

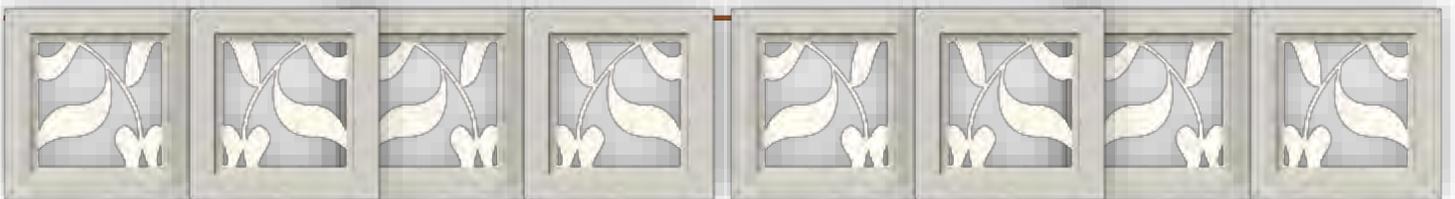
# IN THE NEWS

*November 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





# 27th Annual Marketplace



## Festive Holiday Shopping!



### PREVIEW PARTY TONIGHT! NOVEMBER 1

#### Gainesville Civic Center

benefiting Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County

Presented by Premier Sponsors:



The Medical Center Auxiliary &



WILLIS INVESTMENT COUNSEL

*Principled Investing*

**PREVIEW PARTY TONIGHT! 6:30 - 9:30 P.M. (\$50 Tickets)**

General Admission (Tickets \$5):

Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. • Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Shop more than 80 merchants from six states to benefit a worthwhile cause. To purchase tickets or for more information, [visit nghs.com/marketplace](http://visitnghs.com/marketplace), or call 770-219-1830.

27th Annual Marketplace Tri-Chairs: Katie Crumley, Jenny Floyd & Morgan Wood

#### Gold Sponsors:



Meg & Allen Nivens



*Walters Management*

#### Silver Sponsors:



Morgan & Trey Wood

11/1/18 - 11/3/18



**JOIN US!**

**MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 5**

**AT GAINESVILLE CIVIC CENTER**  
830 GREEN ST NE , GAINESVILLE, GA 30501

**DROP IN 4 PM - 6 PM  
TO MEET THE BEST OF  
HALL 2019 NOMINEES!**

**LOTS OF FUN AND PRIZES!**

**BestOfHallCounty.com**

**The Times**  
gainesville**times.com**

# Ways to celebrate Veterans Day

BY JEFF GILL

jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Area residents can attend both ceremonies and celebrations honoring veterans over the next couple of week.

Here's a look at events taking place through the area:

## Gainesville to host first veterans appreciation event

The Gainesville's first-ever Veterans Appreciation Festival is set for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, in Roosevelt Square, near the downtown square.

The free event, sponsored by the city and veterans groups, will feature patriotic music, a concert by the Believers Band, vendors, face painting, bouncy house and booths.

Attendees also can buy food and drinks from Sherry's Bait and Barbeque, Atlas Pizza and Kona Ice.

## Annual Veterans Day event at Lakewood Baptist Church

One of the more traditional local events is the American Legion Paul E. Bolding Post 7's Veterans Day ceremony, held every Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., the customary time that Veterans Day is officially observed.

The ceremony will take place at Lakewood Baptist Church, 2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, which involves somber wreath layings recognizing war veterans.

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, R-Gainesville, will be the featured speaker. The Chestee High School band in northwest Hall County and Oakwood-based Maranatha Christian Academy's chorus are scheduled to perform.

## Rock Creek Veterans Park ceremony planned

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 772 is sponsoring a ceremony at Rock Creek Veterans Park at 223 Northside Drive, Gainesville.

The event, taking place at 9 a.m. Nov. 12, will feature retired Marine Lt. Col. Pat Zaudtke.

The park features war memorials, benches and walkways dotting its landscape. It also features an amphitheater

## Veterans Events

### Gainesville Veterans Appreciation Festival

**When:** Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3

**Where:** Roosevelt Square, near the downtown square

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** Tom Reesman, reesmanta@yahoo.com, 678-943-6108

### University of North Georgia, Veterans Day ceremony

**When:** 3 p.m. Nov. 9

**Where:** Memorial Hall Gym, Dahlonega campus

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** ung.edu

### Lumpkin County Veterans Day parade

**When:** 11 a.m. Nov. 10

**Where:** Lumpkin County Veterans Day parade

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** ung.edu

### 2nd annual Veterans Appreciation Weekend Festival

**When:** Nov. 10-11

**Where:** Dahlonega

**Cost:** Ride for Rangers, \$40 registration fee; park activities, \$10 donation

**More info:** veteransappreciationday.org

and has served as the site for previous veterans ceremonies that day.

## Veterans Appreciation Weekend set in Dahlonega

The 2nd annual Veterans Appreciation Weekend Festival is set for Nov. 10-11 in Dahlonega.

The event features foot and bicycle races, including the Run for Rangers, and a music festival, as well as activities for kids. A golf tournament that had been planned is now postponed until April 2019.

The 64-mile bicycle Ride for Rangers has a \$40 registration fee. A \$10 donation is requested for park activities, including a kids play area and vendors, set for 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 11 at Hancock Park off Hawkins Street.

Proceeds from events requiring a fee will go to veterans and their families. All events are free for veterans.

The event also will feature a parade, taking place at 10 a.m. Nov. 10. The music festival is set for 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

### American Legion Post 7 Veterans Day ceremony

**When:** 11 a.m. Nov. 11

**Where:** Lakewood Baptist Church, 2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** Dave Dellinger, 770-718-7676

### Rock Creek Veterans Park ceremony

**When:** 9 a.m. Nov. 12

**Where:** Rock Creek Veterans Park, 223 Northside Drive, Gainesville

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** Dave Dellinger, 770-718-7676

### University of North Georgia, National Roll Call

**When:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 12

**Where:** Gainesville campus.

**Cost:** Free

**More info:** ung.edu

## UNG planning roll call, Veterans Day observances

University of North Georgia is planning to observe Veterans Day in three events.

The school will participate in the National Roll Call from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Gainesville campus.

The event, taking place on the patio in front of the Student Center, will involve students, faculty and staff reciting the names of service members from Georgia killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Also, UNG's Corps of Cadets are set to host Veterans Day ceremonies at 3 p.m. Nov. 9 in Memorial Hall Gym at the Dahlonega campus and at the Lumpkin County Veterans Day parade at 11 a.m. Nov. 10.

The school's Golden Eagle Band will perform at the Dahlonega campus observance.

11-2-18



# 27th Annual Marketplace



## Festive Holiday Shopping!



# LAST DAY TO SHOP! November 3

Gainesville Civic Center  
benefiting Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County

Presented by Premier Sponsors:



The Medical Center Auxiliary &



WILLIS INVESTMENT COUNSEL  
*Principled Investing*

General Admission (Tickets \$5):

November 3, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Shop more than 80 merchants from six states to benefit a worthwhile cause. To purchase tickets or for more information, [visit nghs.com/marketplace](http://visitnghs.com/marketplace), or call 770-219-1830.

27th Annual Marketplace Tri-Chairs: Katie Crumley, Jenny Floyd, Morgan Wood

Gold Sponsors:



WILHEIT PACKAGING

Meg & Allen Nivens



Walters Management

Silver Sponsors:



MAGNET



W. B. WILSON



THE CRYSTAL PLATE

Morgan & Trey Wood

11-3-18



[BestOfHallCounty.com](http://BestOfHallCounty.com)

**The Times**  
[gainesvilletimes.com](http://gainesvilletimes.com)

# TODAY

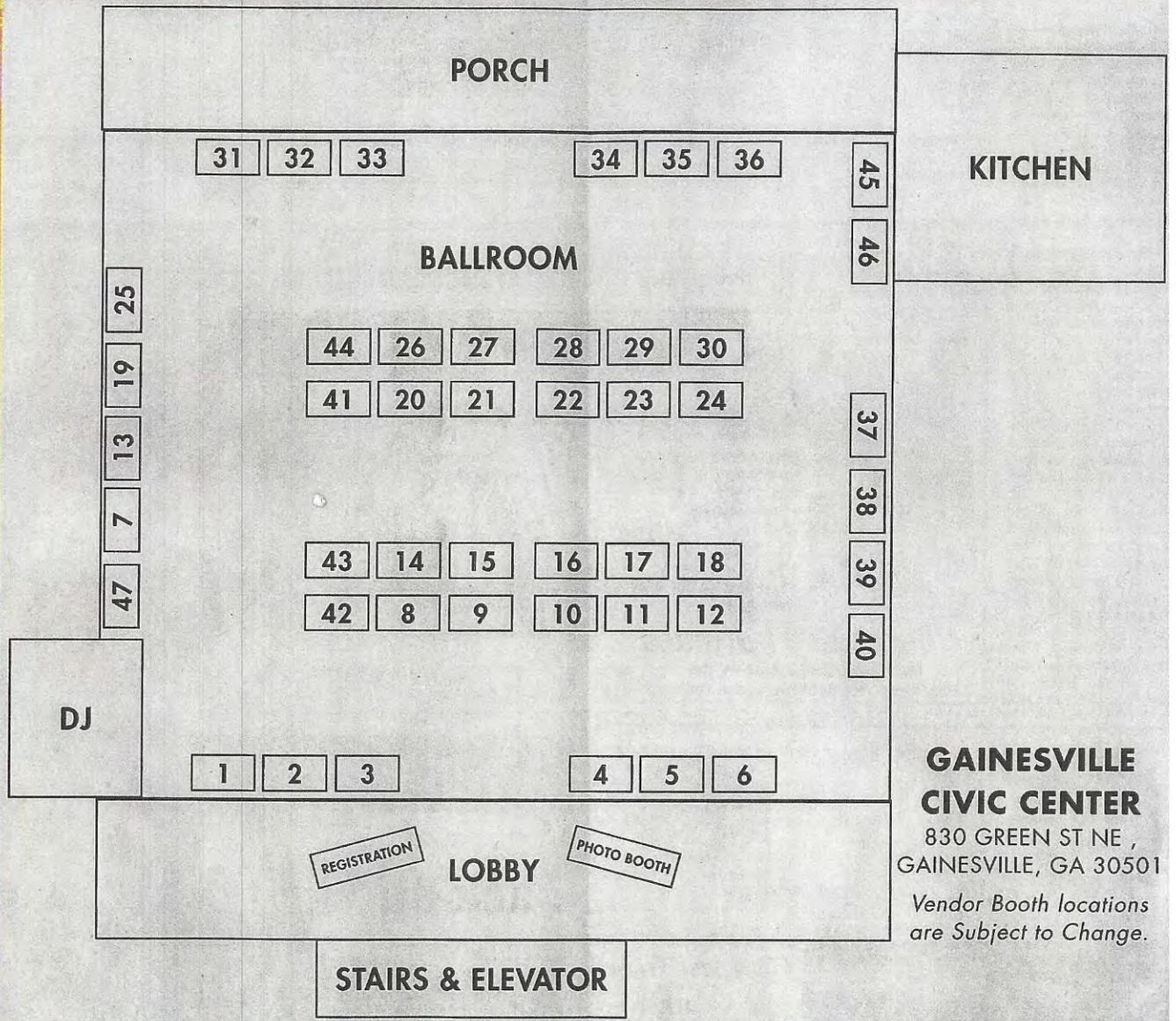
**AT GAINESVILLE CIVIC CENTER**  
830 GREEN ST NE , GAINESVILLE, GA 30501

**4 PM - 6 PM**  
**MEET THE BEST OF HALL**  
**2019 NOMINEES!**

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**

## VENDORS

1. Lanier HVAC
2. Moores Wealth Management
3. Scott's Downtown
4. A Helping Hand
5. Judy Paul  
*Keller Williams Lanier Partners*
6. Holistique Med Spa and Wellness
7. Healing Art Spa
8. Little and Davenport
9. Liberty Utilities
10. Gainesville Parks and Rec
11. Georgia Eye Associates
12. Formula Green
13. The Insurance Source
14. Dianne Hicks  
*Keller Williams Lanier Partners*
15. Manor Lake
16. Easy Out Bonding
17. Clean Machine Wash
18. Hometown Heating and Air
19. Gainesville Mechanical
20. BGW Dental
21. INK
22. American Southern Roofing
23. Holly's B & B
24. Auto Fitness
25. Shane's Ribshack
26. Caldwell Electric
27. The Men's Room Barber Shop
28. Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical
29. Millies Drapery
30. Princeton Salon
31. Megaprint
32. NEGA Diagnostic
33. McNeal and Co
34. Beverly Hills Massage
35. Southern Grace
36. Conditioned Air
37. Amici
38. Signs by Tomorrow
39. Watkins Total Health
40. Top Notch Garage
41. Limestone Personal Training
42. Thomas Weyrich DDS Pediatric Dentist
43. Top Notch Personnel
44. Interactive College of Technology
45. Lanier Tent Rental
46. Encore Elite Events
47. Keep Hall Beautiful
- DJ JB Jams



**GAINESVILLE CIVIC CENTER**  
 830 GREEN ST NE,  
 GAINESVILLE, GA 30501  
*Vendor Booth locations are Subject to Change.*

**LOTS OF FUN AND PRIZES!**

"We're a very athletic family," she added. "I feel that also helped guide me in

UNU

High school lifetime entertainment

11-5-18

# Best of Hall event today at civic center

BY JEFF GILL

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

For the first time, the public can meet face-to-face with businesses that have been nominated in The Times' annual Best of Hall competition.

An event featuring some 40 businesses has been set for 4-6 p.m. today at the Gainesville Civic Center, 830 Green St.

"This is a free event and a fun opportunity for Times readers and the general public to meet owners or principals of Hall County's finest businesses," said Leah Nelson, director of revenue for The Times.

Best of Hall is an annual readers' choice contest sponsored by The Times.

Voting started Oct. 29 and ends Nov. 30. Residents can vote once per category, per day at [bestofhallcounty.com](http://bestofhallcounty.com).

So far, voting has been brisk.

"We've got almost 35,000 votes as of (Wednesday, Oct. 31)," Nelson said. "The last competition, we had 51,000 votes total."

Winners will be announced at an event set for Jan. 31 at the civic center and announced in The Times.

Businesses that have been nominated are those that either are based or serve primarily in Hall County, Nelson said.

"The reason we do the (contest) is for engagement with readers and the general public, to let them get to know their local businesses and what they represent," she said.

## Best of Hall

**What:** Event showcasing businesses that have been nominated for annual readers' choice competition

**When:** 4-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5

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

**More info:** [bestofhallcounty.com](http://bestofhallcounty.com)

11-5-18

# NOVEMBER 2018

Tuesday, November 6

**Womens Source Power Breakfast**

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

Wednesday, November 7

**Healthcare Committee**

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

Thursday, November 8

**Farm City Breakfast**

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

North Hall Community Park

Thursday, November 8

**Chamber Executive Committee**

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

Friday, November 9

**Economic Development Council**

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

Tuesday, November 13

**Small Business Seminar**

7:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Chamber

Tuesday, November 13

**Industry Appreciation Luncheon**

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

Chattahoochee Country Club  
3000 Club Drive | Gainesville

Tuesday, November 13

**Vision 2030 Board of Directors**

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

Tuesday, November 13

**Ambassador Council**

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

2 Dog Cafe | Gainesville

Wednesday, November 14

**Network Over Coffee**

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

Midland Station  
Downtown Gainesville

Wednesday, November 14

**Human Resource Council**

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

Luna's | Downtown Gainesville

Wednesday, November 14

**Lunch 'n Learn**

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

United Way of Hall County

Thursday, November 15

**South Hall Business Coalition**

at Sterling on the Lake

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

7005 Lake Sterling Boulevard  
Flowery Branch



Thursday, November 15

**Chamber Board of Directors**

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

Gainesville Civic Center

Thursday, November 15

**Main Street Gainesville Jingle Mingle**

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

Square in Downtown Gainesville

Friday, November 16

**Membership Meeting**

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Chamber

Wednesday, November 21

**Issues Committee**

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

*NOTE: The Chamber Office is Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays: Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23.*

Tuesday, November 27

**Business After Hours at the Business**

**Incubator at Brenau University**

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

999 Chestnut Street | Gainesville

Wednesday, November 28

**Network Over Coffee**

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

Edward Jones | Michael Lancaster  
5506 Main Street | Flowery Branch

## DECEMBER 2018

Tuesday, December 11

**Small Business Seminar**

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

Thursday, December 13

**Annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast**

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

NEW Lanier Technical College  
2535 Lanier Tech Drive | Gainesville

Get all the details and register for events online: [GreaterHallChamber.com](http://GreaterHallChamber.com)

11-6-18

# New rules will shape midtown

Efforts part of city's vision for area as a place of rebirth, new business center

**BY MEGAN REED**

mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

Midtown Gainesville is going through some changes.

On Oct. 16, the Gainesville City Council voted to buy the land on the southern end of the pedestrian bridge over Jesse Jewell Parkway for \$10 million, with the hopes of reselling

it to a developer so the so-called "bridge to nowhere" will have a purpose. The city is also working on recruiting a developer to bring life to the old Hall County Jail site on Main Street.

Proposed trails would wind through midtown to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Plans for a skate park at the intersection of Pine and High

Streets would also provide recreation opportunities.

And on Tuesday, the City Council approved an ordinance banning 31 uses in the city's Midtown Overlay Zone, including homeless shelters, crisis centers, coin laundry facilities and pawn shops. Existing

■ Please see **MIDTOWN, 4A**



Bradford Street is near the southern end of Gainesville's midtown area. Gainesville just banned more than 30 uses, including homeless shelters and crisis centers, in its midtown area although existing ones are allowed to stay.

**SCOTT ROGERS**  
The Times

11-11-18

# MIDTOWN

■ Continued from 1A

businesses or nonprofits that would be banned under the new rules are being grandfathered in and can stay.

These efforts are all part of Gainesville's vision for midtown as a place of rebirth and a new business center for the city.

"We're looking for some more housing, we'd like to see more retail there, even perhaps some more office space, perhaps a hotel," City Manager Bryan Lackey said.

The city's approximately 350-acre Midtown Overlay Zone is bordered by E.E. Butler Parkway, Jesse Jewell Parkway, Queen City Parkway and the railroad.

Some midtown business owners are looking forward to the redevelopment.

"I think it's changing to go a little more retail-oriented, which is good for people coming over from downtown as the square gets a little more crowded," Jason Everett, owner of the Gainesville Design Center, said.

Everett said he hopes that the buildings in midtown that are sitting vacant or falling into disrepair can get a second chance as new businesses.

"I'm hoping what will happen is the area will change a little bit and they'll fix places up a little bit more," he said.

Bob Tyner owns Townview Coin Laundry on Main Street. His laundromat will not be shut down because it was there before the rule was passed — it has been in its current spot since 1988 and was across the street before that since 1968.

"It's something that's got to be done, sooner or later, for the city to grow," Tyner said. "It seems that they're wanting to make everything upscale."

Tyner said "it's just progress."

"It's just like out on Thompson Bridge Road," he said. "Where Walmart is now, I used to have a laundry in there. The shopping center was sold to Walmart, so that put me out of business there."

Lifelong Gainesville resident Belinda Rucker, folding her laundry at Townview Friday morning, said she is looking forward to seeing empty buildings developed.

"I think it's a well-needed project. . . We need to do something with the loose land," she said.

J.R. Johnson, president of JOMCO Construction, said his company has taken part in the city's redevelopment by remodeling the inside and outside of their building since opening in midtown about two years ago.

Johnson said he wants to see quality affordable housing move in to midtown and businesses open up in buildings that are dilapidated now.

"I think it is ever slowly changing. The vision that the leaders in the city have is starting to play out a little bit," Johnson said. "I know for (co-



Photos by SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Bob Tyner, owner of Town View Coin Laundry, restocks the vending machine Friday, Nov. 9, at the longtime midtown Gainesville business.



Mollie Marlow, 92, stays busy working at Town View Coin Laundry in midtown Gainesville and enjoys staying active.



Autumn colors adorn Main Street in midtown Gainesville Friday, Nov. 9.

founder Wesley Owenby) and I we felt good about our business being downtown."

The regulations passed Tuesday allow for single-family homes and condominiums in midtown. But the rules ban several other uses city officials say don't match up with revitalization plans for the area, including homeless shelters, pawn shops, gas stations on lots smaller than 2 acres, and industrial uses that emit pollution or noise.

"Looking at the character of the area, the renovations, the redevelopment that goes into

that. . . There's already several of those businesses that exist, and we think there's enough of those existing there now," Lackey said.

The rule change comes about a month after the City Council unanimously passed bans on "urban camping," or living or sleeping in public spaces, and "aggressive solicitation."

City officials said the ordinances provide law enforcement with the tools they need to address complaints, and the focus would be on helping connect the homeless with resources, rather than issuing

citations. Opponents at an Oct. 2 public hearing said the ordinances criminalize homelessness and leave the homeless with nowhere to go.

Arturo Adame was one of the people who spoke out against the urban camping and solicitation ordinances Oct. 2. The new rules passed Tuesday "put the final nail in the coffin," he said.

"It's not a problem that should be swept under the rug and pushed to the side. . . This is just going to cause more problems and more heartache for the people who have the least among us," Adame said.

Banning new homeless shelters and crisis centers in midtown, where these services are concentrated in Gainesville, shortly after passing other ordinances affecting the homeless puts the homeless community in an even more difficult position, Adame said.

"It really just boils down to the optics and the business and the attraction of people and the attraction of money," he said.

Adame said he understands that officials want midtown to be a "gathering spot" where people can mingle and where local businesses can thrive. He is not opposed to that idea, but he worries that people in poverty will get pushed out of the area, he said.

"That would be fine, and I wouldn't have a problem with that, but who are you stepping on in order to make those plans?" he said.

New shelters, which the ordinance bans in the midtown overlay zone, are needed to meet the needs of the homeless population, Adame said.

Adame said the timing of the vote — the Council approved the ordinance on Election Day an hour before polls closed — prevented some from speaking against the rule change. Adame is the president of the Young Democrats of Hall County.

Lackey said the city will continue to work with nonprofits that serve the homeless, and new organizations can still be located outside of the midtown area.

"Gainesville is a big area. . . There's already several nonprofits in the area that help the homeless, and they will remain there," Lackey said. "We're not shutting them out. We're glad that they're there to help and partner with them."

GAINESVILLE

# Council to vote on new tax district, midtown park

BY MEGAN REED

mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

On Tuesday, the Gainesville City Council will vote on two plans for development — a land purchase for a small park on Davis Street and a new tax allocation district officials hope will spur retail development.

## Property acquisition on Davis Street

The Council will vote Tuesday on whether to purchase property at 506 and 508 Davis Street that could become a small city park along the Midtown Greenway.

The city has set aside \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$25,000 in parks and recreation funds for the purchase. An agreement has been reached with the property owner, a Gainesville resident.

The site, which is about a third of an acre, would be used for a park along the Midtown Greenway.

“One of the things that we think will add to the success of the Midtown Greenway is to continue to give people things to do along the greenway, reasons to keep walking,” Assistant City Manager Angela Sheppard said.

## Westside Tax Allocation District

The city hopes to establish a new tax allocation district covering Lakeshore Mall and several vacant lots and shopping centers, with the goal of bringing more retail options to the city's west side.

The Westside TAD would use funds from tax increases due to development to help pay for those improvements.

Boundaries for the TAD include Lakeshore Mall and several parcels on Shallowford Road, as well as stretches of Pearl Nix Parkway, Browns Bridge Road and Atlanta Highway. Property owners in the area could apply with the city to participate in the program.

On Tuesday, the council will vote on a redevelopment plan for the area and a resolution to create the district.

Gainesville City  
Council

**When:** 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 20

**Where:** Public Safety  
Complex, 701 Queen  
City Parkway

11-19-18

YOUTH FOOTBALL

# Local teams win North Georgia Championships



For The Times

Gainesville Parks and Recreation's U11 team, coached by John McGarvey, poses after defeating Stephens County 12-6 to win the North Georgia Youth Football Association's Super Bowl Championship.



For The Times

Gainesville Parks and Recreation's U10 team, coached by Todd Williams, poses after defeating Flowery Branch 19-6 to win the North Georgia Youth Football Association's Super Bowl Championship.



For The Times

Gainesville Parks and Recreation's U7 team, coached by Alex Murray, poses after defeating Stephens County 19-0 to win the North Georgia Youth Football Association's Super Bowl Championship.

# Organization honors Coach Jim O'Dell for key role in team success

BY LAYNE SALIBA  
lsaliba@gainesvilletimes.com

When Team USA won the Nations Cup at the 2018 ICF World Dragon Boat Championships back in September, local coach Jim O'Dell was ecstatic.

After all, he had been a key part in organizing the event that brought in teams from 14 countries to the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue and one of the people behind training the U.S. athletes. And following the event, at a volunteer appreciation dinner, Gainesville-Hall '96 presented O'Dell with a dragon boat of his own.

"It's so hard to put it into words, because when you volunteer to do stuff like that, you do it without regard for accolades, without regard for 'atta boys,'" said O'Dell, who served as the regional coach for the U.S. team. "You do it because of a passion. And to have something like that ... it means so much. And now I have another tool at the club to do more training in; it's just amazing."

Local paddlers who train with O'Dell made a world of difference at the championships earlier this year. Almost 30 members of Gainesville's Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club qualified for Team U.S.A. during the world championships. Of those, 15 were from Gainesville.

And to mark the coach's impact on the event and the team, his name printed on the side: "Coach Jim O'Dell."

He wasn't overly concerned about the name on the side of the boat or that it was donated in his honor, though. O'Dell said he doesn't like talking about himself that much.

He's grateful and appreciative for what the donation means, but he was just happy to have another dragon boat for the paddlers to practice in.

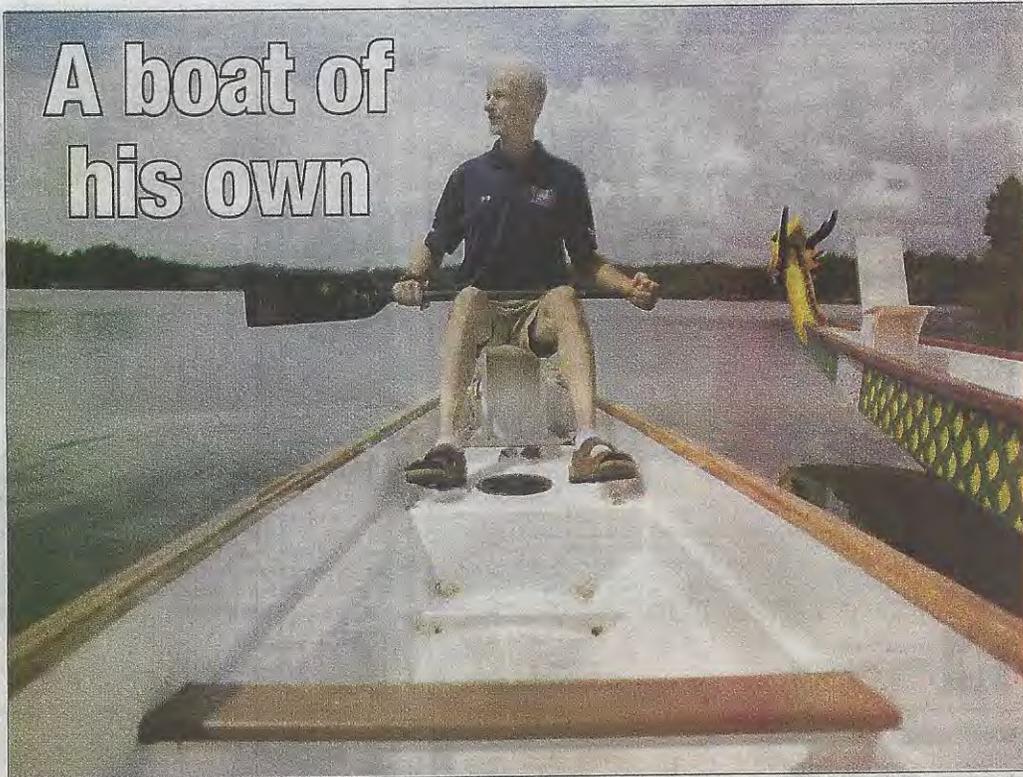
The boat came as a "total surprise" to O'Dell. He said it left him "speechless for a few seconds" when it was presented to him at the dinner. Most people there didn't know it was happening, but Jackie Hutton said it's something everyone agrees O'Dell deserves.

"It really shows the appreciation and respect that coach Jim deserves," said Hutton, office administrator with Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club. "It's nice to be able to recognize him for his hard work and dedication into the dragon boat program."

And the donation wasn't a small one — each dragon boat cost more than \$5,000.

"It just further exemplifies how everybody in the community feels about his contribution," Hutton said.

## A boat of his own



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Jim O'Dell, the high performance coach for the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, sits in a dragon boat on Thursday, Sept. 6. O'Dell has been a big part in building a prominent program at Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club since the early 2000s, and in November he was honored with a dragon boat donated in his name to LCKC.

**'It's so hard to put it into words, because when you volunteer to do stuff like that, you do it without regard for accolades, without regard for "atta boys."**

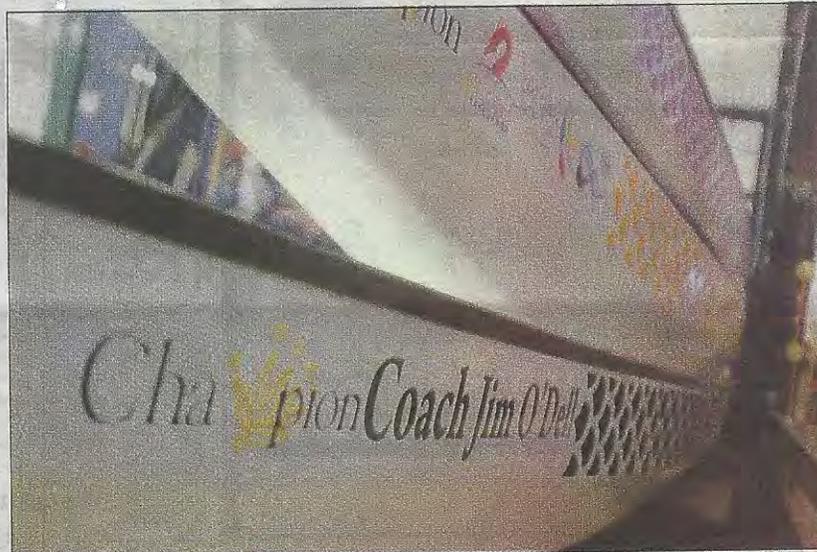
**Jim O'Dell**  
Regional coach, U.S. team

When the season gets underway again, O'Dell will get to see that boat out on the lake, gliding across the water as his paddlers work to bring home more medals and trophies. And for him, that will be a surreal feeling, or in his own words: "It's extremely humbling."

"I mean, it still chokes me up a little bit just thinking about it," O'Dell said.

"It's funny because some of my kids at the club, I told them a while back — somebody was having a memorial service there at the park — so I jokingly told the kids, 'When I die, I want you guys to find an old 10-foot boat, fill it up with combustibles, throw me out in the lake and somebody shoot an arrow, like a viking funeral.' And I said, 'Now I've got the boat.'"

He said he's received countless kind words from athletes and parents. But



NICK BOWMAN | The Times

One of the dragon boats used in the 2018 ICF World Dragon Boat Championships this year on Lake Lanier was donated to the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club in honor of its coach, Jim O'Dell.

again, that's not why he does what he does. He said that even though it sounds cliché, he has a passion for the sport and a passion for the athletes, so he shows up every day for them.

"You do it because you love it," O'Dell said. Anything that comes after that is just an added bonus.

"And if you volunteer like that, good things happen," O'Dell said. "And this is an amazing, good thing. And it's such an honor to be a part of such a great community."



The ICF Dragon Boat World Championships came to Lake Lanier in September, the first time it's ever taken place in the United States. The competition included more than 1,000 athletes from a dozen countries.

SCOTT ROGERS  
The Times

# Christmas celebration bigger than ever

A rush of cheer will be coming down Green Street on Sunday

DECEMBER 2, 2018

4:30-5:15 Parade  
5:00-7:00 Activities along Green Street  
7:00-7:15 Tree Lighting Ceremony

BY NICK BOWMAN  
nbowman@gainesvilletimes.com

Christmas on Green Street

Where: Downtown Gainesville  
When: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2  
How much: Free

Gainesville Newcomers Club  
Docents dressed in Victorian period costumes serve as hostesses at Historic Green Street houses.

751 First Baptist Church  
Family Christmas Program 6:30

635 The Spa on Green Street  
Open House & Refreshments  
Humane Society of Northeast GA

625 Collision Specialists  
Gainesville Exploration Academy  
5:15-5:45  
Riverbend Elementary 5:45-6:15

605 Kelly & Bell  
Alicats & More  
5:15-5:45

539 Whitmer & Law  
Gainesville High 5:15-5:45  
C.W. Davis Middle School 6-6:30  
Flowers Branch High 6:30-7

529 Hasty Pope Trial Lawyers  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

517 Mitchell-Shelby House  
Celebration Ringers  
Hand Bell Choir

427 Corso Law Center  
Open House  
Mariachi Band

411 Southern Realty  
Star Phillios 6:30-7

403 Inez Grant Gainesville Law  
Open House  
The Gentry Irish Band  
Face Painting

393 The Fudgery  
Fudge making & samples

345 The Times  
Kids' train rides  
Open house  
Photo booth  
Letters to Santa

311 Pinnacle Bank  
Food Truck Festival 3-7:30  
Rotary Tree Lighting 7:00  
Restrooms

830 Gainesville Civic Center  
Refreshments Carriage Rides  
Food Truck Jacobs Media/WOUN Radio  
Petting Zoo Restrooms

756 9th District Mediation Center  
Open House & Refreshments  
Centennial Elementary 5:15-5:45  
Chestnut Mountain Elementary 6-6:30  
Johnson High School 6:30-7

746 Winner Wellness Clinic  
Open House & Refreshments  
Dulcimer Club  
Face Painting

718 Jackson-Walters House  
Enota Elementary School 5:15-5:45  
Lakeview Academy 6-6:30

704 Mellow Mushroom  
Open for Dinner

624 Seasons Transport  
Open House & Refreshments

616 Blair C. Diaz, CPA, PC  
Gainesville Middle Chorus 5:45-6:15  
Riverside Military Acad. Chorus 6:15-6:45

514 Quinlan Visual Arts Center  
Holiday Craft Market 3-7  
Kids' Ornament Craft 5-6:30  
Lanier Hills Kids 5:30 & 6:15

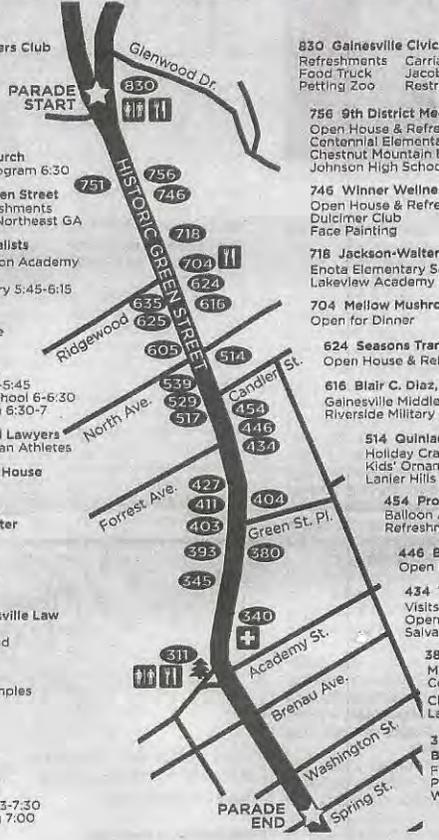
454 Protein Foods  
Balloon Artists  
Refreshments

446 Brightstone Transitions  
Open House & Refreshments

434 The Norton Agency  
Visits with Santa Claus  
Open House & Refreshments  
Salvation Army Band

380 W.L. Norton House  
Main Street Gainesville.  
Coupon Books 5:15-7  
Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter Day Saints 6-6:30

340 Jacobs Building of  
Brenau University  
First Aid  
Parade Contest Winners  
WBCX Brenau Radio



A decked-out Christmas on Green Street is coming to Gainesville this weekend, and this year's event could be the street's cheeriest ever.

A 40-car parade (plus marching bands, twirlers and — it almost goes without saying — miniature horses), nine food trucks, petting zoos, mariachi bands, dulcimer groups, fudge samples, carriage rides, train rides, choirs, face painting — Christmas on Green Street is going all out this year from the start of the 4:30 p.m. parade to the 7 p.m. Christmas tree lighting.

This Sunday's event is the first to be organized in part by Main Street Gainesville, the city's booster organization for the downtown core. Main Street Gainesville has expanded its focus in the past few months to the broader downtown and, now, the Green Street corridor.

For years Christmas on Green Street has been organized by members of the Hall County Historical Society. This year, the group and its committees worked with Main Street to get the event rolling.

And the organizers have really crammed in as much Christmas as they could this year: 27 properties along Green Street will have multiple events and attractions through the evening, including many live music acts and events for kids (see again: train and carriage rides, plus face painting and, at The Times, they can drop off their letters to Santa).

The parade includes 20 floats, 20 antique cars, the Riverside Military Academy, Atlanta Freedom Band, and Gainesville High

School marching bands, and one giant chicken (it's the city's float).

If you're wondering about those miniature horses, Mane Event Equine Therapy is bringing them. A solid slate of costumed performers will roam the streets during Christmas on Green Street. The Times has asked, but as of deadline it wasn't clear whether Gainesville's beloved storm troopers will be returning to the event this year.

Santa, of course, will be bringing up the rear aboard his traditional fire truck.

And dotted up and down Green Street will be 10 food trucks from North Georgia and Atlanta: Cousins Maine Lobster, the Patty Wagon, Habanero Grill, OBA! Brazilian Cuisine, Carnival Food Truck, Big C's Chicago Kitchen, South of Philly, Southern Crust, Repicci's Real Italian Ice and Sherry's Bait and Barbecue.

"Let me tell you, these people sold out last year," said Barbara Cole, who was put to the task of wrangling food trucks for the event. "They sold completely out."

Along with the food trucks, Mellow Mushroom will be open for dinner on Sunday and The Fudgery will — at long last — be offering samples of the company's fudge.

To wrap up the event, the Christmas tree at the corner of Green and Academy streets — or is it E.E. Butler and Academy? — will be set aglow at 7 p.m.



Photos by SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Above: "Star Wars" characters entertain parade watchers Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, during the annual Christmas on Green Street parade. Right: Characters parade along Green Street.



Planning to drive around the city on Sunday? You might want to plan ahead. Here are the streets that are closing from 2:30-7:30 p.m. this Sunday, according to Gainesville spokeswoman Nikki Perry:

- Thompson Bridge Road from Enota to Green Street.
- Green Street from Thompson Bridge to E.E. Butler.
- E.E. Butler from Green Street to Jesse Jewell.
- Detour from Jesse Jewell: Traffic will remain open on Prior Street to Glenwood Drive (by Civic Center) to Morning-side Drive.

# Gainesville wants to adjust plans for police, fire, parks

## Expansion of services to match projected population growth

BY MEGAN REED

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Gainesville's population is expected to grow by about 55 percent over the next 20 years, and services like the police and fire departments, as well as parks, will have to adjust.

Officials are updating the city's Capital Improvements Element plan and looking at how that growth could affect public services. The public can comment on the plan at the Gainesville City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec.

4, when council members will vote on it before it is sent to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

To measure public safety needs, the report also considers the number of workers in the city, who benefit from services like the police and fire departments. In 2019, Gainesville is projected to have about 44,000 residents and 49,000 workers. Those numbers are expected to climb over the next two decades, to about 65,000 residents and almost 56,000 workers in 2039.

"The little town that I was born

in and grew up in has changed a lot," Mayor Danny Dunagan said at Thursday's City Council work session.

Rusty Ligon, Gainesville's community development director, said population has been increasing as the area recovers from the economic recession.

"It seems like in the early 2000s, our population kind of hovered around 25 to 30,000, then we went through the recession and it actually decreased a little bit," Ligon said. "Now we're seeing, year after year, an increase."

### Gainesville City Council meeting

**When:** 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4

**Where:** Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway

This study is the city's first major update to the plan, which was adopted in 2006, although other small updates have been made annually, Ligon said.

The plan includes projections for the police and fire departments, as well as city parks. The city collects impact fees, or one-time fees charged to developers of new projects, for these services.

Other proposals in the plan

include waiving impact fees for affordable housing and prohibiting exemptions for fire facility impact fees.

### Police

When the original plan was written in 2006, Gainesville Police had about 15,000 square feet of space on Jesse Jewell Parkway, near the existing pedestrian bridge site. Then, in 2010, the city opened a new 52,000-square-foot public safety complex on Queen City Parkway.

The plan calls for further expansion of those facilities over the next 20 years.

■ Please see **GROWTH, 8A**

11-30-18

## GROWTH

■ Continued from 1A

The report draws on discussions with the police department in December 2017 and identifies two needs moving forward — new precincts and a new training facility. The new precincts would be in the New Holland and Dawsonville Highway areas. A 10,000-square-foot training facility is also needed, but that could be built at the existing site and would not require a land purchase, according to the plan.

New facilities could be completely funded by impact fee funds.

### Fire and rescue

Gainesville has four fire stations, the same number it had in 2006. The city is in the process of relocating Fire Station No. 2 from Pine Street to the Park Hill Drive area, almost doubling the station's size at the new location.

The fire department had 9,000 calls for service in 2017 and has seen an increase of about 1,200 calls annually since 2010. By the year 2022, the department expects about 15,000

calls annually.

Over the next few years, the city has set aside money for two new fire stations and planning for a third additional one.

According to the plan, there are about 100 homes, including some in the Cresswind at Lake Lanier subdivision, that would be better served by a fire boat than a fire truck, due to narrow, steep driveways. The fire boat would use water directly from the lake rather than hydrants.

New training space is also needed, as only Fire Station No. 1 is equipped for training.

### Parks and recreation

The report prioritizes upgrading existing parks facilities. About 45 acres of new developed park land will be needed over the next 20 years to adapt to a growing population, according to the report, but that could be achieved through either building new parks or adding to existing ones.

Proposed parks projects include playground improvements, a new playground along the Midtown Greenway, an outdoor pool at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center, a new recreation center and a dog park.

11-30-18

