
43 The Joint Chiropractic  
44 Biketown

**First 100 receive a goody bag!**  
Complete a Passport to Prizes for your chance to win! Door prizes will be given out during the event!

BOOTH LOCATIONS ARE NOT FINAL, AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FRANCES MEADOWS  
AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER



Sponsored by:



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FRANCES MEADOWS  
AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER

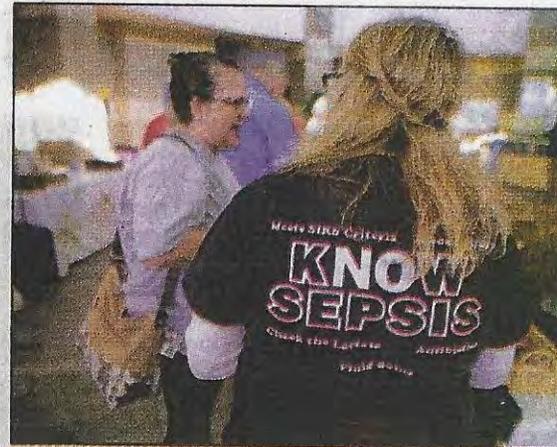
9-22-19

# Visitors at expo learn about healthy aging



Photos by SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

**Above:** Dr. Jessica Allen, of North Georgia Audiology and Hearing Aid Center, hands out information Wednesday, Sept. 25, to visitors of the Healthy Aging Expo at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center. **Above right:** The Spa On Green Street's Cathy Kid gives massages to visitors of the expo. **Right:** Mary Jo Shope, left, and Debbie Johnson, of BGW Dental Group, chat during the event.



**Top:** Northeast Georgia Medical Center Sepsis Coordinator Carol Ann Gelderman speaks about sepsis with visitors of the Healthy Aging Expo. **Above:** Visitors of the Healthy Aging Expo visit the various booths Wednesday, Sept. 25.

9-26-19

