

Annandale Village in Suwanee, a nonprofit residential community serving adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries at all stages of life and care, joins the Walton Gas Champions for Charities lineup this year.

CHAMPIONS FOR CHARITIES ADDS

Annandale Village

Photo courtesy Annandale Village

One of Georgia's nonprofit gems is joining the Walton Gas Champions for Charities lineup this season.

Annandale Village is one of three organizations vying for Walton Gas customers' votes. Also competing are perennial favorites Camp Twin Lakes and Children's Hospital of Atlanta.

The newcomer is one of only three nonprofit residential communities in the entire United States, and the only one in the Southeast, serving adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries at all stages of life and care. It offers a full continuum – from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing.

"When our residents come here, our hope is this becomes their home and their community for the rest of their lives," said Kayce Pearce, the organization's chief development and marketing officer.

Annandale Village, which occupies 55 wooded acres in Suwanee, currently serves 220 individuals. Most live on campus in their own apartments.

"We want every resident to live as independently as possible," Pearce said. This includes experiencing a healthy balance of recreational, social and wellness enrichment.

When they're not working a paid job or volunteering in the community, residents can enjoy amenities such as an indoor pool, gym, fitness center, computer lab, art and music activities and amusement arcade. The campus also features a health services clinic and a state-of-the-art dining hall.

Pearce says Walton Gas customers should consider voting for Annandale Village because "this is where happiness lives."

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE

Walton Gas customers' votes will determine how much each nonprofit organization will receive in Champions for Charity donations.

Voting begins on Aug. 28 with the first University of Georgia football game. Walton Gas donates \$1,000 for every Bulldog regular season victory and \$5,000 for every post-season win. In addition, new customers can opt to have another \$50 donated to one of the three charities.

Last season, Walton Gas and its customers combined to donate \$54,000 to three area nonprofit organizations.

Voting begins Aug. 28 at wالتongas.com/uga

Go to wالتongas.com/uga to vote for Annandale Village, Camp Twin Lakes or Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

ON HOUSING EYE

After a pandemic-related lull, the housing market is again booming in Northeast Georgia.

That's good news for the local economy, says Ruth Ann Miller. She is the executive officer for the Athens Area Home Builders Association (AAHBA), a professional trade group that tracks new construction and remodeling trends in nine counties in Northeast Georgia.

"As the housing industry grows, so grows the rest of the economy," she said. AAHBA monitors trends in a nine-county area northeast of metro Atlanta.

"This has been a fast-growing area of the state for years, but with recent announcements by big manufacturers like electric vehicle maker Rivian Automotive, we've moved from steady to explosive," she added, pointing to year-over-year gains in residential construction permits.



Home building in Northeast Georgia mirrors national statistics. Single-family housing starts in the U.S. hit an 11-month high in May, despite elevated interest rates and higher price tags. Demand that exceeds existing home inventory and improving supply chains are behind the trend, reports the National Association of Home Builders.

Spencer Frye, president of AAHBA, doesn't see the local boom going bust anytime soon.

"As single-family housing has become a Wall Street commodity and hedge funds continue to pour money into rental acquisitions, the demand to achieve the American dream of

homeownership will continue to rise as Georgia's population increases," he said.

That comes as no surprise to those who have watched the largely rural area transform into new subdivisions and commercial districts.

WHAT GEORGIA HOMEBUYERS WANT

What are the must-have features for new and remodeled homes in Northeast Georgia? Read the list at walgongas.com/what-georgia-homebuyers-want.

gas up the stove

Mexican Chicken Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | 1 can green chopped chilis |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup | 2-3 chopped jalapenos, optional |
| 1 large can of mushrooms | 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar |
| 1 pint sour cream | 6 large flour tortillas, torn into pieces |
| 1 medium onion, grated | 4 chicken breasts, boneless and skinless |

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Boil chicken breasts until well done and tender; season with salt and pepper. Cut into chunks and set aside. Combine soups, onions, mushrooms and sour cream, add salsa and chilies. Stir in cut-up chicken. In large casserole dish, put one-half the mixture, cover with torn tortillas, and sprinkle with cheese. Repeat this layering process ending in cheese. Top with jalapenos or hot salsa for extra spice. Bake uncovered for 1 hour.

Submitted by Sue Nash of Snellville. Featured recipes are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.



SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

The best entry each month will appear in the *Gazette* and receive a FREE cookbook with over 600 recipes.

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