

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, September 26th • 10am-1pm

The Times
gainesvilletimes.com

HEALTHY AGING EXPO

Free to the Public!



FRANCES MEADOWS
AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER

1545 Community Way, Gainesville



Join Us for...

Prizes • Exhibitors

Health Screenings and

Much, Much More!

Entertainment by JB JAMS

SPEAKERS:

10:00 AM

Jackson Boyum - Humana

10:30 AM

Atlanta Gastroenterology

11:00 AM

Judy Paul - KW Lanier Partners

11:30 AM

The Vitamin Shoppe

12:00 PM

The Insurance Source

12:30 PM

Rushton & Company

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

Land Classes - Wellness Room

10am-11am Zumba

11am-11:45am Strength in Motion

12pm-1pm Gentle Yoga

Water Classes - Warm Pool

10am-11am Water Works

11am-12pm Gentle Movements

12pm-1pm Aqua Moving & Grooving

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Lanier
Carts & Outdoor

For more information, or to check vendor booth availability please contact Leah Nelson at LNelson@gainesvilletimes.com, or 770-535-6330.

8-25-18

SAVE THE DATE!

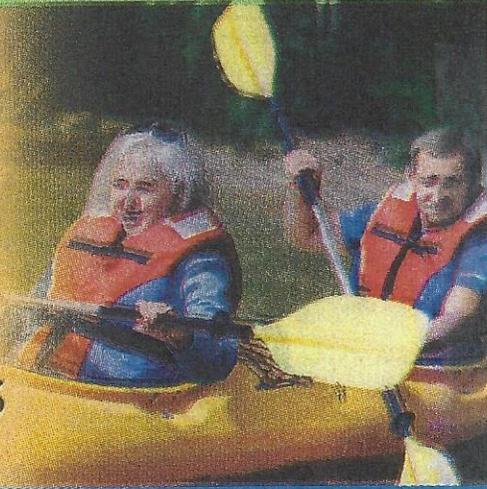
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Help wanted, pretty much all over

Chamber adds fall job fair to help area companies fill openings

BY JEFF GILL

kgill@gainesvilletimes.com

With the number of jobs outpacing qualified workers, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is going into uncharted waters this fall — hosting a Saturday job fair.

The last fair took place on a weekday in March, drawing 750 people and 70-plus employers to the Gainesville Civic Center, where

tables spilled into the hallways.

Chamber officials said they could have used even more room for companies, and even Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler suggested a second fair on a Saturday in the fall, chamber president and CEO Kit Dunlap said.

Butler's suggestion lined up with what companies, particularly manufacturers, said in a chamber survey.

"We're thinking we may get a different audience," Dunlap said on Monday, Aug. 27. "And we're open to what the employers want to do."

She said 35 companies have signed up so far for the Oct. 13 event, which will also be at the civic center, and that number could rise to 50.

"The economy's good and everybody's hiring, but we know it's dif-

ficult for companies (filling jobs)," Dunlap said.

The 750 people at the March fair sounds like a big number, but 900 showed up at the chamber's 2017 fair — a number that shows it's a job seeker's market, with workers finding it much easier than in past years to snag a job.

Stacey Reece, franchise owner of Spherion Staffing Services in Gainesville, said in a May inter-

Fall job fair

When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13

Where: Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St.

How much: Free to attend

view he had seen a scenario where a worker takes a job, then four days later, they quit "because somebody a month ago they interviewed with calls them back and says, 'Now I

■ Please see **JOBS, 6A**
3-25-17

JOBS

■ Continued from 1A

need you."

"Demand for employees across all sectors continues to be strong in our area," with workers moving between employers to increase pay, Reece said Monday.

"Unfortunately, when the employer goes to replace the employee, they find out either they have to increase wages or settle for an employee with lesser skills and invest in retraining," he said.

Also, employers are continuing to evaluate wages and benefits and determine where their ranges need to be to remain competitive and retain

qualified workers, Reece said.

"It's going to be exciting to see what a fall Saturday (fair) will bring us," he said.

The chamber states in a press release it "is dedicated to providing resources to match employers' job openings with skilled, quality employees."

The event is sponsored by Spherion and King's Hawaiian, which operates a plant in Oak-

wood. Also involved in coordinating the event are Lanier Technical College, the Gainesville Area Employers Committee and Georgia Department of Labor.

As parking is spread out at the civic center, a shuttle will be available to bring job seekers to the event.

"We're ready to go," Dunlap said.

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Organizers seeking volunteers for dragon boat championships



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Doug Smith, technical coordinator volunteer, gives information about the event to volunteers for the upcoming World Dragon Boat Championships at Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

More than 1,000 athletes from around world expected for annual event

BY MEGAN REED
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

Lake Lanier will soon see its largest international event since the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, and the community is stepping in to help welcome more than 1,000 athletes from around the world.

The International Canoe Federation

World Dragon Boat Championships have previously taken place in Russia, Poland, Italy and Hungary. This year, they are coming to the Americas for the first time, and the 29 athletes from Team USA who are from the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club won't have to travel far. The venue for the event is Lake Lanier Olympic Park in Gainesville.

The championships are Sept.

12 through 16, and rowers will start practicing on the lake Sept. 9.

Volunteer Coordinator Kingsley Peebles said more volunteers are still needed to help the event run smoothly.

Volunteers will be picking up athletes from the airport, transporting them between their hotels and the park,

■ Please see DRAGON, 8A

8-29-18



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Gary Wiegand, right, gives a safety demonstration about boats to volunteers for the upcoming World Dragon Boat Championships at Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

DRAGON

■ Continued from 1A

prepping boats between races and helping with parking at the venue. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available, Peeples said.

Also, on the morning of Sept. 9, organizers need volunteers to help get the boats in the water so athletes can start practicing.

Robyn Lynch, executive director of Lake Lanier Olympic Park, said 200 volunteers have signed up as of Tuesday. Organizers have been plan-

World Dragon Boat Championships schedule

Team arrivals and practice: Sept. 9-11

Opening ceremonies: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12 at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

Racing events: Sept. 13-16

Closing ceremonies: 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16 on the Smithgall Arts Center Lawn, 331 Spring St., Gainesville

How much: Parking at Lanier Olympic Park will be \$10, racing events and opening ceremonies are free, closing ceremonies are \$20 per person

More information: lanierdragonboat2018.com

ning for three years, she said, and she has enjoyed seeing the community, local government and businesses come together to prepare.

"Everybody has just been phenomenal in supporting

us and giving us whatever it is that we need to make this event great. ... We have volunteers from across the spectrum, from community leaders to employees of companies to retirees to civic groups.

A lot of people have stepped in to help us," Lynch said.

Volunteer Lisa Duetemeyer said she signed up to help out because her children go to the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, and she has enjoyed seeing other dragon boat events in the past. The Atlanta Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival also comes to Lake Lanier Olympic Park each year.

"It's beautiful and it's graceful and it's kind of exciting to watch, just to see who is going to cross that finish line first," she said.

To sign up to volunteer, go to the championships website.

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From Laos to Lake Lanier

Georgia man to compete with US team in dragon boat championship

BY LAYNE SALIBA
lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

Growing up in Laos gave Enoy Chanlyvong every opportunity he needed to fall in love with dragon boat racing. But it never stuck.

Each year, he watched others from the village he lived in cut down a tree and carve a dragon boat out of it.

His family made their way to the United States when he was 8 years old, but it wasn't until he was 35 that he found a passion for dragon boating.

"Some friends were trying to race the (Atlanta Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival held at Lake Lanier) ... and they didn't have a good team," said Chanlyvong, 44, a Dacula resident. "He was trying to build his team again and gave me and my brother a call. And ever since then, me and my brother are still at it."

Now, Chanlyvong will paddle with Team USA in the International Canoe Federation World Dragon Boat Championship coming Sept. 12-16 to the Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

Chanlyvong usually races for and coaches the Mekong Dragons, a dragon boat team in the Atlanta area founded in 2007. He tried to qualify for the U.S. team for the world championship in Poland in 2014 but missed the cut. When he heard

the 2018 competition was just an hour drive from his home in Dacula, he knew he'd have to try again.

He registered with the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club four months ago and started training with the coaches there.

"It's very stressful and hard on your body," Chanlyvong said. "You're leaning to one side. You're stacking your shoulders. You have to have some kind of physical ability to keep that form."

He said he didn't have that kind of physical ability in 2014, but when he started training in 2018, it finally came. He's been traveling from Dacula twice each week just to get on the water and train with the team.

"If you want it, you've got to make time for it," Chanlyvong said. "I really, really wanted to prove to myself that all this time dedicated to it, 'Why can't you get on this USA team?' And I really set my goals high and I'm glad I made it."

He's in the gym almost every day working out different groups of muscles that will help him paddle more efficiently. He's also been running more than ever, trying to build up his cardio.

"I'm just trying to imitate on land the kind of stress in the boat," Chanlyvong said. "Four years ago, I was cramping up because my cardio wasn't up to par. I was cramping all the time. I mean, I had the



Photos courtesy of Sam Sith

Above: Enoy Chanlyvong prepares to race during the 2017 Atlanta Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival on Lake Lanier. Chanlyvong grew up in Laos, but didn't start racing dragon boats until he was 35 years old. Top: Chanlyvong drives from Dacula at least twice a week to train on the water with Team USA in preparation for the 2018 World Dragon Boat Championship.

World Dragon Boat Championships schedule

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Opening ceremonies: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, Lake Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, Gainesville

Racing events: Sept. 13-16

Closing ceremonies: 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, the Smithgall Arts Center lawn, 331 Spring St., Gainesville

How much: Parking at Lanier Olympic Park will be \$10, racing events and opening ceremonies are free, closing ceremonies are \$20 per person

More info: lanierdragonboat2018.com

stroke, but I couldn't maintain."

Now that the Dragon Boat World Championship is two weeks away, Chanlyvong said he's ready to start. He'll be racing in the master division and may race in the senior division, too.

"It's here, and I really have dedicated

myself to it," Chanlyvong said. "Four years ago, I didn't practice with (Team USA coach Jim O'Dell). I just practiced with Mekong once every week. But what I did with Jim was dedicate more time in the water to get on the team and luckily it worked."

Soggy Doggy Pool Party

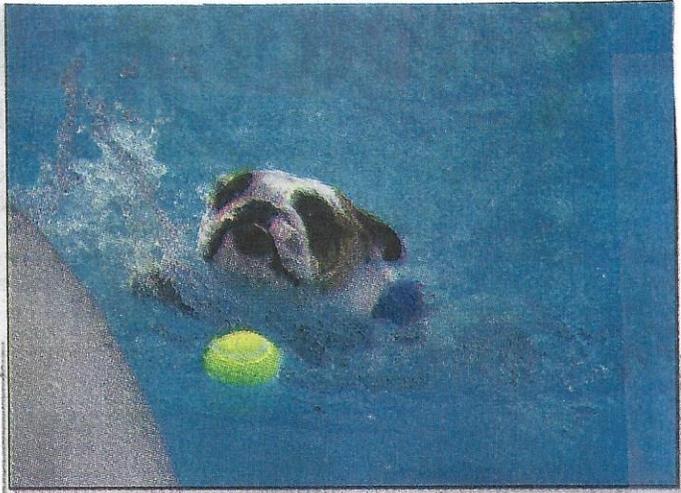
What: Splash Zone open for dogs

When: 1-5:30 p.m. Sept. 9

Where: Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, 1545 Community Way NE, Gainesville

How much: \$10 per dog; people free

More info: 770-533-5850, zstephens@gainesville.org



SCOTT ROGERS | Get Out

Bulldog puppy Chloe Belle swims after a tennis ball last year at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center Splash Zone during the annual Soggy Doggy Pool Party.

8-30-18

Soggy Doggy Pool Party

What: Splash Zone open for dogs

When: 1-5:30 p.m. Sept. 9

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More info: 770-533-5850,

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8-23-18

Lake Lanier Association Shore Sweep 30th Anniversary Celebration

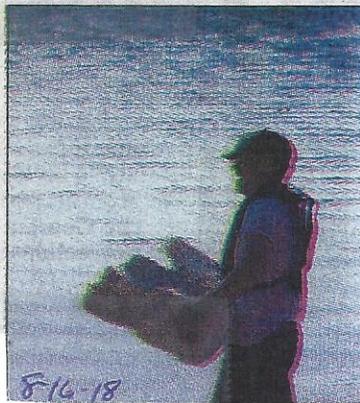
What: Live music, drinks and food

When: 1-4 p.m. Aug. 25

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

How much: Free

More info: 770-503-7757, jcloud@lakelanier.org, www.lakelanier.org



8-16-18

Food Truck Friday

When: 5-8 p.m. Aug. 17

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

How much: Free

More info: 770-535-0397, Robyn@lakelanierolympicvenue.org

8-16-18

Food Truck Friday

When: 5-8 p.m. Sept. 21

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

How much: Free

More info: 770-535-0397, Robyn@lakelanierolympicvenue.org

9-23-18

Lake Lanier Association Shore Sweep 30th Anniversary Celebration

What: Live music, drinks and food

When: 1-4 p.m. Aug. 25

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

How much: Free

More info: 770-503-7757, jcloud@lakelanier.org, www.lakelanier.org

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8-31-18

You're Invited
 to a Free
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ESSENTIAL OILS CLASS

Venue: Gainesville Civic Center
Address: 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville, GA 30501
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

- Are you open to Natural Forms of Wellness?
- What do you know about Essential Oils?
- Would you like to learn more about them? *8/12/18*

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- Would you like to learn more about them? *5/24/18*

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