



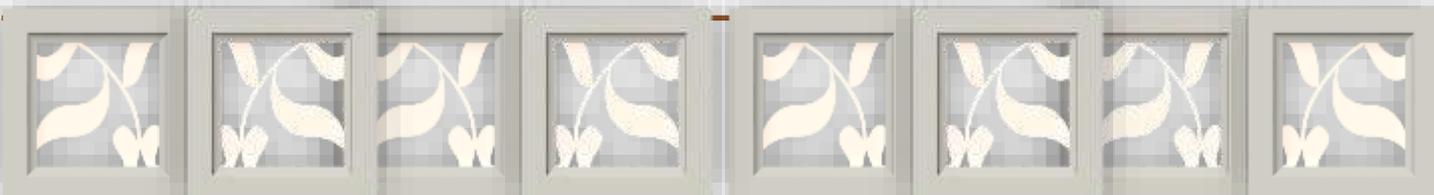
IN THE NEWS

August 2020

Frances Meadows Center Division
Parks & Facilities Division
Recreation Division
City / County Issues
Miscellaneous



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



FALL 2020
**JOB FAIR
& Career Expo**

Tuesday, September 15

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Job Seekers

Apply On-Site for Jobs • No Admission Fee
60+ Employers • Visit with Hiring Managers
Convenient Location • On-site Shuttle

Employers

Recruit Qualified Employees • Event Draws 1,000+

Exhibit Info: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111

Email: alewis@ghcc.com



Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS


GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MARS WRIGLEY

Presented by **Express Employment Professionals** and **Mars Wrigley** and organized by the **Greater Hall Chamber**, the **Gainesville Area Employers Committee**, **Lanier Technical College** and the **Georgia Department of Labor**.

8-5-20

**Tuesday, September 15
Job Fair & Career Expo**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

8-5-20



Hiring Event | September 15th
10am - 2pm
Gainesville Civic Center

Greater Hall Chamber Job Fairs are the perfect forum for companies hiring to recruit new employees. Hiring managers meet hundreds of job candidates face-to-face in a convenient location in a short span of time. Recruit qualified employees at the upcoming **Job Fair on Tuesday, September 15 (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center**. Job fairs are free and open to the public and are a partnership of the Greater Hall Chamber, the Gainesville Area Employers Committee, Lanier Technical College and the Georgia Department of Labor. Exhibit Info: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111 or alewis@ghcc.com

8-5-20

Gainesville looks to rezone 25 midtown properties

Several properties in midtown Gainesville, the majority of them owned by the city, could be rezoned to office-industrial, although there is no proposed change in use for the properties.

Of the 25 properties up for rezoning, 22 are owned by the city of Gainesville, and the private owners for the other three have given permission to rezone, according to the staff recommendation report for the rezoning request. The city is the applicant for the rezoning.

Some existing uses for the properties include the Midtown Greenway, the city's Public Safety Complex, Fire Station No. 1, the new skate park and a water resources building.

"The properties will continue to function as public uses with the exception of two private office uses and a hair salon," according to the staff report for the request.

According to the report, the rezoning would more accurately reflect the current uses for the properties.

"It is expected that the strategic public investment that has occurred within the Midtown area will continue to encourage further investment as desired by the applicant," the report states. "Rezoning the subject properties to a more appropriate zoning that reflects the existing uses will only help to support this effort."

The Gainesville Planning and Appeals Board will vote on the rezoning at its Tuesday, Aug. 11 meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway. The Gainesville City Council will have the final vote at a later meeting.

Megan Reed



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Bradford Street near the southern end of Gainesville's midtown area.

8-8-20

GAINESVILLE

Planning board approves rezoning for 25 midtown properties

The Gainesville Planning and Appeals Board approved rezoning Tuesday, Aug. 11, for 25 properties, most of which are city-owned.

The Gainesville City Council will have the final vote Sept. 1.

There is no proposed change in use for the properties, which include the Public Safety Complex, Fire Station No. 1, the

city's new skate park and a building being renovated into office space. The new zoning would be office and institutional.

Gainesville owns 22 of the properties, and owners for the other three parcels have given permission to rezone, according to the staff recommendation report for the request.

"It is expected that the strategic public

investment that has occurred within the Midtown area will continue to encourage further investment as desired by the applicant," the report states. "Rezoning the subject properties to a more appropriate zoning that reflects the existing uses will only help to support this effort."

Megan Reed
8-12-20

Gainesville City Council hears about plans for Holly Park and new Mundy Mill Road traffic light

GAINESVILLE – Holly Park is a “hidden gem” the City of Gainesville would like to polish.

Friends of Gainesville Parks and Greenways is a non-profit organization that operates in partnership with the City of Gainesville; Gainesville City Council member Juli Clay serves on the group’s board of directors.

Clay said at Thursday’s city council work session that she had just attended the group’s most recent meeting, held at Holly Park, and heard a master plan presentation regarding the possible future of the park that sits on the shore of Lake Lanier.

Clay admitted that it was her first visit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility off Thompson Bridge Road that is leased by the city. “I think it’s one of the little hidden gems of Gainesville,” she told her fellow council members.

City Manager Bryan Lackey said of Holly Park: “That’s one of our trail heads for the Blueways canoeing trail.”

City councilwoman Barbara Brooks said Holly Park was a favorite of hers even though, “...it’s gone lacking for as long as I’ve been in Gainesville, and people love fishing there.”

Clay said Friends of Gainesville Parks and Greenways has presented their plan to the USACE and it has been approved as a part of the Corp’s master plan.

Clay said some improvements at the park have already taken place. “They have gotten a dock over the summer. It was donated.”

Mayor Danny Dunagan said he and Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department leaders had met with the Corps on several occasions to discuss possibilities for the park. "It would be a wonderful place for a restaurant on that side of the lake," Dunagan said.

Lackey added, "There's so many opportunities on that property; the Corps property is pretty deep there and most of it is above the 1085 (MSL) line. But we do need a better entrance; it is hard to get back down into there; it's almost too hidden."

"It's a great asset for our community," Clay said after the work session. "It's a really nice area I don't think a lot of our citizens know about because it is so tucked away."

In-person job fair Sept. 15



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Companies in need of employees take part in the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce job fair Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Chamber urges attendees to bring resume, mask

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

An in-person job fair is set for Sept. 15 at the Gainesville Civic Center, but with precautions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some 45 employers are expected at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce event, where job seekers will be able to “meet employers face to face” and apply for jobs, the chamber said in a recent press release.

The chamber urges prospective employees to bring their resume but also wear a mask.

Officials “will be taking measures to

Job Fair

What: Some 45 employers will be interviewing job seekers

When: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 15

Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St.

Admission: free

ensure the safety of employers and job seekers at this event with temperature checks, face masks, hand sanitizer, as well as extra-wide aisles and larger booth spaces,” the chamber said.

This is the first in-person job fair the chamber has held since the COVID-19 pandemic, but it isn’t its first in-person event.

The chamber held its annual Economic & Political Forecast on Aug. 11 at Lanier Technical College’s Ramsey Conference Center. The event had both an in-person and virtual audience.

But then it canceled its 112th Annual Meeting & Gala, which had been scheduled for Sept. 10 at the Chattahoochee Country Club in Gainesville. The event, which draws hundreds to a packed ballroom, had already been postponed from May 14.

It was canceled because COVID-19 is “still prevalent in the community,” chamber president and CEO Kit Dunlap has said.

8-26-20

Gainesville has big plans for Park Hill Drive corridor

The stretch of road from Green Street near the Gainesville Civic Center to the Atlanta Botanical Garden may look significantly different in the next few years if the city officials have their way.

Park Hill Drive, which is known at various points by different names, would see improvements to help the flow of traffic, upgrades to sidewalks and crossings to help pedestrian access and upgrades to storefronts in the area, which officials say could drive even more economic development along the corridor.

"Strategic public investments promote private investments," Rusty Ligon, director of community and economic development for Gainesville, said, citing a quote city officials often use in talking about projects like this one.

Under the city's proposal, which is still in the planning stages and has not been funded, the area from the Civic Center to the intersection with Enota Drive – considered the South Corridor – would see improved pedestrian access and a roundabout at Riverside Drive to help with both the flow and speed of traffic in that area.

Crosswalks would be added near the Inn Between Deli and at Oak Tree Drive. Existing sidewalks in the area would be extended to link with the walking/cycling lanes on Riverside Drive. Parking along the corridor would be reorganized and relined.

Officials are also proposing to establish a Green Street Trail Head near the old Green Street Pool that would link walkers or joggers in the Longstreet Hills neighborhood and elsewhere to Green Street and, possibly, Rock Creek Park.

In the long-term, officials hope to improve the appearance of storefronts in the area, and perhaps build a multistory building there that would space for existing businesses and provide opportunities for new businesses. Upper floors might include office space or loft apartments. Additional parking would also be created.

Officials would also implement what they call a "road diet." The center turn lane on the road would be slightly narrowed to accommodate 6-foot-wide sidewalks along that stretch of the road.

On the so-called Northern Corridor – Enota Drive to the botanical gardens – city officials hope to develop property at Enota and Park Hill, across from CVS, into a mixed-use area of businesses, townhomes and single-family houses. This part of the project would also redevelop Northlake Plaza with shopping, green space and additional housing options. Pedestrian access would also be enhanced on this stretch of road.

Gainesville Skate Park to receive security enhancement

GAINESVILLE – Surveillance cameras are coming to one of Gainesville’s most popular new parks.

“I wish I could go down there and sell tickets,” Gainesville Police Chief Jay Parrish told members of the Gainesville City Council at their work session Thursday morning. Parrish was referring to the new Gainesville Skate Park on the corner of Pine and High Streets that opened in June.

“No matter what time I come to work or what time I go home that place is packed,” Parrish said.

Parrish was before the city council to ask its approval for his department to accept a block grant, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, in the amount of \$12,848. Parrish said he already had a plan in mind for those funds, so with him stood Kate Mattison, Gainesville Parks and Recreation Director.

She and Parrish had been discussing possible security concerns at the new facility. “During the summer our School Resource Officers were able to be down there...but some of our worry comes after dark, when things close down,” Parrish said.

“So with this grant...we want to integrate the existing security camera system that we use...at other infrastructure in the city, at Skate Park,” Parrish said. “It’ll require about six to eight cameras down there that will be networked in, and we believe that those cameras will not only deter crime but make people have that sense of safety when they take their families out there,” he explained.

Mayor Danny Dunagan liked the idea and told Parrish, “That’s a good deal. I think that’s well needed...you don’t see as many of them (skateboarders) downtown now.” Skateboarding in the downtown area had generated many complaints from local merchants and pedestrians in recent years.

<https://accesswdun.com/article/2011/7/240453>

Park hours are 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. seven days a week. The park is lighted when the sun sets and the lights turn off automatically at 11:00 p.m.



