



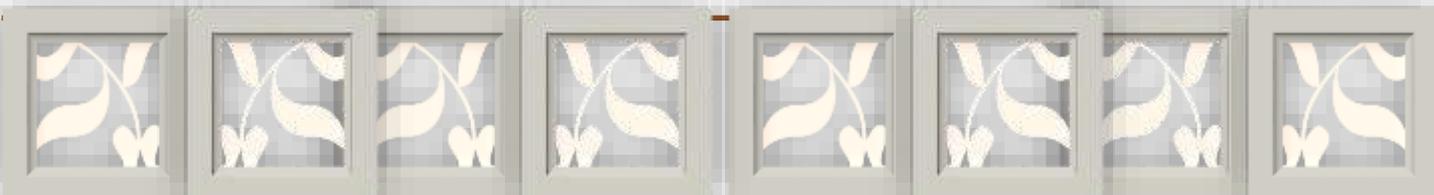
IN THE NEWS

June 2020

Parks & Recreation Programs
Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community
Center
Parks & Facility Services
City / County Issues
Miscellaneous



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



calendar

June

Tuesday, June 9
Small Business Webinar
10:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Ambassadors Council
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Wednesday, June 10
Human Resource Council
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Thursday, June 11
Leadership Hall Graduation
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Chattahoochee Country Club

Friday, June 12
Economic Development Council
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, June 16
South Hall Business Coalition
Flowery Branch & Oakwood Update
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Vision 2030 Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | via Zoom

Wednesday, June 17
Issues Committee
8:00 a.m. | via Zoom

Thursday, June 18
Chamber Executive Committee
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Chamber

Friday, June 19
Hackers Holiday Golf Tournament
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
Legacy on Lanier Golf Club
Lanier Islands

Thursday, June 25
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Gainesville Civic Center

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

June 2020

Happy. Active. Hall.

A Vision 2030 initiative, **Highlands To Islands** is a multi-use trail system connecting the many great cities in Hall County together with a paved path winding past businesses, scenic areas, college campuses and retail shops. The trail's purpose is to unite all existing greenways together under one-name/one trail for the maximum benefit to the community and its citizens. "One of our goals is 'Thirty by Thirty,'" said Elizabeth Higgins, executive director of Vision 2030, "that's for us to have 30 miles of connected trail in Hall County by (year) 2030." With some 10 miles already completed, runners, cyclists and families are out and about enjoying the trail. For more information on Highlands to Islands, email info@highlandstoislands.org



Summer camps open for 2020

GAINESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION

Gainesville Parks and Recreation will offer outdoor play, visits to local parks, sports and other activities through August. To limit the spread of COVID-19, campers and their parents or guardians are asked to follow certain protocols.

Screening, which includes temperature checks, will take place when children arrive. Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles when dropping their kids off, and the campers are asked to sit on the right passenger side of the vehicle. Masks and gloves are available for campers if requested.

Registration is now open.

Cash and checks will not be accepted. People can register by visiting gainesville.org/online-registration, visiting the Gainesville Civic Center, or via fax at 770-531-2680. For more information, call 770-531-2680.

Discovery Day Camps

What: Discovery Day Camp will give children 6 to 12 years old the opportunity to tap into their adventurous spirits with swimming lessons, hiking and weekly field trips.

How much: \$90 per week for Gainesville residents and \$120 for non-residents.

When: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. June 29-July 31, with a discounted rate the week of July 3, as no camps will be held that day.

Requirements: Bring a daily water bottle, lunch and snack. Athletic clothes are encouraged.

■ Splash Discovery Day Camp at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center offers pool activities. Register by June 26

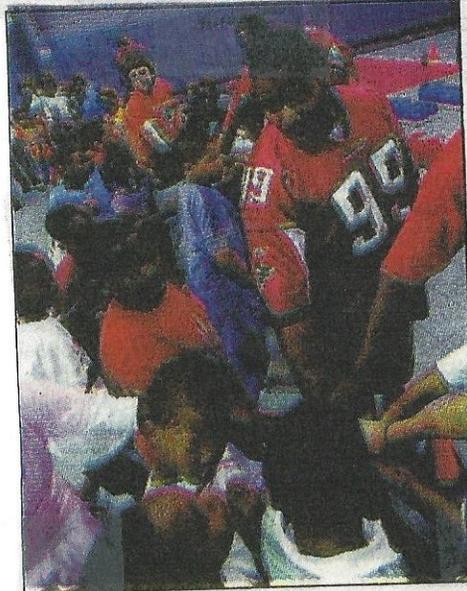
■ Outdoor Discovery Day Camp at Lanier Point Park offers hiking and baseball. Register by July 2.

■ Nature Discovery Day Camp at Linwood Nature Preserve offers hiking. Register by July 10.

■ Play Discovery Day Camp at Martha Hope Cabin in City Park includes baseball and tennis. Register by July 17.

■ Quest Discovery Day Camp at Fair Street Neighborhood Center includes themed activities and visits to parks. Register by July 24.

6-6-20



Times file photo

Football Camp

What: Instruction from former Atlanta Falcons running back Jerious Norwood for ages 8-17

When: 5-7 p.m. July 27-29

Where: Cabbell Field

How much: \$70 for residents and \$95 for non-residents

Registration: By July 24

Requirements: Cleats, athletic shoes and comfortable clothing

Speed and Agility Camp

What: Instruction from former Atlanta Falcons running back Jerious Norwood for ages 6-17

When: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 1

Where: Cabbell Field

How much:

Registration: By July 31

Requirements: Cleats, athletic shoes and comfortable clothing required

6-6-20

Sports camps

Volleyball Camp

What: Instruction from Lanier Volleyball Club for ages 9-14

When: 10 a.m. to noon July 6-8

Where: Westminster gym

How much: \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents

Registration: By July 2

Lacrosse Camp

What: Instruction from Robert Jones for ages 6-15

When: 10 a.m. to noon July 7-9

Where: Cabbell Field

How much: \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents

Requirements: Water bottle

Developmental

Baseball Camp

What: Instruction from Lakeview Academy's Deuce Roark for first to eighth graders

When: 9 a.m. to noon July 13-16

Where: City Park

How much: \$85 for residents and \$115 for non-residents

Registration: By July 10

Requirements: Glove, bat, water bottle and small snack required

Cheer Camp

What: Instruction from Lakeview Academy's Amy Park for ages 5-11

When: 9 a.m. to noon July 13-15

Where: City Park

How much: \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents

Registration: By July 10

Requirements: Water bottle

Soccer Camp

What: Instruction for ages 6-12

When: 10 a.m. to noon July 20-24

Where: Cabbell Field

How much: \$65 for residents and \$90 for non-residents

Registration: By July 17

Requirements: Shin guards, soccer ball and water bottle

6-6-20

'Exactly what they wanted'



Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

Bikers and skate boarders use the new Gainesville Skate Park Friday, June 19, at the corner of Pine and High Streets in midtown. The 20,000-square-foot skate park design was created by Wally Hollyday, a California-based skate park designer.

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20,000-square-foot Gainesville Skate Park opens to public

BY KELSEY PODO
kpodo@gainesvilletimes.com

The highly anticipated Gainesville Skate Park is open to the public.

Nestled in the corner of High and Pine streets in the midtown area, the space offers around 20,000 square feet of ramps, pipes, drops, rails and many other features for skateboarders.

Julie Butler Colombini, Gainesville Parks & Recreation's marketing and communications manager, said the project totaled around \$1.5 million.

In December 2018, a public input meeting was held regarding the skate park. Colombini said around 50 to 60 people from the community attended, ranging from ages 11 to 75.

"That tells you how many generations this skate park crosses," she said. "Local skaters have wanted a skate park for decades, and we're happy to finally build it and give them a place to skate."

Wally Hollyday, a California-based skate park designer, created the layout, while Tri Scapes Inc. served as the contractor.

During the public input meeting in 2018, Hollyday sat down with local skaters and listened to what they wanted. He incorporated most of their desires into the final design.

Before the Gainesville Skate Park opened late Thursday, June 18, Colombini said many locals would skate in an old abandoned strip mall that had a brick wall. She said a lot of the area's younger skaters enjoy testing their skills over manholes.

"We put a little brick wall in the skate park and manhole covers," Colombini said. "We wanted to make sure that it was exactly what they wanted. It's amazing and unique."

'Local skaters have wanted a skate park for decades, and we're happy to finally build it and give them a place to skate.'

Julie Butler Colombini
marketing and communications manager, Gainesville Parks & Recreation



Ethan Pribble, 13, jumps his bike at the new Gainesville Skate Park Friday, June 19, at Pine and High Streets in midtown.



Above: Russ Edelman performs tricks on his bike Friday, June 19, at the new Gainesville Skate Park in midtown. **Left:** Lauden Gunning takes his bike on the new skate park.

6-20-20

Gainesville groups begin mural project along Midtown Greenway

BY NATHAN BERG
nberg@gainesvilletimes.com

With one stroke of Karen Hawk's paint brush, history came to life Thursday morning at the Midtown Greenway in Gainesville.

Hawk, a former art student at what was then called North Georgia College & State University and is now the University of North Georgia, is the original designer of a mural painted in 1974 on the OddFellows Building on Athens/Sycamore Street as a bicentennial project of what was then the Gainesville Arts Council. The building was later demolished to make way for an expansion of E.E. Butler Parkway, but the Vision 2030 Public Art Committee, along with Hawk and others are recreating the mural on a building at the Midtown Greenway, with painting just getting underway on Thursday, June 25.

Volunteers from the Gents Club, Hispanic Alliance GA, Beulah Rucker Museum Mentors and Mentees, the Black History Society as well as members of the Vision 2030 Public Art Committee and students from UNG are working to complete the project, which is expected to be finished by Saturday, weather permitting.

Hawk's design, which was based in part on the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children," includes the colors red, yellow, black and white, and is meant to represent the melting pot of American cultures, according to Hawk.

"I think it's really good timing for this sentiment to be brought out," she said. "It takes all of us to paint and put it up on the wall, and it takes all of us to be a country."

The mural's design began as a doodle Hawk made as a college junior in 1974 that caught the eye of one of her art professors. She and the professor worked to find a building on which to display the design, and once a location for the mural had been identified, Hawk received help painting it from an unlikely source.

The Gents Club was a group organized by Nathaniel Shelton, a former Butler High School science and math teacher. Shelton brought together 13 boys "who people didn't want to deal with" to form the club and started getting them involved in community service projects. The group did everything from raking leaves to putting on pageants, and when Shelton heard about the planned mural project, he was quick to get the Gents Club involved.

Shelton, along with a few former members of the Gents Club, came



Photos by NATHAN BERG | The Times

Karen Hawk paints the first strokes on a recreation of her mural originally put up on the OddFellows Building in 1974. Painting for the new mural began on Thursday, June 25, at the Midtown Greenway in Gainesville.



Left: Tim Mize helps paint a recreation of Karen Hawk's mural originally put up on the OddFellows Building in 1974. **Right:** Hawk and Nathaniel Shelton help paint the mural recreation.

out Thursday to be a part of the new project. As he painted the very same design he and his club helped put up nearly 50 years ago, memories of Gents Club activities started to flood back to him.

"It was a learning process for the kids," Shelton said. "As well as it was an experience of what the community was like, and the people in the community getting a chance to know these kids."

The re-creation of the mural started to come together around a year ago when Frank Norton Jr., chair of Vision 2030 Public Art Committee, discovered a black-and-white photo of the mural on a Facebook page dedicated to Gainesville history.

After doing some research, Norton contacted Hawk about the project, and things started to get underway.

Fox Gradin, an artist born and raised in Gainesville who also studied art at NGCSU, recreated an out-

line of the mural earlier this month. Gradin said it took her about 14 total hours to get the outline of the mural drawn and ready for volunteers to paint.

In addition to Hawk, Shelton and Gents Club member Tim Mize were among the first people to start adding color to the mural. Mize said he was excited to get involved with the project, partly because he did not get to help with the original mural since it was put up during football season, when he was too busy to participate, and partly because he supports the mural's message of unity.

"It's just time for people to come together," he said. "Because I don't want my kids to grow up going through the same thing I went through, and they don't want their kids to do the same thing. It's time for black, white, brown, any race to get together and be a part of this that's going on right now."

