



Gainesville/Flowery Branch

MY HOME • MY FAMILY • MY SELF

BEST OF 2025 ISSUE



**TIMELESS AESTHETICS & WELLNESS
BEST FILLERS**

Michael Moody, MD and Melissa Romero



GAINESVILLE GLOWS: LANTERNS AND LIGHTS, P. 8



**EXPERT SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR EVERYDAY
HOME QUESTIONS, P. 17**



**COTTO MODERN ITALIAN
BEST RESTAURANT**



FAVORITE BITES FROM AROUND TOWN, P. 9



**NORTH GEORGIA AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID CENTER
BEST AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE**

The North Georgia Audiology & Hearing Aid Center Team

After thousands of votes, we reveal the businesses
you chose as Gainesville/Flowery Branch's Best! p. 10

Plus

*Events Calendar • Date Night Ideas
Five Ways to Give Back*



WINNERS

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my Gainesville/Flowery Branch
Best Family Law

Kelly Anne Miles specializes in the area of family law. She is one of only two family lawyers in the State of Georgia who is a Diplomat in The American College of Family Trial Lawyers. **She has effectively represented clients for over 41 years in complex divorce cases involving complicated finances.**

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my Gainesville/Flowery Branch
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BEST OF 2025

After thousands of votes, we reveal the businesses you chose as Gainesville/Flowery Branch's best! From doctors to restaurants, home improvement and more, read about some of your favorite neighbors on p. 10. Meet all of the winners at atlantabestmedia.com.

Meet Your Neighbor

Local artist **Parrish Hoag** uses her medium to give back to the special needs community. Read more about her on page 18.



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From the Editor



Hello, Gainesville/Flowery Branch!

It is so good to be here with you! I've had a blast getting to know this neighborhood—from hidden-gem places to eat (check out the steamed bagels from **Sully's**, as mentioned on page 9) to a celebration of nature (visit the **Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville** campus, page 8, or the **Elachee Nature Center**, page 6), family-owned vineyards, heartfelt nonprofits and more. I grew up just passing through on the way to the lake when

this area was mostly farmland, so it's amazing to see the good growth that's happening here now! Whether you live here or make a special trip, it's a thriving community to enjoy again and again.

Perhaps what's most exciting about being new to the neighborhood is the chance to see the myriad of businesses recognized as this year's Best of Gainesville/Flowery Branch. Many are brand-new to the Atlanta Best Media family, but all of them are incredible people with products and services that you can count on to deliver the best. Nominated and voted on by you, it's pretty amazing to see who this community trusts with the things that matter most. Meet them all starting on page 10.



Also in this issue, we spotlight **local artist (and Gainesville native) Parrish Hoag who works with South Carolina's The Shepherd Hotel to give back** to individuals and families with special needs. Read more about her medium and why she loves this neighborhood on page 18.

I hope you love reading up on this 'hood as much as we enjoy writing about it—and there's even more online! I look forward to hearing what you think. In fact, I'd love it if you shared your favorites on our new Instagram page, @myneighborhoodatl.

Look forward to enjoying Gainesville/Flowery Branch together in 2026!

Jennifer
Jennifer Colosimo, editor

Want to know more about your neighborhood favorites? Sign up at atlantabestmedia.com/newsletter-signup to receive our newsletter and stay tuned for updates on the new, fun and can't-miss things happening here!



Calendar of Events

Make a day or a night of it! Check out these fun places with family and friends.

DECEMBER

THROUGH DEC. 27

Holly Jolly Trolley

Downtown Gainesville

5-10pm

Free

Rolling through Gainesville every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in December, this free and festive ride is filled with twinkling lights, seasonal sights and small-town charm.

gainesville.org/755/holly-jolly-trolley

DEC. 13

73rd Annual Charity Ball: A Night at the Ramsey

Ramsey Conference Center

7pm

\$163 and up

Hosted by the Junior League of Gainesville-Hall County, this event invites local high school women to raise funds that benefit local organizations.

ticketsignup.io/ticketevent/charityball

DEC. 18

Homeschool Day

Northeast Georgia History Center

10am

\$6-8

The Northeast Georgia History Center hosts its monthly Homeschool Day with the theme "Appalachian Christmas." This fun, hands-on program will immerse homeschool families in interactive activities that bring holiday traditions and history to life.

negahc.org/events



JANUARY

JAN. 24

The Ultimate '90s Party: Fool House

Boot Barn Hall

7:30pm

\$29

Crank up the nostalgia with a video DJ and high-energy live band performance packed with your favorite anthems. The night will wrap with a balloon drop that takes the celebration over the top.

thehallga.com/upcoming-events

4TH MONDAYS

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club

Spout Springs Library

6:30-7:30pm

Free

The monthly book club dives into "A Wizard of Earthsea" by Ursula K. Le Guin this December. Join fellow readers for an evening of discussion and discovery in one of the science fiction genre's favorite classics.

hallcountylibrary.libcal.com/event/15148738



▶ RECURRING THURSDAYS

Behind the Scenes: Animal Care In Action

Elachee Nature Science Center

Noon-1pm

\$10

Go behind the scenes with the animal curator and volunteers to help with feeding, habitat upkeep and enrichment while discovering amazing facts about the reptiles, amphibians and other creatures that live at Elachee.

secure.elachee.org/nx/portal/neonevents/events 

2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS

Flowery Branch Farmers Market

Downtown Flowery Branch

3:30-6:30pm

Free

Running through April, shop seasonal produce, fresh baked goods and handmade treats while supporting local farmers and artisans.

flowerybranchga.org/community/farmers_market.php



Did You Know?

Long before it became Gainesville, the area was known as

Mule Camp Springs!



DORIAN JIMENEZ, DPM



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Hood Winks

Nod to your neighbors

By Colleen McNally Arnett



Interactive Neighborhood for Kids (INK) is not your average museum. Designed for children of all ages, abilities and experience, this **exciting, hands-on, educational center** encourages young minds to imagine, create, explore, develop and dream to their full potential. Check the calendar for upcoming exhibits and special events, like storytime in partnership with United Way, themed arts and crafts and much more. 3900 Ink Ave., inkfun.org



Support dozens of local farmers and artisans at the **Flowery Branch Farmers Market**, held at the Pavilion 3:30-6:30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays through April. **Enjoy live music while shopping for farm-fresh meats**, local honey, homegrown produce, baked goods, sweet treats and handmade crafts. 5210 Railroad Ave., [instagram.com/farmfreshflowerybranch](https://www.instagram.com/farmfreshflowerybranch)

DATE NIGHT IN GAINESVILLE/ FLOWERY BRANCH

Get your heart racing with a day at -- **Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta**—one of the world's best road courses—located on 750 sprawling acres in the rolling hills of Northeast Georgia. There's a full calendar of marquee annual traditions and spectator events happening year-round, from the MotoAmerica Superbikes and Drift Atlanta to the famous **Motul Petit Le Mans**. 5300 Winder Hwy., michelinracewayroadatlanta.com

Make a romantic dinner for two at home with help from **Grubs Market**. Curated by Hall County's trusted epicureans and entrepreneurs, Roland Stanley, Chef Nicholas St. Clair, Robert Turner and Daniel Stribling, this **modern take on the neighborhood grocer** includes a butcher counter, deli and shelves stocked with premium ingredients and fine wines. 511 Main St. SW, grubsmarket.com

While **Château Élan** is known first and foremost for its champion golf courses, picturesque vineyards and winery just north of Gainesville, there's another gem tucked onto the grounds: **an authentic Irish pub** handcrafted in Dublin and assembled on site in 1997. Paddy's is the perfect spot to cozy up with pints and good craic. 100 Tour De France Dr., chateauelan.com



After the winter sun sets, the **Atlanta Botanical Garden, Gainesville** comes alive with shimmer and sparkle during **"Gainesville Glows: Lanterns and Lights."** Open select nights through Jan. 4, this beloved annual tradition for all ages features illuminated displays of woodland wildlife inspired by North Georgia's flora and fauna. 1911 Sweetbay Dr., atlantabg.org/tickets 



PHOTOS COURTESY OF (TOP LEFT) INTERACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR KIDS, (TOP RIGHT) DISCOVER LAKE LANIER, (BOTTOM RIGHT) ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN.



Food Faves

Tried and true or new to you

By Colleen McNally Arnett and Anna Haase

1. In the historic Liberty Candy Company building, the pink-drenched **Caroline's On Main** is named for the daughter of Chef Nicholas St. Clair (of Antebellum and Peyton's Pies fame). Their **Fried Chicken and Bourbon Waffle** is a perfect pairing of crispy lemon-herb brined and buttermilk fried chicken topped with a sweet and savory bacon jam, brown butter farm egg, a drizzle of maple syrup and their hot sauce foam. 5518 Main St., carolinesonmain.com

2. Named after **Sully's** employee Clark, who created this combination, **The Griswold** is not your average turkey sandwich. It features two meats, two cheeses and two different sauces. They stack a steamed bagel with turkey, bacon, provolone and pepper jack cheese, then sauce it with both barbecue and parmesan peppercorn. Topped with crisp lettuce, it's a culinary legend! 311 Jesse Jewell Pkwy., sullyssteamers.com

3. Cool off with authentic Mexican sweets, from agua frescas to frozen fruit paletas to creamy handmade ice cream, at **La Mejor De Michoacan 2**, a Hall County mainstay for over 20 years and counting. Among the top-selling treats is the **Fresas con Crema**, a simple and refreshing dessert of strawberries and cream made with mint, vanilla and condensed milk. 403 Atlanta Hwy., lamejordemichoacan2.toast.site

4. The **Grilled Flat Iron Steak** at **Antebellum** is the perfect segue into their fall menu featuring warm and cozy flavors. This tender cut comes dressed with celery root puree, grilled broccolini, a robust bordelaise jus and decadent truffle "caviar" atop a caramelized sweet onion ravioli you won't be able to stop talking about. 5510 Church St., antebellumrestaurant.com

5. A local staple since 2016, **Haydee's Cafe & Cantina** celebrates Mexico's favorite foods, like the bite-sized **Tostados** ("toasted" in Spanish) — crispy, deep-fried corn tortillas served flat and topped with refried beans, fresco cheese, diced tomato, fresh lettuce and avocado. For extra flavor, opt to add a protein, such as chorizo, pastor, chicharróns, steak, chicken or shrimp. 658B Dawsonville Hwy., haydeescfe.com

2



1



3



4



5



2025 best

MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY BRANCH BEST OF 2025

After hundreds of nominations and thousands of votes, you have chosen Gainesville/Flowery Branch's Best! For a complete winners list, visit atlantabestmedia.com



JACK M. CHAPMAN, MD

▲ BEST EYE CARE

North Georgia Eye Associates

North Georgia Eye Associates is North Georgia's largest ophthalmology practice, boasting over 100 years of eye care excellence. Their award-winning doctors provide treatment for cataracts, laser vision correction, glaucoma, retina, cornea, oculoplastics, pediatric ophthalmology and general eye exams across five locations, with full-service optical shops. They were the first in Northeast Georgia to introduce bladeless laser cataract surgery at their state-of-the-art onsite surgical suite.

northgeorgiaeye.com, 770.752.1553

► BEST AUTO REPAIR

Pro Import Automotive Service & Repair

Pro Import Automotive Service & Repair in Gainesville is a trusted destination for expert auto care, specializing in European and Asian vehicles. Known for excellence in diagnostics, maintenance and repair, the shop combines advanced technology with skilled technicians to deliver reliable results. With a reputation for integrity and customer-focused service, Pro Import ensures vehicles run smoothly and safely. Their commitment to quality workmanship and personalized attention makes them a standout choice for automotive repair in the Gainesville community.

proimportservice.com, 770.535.7755



DORIAN JIMENEZ, DPM

▲ BEST FOOT AND ANKLE CARE

Ankle & Foot Centers of America – Gainesville

Recognized as Best Foot and Ankle Care of 2025, this practice delivers exceptional conservative and surgical treatments from laser nail therapy to Lapiplasty bunion correction. Built on more than 21 years of clinical expertise and five years serving the Gainesville community, Dorian Jimenez, DPM, is known for delivering sincere, individualized care to his patients, honoring the trust patients place in the practice. The team remains committed to solutions that improve comfort, mobility and overall foot and ankle health.

ankleandfootcenters.com/dr-dorian-jimenez, 770.536.9908



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CRISSY HUNTER, RN, DNP

▲ BEST LASER HAIR REMOVAL

Chic Contours

Chic Contours, a boutique aesthetic studio privately owned by a nurse and physician duo, has quickly become Flowery Branch's go-to destination for natural, confidence-boosting results. Known for its personalized care, meticulous technique and welcoming atmosphere, the studio offers expertly delivered injectables, glowing chemical peels and award-winning laser hair removal. Chic Contours elevates beauty with results that look refreshed, not overdone, making it a favorite among clients who want to look and feel their best.

ccontours.com, 307.752.6022

2025 best

MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY BRANCH BEST OF 2025



ED STATON AND MARK STATON

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statonair.com, 770.667.3992



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apollonails Gainesville.com, 678.696.5074 ➤

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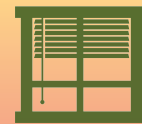
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MUDASSAR AHMED, MD, CHIEF CARDIOLOGY OFFICER
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best

2025

MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY BRANCH BEST OF 2025

◀ BEST CARDIOLOGY PRACTICE

Georgia Heart Institute

Georgia Heart Institute is the comprehensive heart and vascular service line of Northeast Georgia Health System. Whether you're looking for preventive heart care, treatment for complex conditions or the latest minimally invasive procedures, Georgia Heart Institute offers experience and expertise covering the full spectrum of cardiovascular medicine. By collaborating across subspecialties and consulting with world-class heart and vascular surgeons, Georgia Heart Institute provides a comprehensive approach to care across every stage of heart disease. georgiaheartinstitute.org, 770.534.2020



THE TEAM AT TIMELESS AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

◀ BEST FILLERS

Timeless Aesthetics & Wellness

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North Georgia Audiology & Hearing Aid Center

North Georgia Audiology is one of the nation's leading private practices for hearing healthcare. The devoted team leverages a state-of-the-art facility and the latest diagnostic tools to provide top-tier care. NGA's Upgrade Program is a game-changer. The program allows patients to pay a small monthly fee to update their devices to the latest technology every two to three years. yourhearinglink.com, 678.971.4647 ➡



THE NORTH GEORGIA AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID CENTER TEAM

2025 best

MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY BRANCH BEST OF 2025



▲ BEST RESTAURANT

Cotto Modern Italian

Cotto Modern Italian, a locally owned and operated establishment situated in the heart of Gainesville, provides an upscale, contemporary dining experience. Guests can enjoy traditional Italian dishes, pizzas, an extensive selection of wines, and expertly crafted cocktails in a sophisticated setting that blends modern elegance with rustic charm. The restaurant also offers weekend brunch, wine dinners, special events, and catering services.

cottoitalian.com, 678.310.2071

► BEST WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

Bariatric Weight Loss Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center

The Bariatric Weight Loss Center of Northeast Georgia Medical Center offers comprehensive surgical and non-surgical weight-loss solutions. The nationally recognized program includes three experienced surgeons and a comprehensive aftercare program—featuring fitness classes, cooking demonstrations, a clothing boutique, support groups, nutritional counseling and behavioral therapy. With the tools, guidance and support you need, NGMC's team is committed to helping you achieve

lasting results and a healthier life.

nghs.com/bariatrics, 770.219.0446



ROBERTO LEBRON, DVM

▲ BEST VETERINARIAN

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Flowery Branch Pet Wellness Center brings warm, family-owned care to the heart of the community. Led by Dr. Roberto Lebron, DVM, the clinic blends compassionate service with modern veterinary expertise. From routine wellness check-ups and vaccines to surgery, international travel certificates and an in-house diagnostic lab, their team makes every visit easy and reassuring. Walk-ins are welcome, the friendly staff also speaks Spanish and their open exam rooms ensure you never have to

leave your fur baby's side.

fbpetwellnesscenter.com, 678.960.3060



(L TO R): ROBERT RICHARD, MD, BARIATRIC SURGEON WITH LONGSTREET CLINIC;

ERIC VELAZQUEZ, MD, BARIATRIC SURGEON WITH LONGSTREET CLINIC;

ALEX NGUYEN, MD, BARIATRIC SURGEON WITH NORTHEAST GEORGIA PHYSICIANS GROUP



▲ BEST HOME CARE FOR SENIORS

A Helping Hand Home Care

A Helping Hand Home Care provides professional, attentive and personalized support for seniors wherever they call home—whether in their personal residence, an assisted living community or during a hospital stay. Their team is committed to honoring each client's dignity, independence and unique needs with every visit. From daily assistance to specialized care, they walk alongside families with integrity, kindness and unwavering support. A Helping Hand is more than caregivers—they're a trusted partner in your journey of care.

ahelpinghandga.com, 770.530.1751

► BEST FAMILY LAW

Smith, Gilliam, Williams & Miles, P.A.

Kelly Anne Miles is recognized as one of Georgia's premier family lawyers, having served as Chair of the Family Law Section of Georgia State Bar. She was selected for membership in two of the country's most prestigious family law professional organizations, including being one of only two attorneys in Georgia selected to the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, an organization limited to 100 attorneys in the country.

Ms. Miles consistently receives top ratings from her clients and peers. ***sgwmfirm.com, 770.536.3381***



2025 best

MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY BRANCH BEST OF 2025



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▼ BEST ACTIVE SENIOR LIVING

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MY EAST COBB
MY GAINESVILLE/FLOWERY
BRANCH
MY INTOWN
MY JOHNS CREEK/DULUTH

MY MIDTOWN
MY NEWNAN
MY PEACHTREE CITY
MY PEACHTREE CORNERS/
NORCROSS
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my Home Q&A

Experts Provide Solutions For Your Everyday Questions

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS



Q: How do I know it's time to replace my windows?

A: Drafts sneaking in around closed windows are often the first red flag that your seals have failed. Rising energy bills, windows that stick or won't close properly and visible damage like cracked glass or rotting frames are also clear signs. You might even notice more outside noise filtering into your home, which means your windows have lost their insulating power. Replacing them with energy-efficient models not only restores comfort but can also lower costs and improve your home's overall value.



EntryPoint Doors & Windows

Years in Business: 22

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entrypointatlanta.com

Brett Butler

CUSTOM DECKS AND PATIOS

Q: What is composite decking?

A: Composite decking is crafted from recycled wood and plastic, blending sustainability with style. It delivers the natural look of real wood and the long-lasting strength of composite materials—all while requiring little maintenance. Resistant to fading, staining, and scratching, MoistureShield decking stays beautiful for years and comes in a range of colors and finishes to fit your outdoor space.



Frank Pologruto

Decks & More, Inc.

Years in Business: 24

770.235.6929 | atlantadeckbuilder.com



SIDING

Q: Why should I consider fiber cement lap siding for my home?

A: Fiber cement lap siding gives you the charm of wood without the upkeep. It won't warp, rot or attract pests, and it's tough enough to handle wind, rain and even hail. Because it comes in a variety of styles, it works beautifully with both classic and modern homes. Best of all, it boosts curb appeal and adds long-term value, making it a smart investment for homeowners.



Charlie Dallavalle

Painting Plus

Years in Business: 27

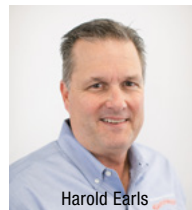
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GARAGE DOORS

Q: Do I have options when it comes to styles of garage doors?

A: YES! Modern garage door styles with sleek lines and optional windows are the envy of the neighborhood. Choose minimal plank doors for a mid-century or farmhouse vibe or stick with traditional panel doors for a timeless look. Carriage house doors are a classic favorite, customizable with two-tone color options that stand the test of time. Use our "Door Dreamer" to view the new doors on your home before installation day. OverheadDoor.com/residential/doordreamer



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Overhead Door Company of Atlanta™

Years in Business: 90

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PROFILE

Parrish Hoag

ARTIST • MOM • COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

By Jennifer Colosimo

Parrish Hoag's lifelong passion for creating—from homemade dance routines to piano and painting—has always pulled at her. During college, painting became her solace, a way to decompress and combat anxiety, so after moving back to Gainesville with her husband to raise their family, she officially traded her desk job for a studio to pursue that passion. This move marked the launch of a successful new career, creating abstract artwork for designers and collectors. Her talent has not gone unnoticed; she will be honored as this year's Featured Artist for the Vision 2030 Block pARTy.

What continues to drive you in your profession now?

Parrish Hoag: I believe there's an innate desire to create in all of us—a gift from The Creator—and I find true joy in creating and sharing my art with others. Most of my art is inspired by blooming botanicals and landscape views seen across North Georgia and while traveling.

How do you inspire creativity in others?

PH: I work out of my studio in our home, so my kids are in and out of the studio throughout the day “helping” me or making their own works of art. It's fun for them to later see my art on display in a gallery or in someone's home. As I seek to model with my own kids, I hope I encourage others to look up and around—to take in the goodness and beauty around us and find ways to share light back with the world.

What are you most proud of with your art?

PH: In 2022, I began a partnership with The Shepherd Hotel in Clemson, South Carolina. I created a large collection of paintings to hang throughout the new hotel and continue to add new work as artwork is sold. With each painting sold, 40 percent of sales is donated to the ClemsonLIFE™ program at Clemson University. In collaboration with ClemsonLIFE™, students and alumni with intellectual disabilities are offered gainful employment at The Shepherd Hotel to grow their hospitality career. I'm honored to have my art in such a beautiful hotel that's positively impacting the lives of others through authentic hospitality.

Where are your favorite places to spend time in Gainesville?

PH: My family loves hanging around the Gainesville Square. **Meadowlark** is my go-to coffee shop and I love **Sweet Magnolias** (order the Summer Salad) and **Centro** (try the Chicken Tinga Bowl) for lunch.

parrishhoag.com 



PARRISH AND HER HUSBAND CHRIS, AND THEIR CHILDREN



Doing Good in the 'Hood

Lend a hand to local causes

1 Dance the night away at **A Night at the Ramsey**, the 73rd Annual Charity Ball hosted by the Junior League of Gainesville-Hall County on Dec. 13. This glamorous '80s-themed bash will feature **live music, dinner, silent auctions and exciting raffles**, with proceeds supporting local projects focused on childhood hunger, wellness and nutrition, along with a portion dedicated to a grant that will go to one lucky nonprofit. 2535 Lanier Tech Dr., gainesvillehall.jl.org/events/charityball2025



2 Join the nationwide fight to end cancer alongside the **American Cancer Society!** This nonprofit works tirelessly to end cancer through research, advocacy and patient support, offering **free services like rides to treatment, lodging and a 24/7 helpline**. Do your part by volunteering at the Gainesville branch, joining events like Relay For Life, making donations or advocating for policies that help patients and survivors. 615 Oak St., Ste. B, cancer.org



3 Step into **"Just" People, Inc.'s Hall Village**, a cozy 22-acre living community in Flowery Branch where adults with developmental disabilities, mental illnesses or brain injuries have the opportunity to live independent and happy lives. With apartments, fire pits, walking trails, a coffee shop and elderly care building, **it's independence with a dose of fun!** Volunteer, donate or lend your talents at community events. 5101 Elmers Way, justpeople.org/index.php/hall-village



4 Feeling competitive? Stack your tiles for a cause at the **Blooming Tiles Mahjong Charity Tournament** on Jan. 31! This fun-filled event is hosted by Bloom Enterprises, with funds going toward their mission to **equip adults of different abilities with the skills to become contributing members of the community** and lead happy lives. Register as a player, secure a sponsorship or donate to support the cause. Every tile counts. 830 Green St. NE, bloomga.org/bt



5 **Eagle Ranch** offers a safe haven for struggling families by providing residential programs, counseling, education and therapeutic services that **foster healing and renewal**. Engage by volunteering during "Serve Saturdays," supporting events, cooking dinners or participating in one of their random acts of kindness. 5500 Union Church Rd., eagleranch.org 





my Gainesville/Flowery Branch
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- PRP MICRONEEDLING
- BBL/MOXI
- SYLFIRM X RF MICRONEEDLING
- THE SALT FACIAL
- ULTHERAPY
- LASER SKIN RESURFACING
- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM
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