

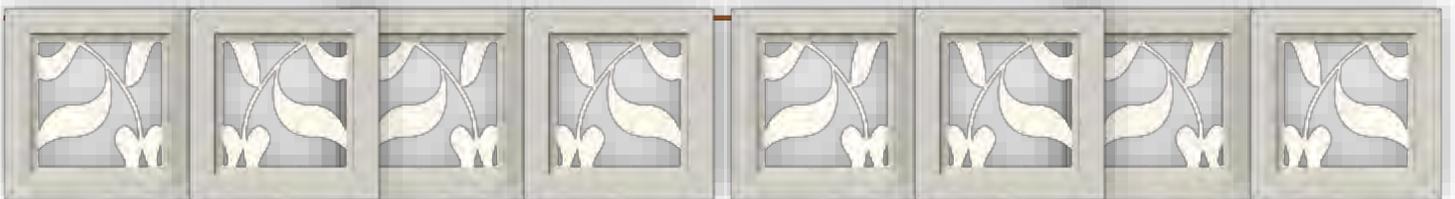
IN THE NEWS

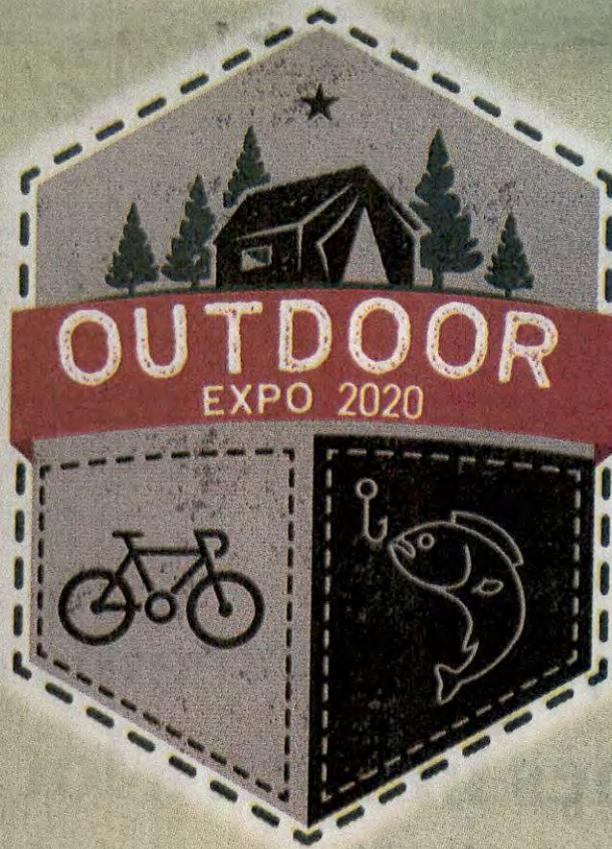
March 2020

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





**HUNTING-FISHING
CAMPING-HIKING-BIKING**

**Saturday, March 14th
10am - 5pm**

Gainesville Civic Center
830 Green St NE, Gainesville, GA 30501

**FREE TO
ATTEND!**

For more information, please
contact Leah Nelson at
lnelson@gainesvilletimes.com
770-535-6330

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The Times
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3-1-20

calendar

March

Wednesday, March 18
Job Fair & Career Expo
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Gainesville Civic Center

Wednesday, March 18
Job Fair & Career Expo
Gainesville Civic Center

3-5-20



Job Seekers! Meet hiring managers and complete applications on site at the **Job Fair & Career Expo on Wednesday, March 18 (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center.** Open to the public. No admission fee.

Free on-site shuttle. See page 16 for details.

3-5-20

Editor's picks

North Georgia's old-growth forests and champion trees

What: A discussion of local old growth forests and the champion tree program

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 10.

Where: Linwood Nature Preserve Ecology Center, 118 Springview Drive NW, Gainesville.

How much: Free

Outdoor Expo

What: A trade show featuring sources for hunting, fishing, camping and hiking needs

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 14

Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St. NW

More info: lnelson@gainesvilletimes.com

How much: Free admission

3-5-20

Water, water everywhere



Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

A fisherman walks across the covered bridge Wednesday, March 4, at Lanier Point Park where water levels have reached the bottom of the bridge.

Soggy weather still causing road problems, more rain coming

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Shuler Road in northwest Hall County has reopened after being closed due to heavy rains, but the soggy weather is still causing road problems elsewhere.

Several other roadways remain closed, including Claude Parks Road from Old Dahlonega Highway to Jake Kemp Road and Lawson Road, according to Hall County.

The drenching winter weather continues in the area this week, with a hazardous weather outlook in place Wednesday, March 4, for Hall County from the National Weather Service.

Rain was predicted to continue Thursday, March 5, with sunny and clear skies expected Friday through Sunday, March 6-8. The next chance of rain is on Monday, March 9, according to the weather service.

Lake Lanier, meanwhile, is still high but not at the near-record levels it had been in late February.

The lake stood at 1,075.24 feet above sea level as of 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, or 5-plus feet above the winter full pool of 1,070 feet.

The lake hit its highest point this year between Feb. 20-21, topping 1,076.71, which is short of the record of 1,077.15, set in 1964.



A portion of Claude Parks Road in Murrayville remains closed Wednesday, March 4, due to heavy rains in February. Lake Lanier water levels also are spilling over the banks into parking lots and wooded areas at local parks.

Job Fair & Career Expo

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Gainesville Civic Center

The Chamber's Job Fair is the perfect forum for companies hiring to recruit new employees. And, job seekers meet prospective employers face-to-face. The event is free and open to the public, and a partnership of the **Greater Hall Chamber**, the **Gainesville Area Employer Committee**, **Lanier Technical College** and the **Georgia Department of Labor**.

Employers

- Recruit Quality Employees
- Open to the Public
- Meet Job Seekers Face to Face
- 800+ to Attend
- One-Stop Environment
- Increase Brand Awareness

Job Seekers

- No Admission Fee
- Free Shuttle Onsite
- 60+ Prospective Employers
- Meet Hiring Managers
- Convenient Event Location
- Complete Applications Onsite

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KING'S HAWAIIAN

spherion
WORKING TOGETHER

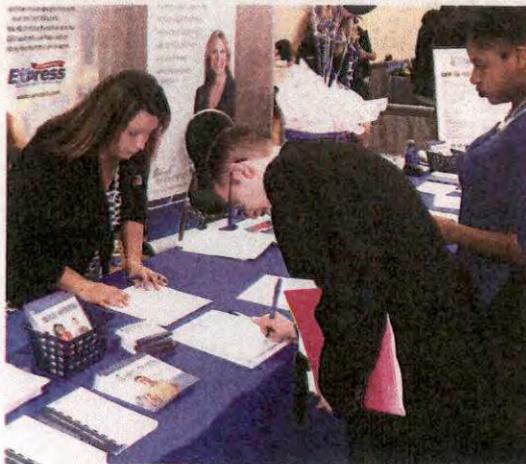
M
I'm lovin' it!

THE MILL
AT NEW HOLLAND

For Job Fair & Career Expo info, email: alewis@ghcc.com

3-5-20

Job Fair & Career Expo on March 18



Spring Job Fair & Career Expo is Wednesday, March 18 (10am-2pm) at the Gainesville Civic Center and is the perfect forum for companies hiring to recruit new employees, as managers meet hundreds of job candidates face-to-face in a short span of time. Sponsored by Express Employment Professionals (title sponsor) Fox Factory, Mars Wrigley and The Mill at New Holland (platinum), King's Hawaiian (gold), Spherion and McDonald's NEGA (silver).

Free and open to the public, the job fair is a partnership of the Greater Hall Chamber, the Gainesville Area Employer Committee, Lanier Technical College and the Georgia Department of Labor. Info: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x111 or email: alewis@ghcc.com

3-5-20

A space to slide, grind and flip



Photos by **NICK BOWMAN** | The Times

Though looking soggy on Thursday, March 5, in midtown Gainesville, the bones of the new skatepark coming to the area are finished. Weather has been slowing down construction on the project, which is scheduled to open in mid-April. **Below:** The bowls, ramps and rails of the park are present, but it still needs finished sidewalks and a parking lot.

New midtown skatepark to open in April, weather permitting

BY LINDSAY HOWARD
lhoward@gainesvilletimes.com

The skatepark that is being built at the corner of Pine and High streets is projected to open mid-April — if the rain slows down.

The core skatepark elements are complete, the bowls and ramps and rails, and all that's left are the exterior pieces such as the sidewalk, parking lot and trash cans, according to Kate Mattison, director of Gainesville Parks and Recreation.

The park was designed by Wally Hollyday, owner of California-based Wally Hollyday Skateparks. He and his crew used a community design process and held meetings to hear what local skaters wanted in their new park.

"Hollyday did the original loose concepts. We held public meetings where Wally Hollyday was present and asked

local skaters what they wanted in their skatepark. He took those suggestions and turned them into conceptual designs and then we turned those designs into engineered construction plans," said Whit Alexander, executive vice president for Lose & Associates architecture.

The design process started in late 2018 and by October 2019, construction was well underway.

Since the beginning of the construction, the weather has been a huge obstacle with getting the park finished.

"We had to fight with the rain, but we got kind of lucky and it gave us enough dry days so that we could keep control of it, keep working and get done," Hollyday said. "I was talking to the city constantly throughout the project like, 'Is there going to be a point if it keeps raining that we finish it in the spring?' and they were



■ Please see **SKATE, 4A**

3-6-20

SKATE

■ Continued from 1A

like, 'We want to try to get it open as soon as we can,' so we kept pushing through, and it worked out."

Hollyday and his crew finished the construction of the core park in February, but because of weather the city has not been able to add the finishing touches.

The contractors have been doing what they can, when they can, but recent weather hasn't afforded many opportunities, according to Mattison.

"The progress had been absolutely fantastic until all this rain started. We were on track and moving right along. We had originally hoped for a March opening of the skate park, but then the aggressive amount of rain we've had over the last few weeks, we've been pushed back and are hoping for April now," Mattison said.

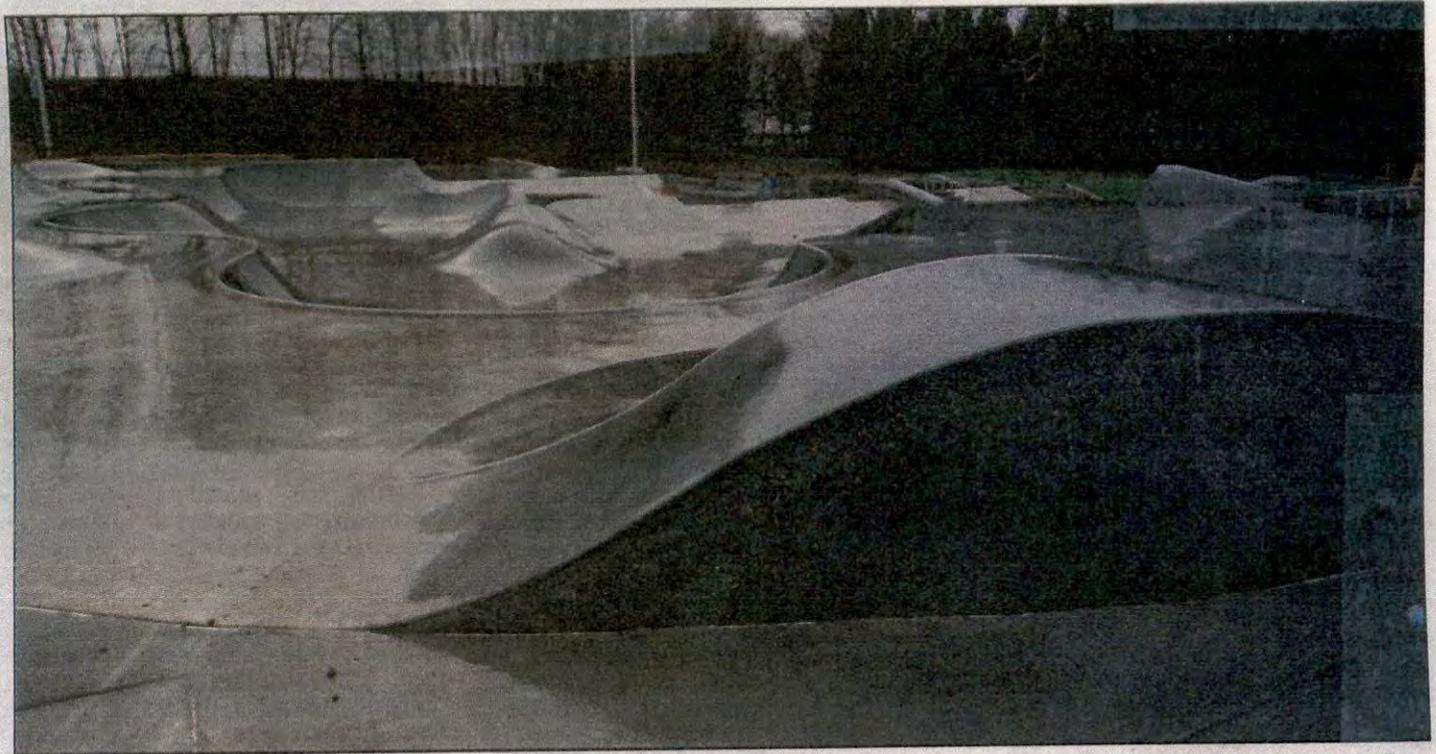
Once the park opens, the city plans to hold a public celebration.

The skatepark isn't just for one age group or demographic, according to Mattison. During the focus groups in 2018, there were hundreds of people with varying ages and professions that were petitioning for the skatepark to be built.

"The amount of people who were originally involved in trying to get this project pushed forward is really, really impressive. People are so excited and it's going to be such a great amenity for all of the skaters in the community and for all of the people who want to try it out but have never done it before. It's for more than just one group of people and I think it's going to be really cool," Mattison said.

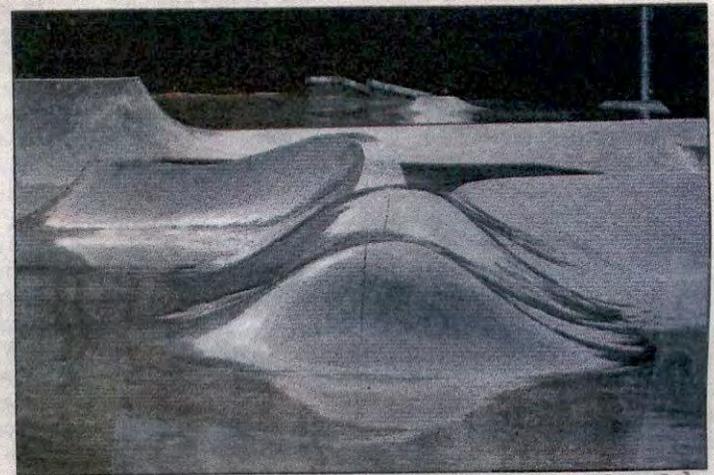
The location of the skatepark is what is exciting for a lot of people. It is right off of the Midtown Greenway.

"Anything new we get in the downtown area is going to drive more people to use the greenway, to get more people out in the parks and that's really what we want and what we're excited about," Mattison said.



Photos by NICK BOWMAN | The Times

The new skatepark coming to midtown Gainesville is soaked with rain on Thursday, March 5. The park is just a little more than a month away from its scheduled opening date, though work remains on the project.



3-6-20

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/1/2020 7:30pm
Senior Capstones: Ashley Watson & Brittany Wilson
 John S. Burd Center, Banks Recital Hall
 429 Academy Street
 Gainesville

3/1/2020 6:00pm
Wanted Podcast LIVE at Downtown Drafts
 Downtown Drafts
 115 Bradford St SE
 Gainesville

3/2/2020 10:30am
Exhibit: Idiosyncratic Perspectives: Works by Brenau Faculty
 Simmons Visual Arts Center, Presidents Gallery
 200 Boulevard
 Gainesville

3/2/2020 10:00am
Exhibit: L.A. Stories
 John S. Burd Center, Leo Castelli Gallery
 429 Academy ST
 Gainesville

3/2/2020 10:00pm
Exhibition: House and Universe: Margaret Evangeline
 Simmons Visual Arts Center, Sellars Gallery
 200 Boulevard
 Gainesville

3/3/2020 10:30am
Dynamic Landscape Painting 10-Week Session
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/3/2020 10:30am
Heartfulness Meditation
 Blackshear Place Branch Library
 2927 Atlanta Hwy.
 Gainesville

3/3/2020 6:00pm
Live Music + Bingo
 37 Main
 212 Spring Street SW
 Gainesville

3/4/2020 10:00am
Keith Burgess - Painting for Intermediate and Advanced
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/4/2020 7:30pm
Team Trivia
 37 Main
 212 Spring Street SW
 Gainesville

3/5/2020 6:00pm
Beginner's Drawing: Session 2
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/5/2020 6:30pm
Environmental Film Series
 University of North Georgia
 3820 Mundy Mill Rd.
 Oakwood

3/5/2020 7:00pm
Trivia Thursdays
 Downtown Drafts
 115 Bradford St S
 Gainesville

3/5/2020 9:00am
Vase of Lilacs
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/6/2020 9:30pm
AgentX ROCKS Wild Wing Cafe
 Wild Wing Cafe
 311 Jesse Jewell Parkway
 Gainesville

3/6/2020 5:30pm
Fit, Shape & Support: The Bra Talk
 John S. Burd Center
 429 Academy Street
 Gainesville

3/7/2020 9:30am
Lesther Martin - Ceramics
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/7/2020 6:30pm
Voices of North Georgia - USO Canteen Show
 Gainesville First Baptist Church Banquet Hall
 751 Green Street
 Gainesville

3/8/2020 1:00pm
Family Day: Women's Work
 Northeast Georgia History Center
 322 Academy St. NE
 Gainesville

3/9/2020 10:30am
Rise and Shine! Family Storytime
 North Hall Tech Center
 4175 Nopone Rd. Suite B
 Gainesville

3/10/2020 5:30pm
Elachee Science Nights
 The Loft at Scott's Downtown
 131 Bradford Street NW
 Gainesville

3/10/2020 10:30am
Toddler Time
 Gainesville Branch Library
 127 Main Street NW
 Gainesville

3/11/2020 10:30am
Creative Coloring for Adults
 North Hall Tech Center
 4175 Nopone Rd. Suite B
 Gainesville

3/12/2020 7:00pm
Sons of Confederate Veterans
 Historic Piedmont Hotel
 827 Maple St.
 Gainesville

3/12/2020 10:30am
St. Paddy's Drop In Craft
 Blackshear Place Branch Library
 2927 Atlanta Hwy.
 Gainesville

3/13/2020 12:00pm
Seek and Find Your Relatives at the North Hall Technology Center
 North Hall Tech Center
 4175 Nopone Rd. Suite B
 Gainesville

3/13/2020 10:00am
Three Day Woodburning Workshop: Session 2
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/14/2020 9:00am
4-H Spring Horse Show
 Chicopee Woods Agriculture Center
 1855 Calvary Church Rd.
 Gainesville

3/14/2020 10:00am
Greeting Card Workshop
 Hall County Library System, Blackshear Place Branch
 2927 Atlanta Highway
 Gainesville

3/14/2020 10:00am
Outdoor Expo 2020
 Gainesville Civic Center
 830 Green Street Northeast
 Gainesville

3/16/2020 6:00pm
Leap into Literacy with Taco Dragon
 Chestatee Elementary School
 6945 Keith Bridge Road
 Gainesville

3/16/2020 6:00pm
Spring Pottery with Jill Raden: Session 2
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/17/2020 1:00pm
St. Patrick's Day Craft
 Gainesville Branch Library
 127 Main Street NW
 Gainesville

3/17/2020 7:30pm
Vocal Chamber Ensemble: If Music Be The Food of Love
 John S. Burd Center Atrium
 429 Academy Street
 Gainesville

★ 3/18/2020 10:00 am
2020 Job Fair and Career Expo
 Gainesville Civic Center
 830 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/18/2020 10:00am
Painting for Intermediate and Advanced: Session 2
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green Street NE
 Gainesville

3/19/2020 9:00am
"Learn the Basics" Photography Class
 Atlanta Botanical Garden
 Gainesville
 1911 Sweetbay Drive
 Gainesville

3/19/2020 4:30pm
Play in the Clay Third Thursday
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/20/2020 9:00am
"Capturing Tulips" Painting Workshop
 Atlanta Botanical Garden
 Gainesville
 1911 Sweetbay Drive
 Gainesville

3/20/2020 1:30pm
Women's Leadership Colloquium
 Brenau University
 500 Washington St SE
 Gainesville

3/21/2020 10:00am
Raptor Fest 2020
 Elachee Nature Science Center
 2125 Elachee Dr
 Gainesville

3/21/2020 7:30pm
Michael Combs Concert
 The Venue at Friendship Springs
 7340 Friendship Springs Blvd
 Flowery Branch

3/24/2020 6:00pm
Free Stage Tour! - The Arabian Nights
 Ed Cabell Theatre
 3820 Mundy Mill Road
 Oakwood

3/24/2020 9:30am
Painting Great Paintings From Beginning to End
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/26/2020 6:00 pm
Chamber Chase 5K
 Riverside Military Academy
 2001 Riverside Drive
 Gainesville

3/27/2020
Evenings of Intimate Jazz Series
 The Arts Council
 Smithgall Arts Center, 331 Spring St SW
 Gainesville

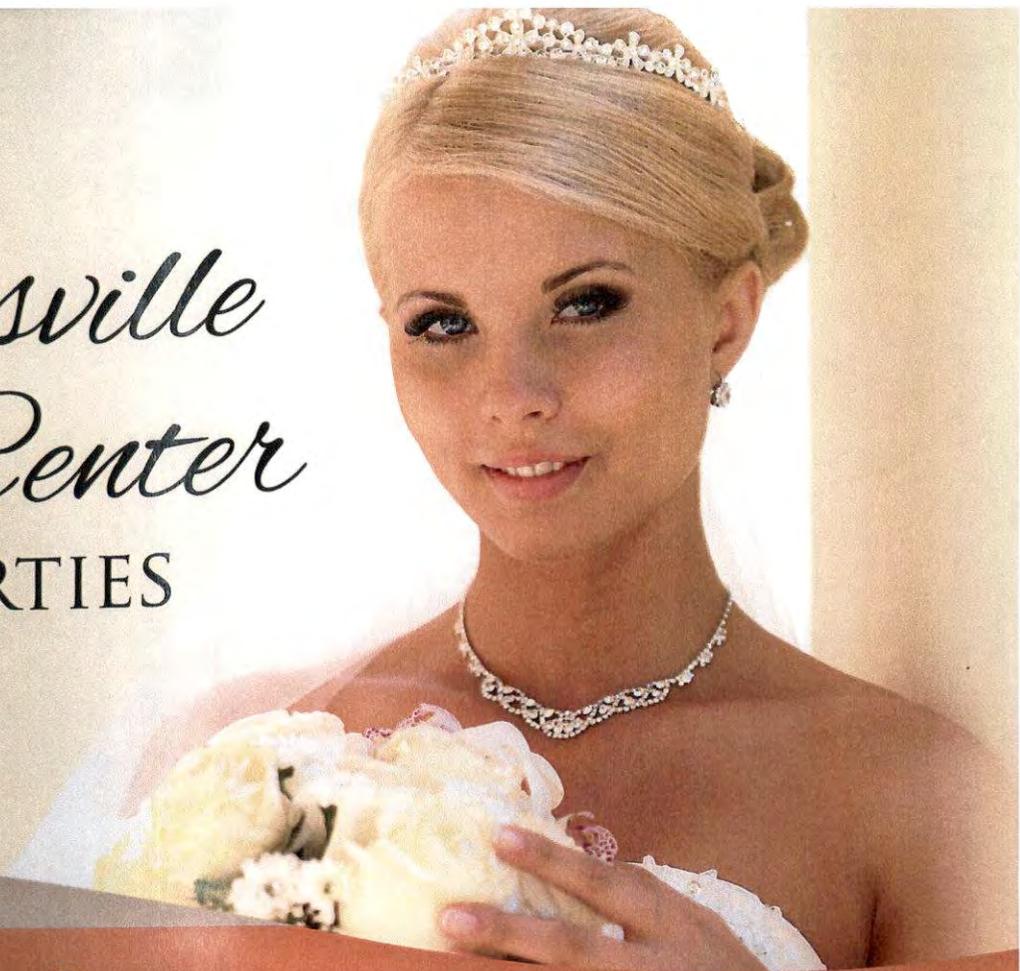
3/28/2020 10:00am
Mutts on Main
 Historic Downtown Square
 301 Main Street
 Gainesville

3/28/2020 7:45pm
Stars Over Elachee
 Elachee Nature Science Center
 2125 Elachee Drive
 Gainesville

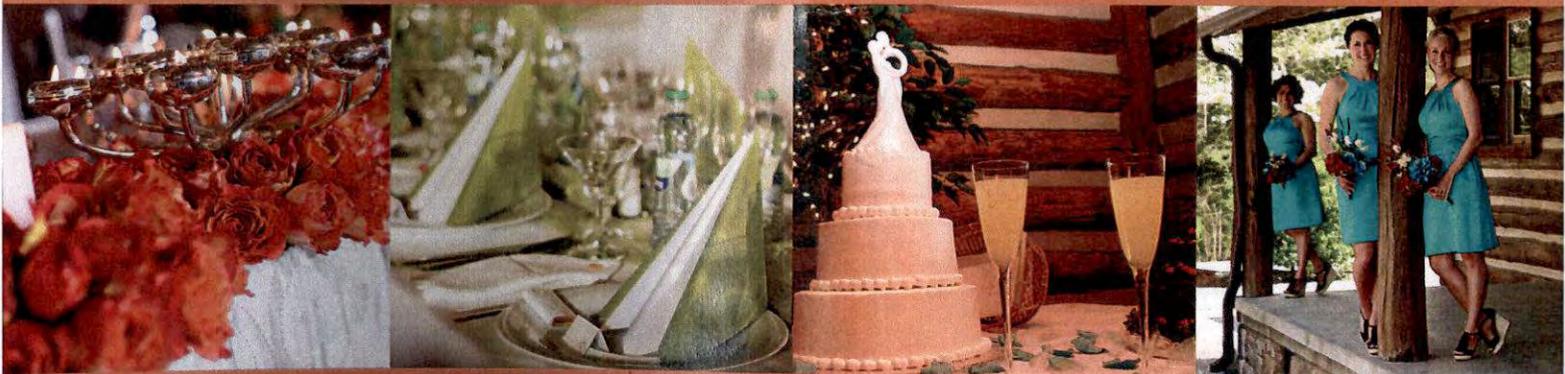
3/30/2020 9:00am
Dee Beard Dean - Bring Your Paintings Up to a New Level
 Quinlan Visual Arts Center
 514 Green St NE
 Gainesville

3/31/2020 2:00pm
Jazz Week Performance
 Tea Room
 630 Academy Street NE
 Gainesville

Gainesville Civic Center PROPERTIES



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Job Fair

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Visit 60+ Companies that are Hiring!

Ace Hardware
Avita Community Partners
BTD
BOS Staffing
Carroll Daniel Construction
Carter's
Chattahoochee Country Club
Chelsey Park Health & Rehabilitation
Chick-fil-A
ChildCare Careers
Conditioned Air Systems
ECS Southeast, LLC
Express Employment Professionals
Fox Factory Outlet
Gainesville Department of Water Resources
Georgia Department of Driver Services
Georgia Department of Labor
Goodwill of North Georgia
Hall County Government

Heavy Equipment Colleges of America
Hire Dynamics
Hydro Extrusion USA, LLC
Integrity Staffing
KIK Custom Products
King's Hawaiian
Koch Foods
Kubota Manufacturing of America
Lanier Technical College
Legacy Link
Mars Wrigley
Massey Services Inc
McDonald's
Mincey Marble Manufacturing
Northeast Georgia Health System
Panera Bread
Performance Foodservice
PPG Industries
PrideStaff

Prince Industries
Pro Touch Landscapes
ProCare Rx
R.E. Whitesides
Randstad
Southern Wall Systems II, LLC
Spherion Staffing
The Davis Companies
The Mill at New Holland
Top Notch Personnel
University of North Georgia
VDL Industries Gainesville LLC
Wagner Staffing
Wahoo Docks
Woodmen Life
WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Xpedient Logistics
ZFC Gainesville

Job Openings
Meet Hiring Managers
No Entry Fee
Free Shuttle Onsite
Open to the Public

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FOX FACTORY

THE
MILL
AT NEW HOLLAND

KING'S HAWAIIAN

3-8-20



HUNTING-FISHING CAMPING-HIKING-BIKING

Saturday, March 14th 10am - 5pm
Gainesville Civic Center
830 Green St NE, Gainesville, GA 30501

CALLING ALL OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS!!!

Join us for our 2020 Outdoor Expo, a trade show featuring sources for all of your hunting, fishing, camping and hiking needs. Great prizes available for attendees.

VENDORS:

Allergy and Asthma Clinic
ARISE FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
Baitshack-Showing Boats
Boating Atlanta-Showing Boats
DAMSEL IN DEFENSE
Don Carter State Park
ETOWAH VALLEY SPORTING CLAYS
FL Lockout
Ga DNR Wildlife Resources Division,
Hunter Education and PPHH food ministry
Ga Dept of Natural Resources
Ga Forest Watch
GeorgiaCarry.Org
Georgia Outdoor News Magazine

Gun Commander
Hewatt Roofing
JB JAMS
Ken Sturdivant
Lake Lanier Association
Lanier Rowing
Mark Tuggle RV-Showing Rv's
Mark Warren-Medicine Bow
North Georgia Audiology Associates
Notting Hill Design co
R-Ranch
Southern Remodeling
The Fallen Outdoors
Towel Chic
US Army Corp of Engineers
Your CBD Store-Gainesville

SCHEDULE:

ROOM A

11AM: Bass Fishing Lures with Pro Angler and Lake Lanier Guide Phil Johnson
NOON: SONAR with Lowrance Pro Staff Ken Sturdivant and Captain John McCalpin
2PM: KAYAKS with Vibe KAYAKS Pro Erica DeLana
3PM: STRIPERS! With Lowrance Pro Staff Ken Sturdivant

ROOM B

11:30 AM: Survival Tips of the Trail with Mark Warren
1PM: Crappie Fishing with Captain John McCalpin
3:30 PM: The Secret Art of Stalking for Photographers, Wildlife Observers, and Hunters with Mark Warren



For more information, please contact Leah Nelson at lnelson@gainesvilletimes.com
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3-8-20

Gold on the Greenway coming back with a twist

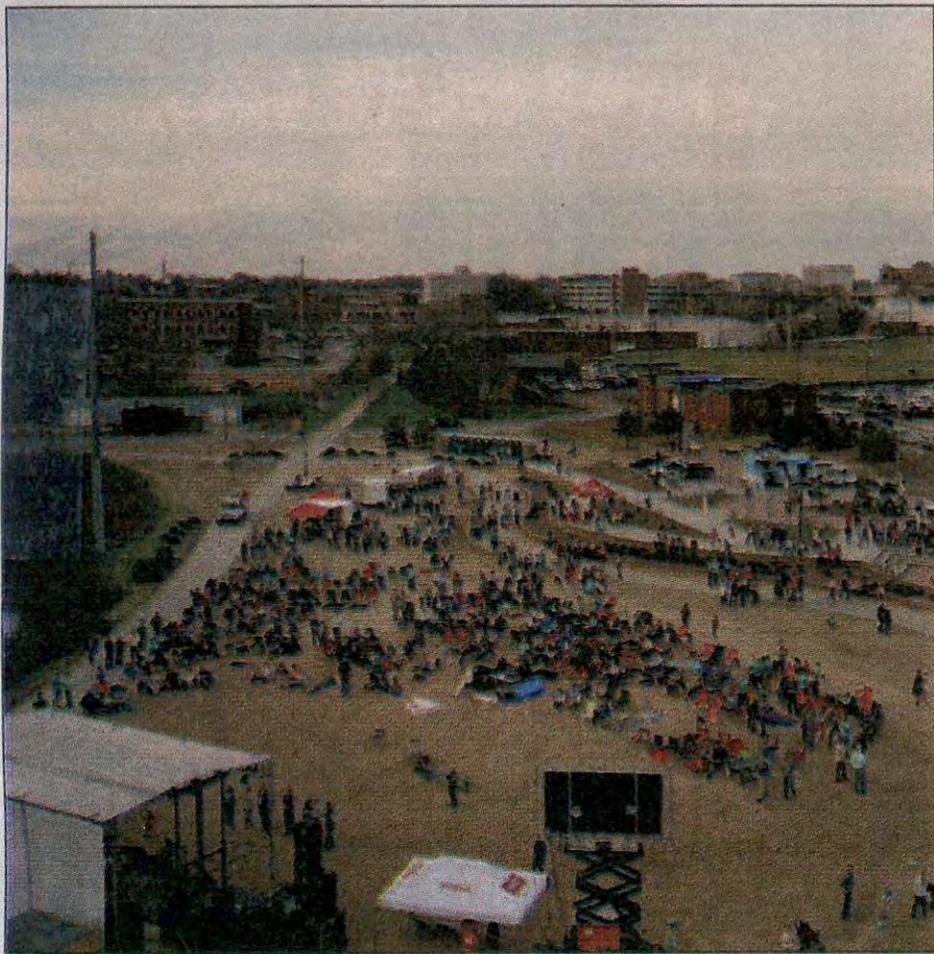


Photo courtesy Adam Hicks

Gold on the Greenway, pictured March 2018, comes back to Gainesville this month.

Gold on the Greenway

What: A fundraiser for the Rally Foundation, which fights childhood cancer

When: 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Where: Midtown Greenway, 682 Grove St., Gainesville

More info: Rally Foundation

How much: \$25



ROBB COHEN | Invision via Associated Press

John Driskell Hopkins with Zac Brown Band performs during the opening night of the Welcome Home Tour at Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre (now known as Ameris Bank Amphitheatre) at Encore Park on May 12, 2017, in Atlanta.

BY NICK BOWMAN

nbowman@gainesvilletimes.com

A member of the Zac Brown Band is set to perform at the third-annual Gold on the Greenway in midtown Gainesville.

The event opens at 3 p.m. March 21 and benefits the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. It's headlined by John Driskell Hopkins, a local member of Georgia musician Zac Brown's namesake band.

Another local group, the Allen Nivens Band, is also performing during the fundraiser. The fledgling event has smashed fundraising goals in previous years — the inaugural 2018 event raised more than \$400,000 for the Rally Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to end childhood cancer by funding research into treatment of myriad cancers afflicting children.

Molly Johnson helped bring the event to Gainesville after her son, Riley, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2016. She and other families with children fighting cancer created the event in 2018.

The goal of the fundraiser has brought large crowds to the greenspace along the Midtown Greenway.

"We have two kids ourselves, and when you hear about somebody who has to go through that, it gives you a lot of perspective," said Jess Grogan, who attended the 2019 event with his family and spoke with *The Times*. "It just kind of pulls your heartstrings a little bit."

This year's event includes a beer garden and a Taste of Gainesville event.

For more information, visit the Rally Foundation.

3-12-20

Chamber career expo planned for March 18

BY KELSEY PODO
kpodo@gainesvilletimes.com

Searching for a job opportunity doesn't need to be difficult.

On Wednesday, March 18, more than 60 local employers will fill the Gainesville Civic Center for the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's annual job fair and career expo.

The event, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is free to the general public.

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Department of Labor, Lanier Technical College and Gainesville Area Employer Committee are coordinating the job fair and career expo.

Kit Dunlap, the president of the chamber, said 95% of those running booths are hiring. She encourages those looking for a potential job to bring their resumes and be prepared to meet employers face-to-face.

"Certainly dress appropriately," Dunlap said. "That doesn't have to be a coat and a tie. For those attending, I hope they find a job and also learn about what's in the community."

The businesses and organizations represented on Wednesday will encompass fields like manufacturing, engineering, food service, health care, education, housing, agriculture and local government.

Dunlap said the event was first inspired by a strong need in Hall County for workers. Through holding a booth at the career fair, she said employers can gain exposure and new hires.

"If they get one or two good employees, it's worth the time in this market," Dunlap said.

Some of those attending include Mars Wrigley, The Mill at New Holland, Fox Factory Outlet, King's Hawaiian, Panera Bread and Kubota Manufacturing of America.

The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coach will park outside the Civic

Annual job fair and career expo

What: Event for job hunters and employers seeking to hire

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 18

Where: Civic Center, 830 Green St. NW, Gainesville

Contact: 770-532-6206 or alewis@ghcc.com

Center, allowing people to receive free services with resume writing, discerning career interests and reviewing and critiquing applications. The van, which travels around Northeast Georgia, offers a list of available jobs found with each area it visits.

If people need to make extra copies of their resumes, Dunlap said they can do so at the copy machine near the event space's front entrance.

Dunlap assures the community that the chamber has put several COVID-19 preparedness measures in place.

Hand sanitizer will be stationed throughout the Civic Center and employers are advised against shaking hands with attendees.

"All the exhibitors will know this," Dunlap said. "We'll get the attention of the folks coming in to use hand sanitizer. We'll have them everywhere."



Times file photo
3-12-20

Job Fair

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Gainesville Civic Center



GREATER HALL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Visit 60+ Companies that are Hiring!

- Ace Hardware
- Alpha Grill
- Avita Community Partners
- BTD
- BOS Staffing
- Carroll D... Construction
- Chickandochee Country Club
- Chelse Park Health & Rehabilitation
- Chick-fil-A
- Coca-Cola
- United G...
- Com...
- Express Employment Professionals
- Fish Wind...
- Fox Factory
- Gainesville Department of Water Resources
- Georgia Department of Driver Services
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Goodwill of North Georgia
- Hall County Government
- Heavy Equipment College of America
- Hire...
- Ex...
- KIK...
- King's Hawaiian
- Koch Foods
- North Georgia Manufacturing America
- Lanier Technical College
- Legacy Link
- Massey Services Inc
- McDonald's
- Mincey Marble Manufacturing
- Northeast Georgia Health System
- Panera Bread
- Performance Foodservice
- PPG Industries
- PrideStaff
- Care Rx
- K.E. Whitesides
- Randstad
- Southern...
- Spherion Staffing
- The Davis Companies
- The Mill at New Holland
- Top Notch Personnel
- University of North Georgia
- U.S. Army
- VDL Industries Gainesville LLC
- Wagner Staffing
- Wahoo Docks
- Woodmen Life
- WorkSource Georgia Mountains
- Xpedient Logistics
- ZF Gainesville
- Zebra Technologies Corporation

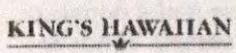
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Job Openings
Meet Hiring Managers
No Entry Fee
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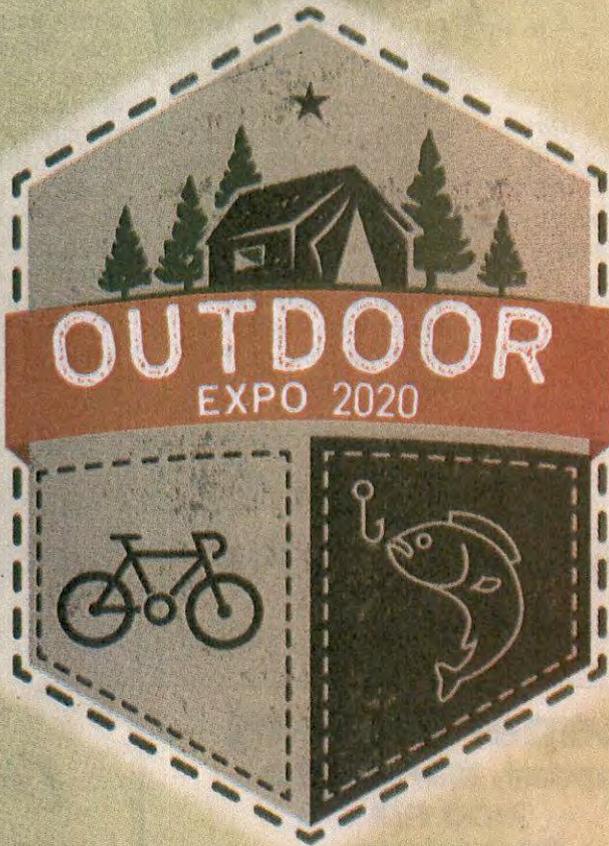
770-532-6206
GreaterHallChamber.com



Come see what companies are hiring!



3-13-20



HUNTING-FISHING
CAMPING-HIKING-BIKING

Saturday, March 14th
10am-5pm

Gainesville Civic Center
29 Green Street, Gainesville, GA 30501

Event Cancelled

For more information, please
contact Leah Nelson at
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The Times
gainesvilletimes.com



3-14-20

Democrats prep for busy election year

Copeland says party has been focusing on voter education, encouraging early voting

Editor's note: This story was reported before the presidential preference primary was delayed to May.

BY MEGAN REED

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Hall's Democrats are preparing for a busy year.

Three Democrats are running for seats in Hall County's delegation to the Georgia House of Representatives, plus both of Georgia's U.S. Senate seats and the 9th District position in the U.S. House of Representatives, have drawn candidates with D's next to their name.

Kim Copeland, chairman of the Hall County Democratic Party, said the party has been focusing on voter education and encouraging early voting.

The Democrat group has been working with a nonpartisan group to register voters, with a focus on people whose registrations were purged from the voter rolls last year.

"If they're going to start the process to re-register, they need to start now," Copeland said.

Local Democrats were also planning phone banks, both at the county level and through the state party, and planned to start canvassing door-to-door.

"In 2018, we knocked on about 10,000 doors in Hall County," Copeland said on Monday. "This year, our goal is to knock on 20,000, and I think we'll pass that easily."

Voters will be able to hear from candidates at the "BlueFest" event May 3 at the Mulberry Creek Community Center in Flowery Branch.

The local party is not yet endorsing a candidate for president.



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Hall County Democrats gather for their monthly meeting Monday, March 9, at the Gainesville Civic Center.

'If there are issues you are passionate about, there are causes you're passionate about, and if you're dissatisfied with your current leadership, don't sit on the sidelines.'

Will Riels, vice president of the Young Democrats

When there is more than one Democrat in the race, it is against the party's bylaws to pick a favorite, Copeland said.

"We're not going to tell you who to vote for," he said. "We absolutely want you to be passionate

about your candidate."

Democrats will be represented in several spots on the ballot this year. Three are running for the Georgia House of Representatives' delegation from Hall — Pat Calmes for District 29, Leigh Miller

for District 30 and Clifton Marshall for District 103 — all seats held by incumbent Republicans. Emory Turner plans to run as a write-in candidate for District 4 on the Hall County Board of Commissioners. Dee Daley will run for Georgia

Senate District 50. Devin Pandy and Dan Wilson are running for the 9th District seat in the U.S. House.

And both of Georgia's U.S. Senate seats are up for a vote this year. One, held by Republican U.S. Sen. David Perdue, will be on the May 19 primary ballot. The other, held by Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, will only go up for a vote in November. Several Democrats are vying for each of those seats.

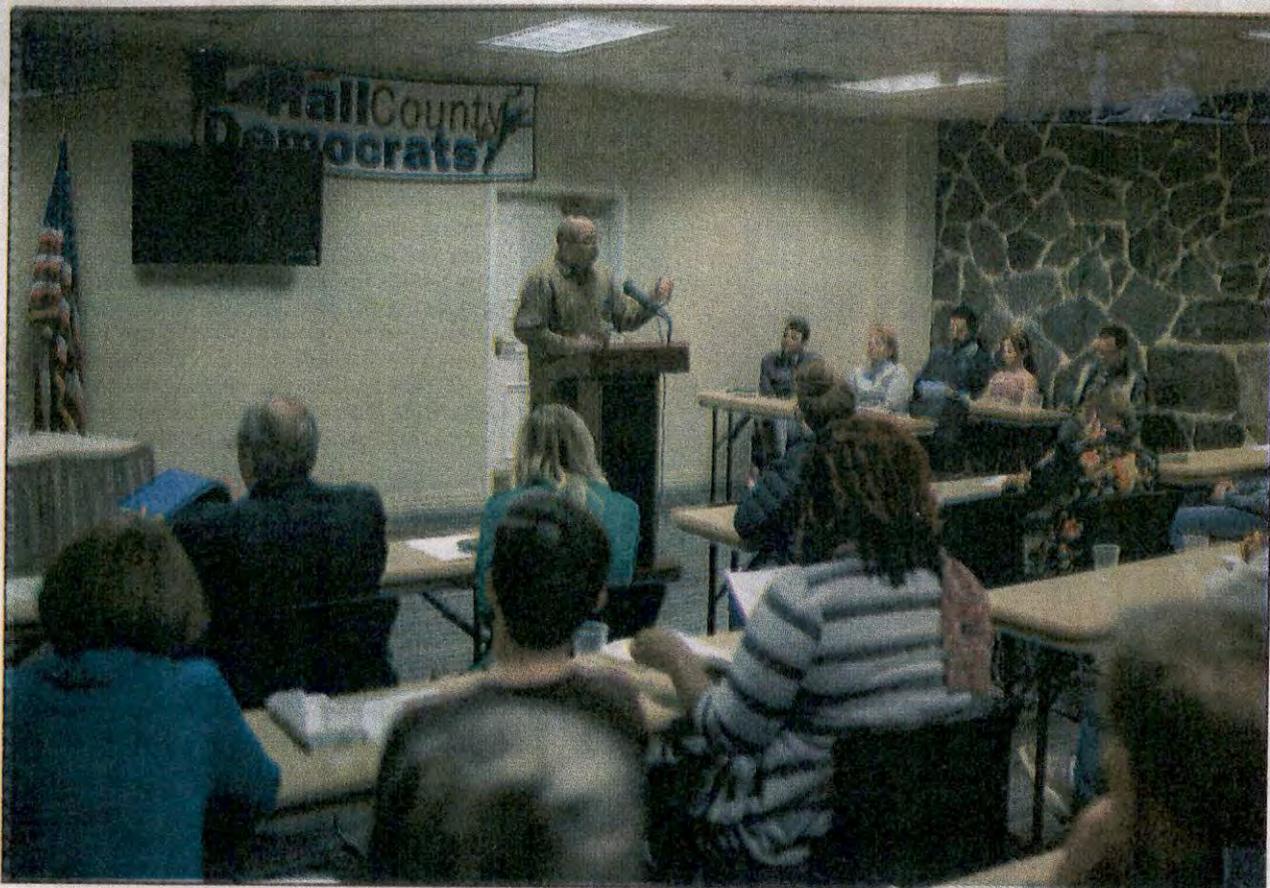
Copeland said all those open seats are an opportunity for Democrats, noting that Stacey Abrams, in her 2018 run for governor, lost by a slim margin. Abrams received about 1.4% fewer votes than Gov. Brian Kemp.

"In a presidential election year, Democrats do better, and there's better turnout," Copeland said. "We have a chance to not only put 16 electoral college votes to the Democratic column, but flip both U.S. Senate seats."

The Hall County Democratic Party is joined in its efforts by the Young Democrats of Hall County. President Sherley Legerme said Monday the group plans to visit local high schools' politics clubs to talk to them about voter registration and the elections. Schools are closed this week, with officials reevaluating by Thursday whether they should reopen.

"We talk about young people all the time and how powerful their voices are, and I think it's really just a matter of showing in numbers, and that young folks really care about the topics that are at hand and listening to all the candidates," Legerme said.

Legerme said that when she was



Photos by SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Candidate for House District 103 Clifton Marshall speaks Monday, March 9, during the Hall County Democrats meeting.

DEMS

■ Continued from 1C

younger, politics seemed like "something that's only for the grown-ups," but she has gotten more involved and sees the importance of reaching out to younger voters.

"It's about getting ourselves mobilized and making sure as many people

are heard as possible," she said.

And Will Rials, vice president of the Young Democrats, said Georgia is getting closer to turning blue.

"It'll be very close. I think we are on the cusp of turning blue, whether that's in this election, I can't guarantee it," Rials said.

Georgia's changing population is changing the electorate, he said.

"As we see the demographic shifts that have occurred in this state in

recent decades, we have larger minority populations here, and as that happens, those are demographics that lean Democrat historically," Rials said.

What is important, Rials said, is not getting complacent.

"If there are issues you are passionate about, there are causes you're passionate about, and if you're dissatisfied with your current leadership, don't sit on the sidelines," he said.



Candidate for House District 29 Pat Calmes speaks Monday, March 9, during the Hall County Democrats meeting.



Candidate for House District 30 Leigh Miller speaks Monday, March 9, during the Hall County Democrats monthly meeting at the Gainesville Civic Center.

3-15-20



Young Democrats President Sherley Legerme gives a report to Hall County Democrats during their monthly meeting Monday, March 9.



Amy Collins, left, chats with Virginia Webb, Monday, March 9, during the meeting.

3-15-20

The great outdoors

A perfect place to practice social distancing



SHANNON CASAS | The Times

Redbud trees are beginning to bloom on Thursday, March 19, at the Linwood Nature Preserve off of Thompson Bridge Road in Gainesville.

Linwood Nature Preserve offers nature-based stress relief to get through coronavirus precautions

BY NICK BOWMAN

nbowman@gainesvilletimes.com

You need to go outside.

Working from home probably means you're working longer, irregular hours. Checking email first thing in the morning. Popping into Slack while your kids are having breakfast. Taking a call in the bathroom (be honest).

Screens, beeps, dings, rings, keyboard ticks and taps — it's getting old.

But outside, Hall County is new again. Spring is poking its head up from the endless (really, really endless) rain that's been covering the area for the past couple of months.

Georgia's state parks are staying open amid the outbreak of coronavirus in the state because residents can enjoy the outdoors while practicing effective social distancing at the same time. Recommendations call for maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others.

But if you don't want to head down to Don Carter, there's a nature preserve within a stone's throw of many of the neighborhoods along Thompson Bridge Road.

The Linwood Nature Preserve is a splash of color, a breath of fresh air, waiting down Linwood

Drive in Gainesville for residents who have been cooped up at home for too long.

"It's essential right now that you take those breaks from all the stress," said Sally Reynolds,

a frequent visitor to the preserve. "The radio, the TV, the social media, and just listen to nature. It gives you a chance to relax and unwind."

And Reynolds isn't just a fan: She's a local cardiology nurse who sees the effects of stress and lack of exercise day-in, day-out.

She and her dog, Remi, a 6-year-old, three-legged black Lab, hit the trails of the preserve three times a week for 60 to 90 minutes each trip. She could walk on neighborhood streets or a sidewalk, but she goes to the preserve for a simple pleasure: The dirt beneath her feet.

"You're not hearing constant sounds of the city. Your ears are not getting that same decibel level of cars, horns, trucks — that exhaust smell, that chicken truck smell," Reynolds said, laughing. "That can hit pretty hard in the summer."

'It's essential right now that you take those breaks from all the stress.'

Sally Reynolds
Preserve visitor

The preserve maintained by the Redbud Project, a chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society, includes about 2 miles of trails that run through Georgia's various native ecosystems — forest, prairie, wetlands and others.

Preserve land is owned by Gainesville Parks and Recreation, which has kept its other parks open as well. Parks are open from dawn to dusk.

"Those trails go through this 30 acres of Linwood Nature Preserve, and they go through the different ecosystems," said Margaret Rasmussen, executive director of the Redbud Society. "It's not a cookie-cutter kind of thing — here's the old hickory forest, here's the wetlands, here's the prairie. When you walk on a trail, you go through each of those. You just wind through them. You can see all the different aspects of that particular ecosystem."

The preserve is a haven for the Peach State's native plants, including

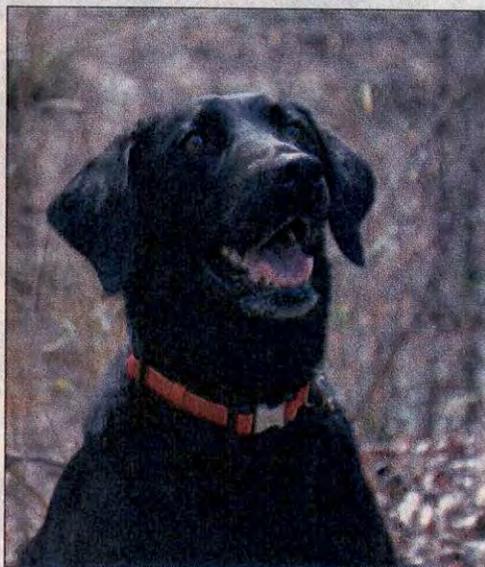


Photo courtesy Sally Reynolds

Remi, a three-legged, 6-year-old black Lab visits the Linwood Nature Preserve at least three times a week with her owner, Sally Reynolds. The entire preserve is dog-friendly.

■ Please see NATURE, 5B



SHANNON CASAS | The Times

A natural trail is pictured on Thursday, March 19, at the Linwood Nature Preserve off of Thompson Bridge Road in Gainesville. "It's essential right now that you take those breaks from all the stress," said Sally Reynolds, a frequent visitor to the preserve. "The radio, the TV, the social media, and just listen to nature. It gives you a chance to relax and unwind."

NATURE

■ Continued from 4B

the aforementioned redbud tree, along with too many others to name. Many of them are in bloom or showing up around the preserve.

"The redbuds are popping out for sure," Rasmussen said. "The trout lily is up. The bloodroot is up. The May apple is beginning to come up. And then there's a really interesting plant that sort of carpets the woods. It's called crane-fly orchid. The leaves are green — they look like an alligator on top and then underneath they're purple — and those leaves are in the woods from September until May, and then you don't see them anymore. That's something that could be

easily overlooked."

The society does its best to mark native plants, and the preserve includes about 10 signs with information about Georgia's ecosystems and the plants on the 30 acres.

Rasmussen also emphasized the benefits of "forest bathing" as a method of stress relief and — as a result — a method of boosting the immune system.

Stepping out your front door and doing a lap in your neighborhood isn't bad. When you're backing away from the desktop for 10 minutes, that's a good thing.

But there isn't anything like the peace of getting some Georgia dirt underneath your feet.

"You're more concerned about tripping over a root than being hit by a car," Reynolds said of the preserve trails.

You need to go outside.

GAINESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION

Activities halted, venues closed as precautions for coronavirus

Gainesville Parks and Recreation is taking no chances when it comes to the spread of COVID-19.

According to an announcement from the department Friday, opening day of Little League baseball and softball has been canceled.

All organized athletic events scheduled to take place between Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 29 — including games, practices, tournaments and field rentals — have also been called off. Gainesville parks will remain open, though

social distancing is recommended.

The department will reevaluate the situation on Friday, March 27 to make a decision on future cancellations.

The Frances Meadows Aquatic Center will also be closed to the public during that time frame, though staff will remain onsite to answer calls and e-mails Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Allen Creek Soccer Complex and Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center will be closed starting on Monday, March 16, as will all Hall County libraries. Library

dropoff boxes will not be operational, but any late fees incurred during the closing will be waived.

Gainesville Parks and Recreation has also put a hold on summer community theater auditions and has canceled both the underwater Easter egg hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 28 and the annual Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 29.

Parks and Recreation administrative offices will remain open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Compiled by Nathan Berg
3-14-20

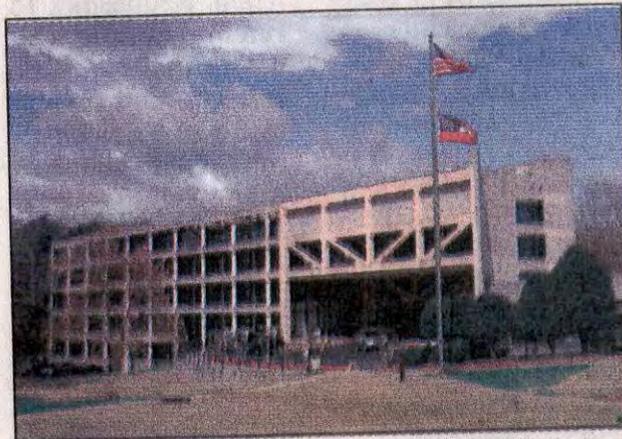
Gainesville closes all city facilities indefinitely

In an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus, all city of Gainesville administrative offices, fire stations, the public safety complex, parks and recreation buildings and the Gainesville-Hall County Senior Life Center will be closed to the public indefinitely.

All essential city services, including police, fire, water, sanitary sewer and trash pickup, will continue as usual.

On the city website, people can make payments and find contact information for city departments.

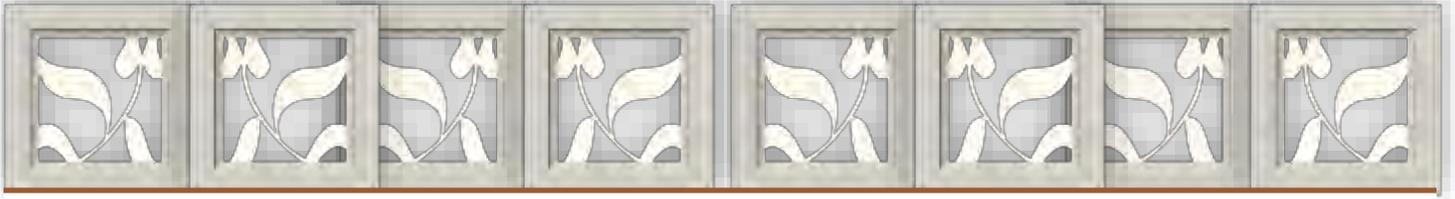
Compiled from city of Gainesville press release



NICK BOWMAN | The Times

The Hall County Government Center, pictured on March 30, 2018, at 2875 Browns Bridge Road.

3-20-20



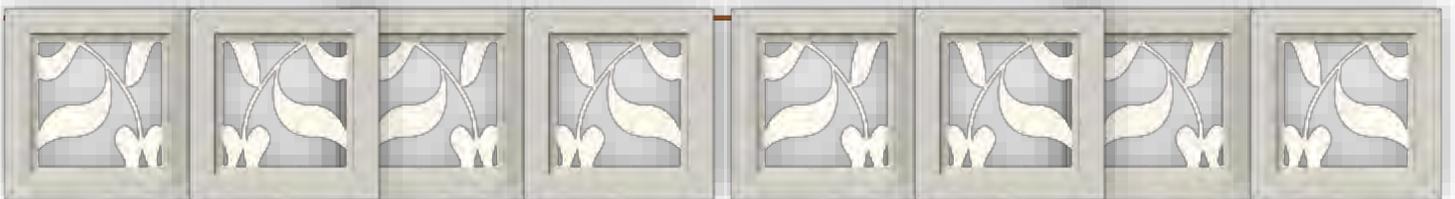
IN THE NEWS

April & May 2020

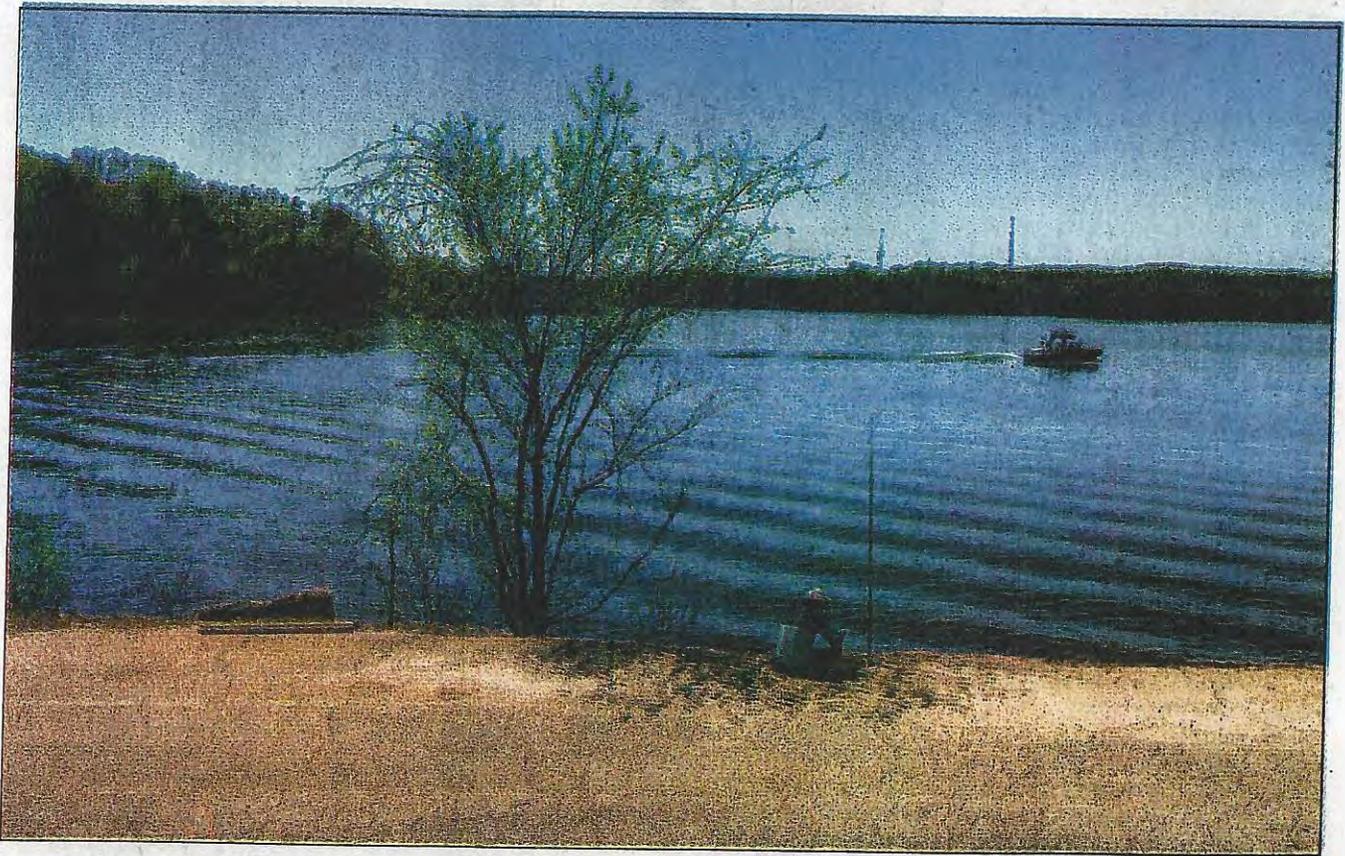
Parks & Recreation Programs
Frances Meadows Aquatic and Community Center
Gainesville Civic Center
Lake Lanier Olympic Center
City / County Issues
Miscellaneous



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



Will hot temps kill virus?



Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

A man fishes Friday, April 3, at Holly Park while boaters also take advantage of the warmer and drier weather. Experts say warming temperatures likely won't slow the spread of COVID-19, at least this year.

April 4-5, 2020

Experts say no, COVID-19 likely won't slow down as it warms up

BY MEGAN REED

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Although other viruses tend to become less common as the weather gets warmer, it is still unknown how warmer temperatures could affect the spread of the coronavirus.

"Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. "At this time, it is not known whether the spread of COVID-19 will decrease when weather becomes warmer."

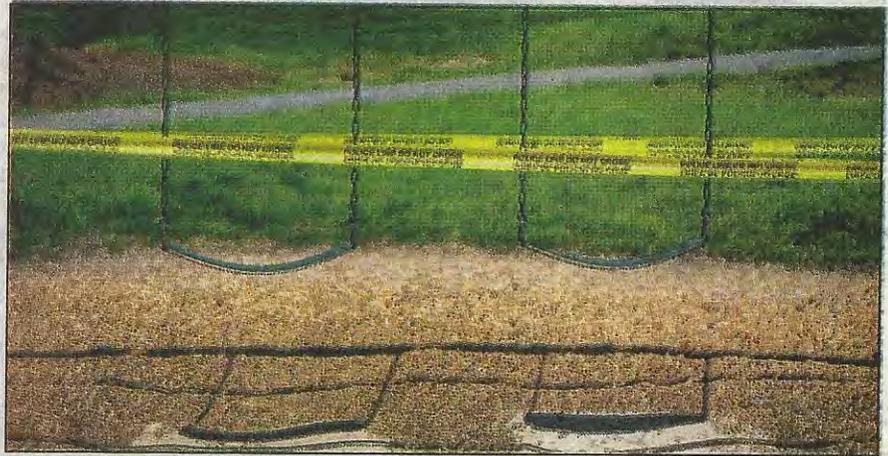
According to the CDC, "there is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other features associated with COVID-19 and investigations are ongoing."

The World Health Organization has also stated that warmer weather won't kill the virus.

"You can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is. Countries with hot weather have reported cases of COVID-19," according to the organization's website. "To protect yourself, make sure you clean your hands frequently and thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose."

Jessi Shroust, an assistant professor of biology at Brenau University, said other coronaviruses have been shown to slow down as the weather warms up.

"It's really just one of a broad class of different coronaviruses. What we know about other coronaviruses is that it's



Playground equipment at Wilshire Trails Park in Gainesville are closed to keep children from playing to close to one another. The park's trails remain open.

true, they do tend to show some degree of seasonality," Shroust said. "That means that they would be expected to transmit more readily in colder months than in the warmer months."

But the issue scientists and medical professionals now face is new, as COVID-19 has not been seen before.

"It's brand-new. That means that we have no innate immunity or no herd immunity, and we don't even have a vaccine," Shroust said. "So, that lack of immunity has allowed the virus to become this massive, worldwide pandemic over a pretty short period of time."

Shroust said because people have not built up immunity to the novel coronavirus, it is less likely to follow previously known patterns of other viruses.

"When you put that lack of immunity

with this highly transmissible virus, and considering the pandemic is not even at its peak yet, I would say no, really we're not going to see much seasonality with this," she said.

However, as scientists seek to learn more about the novel coronavirus, they have taken on the challenge collaboratively, Shroust said.

"We've seen a really amazing sense of community in the scientific community. Scientists are not always known for sharing information with each other, but I think we've seen that at really unprecedented levels of individuals being willing to share their findings without needing credit for any of those discoveries," she said. "This really is a time where we have to come together as a scientific community to help each other out."

April 4-5, 2020

Police and Fire Games coming to Gainesville

BY NICK WATSON

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Gainesville was selected April 10 as the host site for the Georgia Police and Fire Games in 2021 and 2022.

The games include events such as "toughest cop" and "toughest firefighter" along with cycling, 5K runs, golf, weightlifting, softball and more.

"We look forward to bringing the games back to Gainesville-Hall County," said Georgia

Police and Fire Games Executive Director James Perry in a news release. "The response and support we received when there years ago

■ Please see **GAMES, 5A**

April 15-16, 2020

GAMES

■ Continued from 1A

has not been forgotten, and we know Gainesville-Hall County will again excel in hosting the event." The games were held in Hall County in 2008.

The games move every two years to a new location through a bid process. They are scheduled to be held in Newnan this year.

Gainesville — in partnership with the Gainesville Parks and Recreation Department, Hall County Parks and Leisure Services, Gainesville Police

Department, Hall County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Fire Department and Hall County Fire Services — submitted its bid in March.

"I am very excited to be part of hosting this wonderful event. These games will bring

together the finest brothers and sisters in public safety," said Gainesville Police Chief Jay

Parrish in a news release. "I look forward to taking part in the camaraderie these games promote."

Residents are invited to watch the games. Planning for the event will soon get underway, according to the news release.

The games are intended to "promote physical fitness and educational exchange that benefits all law enforcement and fire department" personnel in Georgia, according to the games' website. The Georgia Police and Fire Games were first held in June 1985, starting with fewer than 300 participants and growing to more than 1,000 competitors, according to the website.

Those interested in volunteering for the Georgia Police and Fire Games can contact Gainesville tourism director Robyn Lynch by calling 770-297-5499 or emailing rlynch@gainesvillega.gov.

April 15-16, 2020

Last week's local history trivia questions answered



JOHNNY VARDEMAN
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In case you missed it, last week's column was a list of local history trivia questions. If you did miss it, you can find it on gainesvilletimes.com.

Here are the answers to those questions in the order they appeared:

Lake Warner was the name of the lake on the Chattahoochee River before Lake Lanier formed. It was backed up by Dunlap Dam and besides providing electric power became a popular recreation area at the end of what is now Riverside Drive in Gainesville. A.J. Warner was the main man behind the project.

Three hotels operating in downtown Gainesville in the 1950s were the Dixie-Hunt, Princeton and Wheeler.

Habersham County was named for Col. Joseph Habersham, a former Savannah mayor who had a summer home in the county. He was a Revolutionary War officer, active in state politics and was named U.S. Postmaster General by President George Washington.

Lumpkin County was named for Wilson Lumpkin, who served in the state legislature, as Georgia governor, U.S. representative and Senator.

WGGA was Gainesville's first radio station, founded in 1941 by Charles and Lessie Smithgall in a little white stucco building on Athens Highway.

In the 1980s, a Winn-Dixie Supermarket was at 1101 Washington St. behind Home Federal in Gainesville.

The Boys' Club in Gainesville started in an old house on Sycamore Street, now E.E. Butler Parkway.

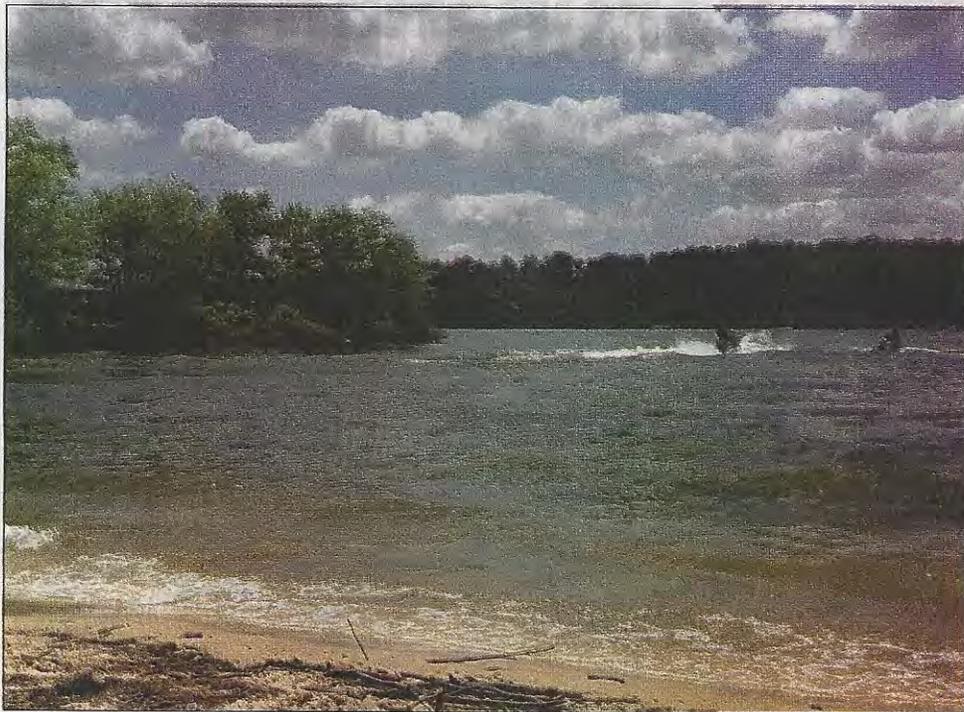
Gainesville's Civic Center on North Green Street was originally planned as an armory. Construction was interrupted by World War II and resumed after the war. The National Guard operated for years in the downstairs of the building.

In addition to the Ritz, Royal and State theaters in downtown Gainesville, the Roxy for many years operated on Athens Street, now E.E. Butler Parkway.

Hall County's two drive-in theaters in bygone years were the Skyview on Atlanta Highway and Lake Lanier on Thompson Bridge Road.

MAY 9, 2020

Memorial Day weekend on Lake Lanier?



SHANNON CASAS | The Times

Visitors to Lake Lanier on May 16 leave Holly Park in Gainesville on personal watercraft.

These parks are open, provided visitors follow precautions

BY KELSEY PODO

kpodo@gainesvilletimes.com

Lake Lanier is usually a popular spot on Memorial Day weekend. With the coronavirus pandemic curtailing travel, some may be itching to celebrate the unofficial summer kickoff closer to home.

But as people prepare for the holiday weekend, Dr. Supriya Mannepalli, chair of Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Infection Prevention & Control Committee, suggests they take certain steps to enjoy their fun in the sun responsibly.

She recommends avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people, wearing a mask around others, maintaining social distance of 6 feet from people, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands regularly, not sharing food or drinks and disinfecting surfaces.

"People who are sick, have chronic medical conditions, are elderly or are pregnant should stay home and isolate," Mannepalli said.

Those in good health who do plan to venture to a park or body of water, have dozens of options around Lake Lanier, Gainesville and Hall County.

Gainesville City Parks

All of Gainesville's parks

are open during Memorial Day weekend.

However, Julie Butler Colombini, marketing and communications manager for Gainesville Parks & Recreation, said playgrounds, basketball courts and bathrooms will remain closed.

"We recommend that people maintain a social distance," Colombini said. "Walking is great, fishing is good and tennis is good. The things that are closed are for a reason."

Some of Gainesville's lakeside parks include Clarks Bridge Park, Holly Park, Longwood Park, Lanier Point Park and Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

Go to gainesville.org/parks for a complete list of Gainesville parks and their locations.

For those wanting to reflect on local soldiers who sacrificed their lives serving in the military, Christina Santee, Gainesville City public relations manager, recommends visiting memorials at Rock Creek Veterans Park, which is located at 223 Northside Drive in Gainesville.

Hall County Parks

People can visit any of Hall's parks during the holiday weekend, with the exception of River Forks Park, the only one with a beach.

Christine Cave, manager of

River Forks Park & Campground, said the only ones with access to the space are RV campers.

"With as many people coming through the gates on Memorial Day, there would be no way to keep the social distancing," Cave said.

River Forks Parks' day use, tent camping and boat ramp areas will remain closed until June 12, which is when a reopening date will be reevaluated.

Becky Ruffner, marketing and public relations specialist for the county's parks and leisure department, said people who visit the county's parks should take note that all bathrooms, pavilions and playgrounds are closed.

"Other than that, we encourage people to get out on the trails and walk," Ruffner said. "Take your dog to the dog park. Get out and throw the Frisbee and have a picnic. Just keep social distancing in mind."

To view a list of Hall's 25 parks and their locations, visit hallcounty.org/Facilities.

Corps of Engineers parks

Most of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers day-use parks and campgrounds are closed in Hall. However, 22 of its boat ramps around Lake Lanier are open, as of Tuesday, May 19.

People can find an updated list

of the Corps of Engineers' accessible recreation areas by visiting corpsslakes.ercd.dren.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm, and selecting Lake Lanier.

State parks

Most of Georgia's state parks and historic sites are open, including Don Carter State Park on Lanier.

Kim Hatcher, public affairs coordinator for Georgia's state parks and historic sites, said designated swimming beaches remain open, while pools and splash pads are closed.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources requires visitors to keep at least 6 feet from others and not gather with more than 10 people.

Hatcher said Georgia's state parks are working closely with DNR law enforcement to ensure people are following the protocols, including those on the beaches and trailheads.

Recently she said some of Georgia's popular recreation spaces have experienced an overflow in parking capacity. When this happens, people may have restricted access for several hours.

Hatcher recommends checking GaStateParks.org or the Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites' Facebook page for temporary closures before traveling to a site.

DNR enforcing social distancing during Memorial Day holiday

BY NICK WATSON

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In addition to the typical rules on the water, this Memorial Day weekend, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is also enforcing the ban on large gatherings as it patrols Lake Lanier.

DNR spokesman Mark McKinnon said the game wardens will continue patrolling for boaters under the influence, required safety gear and children under 13 wearing lifejackets while also enforcing the ban on more than 10 people in a single location.

According to the ban, businesses, establishments, corporations, organizations and local governments "cannot allow more than 10 people to gather in a single location unless there is at least 6 feet between each person. Groups of more than 10 living together are excluded. Memorial Day weekend typically draws crowds to Lake Lanier.

"The bottom line is they'll be looking for large crowds on boats," McKinnon said. "Particularly, if they see more than 10 people on the boat, they're probably going to check it out."

The goal, McKinnon said, is to have people be compliant with the guidelines, with arrests and citations as a last resort. About 15-20 DNR personnel will be patrolling Lanier over the weekend.

McKinnon previously told The Times those who do not comply can be charged with reckless conduct, which is punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or 12 months jail incarceration.

McKinnon said they have mostly experienced people following the guidelines and have had few cases where people have been noncompliant. The spokesman could only recall one instance leading to an arrest.

Game wardens and DNR officers will be supplied with masks and gloves in case they need to make close contact with the public.

"The bottom line is they'll be looking for large crowds on boats. Particularly, if they see more than 10 people on the boat, they're probably going to check it out."

Mark McKinnon
DNR spokesman

