

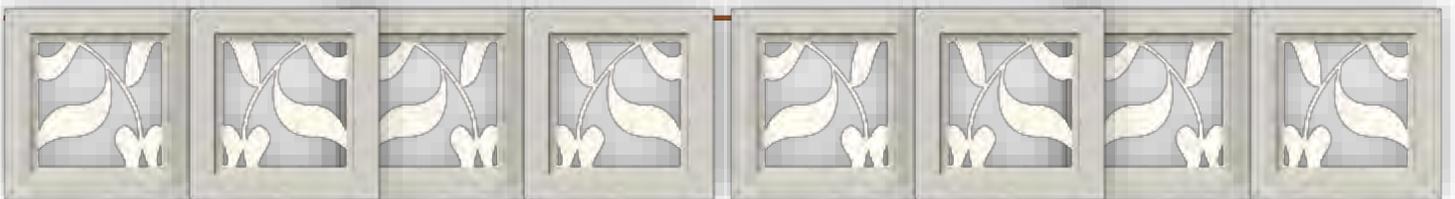
# IN THE NEWS

*February 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



## Northern crews migrating to Lake Lanier for winter, spring training

By Jane Harrison

Northern visitors to Lake Lanier last month shrugged off the bitter cold that kept most boaters indoors. Rowers from states with iced-over lakes enjoyed miles of open water during traditional winter break training in the hospitable South.

"Gainesville is empty (rowing-wise) in January and we enjoy exclusive access and treatment all around. I know folks in Gainesville get a bit nervous with cold and ice, let alone snow, but for us it's great regardless," said Frank Biller, University of Virginia Crew Coach. A Cavalier crew of 60 rowers and three coaches came down from frozen Charlottesville for their ninth training camp on Lanier. They scrimmaged one afternoon with a hardy crew of 30 from Notre Dame.

"It was quite cold actually, but we cope with that pretty well," Biller said. "In terms of rowing on the water, we did miss a few days, but that is not a big deal." Rowers sweated it out in morning workouts on ergometers, "ergs," provided by the Lake Lanier Rowing Club at the Olympic Park boathouse. They got out on the water some afternoons, chowed down at Brenau University dining facilities, and rested at The Guest House Gainesville lodge. The Notre Dame crew stayed in cottages at Don Carter State Park.

Biller called the Lake Lanier gig a "perfect arrangement," one that tops offers from Florida and elsewhere.

The first two collegiate crews on the lake this year began the annual migration of rowers who train in winter and early spring on Lanier. LLRC registered about 700 college athletes and coaches who will use its facilities and support before the outdoor rowing season gets into full swing in late March.

LLRC reported that Ithaca College in New York plans to shuttle 90 rowers down, making it the largest training crew on Lanier this year. The University of Michigan has 70 rowers on its camp roster. Other colleges planning to come include the U.S. Naval Academy, 65, Case Western, 55, University of Maryland Loyola, 54, and University of

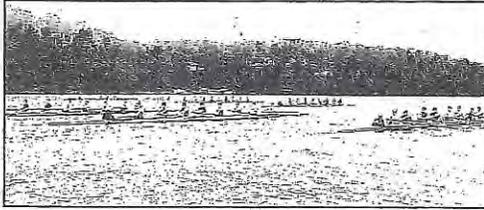


PHOTO COURTESY COACH FRANK BILLER

The University of Virginia men's rowing crew practiced on Lake Lanier in early January. Above, the winter-hardy rowers work out on one of the warmer days during their stay.

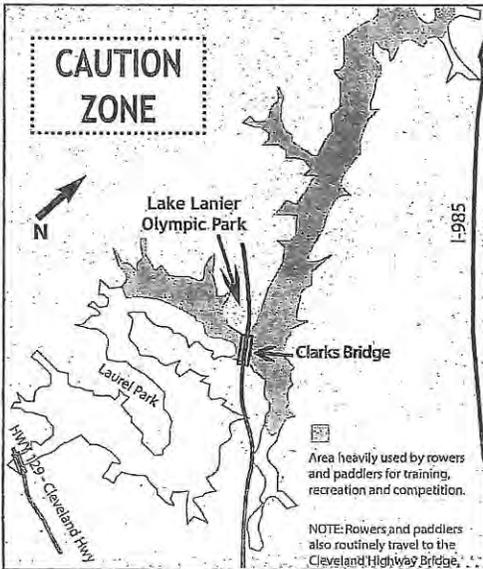
New Hampshire, Hamilton College, and Branksome Hall, from Canada, with 50 each. Several other colleges with smaller crews will head down.

"LLRC provides storage for the crews, motor boats for the coaches, and rowing machines for on-land training," said John Morrison, LLRC training camp coordinator. "We'll put in the buoys on the race course for the crews coming in March. The main thing we offer is access for rowing shells to miles upon miles of rowable water."

Many of the crews use local facilities for off-the-water workouts, Morrison said, including swimming at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, weightlifting at local gyms and hiking/trail running on trails in state parks and

the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Training camp away from school and busy schedules boosts rowers' mental focus and preparation, Biller said. "A successful training camp does not require rowing all the time and we happily dedicated training time indoors on the ergs. Thanks to the excellent facilities as well as (LLRC) hospitality, we have access to all this equipment." He also noted advantages of practicing on the same waters where collegiate rowers will stroke for the top spot this spring. "Our team is already looking forward to the American Collegiate Rowing Association National Championship on Memorial Day weekend in May," he said, "another reason to train there in January."



### 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:

- Mar. 17 - Lula Bridge Race
- Mar. 18 - Youth Olympic Games World Qualification Event
- Mar. 21 - Pasta Dinner
- Apr. 20-22 - Canadian National Team Trials
- Apr. 27-29 - Team USA Dragon Boat SE Regional Trials
- Apr. 28 - BRL Practice Race
- May 12 - BRL Spring Fungatta
- June 2 - Gainesville/Hall Dragon Boat Challenge
- June 2 - Recreational Rentals Open
- June 16 - Southern Invitational Spring Regatta
- June 22-24 - Dragon Boat USA Training Camp
- July 14 - Summer Springs Regatta
- Sept. 8 - Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival
- Sept. 13-17 - ICF Dragon Boat World Championships
- Sept. 15 - BRL Practice Race
- Sept. 29 - BRL Fall Fungatta
- Oct. 27 - Halloween Howl

#### 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:

- Thru Mar. - Winter & Spring Break Training
- Mar. 24-25 - John Hunter Regatta
- May 26-27 - ACRA Championship
- June 5-16, June 19-30, July 10-21, July 31- Aug. 11 - Learn to Row 1 Classes
- June 19-30, July 10-21, July 31-Aug. 1, Aug. 14-25 - Learn to Row 2 Classes
- Sept. 22 - Taste of Gainesville

#### Other LLOP Events

- Mar. 23, Apr. 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 - Food Truck Friday
- Apr. 28 - Sets at Sunset
- May 5 - Rubber Duck Derby
- June 9 - John Jarrard Lake Show

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

**ENJOY SAFE ROWING & PADDLING  
ON THE LAKE IN 2018!**

# An underwater 'trial by fire'



Photos by **SCOTT ROGERS** | The Times

Hall County Dive Team members Chris Wallace, right, and Brandon Pruitt prepare to dive Thursday at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center during a dive team practice. Members practiced moving underwater while getting snagged by rope used to represent the dense branches found at the bottom of Lake Lanier.

## Hall County dive team practices to avoid panic

BY **NICK WATSON**  
nwatson@gainesvilletimes.com

In the last lane of the pool at Frances Meadows Aquatics Center, Blake Forrester stepped to the water's edge in his dive gear, complete with neon orange flippers.

At the other side, he has to cut through a maze of strings blocking his way. After losing his knife and shears, Forrester resorted to untying the knots by hand to free himself.

"I told you — trial by fire," dive team member Craig Hannula said to Forrester when he surfaced and removed his mask.

The Hall County Sheriff's Office dive team used the aquatics center Thursday to practice drills ahead of the busy lake season.

Dive team commander Robert Smith said the pool allows them to control the environment and "teach them to work in a stressful environment."

"The only thing I can't fix while they're in the water is panic," he said.

Some of the drills include putting the gear at the bottom of the pool for the diver to retrieve and get set. In another scenario, a dive team member will turn off another person's tank to practice switching to the secondary cylinder.

"If we didn't have a pool, there's a lot of these drills we couldn't do," Smith said.

Below the surface, there is zero visibility for the divers making recoveries in Lake Lanier. For practice, Smith threw two plastic bags to the diver to put in his mask to block his vision.



**Above:** Brandon Pruitt joins fellow dive team members in the pool Thursday.  
**Below:** A dive team members sits poolside while wearing diving equipment.



■ Please see **DIVERS, 6A**

2/13/18

2-3-18

# DIVERS

■ Continued from 1A

Of the 10-member dive team, four are considered new divers. Two have been with the team for a year, and the others started in December.

“They’ve done one recovery so far, and we noted that they needed to work on their bagging technique,” Smith said.

Because 90 percent of the work for the dive team surrounds retrieving bodies, Smith said the team will work on securing the body in the bag and zipping it up before reaching the surface out of respect for the person’s family.

The team is not in the pool just because it’s warmer, Smith said. During training, the divers will have a “cold water day,” spending hours in frigid temperatures to stay acclimated.

The team is ramping up for the Memorial Day weekend, when the amount of boat traffic on Lake Lanier explodes.

‘They’ve done one recovery so far, and we noted that they needed to work on their bagging technique.’

**Robert Smith**  
Dive team commander

**Accounting Firm**  
Padgett Business Services

**Commercial Bank**  
Peach State Bank & Trust

**Staffing Services**  
Pridestaff

**Picture Framing**  
Purple House Gallery

**Machine/Fabrication Shop**  
Ranger Manufacturing

**Waste Removal Company**  
Red Oak Sanitation

**Real Estate Property Management**  
Resource Property Management

**Event Planning Company**  
RLM Affairs

**Real Estate Law Firm**  
Russ Petersen

**Sign Company**  
Signs By Tomorrow

**Bankruptcy Law**  
Smith, Gilliam,  
Williams & Miles, P.A.

**Tax Law**  
Stewart, Melvin & Frost, LLP

**Education**  
Storybrook Academy

**Real Estate Agency**  
The Norton Agency

**Shipping Store**  
The Ship Station

**Real Estate Agent**  
The Welch Team - Keller Williams  
Community Partners

**Bank**  
United Community Bank

2-4-18  
**Recreation & Destinations**

**Dance Club**  
37 Main

**Dance School**  
ALICATS Dance & More

**Nightclub**  
Branch House Tavern

**Most Romantic Atmosphere**  
Chateau Elan

**Country Club**  
Chattahoochee Country Club

**Golf Course**  
Chattahoochee Golf Club

**Driving Range**  
Chicopee Woods

**Holiday/Seasonal Event**  
Christmas on Green Street

**Local Park**  
Don Carter State Park

**Martial Arts DoJo**  
Edge ATA Martial Arts

**Entertainment Venue**  
Elachee Nature Science Center

**Family Entertainment Value**  
Elachee Nature Science Center

**Outdoor Patio**  
Elachee Nature Science Center

**Scenic Spot**  
Elachee Nature Science Center

**Yoga Studio**  
Find Your Center

\* **Place for a Kid's Birthday Party**  
Frances Meadows Aquatic Center

\* **Swimming Pool or Waterpark**  
Frances Meadows Aquatic Center

# FEBRUARY 2018

Wednesday, February 7

**Healthcare Committee**

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Thursday, February 8

**Leadership Hall County**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 9

**Economic Development Council**

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, February 13

**Small Business Seminar**

7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, February 13

**Youth Leadership Hall**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13

**Ambassador Council**

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

2 Dog Cafe | Gainesville

Wednesday, February 14

**Network Over Coffee**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Atlanta Bread Company | Gainesville

Wednesday, February 14

**Human Resource Council**

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Luna's | Gainesville

Wednesday, February 14

**Marketing Committee**

12:00 p.m. | Chamber

Thursday, February 15

**Chamber Executive Committee**

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Chamber

Thursday, February 15

**Business EXPO 2018**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Business Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Business Expo

Gainesville Civic Center

Thursday, February 15

**A Taste of Gainesville at Business**

**After Hours (Business EXPO)**

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

Friday, February 16

**Membership Drive Meeting**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Friday, February 16

**Arbor Day Celebration**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville

Tuesday, February 20

**South Hall Business Coalition**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

King's Hawaiian | Oakwood

Tuesday, February 20

**Vision 2030 Board of Directors**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, February 21

**Issues Committee**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, February 21

**Lunch 'n Learn**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Avenues of Life Counseling

439 Green Street | Gainesville

Thursday, February 22

**Chamber Board of Directors**

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gainesville Civic Center

Friday, February 23

**WomenSource Power Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, February 28

**Network Over Coffee**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Papa Jack's Country Kitchen | Buford

Wednesday, February 28

**Healthy Hall Awards Luncheon**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Brenau Downtown Center

## MARCH 2018

Thursday, March 8

**Transportation Forum**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

University of North Georgia | Gville

Wednesday, March 21

**Job Fair**

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

Gainesville Civic Center

Thursday, March 22

**Chamber Chase 5K**

6:00 p.m. | Riverside Military Academy

2/16/18

## Upcoming Chamber Events

Tuesday, February 13  
**Small Business Seminar**  
 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, February 14  
**Network Over Coffee**  
 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
 Atlanta Bread Company | Gville

Thursday, February 15  
**Business Expo 2018**  
 11:30 a.m. Business Lunch  
 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Business Expo  
 \* Gainesville Civic Center

Thursday, February 15  
**Business After Hours**  
 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 \* Gainesville Civic Center

Tuesday, February 20  
**South Hall Business Coalition**  
 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
 King's Hawaiian | Oakwood

Wednesday, February 21  
**Lunch 'n Learn**  
 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 Avenues of Life Counseling | Gville

Thursday, February 22  
**Chamber Board of Directors**  
 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 \* Gainesville Civic Center

Wednesday, February 28  
**Network Over Coffee**  
 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
 Papa Jack's | Buford

Wednesday, February 28  
**Healthy Hall Awards Luncheon**  
 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
 Brenau Downtown Center

2/16/18

# Job Fair 2018

## Wednesday, March 21

10 am - 2 pm

Gainesville Civic Center  
 830 Green Street in Gainesville

*Share Information About Your Company*  
*Recruit Qualified Job Applicants*  
*Meet Hundreds of Job Seekers*

**Great Sponsorships Available!**

The Chamber's Job Fair, presented by **Express Employment Professionals**, provides the perfect forum for companies hiring to recruit new employees. Meet hundreds of job candidates face-to-face. **The event is free and open to the public.** Employer Booths: \$300 (\$345/electricity); \$200 Non-Profits (\$245/electricity). Reserve your exhibit space NOW! Details: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: [alewis@ghcc.com](mailto:alewis@ghcc.com). Online: [GreaterHallChamber.com/events](http://GreaterHallChamber.com/events)

**Express**  
 EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

2/16/18

**Thursday, February 15**

1-6pm | Gainesville Civic Center

**Business  
EXPO**

 **2018**

- Over 60 Exhibitors
- Networking
- Leads Development
- Taste of Gainesville
- Door Prizes & Drawings
- Business EXPO is FREE
- Open to the Public

**No Entry Fee & Open to the Public**

11:30 am - 1:00 pm – **Business Luncheon** (Reservations Required)

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm – **Business EXPO** (No Entry Fee)

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm – **A Taste of Gainesville** (\$5)

The **Small Business Luncheon** featuring **Bob Swoszowski**, *owner and operator of McDonald's of Northeast Georgia*, kicks off **Business Expo 2018** on Thursday, February 15 followed by 60+ exhibitors! Several restaurants will be serving menu items at an expanded **Taste of Gainesville** at **Business After Hours**. Participating restaurants:

2 Dog Restaurant | Fajitas Mexican Restaurant  
Gainesville Seafood Market | Amici Gainesville  
Chicken Salad Chick | Firehouse Subs | Panera Bread  
Mountain Fresh Creamery | Kebab & Curry Buffet

**Business Expo Exhibit Info & Details: 770-532-6206**

2/16/18

**Business After Hours  
A Taste of Gainesville  
Thursday, February 15**

**4:00-6:00 pm at the Business Expo**

*Featuring Local Restaurants • Networking*

• **Michele Piucci** joined **Peach State Bank & Trust** as Senior Vice President and Deposit Operations Manager, specializing in business development and corporate cash management. A veteran banker and Gainesville native, Michele most recently served as VP of treasury management and business development at Chattahoochee Bank of Georgia. Active in the Chamber and community, she is a board member and former chief volunteer officer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier. [peachstatebank.com](http://peachstatebank.com)

• Founded in 1818, Hall County Government is kicking off its Bicentennial Year with a **2018 Bicentennial calendar**, produced in partnership with Lake Lanier CVB, University of North Georgia and The Times. Calendars are free and available at the reception desk on the 1st floor of the Hall County Government Center at 2875 Browns Bridge Road in Gainesville. [hallcounty.org/bicentennial](http://hallcounty.org/bicentennial)

• **SCORE of Northeast Georgia**, a resource partner of the Small Business Administration, is hosting a **Small Business Expo** on March 23 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at Lanier College & Career Academy, 2723 Tumbling Creek Road in Gainesville. Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities available. Details: Charles White, 770-380-9727. Email: [charles.white@scorevolunteer.org](mailto:charles.white@scorevolunteer.org)

• **Gainesville Theatre Alliance's** February Festival of Theatre includes exciting productions of the award winning Avenue Q (Feb 13-24) and Sir Terry Pratchett's Monstrous Regiment (Feb 16-24). The Alliance is a collaboration of the University of North Georgia, Brenau University and theatre professionals. [gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org](http://gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org)

• **Longstreet Clinic**, with over 200 providers, 19 specialties and nine locations, welcomes **Mark Wilson, MD**, to its Pediatrics practice, and **Jessica Kobleur, MD**, to its Pediatric Inpatient Service in Gainesville. Dr. Wilson sees patients at the Baldwin office. Dr. Kobleur treats pediatric patients who are hospitalized at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. [longstreetclinic.com](http://longstreetclinic.com)

• The Chamber's **Annual Job Fair** presented by **Express Employment Professionals** is **Wednesday, March 21** from 10 am - 2 pm at the Gainesville Civic Center. **Job Seekers** will meet 60+ employers and hiring managers face-to-face and complete job applications on site. **Open to the public and no admission fee.** Details: Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: [alewis@ghcc.com](mailto:alewis@ghcc.com)

• **Agribusiness Recognition Awards** will be presented at the Annual Agribusiness Breakfast on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30 a.m. at the North Hall Community Center. The breakfast, held in conjunction with National Ag Day, is open to the public and presented by **Jackson EMC**. Nominations for awards are now being accepted: **Friend of Agribusiness, Outstanding Agribusiness, Farmer of the Year and Ag Hall of Fame**. The award nomination deadline is March 2. Details and Reservations: Hall County Cooperative Extension, 770-535-8293.

• **Hall County Farm Bureau (HCFB)** received the Georgia Farm Bureau's (GFB) McKemie Award (large membership division), the highest honor awarded to a county in recognition of its efforts to promote agriculture in its local community. The HCFB also received the GFB's Outstanding Young Farmer Committee Award, chaired by Chamber Board Member **Caroline Lewallen** of **Jaemor Farms**. Formed in 1937 by 50 farmers, the GFB continues its strong grassroots network as a united voice in the legislative arena, promoting farm markets and providing leadership to Georgia's agricultural community. [gfb.org](http://gfb.org)

• There's still time to nominate your favorite healthcare professional for a **Healthy Hall Award of Excellence**. Awards will be presented in over a dozen categories at the awards luncheon on February 28. Nominations online: [SurveyMonkey.com/r/HealthyHallAwards](http://SurveyMonkey.com/r/HealthyHallAwards) Nomination deadline is Friday, February 9. Amanda Lewis, 770-532-6206 x 111. Email: [alewis@ghcc.com](mailto:alewis@ghcc.com)

• The **40th Annual Quinlan Gala Fine Art Auction** is Saturday, March 3 featuring the highest caliber original art work by local, regional and national talents including Jill and Patrick McGannon. \$125 per person for Gala and Preview Night (March 1). Proceeds fund Quinlan programming, classes, exhibitions and community outreach. 770-536-2575. [Quinlan.ArtsCenter.org](http://Quinlan.ArtsCenter.org)

• **Château Élan Winery & Resort** in Braselton has been acquired by Wheelock Street Capital, and the real estate developer will invest over \$20 million to renovate the resort's 394 guest rooms, world-class spa, award winning winery and golf clubhouse. HEI Hotels & Resorts will manage operations including seven restaurants, 40,000 sf of meeting space and the destination spa. The 45-holes of championship golf is managed by Troon Golf. [ChateauElan.com](http://ChateauElan.com)

2/16/18

2-6-18



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

A small group gathers Monday at the Lake Lanier Olympic Park for a brief award ceremony as the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission receives a 2017 National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Award for its work with the Lake Lanier Olympic Park project.

# Commission recognized for innovation in renovating Lake Lanier Olympic Park

BY JEFF GILL

[jgill@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:jgill@gainesvilletimes.com)

A local agency has gotten national attention for its work renovating Lake Lanier Olympic Park.

In netting a \$300,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Gainesville-based Georgia Mountains Regional Commission received a 2017 National Association of Development Organizations Innovation Award.

GMRC officials presented the award Monday to venue manager Robyn Lynch during a brief ceremony at the park's 1996 Olympic Tower.



Feldman



Lynch

Heather Feldman, GMRC executive director, said the national association looks to recognize projects "that are out of the box, not traditional."

"Not everybody in the United States can say they have this great asset that's out here," she said. "It's just a great project all around," Feldman added, also noting the involvement of Gainesville, Hall County and the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. "The impact of this venue is far-reaching."

GMRC's application was one of 62 projects nationwide recognized by the national group, she said.

"This is a prime example of how partnerships should work," said Daniel Martin, GMRC's economic development director.

"We appreciate the partnership," Lynch said. "This is not the last time we're going to work together."

The \$300,000 was spent toward a handicapped-accessible ramp and improvements to the tower and a service building, said James Watson, assistant venue manager. The park has other improvements planned, including renovations to the boathouse and public restrooms. "Right now, we're in the process of getting (Army Corps of Engineers) approval for our master plan," Lynch said.

# Owner of area McDonald's to speak at Business Expo

BY JEFF GILL  
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Bob Swoszowski, known for dotting the area's landscape with McDonald's restaurants, will share his thoughts on success to kick off next week's Business Expo 2018, set for Thursday, Feb. 15 — and they don't just relate to making money.

One of the keys is philanthropy, he said in an interview Wednesday.

"It's not just giving away money, but it's also about your time and skills," Swoszowski said. "It helps you be more successful in your heart, not just your wallet."

He also talked about looking toward the future.

"If you've got the right goals, work is fun," Swoszowski said. "And it should be fun."

The owner/operator of 13 McDonald's in Northeast Georgia is set to speak during a reservations-only luncheon before the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Expo, taking place 1-6 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St.



Swoszowski

The expo, billed by the chamber as the largest trade show in Northeast Georgia, "highlights the many great products and services available in Greater Hall County," an event flyer states.

The event will feature some 60-plus businesses setting up tables in the civic center, door prizes, drawings and giveaways. Also, a shuttle service will be available, taking people from the parking lot to the center.

A Business After Hours, "Taste of Gainesville," is set for 4-6 p.m. featuring several area restaurants serving menu items, according to the chamber. There is no admission fee.

The event "is great to particularly spotlight small businesses, and what a variety they have," said Kit Dunlap, chamber president and CEO. "We're thrilled."

## Business Expo 2018

**What:** Annual trade show sponsored by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce

**When:** 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15; an 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. luncheon is by reservation only

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

**Admission:** Free; luncheon tickets are \$15, chamber members, and \$25, non-members

**More info:** 770-532-6206 or ghcc.com

2/18/18

Gainesville Parks and Recreation Presents

18th Annual

**Daddy Daughter Dances**

**WINTER BALL**



DINNER AND DANCING  
GAINESVILLE CIVIC CENTER BALLROOM

|               |             |             |               |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Grades 6 & Up | Grades 4-5  | Grades 2-3  | Grades PreK-1 |
| FEBRUARY 20   | FEBRUARY 21 | FEBRUARY 22 | FEBRUARY 23   |
| 6:00-8:30pm   | 6:00-8:30pm | 6:00-8:30pm | 6:00-8:30pm   |

**City Resident Fee:** \$50/per couple  
\$17.50 Additional Sibling Discount

**Non Resident Fee:** \$60/per couple  
\$21.50 Additional Sibling Discount

**No Walk-Ins Accepted on Day of Event.**

**Registration Deadline:**  
February 16, 2018 by 5pm

**Late Fee:** \$15 per couple after 5pm  
on February 16 if space is available

**770.531.2680**

**[www.gainesville.org/recreation](http://www.gainesville.org/recreation)**

2/18/18

# Kings & princesses can cut a rug

Fathers will have the chance to take their daughters out for a special night at upcoming dances in the Gainesville area. Gainesville Parks and Recreation, J.A. Walters Family YMCA and Blackshear Place Library will all host daddy-daughter dances this year.

*Amber Tyner*

## Gainesville Parks and Recreation dances

**When:** 6-8:30 p.m. Feb. 20 for grades six and above; Feb. 21 for fourth- and fifth-graders; Feb. 22 for second- and third-graders; and Feb. 23 for pre-K through first grade

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

**How much:** \$50 per couple and \$17.50 per additional sibling for city residents; \$60 per couple and \$21.50 per additional sibling for non-residents; late fee of \$15 per couple after Feb. 16, if space is available

**More info:** [www.gainesville.org/special-events](http://www.gainesville.org/special-events)

Gainesville Parks and Recreation will host its 18th annual Daddy Daughter Dances on four different nights, depending on girls' grade levels.

"We have added an extra night in hopes of being able to serve more people," said Julie Butler Colombini, marketing and communications manager at Gainesville Parks and Recreation.

This year, the theme for the dance is "Winter Ball."

"We always try to tie it into something that girls of all ages would get excited about," Colombini said. "It's such an event where everyone loves to dress up like princesses in their finest clothes."

She said the event always appeals to older girls as much as it does to the younger ones.

"We have girls who are out of college and come back with their dads," she said. "It's such a tradition for them as a family."

Along with music and food, the night will include photography and raffles.

"It's mostly dinner and dancing, and they dance a lot," Colombini said. "They can pay to have a professional photograph made, but we're also going to have a photo booth."

As for the raffles, the items will be different each night but should appeal to the girls.

"Everything from stuffed animals to jewelry to makeup to just toys (and) games," she said. "Anything the girls really, really want to have, depending on their age."

Colombini said the event fills up quickly, and she recommends parents register as soon as possible.

"We have anywhere up to, I would say, average 300 people a night," she said. "It's very important that parents call and get in."

Attendees must register by 5 p.m. Feb. 16. There will be a late fee of \$15 per couple, if space is available, but no walk-ins will be accepted the day of the event.

"If they come once, they will come back every year," Colombini said. "It's just a great way to create a special memory and bond between a father and daughter that will last them for a lifetime."

Register online at [www.gainesville.org/online-registration](http://www.gainesville.org/online-registration) or by visiting the Gainesville Parks and Recreation office at the Gainesville Civic Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2/8/18



Times file photo

Isabella Constant dances at the 2017 Gainesville Parks & Recreation Daddy Daughter Dance at the Gainesville Civic Center.



Times file photo

Lexi Cole dances with her father, Daniel, at the 2017 Gainesville Parks & Recreation Daddy Daughter Dance at the Gainesville Civic Center.

2/8/18



Times file photo

The Gainesville Parks & Recreation Daddy Daughter Dance is a chance for girls to dress up and fathers to spend quality time with their daughters.

2/8/18

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# Business EXPO

2018

## Thursday, February 15

1:00 - 6:00 pm • Gainesville Civic Center

### Drawings! Giveaways!

- Convenient Shuttle Service
- No Admission Fee to Expo
- B2B Networking
- A Taste of Gainesville
- 60+ Exciting Exhibits
- Fun, Food & Drink
- Open to the Public



No admission fee to Business Expo. Free, convenient shuttle service! 1-6pm



A Taste of Gainesville with menu samples! 4-6pm



Outstanding networking with over 60 exhibitors at the Business Expo! 1-6pm



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Gainesville Civic Center



**- Free and Open to the Public -**

### Exhibitors

**AccessWDUN**  
2 Dog Restaurant  
Aerocom Systems, Inc.  
**Alliant Health Plans**  
Associated Credit Union  
Atlanta Botanical Gardens Gainesville  
Avita Community Partners  
BGW Dental Group  
Caldwell Electrical Contractors  
Caliber Collision  
Chicopee Woods Golf Course  
Citizens Pharmacy  
Cook's Pest Control  
Dave and Busters  
**Delta Community Credit Union**  
Department of Driver Services  
Donna Tanksley Agency /Nationwide  
Gainesville Mechanical, Inc.  
Georgia Mountain Food Bank  
Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce  
Guilford Immediate Care  
Firehouse Subs

Hayes Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Gville  
**Highland Mountain Beverage**  
**Homestar Financial**  
Humane Society of Northeast Georgia  
ITN Lanier  
**J. Geyer Advertising**  
Just People, Inc.  
Key Storage  
Kimbrough Law  
Kipper Tool Company  
Lake Lanier Club Apartments  
Lanier HVAC  
Lanier Islands  
Lanier Technical College  
Lanier Tent Rental  
Leaders of Lanier  
Liberty National  
**Marquee Tents and Rents**  
MedLink Georgia  
MegaPrint and Signs  
**Millie's Drapery & Decorating, Inc.**  
Milton Martin Honda

Mobile Fleet Solutions  
Murray Plastics, Inc.  
Next Star Communications  
Oakwood Occasions  
Ranger MFG  
Rehabilitation Industries of NE GA  
Royal Lakes Family Dental  
SCORE  
**Signs By Tomorrow**  
Skyline Contracting, LLC  
Smitty's Cigar & Tobacco  
**Spectrum Enterprise**  
Tammy Lunsford Farmers Agency  
The Arts Council, Inc.  
The Louver Shop  
The Spa on Green Street  
**The Times**  
Twin Lakes Recovery Center  
UGA Small Business Development Cnt  
University of North Georgia  
Watkins Total Healthcare

# Business EXPO 2018

The Largest Trade Show in Northeast Georgia highlighting the many great products and services available in Greater Hall County!

Join Chamber members and friends at **A Taste of Gainesville and Business After Hours** at the Business EXPO from 4-6pm! We'll gather for great food, drink and networking. \$5 Entry Fee.

Participating restaurants include:

2 Dog Restaurant  
Amici Gainesville  
Chicken Salad Chick  
Fajitas Mexican Restaurant  
Firehouse Subs  
Gainesville Seafood Market  
Kebab & Curry Buffet  
Mountain Fresh Creamery  
Panera Bread



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2/13/18

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### Exhibitors

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>AccessWDUN</b><br/>2 Dog Restaurant<br/>Aerocom Systems, Inc.<br/><b>Alliant Health Plans</b><br/>Associated Credit Union<br/>Atlanta Botanical Gardens Gainesville<br/>Avita Community Partners<br/>BGW Dental Group<br/>Caldwell Electrical Contractors<br/>Caliber Collision<br/>Chicopee Woods Golf Course<br/>Citizens Pharmacy<br/>Cook's Pest Control<br/>Dave and Busters<br/><b>Delta Community Credit Union</b><br/>Department of Driver Services<br/>Donna Tanksley Agency /Nationwide<br/>Gainesville Mechanical, Inc.<br/>Georgia Mountain Food Bank<br/>Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce<br/>Guilford Immediate Care<br/>Firehouse Subs</p> | <p>Hayes Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Gville<br/><b>Highland Mountain Beverage</b><br/><b>Homestar Financial</b><br/>Humane Society of Northeast Georgia<br/>ITN Lanier<br/><b>J. Geyer Advertising</b><br/>Just People, Inc.<br/>Key Storage<br/>Kimbrough Law<br/>Kipper Tool Company<br/>Lake Lanier Club Apartments<br/>Lanier HVAC<br/>Lanier Islands<br/>Lanier Technical College<br/>Lanier Tent Rental<br/>Leaders of Lanier<br/>Liberty National<br/><b>Marquee Tents and Rents</b><br/>MedLink Georgia<br/>MegaPrint and Signs<br/><b>Millie's Drapery &amp; Decorating, Inc.</b><br/><b>Milton Martin Honda</b></p> | <p>Mobile Fleet Solutions<br/>Murray Plastics, Inc.<br/>Next Star Communications<br/>Oakwood Occasions<br/>Ranger MFG<br/>Rehabilitation Industries of NE GA<br/>Royal Lakes Family Dental<br/>SCORE<br/><b>Signs By Tomorrow</b><br/>Skyline Contracting, LLC<br/>Smitty's Cigar &amp; Tobacco<br/><b>Spectrum Enterprise</b><br/>Tammy Lunsford Farmers Agency<br/>The Arts Council, Inc.<br/>The Louver Shop<br/>The Spa on Green Street<br/><b>The Times</b><br/>Twin Lakes Recovery Center<br/>UGA Small Business Development Cnt<br/>University of North Georgia<br/>Watkins Total Healthcare</p> |
|---|---|---|

# Business EXPO

## 2018

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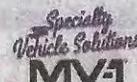
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- Chicken Salad Chick
- Fajitas Mexican Restaurant
- Firehouse Subs
- Gainesville Seafood Market
- Kebab & Curry Buffet
- Mountain Fresh Creamery
- Panera Bread



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Networking • A Taste of Gainesville • Fun, Food & Drink

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2/15/18

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# Annual chamber expo gives businesses chance to show off their wares

**BY JEFF GILL**

[jgill@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:jgill@gainesvilletimes.com)

Phil Dennis wasn't selling or pushing any products, but he still hoped to get a message out Thursday, Feb. 15, at the annual Business Expo at the Gainesville Civic Center.

"We have a need, and here is the manpower to help solve that need," he said, waving his hand at the mass of people filling the center's ballroom.

Dennis, community outreach coordinator for the Georgia Mountain Food Bank

off Calvary Industrial Drive in southeast Hall, said he was "just trying to put a face" on the agency's efforts to address hunger in the community.

The food bank was one of 60-plus organizations, groups and businesses at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce free event, talking to potential customers, showing off products and giving away pens and candy.

"We're here also to educate folks," said Bre Simmons, elder care coordinator for Kimbrough Law.

She said "there's a lot of things people don't know" about the firm's areas of practice, including tax and estate planning, asset protection and long-term care financing.

The firm has offices in Gainesville and Athens.

Aaron Goebel, sales manager for Aerocom Systems in Flowery Branch, talked about his company's efforts to reach more local customers for Aerocom's pneumatic tube systems.

Home Depot, the company's

■ Please see EXPO, 5A



Phil Dennis, of the Georgia Mountain Food Bank, talks Thursday, Feb. 15, with Amy Booth at the Gainesville Civic Center during the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce annual Business Expo.

**SCOTT ROGERS**  
The Times

2/16/18