

Kemp to his supporters: 'Thank you'

Gov.-Elect, Deal visit Gainesville ahead of Monday's inauguration

BY MEGAN REED

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Gov.-Elect Brian Kemp visited the Gainesville Civic Center on Friday, three days before his inauguration, and thanked his supporters as well as outgoing Gov. Nathan Deal and first lady Sandra Deal.

Kemp was joined by his family and state legislators on the eighth of nine celebration events statewide. His last stop is Saturday in

Dalton.

Kemp will be inaugurated on Monday in Atlanta.

The tour was a way for him and his administration to connect with Georgians, both supporters and people who may have voted for another candidate, Kemp told media.

"It's been an opportunity for us to see a lot of hard-working Georgians like this, tell them thank you, tell them thank you for supporting

the transition. ... It's also a way to let people know that we're not going to forget them. I'll be a governor who is going to represent this whole state," Kemp said. "My whole message at most every stop has been, even people who didn't vote for me, as governor, I'm going to be working hard for you."

Savannah Emerich, the second vice chair of the Lumpkin GOP, attended Friday to show support for Kemp. She said she hopes his administration upholds conservative values, such as opposing gambling and abortion.

"I think Brian Kemp provides a conservative view as far as where

Georgia might go in the future, and I think he holds true to a lot of values our president has, and I think that's something to admire," Emerich said.

State Sen. Butch Miller, R-Gainesville, introduced the Deals at the event, thanking them for their eight years of service.

"You've planted trees under which you will never enjoy the shade ... You have changed tens of millions of Georgians' lives and the trajectory of their lives, and we are so very, very grateful," Miller said.

Deal said he saw some familiar



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Governor-Elect Brian Kemp, left, shakes hands with Kellin Dibbs during a Georgians First pre-inauguration celebration Friday, Jan. 11, at the Gainesville Civic Center.

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KEMP

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faces when he looked out at the crowd in Gainesville.

"Some of you were introduced to me and Sandra during the 2010 governor's race," he said. "Many others of you from this area of the state have been with us for a very, very long time, going all the way back to my days in the state Senate in 1980."

Deal also praised Kemp's character in the face of a difficult campaign cycle.

"He stood steadfast, he carried through with the things he said he was going to do in the campaign, and I think we can be assured he's going to do that when he is sworn in to the office," Deal said.

1-12-19



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Governor-Elect Brian Kemp speaks to a crowd during a Georgians First pre-inauguration celebration on Friday, Jan. 11, at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Can Kemp find middle ground?

Gov. plans to work hard to win over those who didn't vote for him

BY RUSS BYNUM AND BEN NADLER
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia's new governor campaigned as a self-described "politically incorrect conservative" who sealed support among fellow Republicans with an endorsement from President Donald Trump and eked out a close November victory after lobbing a last-minute accusation that the state Democratic Party tried to hack the election.

Now the question is whether Brian Kemp will be as partisan a governor as he was a candidate after he's sworn into office Monday.

He told reporters during a statewide victory lap last week he plans to work

hard to win support from Georgians who didn't vote for him in November. And he's already thinking ahead to running again in 2022.

Republicans still control all statewide offices in Georgia and both chambers of the legislature, giving Kemp little short-term need to reach across the aisle. But the 2018 midterms saw Georgia Democrats make their first notable advances in years, including a gain of a dozen seats in the state House.

Continued momentum, spurred by demographic changes as the state becomes less rural and less white, could threaten Georgia's red-state status in future elections. Kemp defeated Democrat Stacey Abrams by fewer than 55,000

Inside

■ Legislator bios and priorities, district maps, how to follow the action, **4A**

■ Comprehensive guide to legislative issues, **5A**

votes out of 3.9 million cast in November.

A group backed by Abrams has filed a federal lawsuit saying Georgia deprived many low-income and minority voters of their voting rights with Kemp, serving as secretary of state, overseeing the 2018 election. Outgoing state Democratic Party Chairman DuBose Porter, in a final address to party members, called

■ Please see **KEMP, 4A**

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KEMP

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Kemp a "morally corrupt man who knows he has to cheat to win."

Outgoing GOP Gov. Nathan Deal focused his two terms, above all else, on protecting Georgia's reputation as a desirable state for businesses to relocate and expand. Deal worked with Democrats on criminal justice reforms aimed at keeping nonviolent offenders out of prison. And he outraged social conservatives by vetoing a so-called "religious freedom" bill that some feared would legalize discrimination against same-sex couples and risk boycott threats by big corporations.

Kemp has revealed few specifics of his agenda for the legislative session that begins in tandem with his inauguration Monday. Touring the state last week, he revisited broad campaign promises to promote small business and economic growth in rural areas, and to crack down on violent gangs.

"Those are bipartisan issues," Kemp said. "They are going to



JOHN BAZEMORE | Associated Press

In this Nov. 4, 2018, file photo, Georgia Republican gubernatorial candidate Brian Kemp, left, walks with President Donald Trump as Trump arrives for a rally in Macon, Ga. Kemp defeated Democrat Stacey Abrams.

be my focus of the (legislative) session."

While competing in a crowded field for the Republican gubernatorial nomination last year, Kemp staked out conservative positions on social issues, pledging to sign tough abortion restrictions and expand gun rights.

He also vowed to sign a version of the religious protection bill that

Deal rejected. During the general election campaign with Abrams, Kemp said he would approve only a narrowly drawn version that mirrors an existing 1993 federal law, insisting such a law "doesn't discriminate."

Asked at an Augusta stop last week if his 2019 legislative agenda includes a "religious freedom" bill, Kemp replied: "I'm going to be talk-

ing about a lot of things I'm going to do legislatively when we get ready to talk about them."

University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock said new governors often try to avoid hot-button issues as they take office.

"Often a person who gets elected in a close contest, they spend an inordinate amount of time in their first term reaching out to people or groups who didn't support them initially," Bullock said.

That's not what some supporters among Kemp's Republican base want to see.

"From what I've noticed, compromise involves Republicans caving on principle and ideology," said Benjamin Richardson, 36, an information-technology specialist who backed Kemp and turned out to see him in Augusta. "While they have power, they should seize it and use it."

Democratic state Rep. Scott Holcomb of Atlanta said he can't yet tell whether Kemp will tack right or try to work across the aisle and set a more moderate tone.

"I'm having trouble reading the tea leaves because he's said both

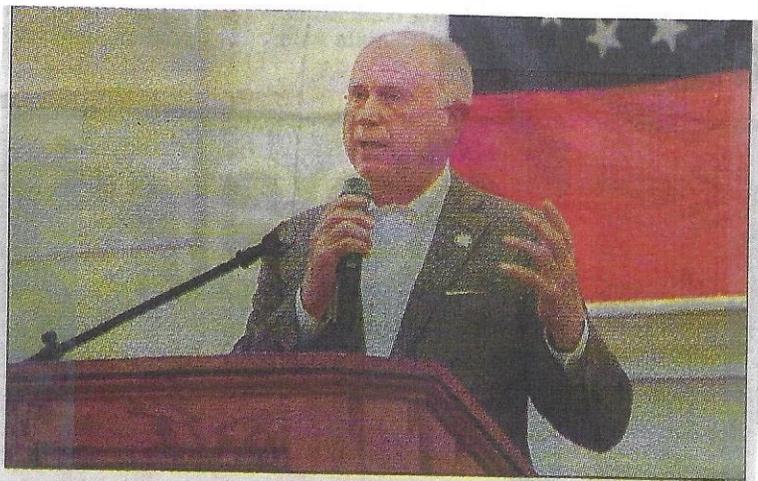
things," Holcomb said. "He's said that he's interested in bipartisan work to improve our state, but he's also said that he's not going to forget his base and is going to push very conservative policies."

Kemp's fellow Republican, House Speaker David Ralston, said during a Thursday news conference that he has little appetite for taking up issues that have the "potential to divide us as a state." Ralston said he did not favor another attempt at passing "religious freedom" legislation.

The schism between Kemp and many Democrats remains deep following the bruising campaign. Two days before Election Day, Kemp directly accused the Georgia Democratic Party of attempting to hack the state's online voter database. Kemp refused to provide evidence of any hacking, but said party officials were being investigated "for possible cybercrimes." Democratic Party leaders denied wrongdoing and accused Kemp of abusing his office as Georgia's then-top elections official.

More than two months later, no further details about that investigation have been released.

1-13-19



AUSTIN STEELE | The Times

Sen. Butch Miller speaks to a crowd during a Georgians First pre-inauguration celebration for Governor-Elect Brian Kemp on Friday, Jan. 11, at the Gainesville Civic Center.

1-13-19

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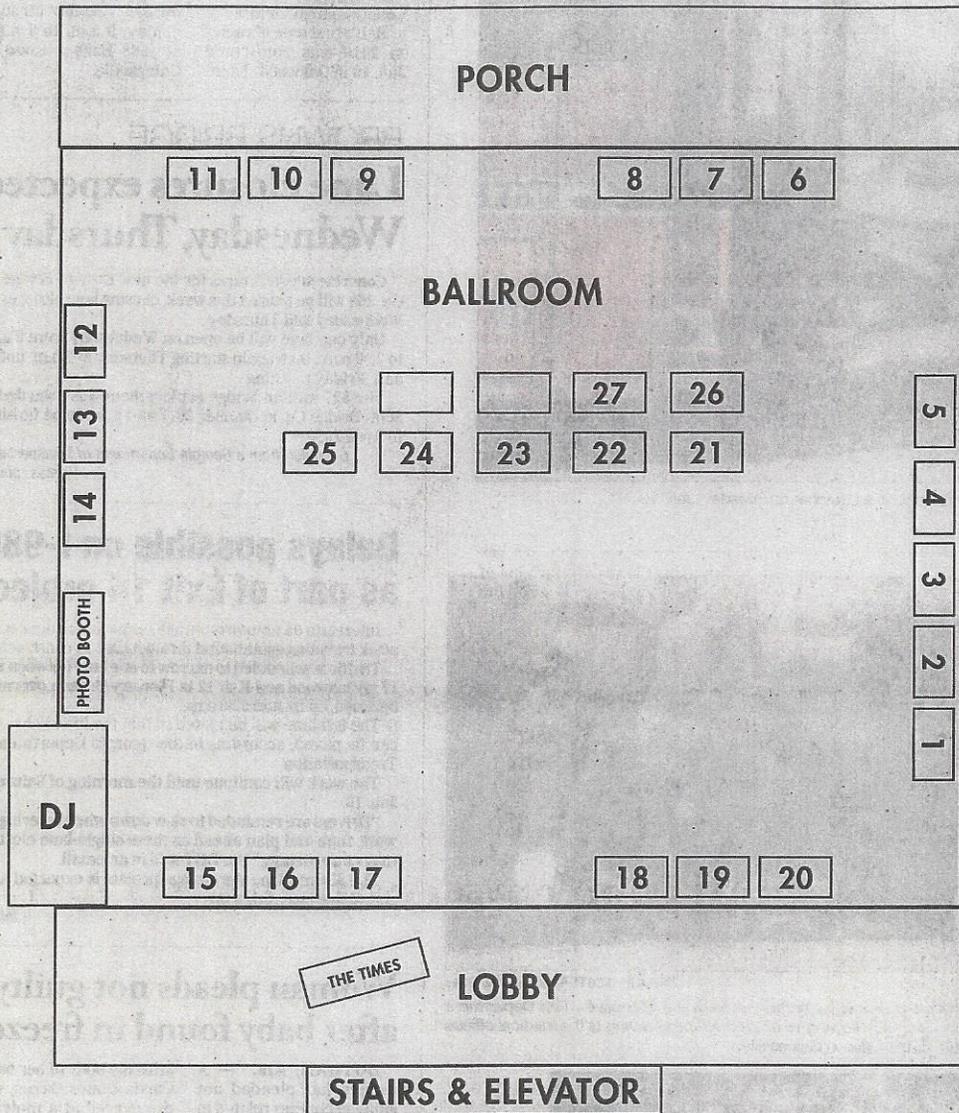
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10:15 Demonstration *by Damsel in Defense*

11:45 Prize Giveaway

11/12/19



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SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Scott Stowers prepares a batch of the Gainesville Fire Department's "Controlled Burn Wings" during the annual Spring Chicken Festival. 1-17-19

Spring Chicken Festival moved to new location

The Gainesville Spring Chicken Festival will be returning on April 27, this time in a new location.

The festival is moving from downtown Gainesville to Longwood Park.

"Moving the festival from the Downtown Square to Gainesville Parks and Recreation's Longwood Park allows the city to grow the event and showcase Lake Lanier at the same time," Regina Dyer, manager of the Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau, said in a statement.

The free festival will last from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$6 Cluck Card pays for 10 samples from the cook-off teams, who will be serving until 3 p.m.

Sponsorships for the festival, held annually by the city of Gainesville, fund scholarships for students entering the poultry industry and for children of city employees. Applications will be accepted through the North Georgia Community Foundation website through March 15.

Compiled from city of Gainesville press release

1-17-19

SPRING CHICKEN FESTIVAL

Development drives event relocation

Annual festival to take place at Longwood Park

BY KELSEY RICHARDSON
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The Gainesville Spring Chicken Festival will no longer grace downtown with the aroma of cooked chicken, but instead take up residence in Longwood Park.

Regina Dyer, the manager of the Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau, said her office decided to move the location because of the development in downtown, including the Parkside on the Square condos.

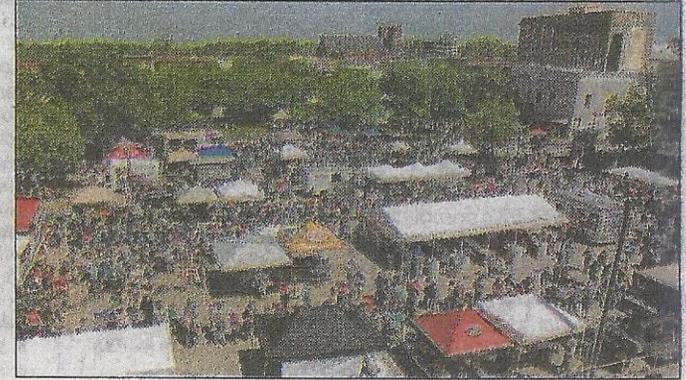
"With the future development on the lot, we knew we'd have to find somewhere suitable to have that event," Dyer said. "We needed to have space to grow the event. We looked at various options, but we felt like that was a good one."

Examining different sites with Gainesville Parks and Recreation, Dyer said Longwood Park was chosen for its close proximity and connectivity to downtown.

For those concerned with parking spaces around Longwood Park, Dyer said people shouldn't worry.

The City of Gainesville will provide shuttle services from downtown, which is only 1.5 miles away. Dyer said the park handled a crowd of 5,000 from last year's butterfly release event, and feels confident in its ability to provide sufficient parking.

With the change in location, many downtown businesses have expressed displeasure in the loss of customers during the festival.



DAVID BARNES | Times file photo

Attendees gather on Saturday, April 28, 2018, during the 14th annual Spring Chicken Festival in Gainesville.

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1-18-19

CHICKEN

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"It's pretty disappointing for us as business owners, and I think a lot of the other businesses feel the same way," Aimee Hoecker, co-owner of Downtown Drafts said. "We really count a lot on festivals that the city holds as part of our revenue each year."

Caitlyn Robertson, the manager of Fashion Ten in Gainesville, said she enjoyed the business the festival would bring to the cloth-

ing store. She said the shop would even keep its doors open past closing time to accommodate the influx of customers.

Dyer said the event will offer plenty of information to help lead people from the festival to downtown Gainesville.

Dyer said the new spot will offer alcohol and opportunities for accommodating more cook-off teams, art vendors and kids activities.

"We are the poultry capital of the world," Dyer said. "As I always say, you've got to embrace who you are and that's a huge part of Gainesville. The festival is just one way to celebrate our poultry industry folks. It's

a great community and family fun event. We're just excited about it continuing and looking forward to the great things that are going to come this year to the new location."

Keith Smith, division fire chief of the Gainesville Fire Department, said he is looking forward to participating in the festival's cook-off for another year.

With five years and many Spring Chicken awards under their belt, the staff at the Gainesville Fire Department is ready to give the competition another go.

"We can hardly wait. We'll be there," he said.

The free festival will last from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 27. A \$6 Cluck Card pays for 10 samples from the cook-off teams, who will be serving until 3 p.m.

Sponsorships for the festival, held annually by the city of Gainesville, fund scholarships for students entering the poultry industry and for children of city employees. Applications will be accepted through the North Georgia Community Foundation website through March 15.

For updates on the event visit the Gainesville Spring Chicken Festival Facebook page.

1-18-19

Trails, gardens, lake access requested at parks meeting

BY MEGAN REED

mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

Gainesville residents told parks employees and planners Thursday that they hoped to see more biking and walking trails — an idea that planners said was popular across demographics and also was requested at similar meetings for Hall County Parks and Leisure.

Gainesville Parks and Recreation is working on a master plan that will guide the department through 2030. The plan includes an inventory of current facilities at the city's 22 parks and will use public input to provide recommendations for new facilities or programs. Community members can also take a survey to provide feedback.



Provide input on
Gainesville parks

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Mack Cain, a senior landscape architect with Clark Patterson Lee, said the master plan ensures new facilities the city builds would be put to good use and are a reflection of what the community wants.

"Oftentimes that's how it happens. The person who happens to have the influence decides what happens," Cain said. "The progressive counties and cities actually go to the trouble of doing these kinds of plans to make sure that the money is well spent and spent in the right place. The last thing you want to do is build a bunch of tennis courts and

nobody plays tennis."

Cain also worked with Hall County on its recent parks master plan, and the city also hired the Foresite Group for the project.

One of the most popular requests at the meeting was trails, and residents said they wanted to be able to walk to parks rather than having to drive to get there. Trails are appealing to both younger and older people and have become the most widely requested parks amenity, Cain said.

"We're hearing that people want to be connected. They want to be able to walk from place to place," he said.

People also said they had wanted to see more sidewalks in the city, and while installing those would not be the responsibility of the parks

department, the city is working on connectivity for the Highlands to Islands Trail, a trail network throughout the county that would likely increase walkability.

Other suggestions included a community garden, better lighting at lake access points, more parks on the lake, more exercise classes and more adult-friendly equipment like swings or slides so parents and grandparents could play with their kids.

One community member also suggested that if Gainesville relocates Engine 209, the train receives its own dedicated park.

The train now sits at the corner of Jesse Jewell Parkway and West Academy Street and is the center of a city park, but the city would relocate the historic engine if the 1.7-

acre city property is sold.

The Gainesville Redevelopment Authority is offering the property to the Northeast Georgia Health System for \$1.2 million, but Knight Commercial Realty has the first option on the land.

There will be a second meeting after planners have a list of recommendations to present to officials.

Cain said families should especially encourage children to take the survey. Out of more than 2,000 people who took Hall County's parks survey, which closed last week, only five were children, Cain said.

"Who uses parks the most? ... I guarantee you, a 12-year-old has a totally different idea of what he wants to do in a park than an old guy like me," he said.

1-18-19

Gainesville City Council will vote on Olympic Venue lease, election fees

BY MEGAN REED
mreed@gainesvilletimes.com

The city of Gainesville may lease a 1.32-acre property attached to the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue from the state of Georgia to provide additional parking for the venue.

The lease price for the property in front of the boathouse would be \$10 per year, with an initial one-year term and the option for renewal.

The property is a remnant piece from Don Carter State Park, City Manager Bryan Lackey said. Don Carter State

Park is about five miles away from the venue.

"When you're at the park, you would probably never know this is a separate piece of property," Lackey said.

The lease would require that the property only be used for additional parking.

Councilmembers will vote on the lease Tuesday.

The park at 3105 Clarks Bridge Road is leased by the city and Hall County government, and the nonprofit Gainesville-Hall '96 operates the park. The venue was built for the 1996 Olympics and in

Gainesville City Council vote

When: 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 22

Where: Public Safety Complex, 701 Queen City Parkway

September 2018 hosted the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships, which drew about 1,000 athletes to Lake Lanier.

Also on the agenda Tuesday is a vote on qualifying fees for the November elections for City Council and the Gainesville Board of Education. Positions for both City Council and

the school board in wards 2, 3 and 5 will be on the ballot Nov. 5. Those positions are held by Zack Thompson, Barbara Brooks and Ruth Bruner on City Council and John Filson, Willie Mitchell and Sammy Smith on the school board.

The qualifying fee will be \$819 for City Council seats and \$278.10 for the school board.

The Georgia Election Code requires qualifying fees be calculated in January of each election year and published by Feb. 1. Fees are calculated as 3 percent of the previous year's salary for the position.

1-19-19

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE LOG - WEEK ONE

Name: _____ Age: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

	Goal	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
EXERCISE:								
Walking/Hiking								
Weightlifting								
Cardio								
Outdoor Activity								
Sports								
Yoga								
Other								
NUTRITION:								
Water Consumption								
Increased Vegetable Consumption								
Increased Fruit Consumption								
Avoided or Decreased Sugar Consumption								
Avoided or Decreased Caffeine Consumption								
Family meal together								
WELLNESS/STRESS REDUCTION:								
Avoided or Decreased Tobacco Usage								
Avoided or Decreased Alcohol Usage								
Replace 30 minutes of electronic activity (phone, television, computer) with electronics free activity								
Reading for pleasure								
Relaxation/Meditation								
Volunteering								
Spiritual								
CHECKUPS:								
Get a physical								
Get a mammogram								
Get an eye exam								
Get a dental check up								
Get a colonoscopy								
PROTECT MY FUTURE SELF:								
Make appointment with accountant								
Make appointment with financial planner								
Make appointment with insurance expert								
Make appointment with banking expert								
Give Back								

Make sure to mail in your Challenge form at the end of every week to be