



IN THE NEWS

August 2018

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



LAKE LANIER OLYMPIC PARK



USA dragon boaters hope for World Cup win on Lanier

By Jane Harrison

Dragon Boat Team USA and their coaches predict USA paddlers will stroke their way to top honors in next month's ICF Dragon Boat World Championship at Lake Lanier Olympic Park. A large contingent of local paddlers chosen for the National Team could chop their way to gold medals in the waters where they honed their skills.

Upbeat team members mingled with their supporters and spoke enthusiastically about their world potential at a July 21 fundraiser hosted by Gainesville-Hall '96 at the Brenau University Amphitheatre. The event, featuring party rock tunes, dinner and beer, exceeded the fundraising goal of \$100,000, according to organizer Dixie Truelove.

The party, entitled "The Legacy Continues," celebrated the upcoming paddling competition organizers claim will be the largest international sporting event on Lake Lanier since the 1996 Olympics. About 1,000 athletes from 16 countries will compete on the Olympic course where paddlers and rowers raced in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

"We're super, super excited" that the first ICF Dragon Boat World Championship in North America is coming to Lake Lanier, said Mimi Collins, GH '96 executive director. Organizers named a slew of local businesses who've thrown their support behind the event contributing toward the \$600,000 total budget.

While sponsors and organizers strive for high marks on the world stage, athletes and coaches training for the championship look for top finishes among long boat competitors. Dragon Boat Southeast Region Coach Jim O'Dell and National Team Coach Mike



PHOTOS BY JANE HARRISON

Prospective members of Team USA Dragon Boat line dance and pose for photos with fans at The Legacy Continues party last month.



Blundetto spoke about the strength of the U.S. team in a team sport that is still relatively new in this country.

"I think there's a potential to win the Nation's Cup," the award for the most overall team points, Blundetto said. "The caliber of athletes and confidence has never been higher," said the 30-year dragon boat veteran.

"In a decade (working with) the national team, this is the best group I've ever seen," O'Dell said. He and Blundetto, along with other Team USA officials, evaluated paddlers from around the country in a training camp at LLOP during the week of the party at Brenau.

At camp's conclusion, they confirmed 113 paddlers to fill 10- and 20-person boats in men's and women's juniors, seniors, and masters competition. About one-quarter of the team hails from LCKC.

It's getting harder and harder every year" to make the team, said Jan Nicolosi-Fischer, 65 one

of many from Tampa, Fla., who tried out. The 13-year dragon boater hoped to make the women's masters 50+ years team. "Some have been paddling just a year, some for 17 ... and we're all joining together to represent the USA."

Geri Nuevo, also from Tampa, said having the world championship on American waters gives Team USA an "amazing opportunity" to be the best in a sport that emerged more than 2,000 years ago in China.

"Of all the nations, it took the longest to take hold in the United States," Blundetto said, noting the rise of dragon boat popularity in the U.S. The sport attracts hundreds of thousands of recreational paddlers who only board a boat at festival time, such as the Atlanta Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival the weekend before the world competition at LLOP.

The contrast between festival paddlers and world class dragon boaters is like "apples and oranges," Blundetto said. Festivals

put paddles in the hands of weekend warriors who line up in boats with friends and co-workers and struggle to paddle in sync with the beat of a drum.

Blundetto contrasted fest participants with high caliber athletes on the U.S. team "who paddle 18 strokes a minute in complete precision ... that's about two strokes a second."

The world championship on Lanier will combine serious athletic competition on the water with the all color, fun and entertainment dragon boat festival fans expect in the grandstands. Vendors, food, and entertainment will create a fest-like backdrop to the fast, furious competition on the Olympic channel.

The races, rooted in ancient Asian fishing village tradition, create a spectacle unlike that of any other watersport. Boats more than 30-feet long outfitted with carved or plastic dragon boat heads and tails get propelled by paddlers chopping in rhythm to a drummer pounding in the back of the boat. Sometimes photo finishes declare the winners.

The world event opens with a parade of nations at LLOP Sept. 12 with greetings from ICF officials and local officials. Food truck dining and entertainment will follow. There is no charge to attend the opening ceremony or the competition. Parking is \$10 a day, with multi-day passes available.

ICF Dragon Boat World Championships Schedule

- Sept. 9-11: Team Arrivals/Practice
- Sept. 12: 6 p.m. Opening Ceremony, Lake Lanier Olympic Park
- Sept. 13: 500 Meter qualifying
- Sept. 14: 500 Meter finals, 200 meter qualifying
- Sept. 15: 200 Meter finals
- Sept. 16: 2000 Meter finals, closing ceremony

LAKE LANIER OLYMPIC PARK INFO

Lake Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Contact: Office Administrator, Jackie Hutton;
LCKC President, Tracy Barth
Phone: 770-287-7888
Fax: 770-287-3444
Email: info@lckc.org
Website: www.lckc.org
Address: Lake Lanier Olympic Park
3105 Clarks Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506

Club offerings: Recreational and competitive canoe and kayaking for ages 12 and up. Beginner to masters programs offered through regularly scheduled practices, classes, and summer camps. Also hosts local, regional, national and international competitions.

Calendar of events:

- Aug 26 - Moonlight Paddle
- Sept 8 - Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival

Lake Lanier Rowing Club

Contact: LLRC President, Sharon Heard
Phone: 770-287-0077
Email: LLRC@mindspring.com
Address: Lake Lanier Olympic Park
3105 Clarks Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506
Website: www.LakeLanierRowing.org

Club offerings: Recreational and competitive rowing for ages 13 to 80+. Beginner to elite offered through regularly scheduled practices, classes, and camps. Hosting of local, regional, national and international rowing regattas.

Calendar of events:

- Aug. 14-25 - Learn to Row 2 Classes

Other LLOP Events

- Aug. 17 - Food Truck Friday

Venue seats +/-2,000; parking capacity +/- 400 cars. The boathouse and tower are available to rent for meetings and special occasions.

LCKC well represented on Team USA

By Jane Harrison

A quarter of the dragon boaters racing in next month's world championships on Lake Lanier got their training in waters where Olympians medaled 22 years ago. But, it wasn't gold dust in the water that put them on course to stroke for Team USA; old school coaching, grueling workouts, and the drive to excel - elements that historically exude from the Lanier Canoe & Kayak Club - will put

them on potential gold medal boats.

Sixteen-year-old Caleb Copper expressed traditional LCKC mentality on the eve of Team USA selection. "I have a really good goal ... I'm going for gold," said the young paddler who'll strive for a top finish in a junior men's boat.

Copper is among 29 current or former LCKC athletes who'll race on the 113-member Team USA in the ICF Dragon Boat

World Championships Sept. 13-16 at Lake Lanier Olympic Park. "I'm so very proud of our athletes here at LCKC," said Jim O'Dell, who has helped train club athletes for more than a decade. O'Dell, Southeast Regional coach for the national organization and chairman of Dragon Boat USA, believes LCKC athletes will help lead the way toward the Nation's Cup in world competition.

See Team USA, page 27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHORE SWEEP

Lake Lanier Association's signature program turns 30 this year

Shore Lines

From the fascinating to the remarkable, Lake Lanier harbors many personalities and places along its shores. Lakeside presents "Shore Lines" – stories about people who live, work and play around the lake and the places that make the area special.

By Pamela A. Keene

This year, Shore Sweep celebrates its 30th year of lake clean-ups. To commemorate the program, which over its life so far has collected more than 1,000 tons of trash, garbage and debris from the lake and its shorelines, the Lake Lanier Association is hosting a big birthday party at Lake Lanier Olympic Park on Saturday, August 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Our theme this year is 1000 Tons of Fun," said Bonny Putney, chair of the association's Shore Sweep committee. She's also known around Lake Lanier as the trash lady because of her years of working on the event.

"The party is all about celebrating what our volunteers and members have done over the past 30 years. It will also be the official kick-off of our advance drop

program and a chance for volunteers to sign up to participate in our 2018 event, set for Saturday, September 15, a little earlier than in previous years."

The 1000 Tons of Fun party will feature entertainment by the Fly Betty Band, food, children's activities and prizes.

"We're encouraging people to wear their oldest Shore Sweep T-shirt," said Joanna Cloud, executive director of the association.

There will be a gift given to everyone wearing a Shore Sweep T-shirt at the event and a prize for the person wearing the oldest Shore Sweep T-shirt.

Over the years, Shore Sweep has evolved from a lake clean-up conducted mostly by homeowners to a concerted initiative that in 2017 had more than 1,000 volunteers and collected nearly 60 tons of trash.



PHOTO BY VICI HOPE

Up to 1,000 volunteers pitched in during the 2017 Shoresweep, above. The new LLA magnet, right.

Adding days

Until several years ago, Shore Sweep took place on a single Saturday, with volunteers gathering at designated locations to collect trash in the morning, then convening for a thank-you party that afternoon.

About six years ago, then-board member Gordon Brand suggested creating a zone program to more effectively and efficiently collect trash around the lake.

"Creating the zones helped us decentralize Shore Sweep, to get more people involved closer to home and to have more coverage area," Brand said. "It was easier to plan by tackling many smaller areas. We set up a scouting program so that people could let us know the areas that needed the most attention and we began advance drop-offs for those who wanted to help but weren't available on the day of the event."

Since the changes, the annual clean-up has more than doubled in its number of volunteers, the area covered each year and the amount of trash collected.

"We have zone captains who manage each of our designated day-of collection points," Putney said. "And we're building a large contingent of repeat volunteers who bring their neighbors and friends each year, so we're continuing to grow our participation and our success."

Putney said that social media has become a powerful tool in the expansion and success of Shore Sweep. "Everyone has a camera on their phones and we often get photos sent to our Facebook page

of particularly trashy areas," she said. "We've gotten pictures of people on the beaches who walk off and leave their beer cans and other garbage. We really appreciate that the public is keeping an eye out for us."

Map coordinates

This year there are eight advance drop off locations. The lake map coordinates are from the Atlantic Mapping Recreation and Fishing Guide for Lake Lanier.

- Map coordinate J-7, closest buoy marker 1SM, old beach at Shady Grove Park

- Map coordinate H-7, closest buoy marker 4YD, Beaver Ruin Road shoreline area

- Map coordinate L-3, closest buoy marker 2SC, Gwinnett Park

- Map coordinate N-9, closest buoy marker 14, Gaines Ferry Islands

- Map coordinate L-18, closest buoy marker 33, Keith's Bridge Island

- Map coordinate M-24, closest buoy marker 49, Old Dawsonville Highway road bed near DNR regional office and Martin Docks

- Map coordinate M-28, closest buoy marker 2WC, unnamed island

- Map coordinate D-21, closest buoy marker 21C, Nix Island.

The areas will be open two weeks prior to Shore Sweep on September 15.

"People can bring bagged trash



Lake Lanier General Information

Army Corps of Engineers	770-945-9531
Lake Conditions	770-945-3167
Release Schedules	770-945-1466
Dept. of Natural Resources	770-535-5700
Emergency Situations Call	911
Lake Lanier Association	770-503-7757

www.lakelanier.org
@lakelanierassoc



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www.lakelanier.org

from the lake and the shorelines, no personal trash please, as well as larger items," she said. "Signs designate when these locations are open to accept trash and we're asking people to leave the trash near the signs. Volunteers with boats will pick up from these areas on September 15."

This year's 11 zone headquarters are Aqualand Marina, Bald Ridge Marina, Gainesville Marina, Lanier Islands, Port Royale Marina, Balus Creek Boat Ramp, Big Creek Boat Ramp, Don Carter State Park, Gwinnett Park, Longwood Park and War Hill Park.

See LLA, page 27

Other LLA programs

Shore Sweep is one of many programs supported by the Lake Lanier Association throughout the year. Other programs include:

- Adopt-a-lake, a lake-wide water testing program managed by volunteers to regularly monitor and report water quality at designated sites.

- Solar Lights program, begun in 2013 to install solar lights atop navigation hazard markers. To date, more than 260 lights have been installed.

- Shoreline Rip-Rap helps slow erosion of the islands many lakes. Since it began in 2016, more than 3,150 lineal feet of island shoreline control have been installed on six islands. This initiative involved the installation of more than 6,200 tons of rip rap stone at a cost of almost \$320,000. Other at-risk islands are on the project's list.

- Abandoned and Derelict Docks and Vessels, which to date has removed more than a half-dozen docks and vessels from the lake. In 2017, the Georgia General Assembly earmarked \$25,000 to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to provide the association with funds to remove these safety and environmental hazards. Recently, the program has expanded to include work with the solicitor's offices in Hall and Forsyth counties, allowing for legal action against owners of these docks and vessels.

- An annual meeting is held each spring to bring the membership together for yearly reports on all projects and to update them about the association's work. It is typically a social occasion and a chance for members and people interested in its Full Lake, Clean Lake, Safe Lake initiatives.

- Member Socials take place periodically at various places around the lake. They are announced to members via email and are listed on the group's website.

- Property Owners Pledge, a user-friendly contract that property owners can voluntarily sign to use best practices when managing their lakefront land to protect water quality. Those who sign receive a small metal sign signifying their participation in the initiative.

- Pamela A. Keene

• LLA

Continued from Page 26

The event will take place from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Volunteers should report to a participating location to pick up trash bags and a shoreline-area assignment for trash collection. All volunteers turning in at least one full bag of trash receive a T-shirt. Many of the sites will provide snacks or other festivities.

Year-round effort

Shore Sweep has grown to be a year-round initiative. "In addition to our work in August and September, we've reached out to all the boat-rental fleets and providing them with trash bags to encourage boaters to collect their garbage and bring it back to the dock," Putney said.

The Lake Lanier Association has been an active and visible advocate for Lake Lanier, previously bringing legal actions on behalf of the lake in the Tri-State Water Negotiations and other issues.

One of its public platforms focuses on raising the full-pool lake level to 1073. "We are advocating for a feasibility study," Cloud said. "That would be the first step."

Additionally, the association

works closely with a number of government and public organizations. "We are in regular contact with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,"

Cloud said. "We were among the founding members of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders, providing leadership to this organization. We also work with local governments, area businesses and various non-profit groups to protect the lake."

Each year the association has a booth at the Atlanta Boat Show, not only for bringing in new members but to talk with boat owners, lake users and homeowners about the work of the group.

Officials

The Lake Lanier Association is governed by a board of directors. The members are President: Wilton Rooks; Past President: Val Perry; Vice President: John Barker; Vice President: Bonny Putney; Vice President: Gary Smith; Vice President: Rich York; Secretary and Executive Director: Joanna Cloud; Treasurer: Zack Sutton; plus board members John

Barker, Phil Bartoe, Mike Berg, Tom Child, Sheila Davis, Paul Flood, Barkley Geib, John Heard, Ann-Margaret Johnston, Bev Nicholls, Bill Tannahill and Tom Vivelo.

The association is conducting a membership outreach campaign this year. It is mailing information to all dock owners offering a free six-month membership to the association. The mailing will include a refrigerator magnet that lists frequently called phone numbers related to the lake. "It's our hope that people will take advantage of the complimentary membership and when their six months is complete that they will join the association," Cloud said.

Membership in the association starts at \$50 for individuals/families. Everyone who joins receives the group's quarterly email newsletter, invitations to the annual meeting and member socials. Business memberships are also available.

For more information regarding the event, visit www.lakelanian.org; email lakeinfo@lakelanian.org; or call 770-503-7757.

• Team USA

Continued from Page 14

O'Dell, Team USA Head Coach Mike Blundetto and other national team officials evaluated team hopefuls during a 3-day selection camp at LLOP in late July. Before announcing the cuts, O'Dell said they faced a difficult task winnowing the team from the best athletes they've seen in a decade.

He said it took more than "eight hours pouring over data, videos, and notes from selection camp" to decide who'll race for the US on juniors, seniors and masters teams.

All but two of junior team members are current LCKC paddlers, O'Dell said. "A couple others used to paddle at the club though half of those selected are stand-alone dragon boaters who have come up through our festival to the next level," he added.

O'Dell credited old school training and assistant coach Charlie Tisle for LCKC athletes' success.

"We are some of the best, if not the best, prepared athletes for Team USA. They get

weekly training plans from me and I hear from those doing them that even the land based training is tough," he said.

"We are on the water two times per week with loads of land-based weights and cardio in eight-week cycles. This is unique to our group."

LKCK-associated athletes making the team are:

Juniors: Aaron Dickson, Alec Wilson, Allen Marsh, Andrew Surles, Caitlin Marsh, Caleb Copper, Drew Deppe, Ethan Deppe, Jackson Hickerson, Joshua Burchard, Lucas Pitts, Maggie Bowmar, Nate Boyd, and Paige Farley-Klacik.

Seniors: Cannie Colburn (Ash), Martin Corban, Ethan Jackson, Ethan Palmer, Macy Dwyer, Olivia Clark, and Tina Young.

Masters: Anne Blanchard, Dave Bittenbender, Enoy Chanlyvong, Jim O'Dell, Laurie Moore, Sean Allen, and Vladimir Samoylenko.

Junior Assistant Coach: Charlie Tisle.



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Kids interact with public safety officers at Touch-A-Truck

BY NICK WATSON

nwatson@gainesvilletimes.com

In the midday heat at City Park, Gainesville Police's Dodge Challenger operated by Cpl. Jessica Van offered a chilling respite for anyone willing to, as Van put it, "cool off with a cop."

Adayla Grimmatt, 20 months, took the passenger seat and stuck police stickers on her doll as well as her 4-year-old brother Malakai during the Touch-A-Truck event Saturday, Aug. 4.

"He really likes the firetrucks," mother Danielle Grimmatt said.

Participants estimated more than a 100 parents and children visited by noon at the Longstreet Circle park, where kids could honk horns and explore inside a variety of vehicles.

Hall County Fire Services and the Gainesville Fire Department brought their shiny red rigs, Gainesville Solid Waste parked a street sweeper and Jackson EMC displayed a bucket truck.

Van ran through a roll of police stickers in no time during the three-hour event.

"Events like this allow us to interact with the public, the youth," she said. "A lot of times they'll come up and they're afraid, because they've seen police officers in a negative light. When they come here to an event like this that's open to the public, it allows them to get inside the cars, know that they're not in trouble and ... interact, sometimes letting them play with the siren."

The Hall County ambulance manned by firefighter/paramedic Brock Hayes and firefighter/EMT Taylor Simmons had to run a call during the event and come back.

"We're like the second busiest unit in Hall County," Simmons said.

Kids coming by could climb around the stretcher and try on the helmet, as the firefighters enjoyed becoming a more comfortable, friendly face for people to recognize.



Above: Mia Delgado sits in the cab of a semi tractor trailer truck. **Left:** Grade Sutton sits in a police cruiser next to his brother Evan. **Below:** Alec DeBeliso, age 3, climbs into the cab of a John Deere tractor at the Touch a Truck event.



8-5-18

Big wheels, friendly faces



Photos by **BEN HENDREN** | For The Times

Bo Sliger checks out a fire engine at the Gainesville Parks and Recreation's annual Touch a Truck event Saturday, Aug. 4, at City Park in Gainesville.

8-5-18

FALL JOB FAIR

Saturday, October 13 | 9am-1pm | Gainesville Civic Center



(L-R): Amanda Nguyen, Hollie Christy and Heather Tyner of Express Employment Professionals with Mark Butler, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Labor, at the Greater Hall Chamber's 2018 Spring Job Fair.

One of the Chamber's most popular events, the Job Fair continually draws some 800 job seekers, all spending quality time with hiring managers. Over 50 employers will participate as exhibitors on hand and hiring for hundreds of positions.

The Greater Hall Chamber is dedicated to providing resources to match employers' job openings with skilled, quality employees. The Job Fair offers Chamber member businesses a unique partnership and opportunity to help find the area's best employees. The event is coordinated by Lanier Technical College, the Gainesville Area Employers Committee and Georgia Department of Labor. Sponsorship opportunities are now available. For exhibit and sponsorship information, contact Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: alewis@ghcc.com

For many years, the Chamber has hosted an annual Job Fair. Because of the success of this event and in an effort to draw even more job seekers, the Chamber's Small Business Council has added a second (fall) career fair on Saturday, October 13 from 9am-1pm at the Gainesville Civic Center.

"We listened to our employers who suggested we should have a second Job Fair in the fall and on a Saturday to reach more potential employees," said Amanda Lewis, Greater Hall Chamber Project Manager, Economic Develop.

The presenting Sponsor of the Chamber's Fall Job Fair is Express Employment Professionals, a long-time sponsor of the program.

8-7-18

Thursday, August 23
Chamber Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Gainesville Civic Center

Friday, August 24
New Member Orientation
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 13
Fall Job Fair
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Gainesville Civic Center

Wednesday, October 17
HealthSmart Wellness Expo
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.
Gainesville Civic Center

Get all the details and register for events
Online: GreaterHallChamber.com

8-7-18

• **Chamber Board meetings are open to Chamber members.** Network with Chamber leadership by attending the next meeting on **Thursday, August 23 at the Gainesville Civic Center, 12-1:30 pm.** Reservations Required. \$15 per person; includes lunch. Gerri Collins, 770-532-6206 x 106. Email: gcollins@ghcc.com

GOT NEWS?

Email: kwest@ghcc.com

8-7-18

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Wednesday, September 26th • 10am-1pm

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HEALTHY AGING EXPO

Free to the Public!


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8-8-18

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FRANCES MEADOWS
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or 770-535-6330.

8-11-18

Ladies luncheon ...



Photos for The Times

Above and below right: A table at the 2017 For Her Glory luncheon is decorated for guests. Hosted by the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club, the event is celebrating its 10th anniversary while raising money for women with cancer who need wigs and other items they can't afford or insurance won't cover. **Right:** Guests mingle at the 2017 For Her Glory luncheon. This year's fundraiser is today at the Gainesville Civic Center.



For Her Glory

10th annual event raises money for women with cancer

BY LAYNE SALIBA

lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

The members of the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club have spent the past 10 years raising money for the For Her Glory organization with a special luncheon.

They're the ones who sell funnel cake at Gainesville's Mule Camp Market every year. It's their biggest fundraiser, but not the only one they're known for.

This year's 10th anniversary luncheon features food, door prizes and two guest speakers: Kay Dodd, a comedian, and Georgia's first lady, Sandra Deal. The event, which sends all proceeds to For Her Glory, is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Gainesville Civic Center.

The local organization offers wigs to women who have cancer, among other items, when insurance won't cover costs or they simply can't afford them.

Brenda Martin knows how much For Her Glory means to women in the area. She was diagnosed with cancer 23 years ago, but calls herself a survivor now. Although she didn't benefit from the organization herself, she saw plenty who could, which is why she got involved.

"It's very dear to my heart,

10th annual For Her Glory luncheon

What: Phoenix Woman's Club sponsors its annual fundraiser for the For Her Glory organization

When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

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

because I'm a cancer survivor myself," said Martin, chairwoman for the luncheon. "So it was very important to me and it still is."

Over the years, the luncheon has grown. Little by little, the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club has been able to send more money to For Her Glory. Last year was the "biggest year so far." It donated more than \$10,500 to the organization.

"They're trying to help people in our community who can't afford to get some of the things they need," Martin said. "And it's especially important for a woman to make her feel she's pretty, she's beautiful, even though she may have cancer and no hair."

The Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club gathers to help other organizations in Gainesville that are starting up or simply need help raising money. That's the goal as volunteers: to help the community in whatever way they can.

"My goal is to just make people aware that this foundation exists

in the community and all the good it does, and to provide an opportunity for women to come together, have a good time and raise money for a good cause," Martin said.

Each table at the luncheon is decorated with a different theme. One of the best parts of the event, guests show up early to look at each table every year. They also have "opportunity items," which are similar to silent auction prizes, except guests purchase "opportunity tickets" and put them in a bag by the item they're hoping to win.

By hosting the luncheon each year, the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club is hoping to gain more members so it can grow and make more of an impact on the community.

"I would just love for more women to call and ask to join," Martin said. "So we can build this up and continue to donate more and more money."

She said it's hard to describe what it means for a woman to put a wig on and feel pretty again. But



Guests mingle at the 2017 For Her Glory luncheon. Hosted by the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club, the 10th annual event raises money for women with cancer who need wigs and other items they can't afford or insurance won't cover.

the past 10 years raising money through the For Her Glory luncheon have helped more women have that feeling.

"People don't realize how important it is to a woman when she's going through cancer," Martin said. "And it's very frustrating

when you don't have insurance that's going to help you get the things you need. But there's an organization out there that can help you, and it just warms my heart, I know that, because I know how tough it can be when you're out there fighting it."