

# Senior News

Georgia

**Providing Helpful Information for Mature Adults in GEORGIA!**



**A Special  
Celebration  
This Month!**

**page 6**

**November 2025**  
**Volume 39, No. 11**

# Columbia County Chamber Announces Panel of Delegates to Headline Legislative Breakfast

Submitted by Jamie Miller, Communications Manager – [jamie@columbiacountychamber.com](mailto:jamie@columbiacountychamber.com)

Evans, GA – October 23, 2025.

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the three local delegates that will headline the 2025 Pre-Legislative Breakfast, presented by AT&T, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at the Columbia County Exhibition Center. The panel will feature:

- Lee Anderson, Georgia State Senator, District 24
- Gary Richardson, Georgia House of Representatives, District 125
- Mark Newton, Georgia House of Representatives, District 127



**Darryl Hodson, MD - Mark Bonner, MD - Russell Harris, MD  
Misty Banknell, PA-C - Tamika Chester, NP - Jim Lekas, PA-C  
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WJBF's Brad Means will moderate the discussion, which will provide attendees with firsthand insight into the legislative priorities shaping the region's economic future. This event offers a unique opportunity for business leaders to hear directly from policymakers and better understand how upcoming legislation may impact their industries.

Organized by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee, the Legislative Breakfast is designed to connect business and political leaders with timely updates on the challenges and opportunities facing the Greater Augusta Region. The event also fosters valuable networking among elected officials, community leaders, and Chamber members.

Doors open at 7:00 a.m., with breakfast and networking, followed by the panel discussion at 8:00 a.m. Both Chamber members and non-members are welcome to attend. Registration is required. For more information and to reserve your seat, visit [www.ColumbiaCountyChamber.com/legislative-breakfast](http://www.ColumbiaCountyChamber.com/legislative-breakfast).

## Opinion

# THE ENEMY WITHIN

by Daniel W. Gatlyn, USN Ret; Minister/Journalist – [dangatlyn@gmail.com](mailto:dangatlyn@gmail.com)

**T**he enemy "afar" has proven to be an exceptionally more simple act to overwhelm than those close by, or... **the Enemy Within!** This fact has now become overwhelmingly apparent with the President, and Advocates, substantially settling the Mideast debacle; and yet, unable to unbuckle the restraints which hinder our U.S. Government from opening and moving forward! This comes as no surprise, since all clear thinkers of "the path forward" has included the precautionary measures of aligning our own cooperatives with the script at hand. An unruly, impractical, unthinkable... and perhaps, illegal... shutdown of "the System" now exists... a shutdown that seems inextricable from all abnormal operations. At some point **IT HAS TO OPEN... SO, WHY NOT NOW?** A partial answer is that "we ourselves (Centerfold) are at fault! Troubles in our personal pockets are the most difficult to handle!

I think back to regions beyond yesterday; and, the innumerable circumstances that I, as Pastor of multiple congregations, was called upon to settle differences involving family squabbles. The solutions were essentially "off the charts!" I would much rather be involved in neutralizing hard feelings with a dozen strangers than with "one" pair of family members. I will not venture in listing all the reasons for such impairment, or the surrounding difficulties of reconciliation, I just know that fractured relationships with kindred members are near impossible to solve! I am reminded of those who were friends for years; but, who died years later as enemies... never forgiving or forgetting! Shame! Shame! Shame!

**WE, as a Nation,** have fought furious battles with Alien Forces, in far distant places, alternately winning and losing. Some of our most feared enemies have become our favored Allies! Consider Japan and Germany... the wars fought... and the relationships a half century later!

Contrast that same scenario with feelings and conditions with alternate political strains, or repulsive family members! Hopefully, our ruptured affiliations were not caused by a registered hypocrisy??? Think it through!!!

I wish that it were possible to present myself as the ultimate "role model for the soul model!" But, that is not in the script! I do not have all the answers! Nor do I set myself as judge of others! I have learned however, to confess, forgive, and repost! And, I am working on the "Forgetting!" If I have been that friend, or leader, who through neglect or by design, have "pitched my tent" with obstinate pegs; or, an unrelenting "tie down," I ask your forgiveness... and reconciliation!

**I never desire to be that Enemy... Within or Without...  
...The rest is up to you!!!**



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## Taking Care!

# Making changes to prevent life-altering falls!

By Lisa M. Petsche – [lmepetsche@gmail.com](mailto:lmepetsche@gmail.com)

**O**ne in four adults aged 65-plus experiences a fall each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This statistic is based on self-reporting. The actual incidence is likely higher.

While taking a tumble may primarily hurt one's pride in their younger years, falls are the primary cause of injury and hospitalization for older adults. Half of those injured do not regain their former level of independence. Even more sobering, falls are one of the top ten causes of death for seniors.

The majority of falls take place at home during everyday activities. Most often they occur in the bathroom, bedroom or a stairwell.

Follow the tips below to help preserve your physical functioning, well-being and independence, or that of someone for whom you're providing care.

## **Physical Health**

- Get regular medical checkups, including vision and hearing tests.
- Take medications as prescribed. Fill all prescriptions at one pharmacy. Ask the pharmacist about available aids for organizing and remembering to take medications.
- Stay physically active and exercise regularly to help with posture, flexibility, muscle strength, bone mass, cardiac health and overall wellness.

## **Safety**

In addition to health- and age-related changes, hazardous conditions in the home environment are a major cause of falls. Here are some ways to reduce these hazards for yourself or a loved one:

- **In Stairwells:** Ensure steps are in good repair and have a non-skid surface. Keep them free of clutter. Have solid handrails installed on both sides of stairways and ensure adequate lighting.
- **In the Kitchen:** Keep regularly used pots, dishes, staple foods and other supplies within easy reach. Ensure the heaviest items are stored in the lower cupboards. If you must reach high places, get a step stool that has a high handrail and rubber tips.
- **In the Bathroom:** Have grab bars professionally installed by the toilet and in the bathtub or shower area. Use a rubber mat in the tub or shower, and a non-skid bath mat on the floor. Consider getting a raised toilet seat, a bathtub seat or shower chair and a hand-held shower attachment.

## **General Tips**

- Wear slippers or shoes that fit snugly, offer good support and have a non-skid sole.
- Ensure throw rugs and scatter mats have a non-skid backing. Better yet, remove them.
- Keep walkways clear of electrical cords.
- Avoid clutter in rooms and hallways and on stairs.
- Use night-lights in the bedroom, hallways and bathroom. Get the kind that have a built-in sensor that automatically turns the light on in dim conditions. Also get plug-in, rechargeable flashlights that automatically come on when the power goes out.
- Sign on with a personal emergency response service, whereby you wear a lightweight, waterproof pendant or bracelet that has a button to press if you run into a crisis and need help.
- Visit a medical supply store and check out the many products available – such as reachers and electric-lift armchairs – that can make daily activities safer. If you are caring for someone at a high risk for falls – due to physical frailty or poor judgment stemming from cognitive impairment, for example – inquire about bed alarms and chair alarms that alert you when the care receiver attempts to get up.
- Consider a cane or walker if balance is an ongoing problem. It's important to be fitted with the appropriate type of aid and receive instruction on how to properly use it.
- Arrange for a home assessment by an occupational therapist if you'd like more information about identifying potential safety hazards and successfully addressing them. The therapist may point out areas of risk and make recommendations that would not have occurred to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lisa M. Petsche is a social worker and freelance writer specializing in boomer and senior concerns.**



# Your Primary Care Team is Here

Frantz Felix, MD

Arthur S., 65 Plus Patient

**Medicare's 2026 Annual Enrollment Period begins on October 15, 2025, and ends on December 7, 2025.\* If you are eligible for Medicare, this is the time to compare benefit plans and choose the one that best meets your needs.**

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**65+**

# A Special Celebration This Month!

By Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

**COVER: Bread making is very popular!**

**N**ovember is a delightful month as there are many festivals and events to explore in the Atlanta area. Of course, November brings Veterans Day on November 11 and Thanksgiving Day on November 27th. However, this month there are also many special events: the IrishFest Atlanta in Roswell; the Atlanta Alive Gospel Festival on November 14th to 16th; Georgia Nature's Fest at the Georgia Conservancy on November 8th; Explore Africa, a cultural event on November 12th; Atlanta Flamenco Festival, an evening dedicated to flamenco music and dance on November 8th; the Festival of Trees from November 22nd to 30th - which focuses on decorated trees; the Glow Light Show starting November 15th; and yes, there are many more happenings. But today, let's focus on the IrishFest Atlanta.

This month, the November crisp air will drift through the trees around the city of Roswell as the gates to the IrishFest Atlanta event opens up on November 7th and continues throughout the weekend. This is a fantastic event, fun-filled and action packed, with demonstrations, contests, dances, workshops, crafts, and a lineup of unique musicians. The festival will be filled with vendor booths on the festival grounds, including Celtic crafts, woolen scarves, hand-wrought jewelry, and fragrant tins of tea. As I attended last year, I witnessed, in the back corners of the grounds, children tracing shamrocks with chalk and practicing Irish dance steps. How delightful.

What a glorious festival. It starts on Friday with a concert by the Phoenix School of Irish Arts. Then on Saturday, the 8th, the Zion Baptist Church will open up for the celebrated Irish Tea – an elegant ritual of savoring a cup of Irish tea while delighting in finger sandwiches, scones, and cakes. Guests, in finely decorated hats and coats, will cluster around small round tables, chatting and admiring the decorations and ambiance while enjoying Irish tea and finger foods. The tea will honor a special guest, Frank Groome, Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta. This is a paid special event at the Zion Baptist Church, but there are many more events... some are paid events... but many are free.

Later in the afternoon, is the performance of the Phoenix Céilí Band, which is a free event for the entire family. The Phoenix Céilí Band will take center stage at the Dublin Stage, hosting the festival's storied céilí, which is a social dance anchored by spirited Irish music. This year, the band includes members of the Phoenix School of Irish Arts bolstered by distinguished players from around the community, including the U.S. and all-Ireland champions. Mary Ujda will return to this year's céilí to call the dances, guiding the dancers of all ages and experiences through each tune with precision. There is a lively mix of jigs, reels, set dances, waltzes, polkas, slides and hornpipes. These are time-honored forms in Irish social dance music, played with clarity and rhythmic emphasis.

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As I attended last year it was spellbinding. This November, the ensemble will likely include a range of traditional acoustic instruments such as the fiddle, flute, whistle, accordion or concertina, bodhrán, drum, guitar or bouzouki for rhythm. Because the céilí is open to people of all levels, Mary Ujda paces things so newcomers can follow along, while still giving enough excitement for experienced dancers to enjoy.

But there is more at this charming festival. Workshops, concerts, more performances, and demonstrations. Beautiful sites and tantalizing smells. Ah, there is the scent of Irish stew, freshly baked soda bread, and tasty treats which smells will drift through the air.

Many local bakers come to participate in the famous bread contest. The Irish Bread Making Contest draws competitive banter and applause, and prize money. Last year, and this November, at the “Bread Tent,” local non-professional bakers will arrive carrying their soda bread loaves each on a disposable plate into the room.

Inside, the judging table is set and the Judges, including Chef Thomas McKeown and Chef Judith McLoughlin – stalwarts of the Atlanta culinary scene – will methodically assess each entry. The contest is steeped in tradition, and evaluated on taste, appearance, creativity and texture. After a few hours, the winners are announced and prizes awarded. What an exciting event for all to enjoy.

Bring the grandkids and join in on the special events and features all day. Arts and crafts, face painting by Chelle, sports demonstrations including Gaelic football, hurling and camogie, will occur. The coaches explain that camogie is the women’s version of hurling, and that Gaelic football is part soccer, part rugby, part basketball in its fast-paced footwork. It’s all family fun.

As part of IrishFest’s “Family Fun,” the arts & crafts area opens its arms to creativity. Children, parents, grandparents are all invited to find a table piled with colorful supplies: paper, markers, glue, glitter, maybe even wool or felt. Then the creativity begins as shamrocks, paper harps, Celtic knot designs, or just whimsical doodles are created.

Learn the Irish dance of Sean Nos Dance, beginning fiddle, or Irish whistle and flute. Learn about the uilleann pipes as Kieran O’Hare will teach and perform for us. And, you’ll enjoy so much more.

Sunday brings us harmonious sounds and music by Teada, which is a worldwide traditional band, along with Tigh na Coilie, an ensemble of talented teen musicians, singers and dancers who excel in traditional Irish music. Tigh na Coilie is named after the Irish homeplace in County Clare meaning “house in the woods.” This talented group of young adults play the fiddle, concertina and Uilleann pipes, while celebrating Irish heritage with great passion.

Some of the concerts require a ticket and some are free. Sunday gives us a full day of performances, jam sessions, and spontaneous dance circles all open to the public.

Last year, when we attended there were over 9,000 people; and, this 2025 festival is said to see a surge in popularity. So plan on attending and enjoy a fresh new learning experience this November. For more information, go to [Irishfestatlanta.org](http://Irishfestatlanta.org).



## Letter-to-Publisher

# Volunteer Opportunity on Christmas Day – Binai B'rith Pinch Hitters!

Submitted by Lee Tanenbaum, Communications Consultant; [LRTanny@gmail.com](mailto:LRTanny@gmail.com)

**S**ince 1980, the B'nai B'rith Pinch Hitters Program has been a beloved Atlanta tradition – a way for members of the Jewish community to “go to bat” for non-medical hospital and care-facility staff on Christmas Day, giving them the chance to spend the holiday with their families.

We invite your support in helping us spread the word about this meaningful, family-friendly volunteer opportunity through your publication, congregation, or community network.

**When:** Thursday, December 25, 2025

**Where:** Seven hospitals and assisted living facilities across metro Atlanta

**Shifts:** 3 to 4-hour options – morning, mid-day, or afternoon

**Sign up:** [www.pinchhitters.org](http://www.pinchhitters.org)

**More information:** [Atlanta Jewish Connector](#)

Perfect for families and individuals alike!

In 2024, more than 200 volunteers joined us to make a difference on Christmas Day, and we hope to welcome even more in 2025. Volunteers will serve at: Alto of Johns Creek, Berman Commons, Dunwoody Place, Historic Roswell Place, William Breman Jewish Home, Sterling Estates of East Cobb, and VA Medical Center.

Please include this information in your bulletins, newsletters, or social media posts to help us continue this 45-year tradition of **tikkun olam and community service.**

Thank you for helping us make a difference this holiday season.

Warm regards,

Harry Lutz, Chairman  
B'nai B'rith Pinch Hitter Program  
[hslutz\\_fsa@yahoo.com](mailto:hslutz_fsa@yahoo.com)

Lee Tanenbaum, Communications Consultant; [LRTanny@gmail.com](mailto:LRTanny@gmail.com)



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# Appreciation Lunch for First Responders & Military... Honoring Our Local Heros!

Submitted by John Yee, Executive Assistant, Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team, Keller Williams  
john@janiceoverbeck.com; <http://www.janiceoverbeck.com>

Marietta, Georgia – October 9, 2025

**T**he Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team proudly hosted its 13th Semi-Annual First Responders & Military Appreciation Lunch on Tuesday, October 8th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the team's office located at 2249 Roswell Road in Marietta.

This biannual event brought together local police officers, firefighters, EMTs and military personnel for an afternoon of fellowship, gratitude and connection with the community.

"Our First Responders and Military Appreciation Lunch is one of the highlights of our year," said Janice Overbeck. "It's our way of saying thank you to the incredible men and women who protect and serve our community every single day."

The Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event possible!



Pictured Left to Right: Donny Williams, Cheryl Good, Nathalie Jegg, Senator Kay Kirkpatrick and Janice Overbeck!



Our heroes were treated to a full cookout experience thanks to Supreme Lending!



Our patio was filled with hometown heroes, from police officers to firefighters to military personnel... all enjoying food and fellowship under the warm Georgia sunshine!



Arrow Exterminators proudly supplied beverages for the event, ensuring everyone stayed refreshed throughout the afternoon!



Thoughtful gifts for our local heroes complete with custom tumblers and swag from Country Financial and The Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team!



The sweetest part of the day! Huge thanks to Taylor Rogowski with First American Home Warranty for sponsoring the Donut NV Truck and bringing smiles (and sugar!) to our heroes.



The AmeriSpec Team contributed to the event with giveaways and interactive activities, enhancing the fun and community spirit on the patio!

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# Amelia Island: A Town Time Forgot – Thank Goodness!

by Fyllis Hickman, Travel Columnist

**I**t's a town time forgot – or maybe it just refused to move forward. Serene and unpretentious, Amelia Island remains in the 1900s – reveling in its long, colorful history, quite aware it no longer has to prove anything to the rest of the world.

Therein lies the charm of this tiny stretch of land, 13 miles long and two miles wide, just off the northeastern tip of Florida. And abundant charm it is. One of the many extra perks offered by American Cruise Lines intra-coastal waterway cruise from Amelia Island to Charleston, SC, the only cruise company in the world to offer such an itinerary.



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Deremer Studios Amelia Island Commercial Photography –  
[www.deremerstudios.com](http://www.deremerstudios.com)!



Cobblestone streets and shops in town!

For me, the main attraction is the seaport village of Fernandina Beach where a sense of Victorian splendor still abounds. Barely touched by t-shirt shops and cell phone stands, the town pays homage daily to its elegant past.

Also absent is the caterwaul of car horns. They're just not there. The downside is that drivers stop their cars in the middle of the street to chat with a friend. On the other hand, no one seems to mind.

A place that has not heard of Benetton's, the island's modern history dates back to 1562, when it was discovered by the French. Amelia progressed as far as the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century and stayed there. Why not? It was at its peak of prominence and prosperity. Close your eyes and you can still hear the sound of trolleys casually clunking along cobblestone streets.

As the only territory in the United States to have seen rule under eight flags, Amelia Island still retains many of their influences: from French, Spanish and British to pirates, patriots and Confederates. Often summed up as "the French visited, the Spanish developed, the English named and the Americans tamed," (conveniently overlooking its very prominent position as pirates' playground during the early 1800s), Amelia not only has been at the epicenter of Floridian history but international politics as well.

But that was then and now is still then. Hailed as "The Queen of Summer Resorts" by American Resorts magazine in 1896, the island soon after lost its tourist base to stops further south. As a result, mass modernization bypassed the island – a disguised blessing that allowed Amelia to remain an authentic Victorian seaport village.

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Shrimp boats at rest – Photo by Victor Block!



Fyllis Hickman  
Columnist

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Street after street, house after house, enchants, charms and captivates visitors, be they on guided tours, informal strolls or atop a golf cart. Most of the homes, ablaze in multiple shades of tans and turquoise and mints and mauves, sport some strange appendage on the roof alternately identified as a turret, cupola, gazebo, or belvedere. Wraparound porches adorned with decorative balustrades and whimsically designed gingerbread give each structure its personal charm and distinction.

Hospitality gushes through every lush towel and hand-designed window treatment of Hoyt House, a 1905 canary yellow and periwinkle blue Victorian dollhouse mother-henned over by owners Todd and Jamie Cohen. Re-capturing the tranquility of the Victorian era is unavoidable as you stroll the resplendent garden, stop for a wistful moment at the gazebo, sway softly on the porch swing or sprawl out beneath the 300-year-old oak. Sipping of a mint julep is optional.

For even a grander step backwards, drop by the Florida House Inn, whose 1857 origin makes it the oldest tourist hotel in Florida. Keep an eye out for one of innkeeper Diane Warrick's prize quilts, which may be found adorning beds, walls, sofas and occasionally other unexpected objects. Since this is a pet-friendly property, you may find one of them doing the same thing...

Each B&B comes with its own colorful history, a past inextricably linked to the development of the Island, the state of Florida, and often the country. A stroll down Centre Street reinforces the connection with yesteryear. A Norman Rockwell painting of a town, Fernandina's outdoor cafes and quaint shops decked out in resplendent Victorian finery reflect an earlier easier era. Just the presence of individualized shops is a welcome antidote to the sameness of suburban malls. Fernandina's horse-drawn carriages, however, have been replaced by a horse-less electric version. Not exactly the same....

And then there's the Palace Saloon. Operating since 1903, it is the oldest saloon in Florida with much of the interior dating back to 1878, when the building was first constructed. Although its choice of libations may have changed from Red Cross Rye and Turkey Mountain Corn Whiskey to Miller Light and Sex on the Beach, little else has.

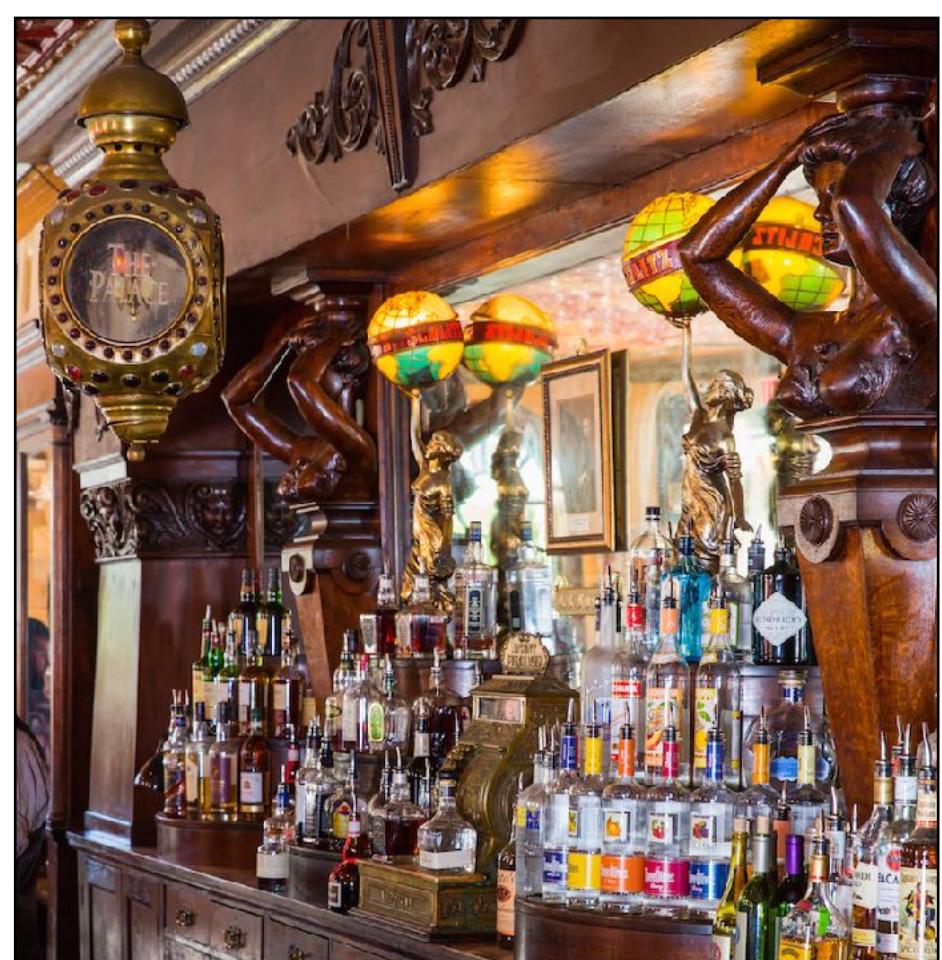
The original swinging doors, embossed tin ceiling, player piano, brass cash register and opulent 40-foot mahogany bar embellished with hand-carved figures of undraped women still draw the thirsty, the curious and the fun-loving. The former watering hole to Carnegies, Rockefellers and du Ponts, as well as the shrimpers and seamen who dominated the port city, is now the tavern of choice for tourists, locals and shrimpers and seamen who still frequent Amelia Harbor.

Indeed, Amelia Island's thriving shrimp industry is yet another throwback to its glory days. The birthplace of the shrimp industry still earns accolades as over two million pounds of shrimp cross Fernandina docks each year. However, they no longer sell for the nickel a pound they cost in 1906.

A walk by the harbor at sunset captures the essence of Amelia Island. The tall masts of the shrimp boats are lined up, silhouetted against the sinking sun, further testimony that the island remains unwilling to give up its past. We then left for the future visits to other delightful towns along the coast such as Jekyll/St. Simons islands, Savannah, Hilton Head, Beaufort, and Charleston. For more information, visit [american cruiselines.com](http://american cruiselines.com); [ameliaisland.com](http://ameliaisland.com).



**Florida House!**



**Palace-Saloon!**



**Eight Flags of Amelia Island – Florida House Porch!**

# BBB Tip: What to Include in Your Home Improvement Contract!

Submitted by Kelvin H. Collins, President/CEO, Better Business Bureau

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**S**o, you've planned your home improvement project. You've done the research, interviewed candidates, and found the general contractor you'd like to hire – the only thing left is to sign the papers and get to work. But here's where you run into this sage advice: Get everything in writing.

Your home renovation contract is a big deal from this point on. This will be the shared starting point between you and your general contractor for the project. It will also be useful if any follow-up service or issues arise in the future. A detailed contract is your best resource for keeping timelines, budgets, responsibilities, and relationships on track.

**The question is: What exactly do you need to get in writing? Before you put ink to the page, here are 10 questions to answer when writing your home improvement contract:**

## 1. What is the project scope?

- Start by defining the scope of the project. This will ensure everyone understands what the project is aiming to achieve.
- End with a review of the scope to eliminate any confusion.
- Make sure these elements are clearly defined. This way, everyone can understand the work being done, including you, general contractors, subcontractors, lawyers, and dispute resolution specialists.

### Your project scope section in your contract should clearly define:

- What type of work (demo, install, finishing, removal, disposal)
- Materials needed (manufacturer, brand name)
- Subcontractors needed
- Completion date and/or targeted milestone dates for different project stages
- Budget expectations (this may not be binding, but a target budget should be identified)
- Design specifications with accompanying design drawings or blueprints, if applicable

## 2. What are the payment terms?

Never pay in full upfront. Stagger your payment schedule so your final payment isn't due until the work is complete and you thoroughly inspect it. Do not pay cash; make sure your check is written to a company, not an individual, or use a credit card. Paying with a credit card will provide some recourse should the job not be completed, as stated in the contract.

## 3. What is the renovation schedule?

There's nothing like having a deadline to keep expectations on track. After discussing the scope and projected labor with your general contractor, work together to identify how the following elements fit into the calendar:

- Overall project timeline with the start and completion dates
- Milestones: especially for larger projects like home additions, it may be beneficial to chunk out key milestone dates
- Other deadlines (for permits, acquiring materials, project inspections)
- Contingency timelines if work falls behind schedule
- Penalties/incentives for early completion

## 4. What is included for insurance and liability?

Who's on the hook for accidents like injuries or property damage? If you're working with a trustworthy, BBB Accredited contractor, you may not be concerned. But do take the time to inquire about insurance and liability for your project, and make sure this language is outlined in the final renovation contract.

### Insurance and liability details to be included:

- Types and amount of insurance coverage required
- Waivers of liability
- Who is responsible for damages or losses that may occur during the project

## 5. Have you asked about a lien waiver?

A lien waiver is a statement from your contractor that says all suppliers and subcontractors have been paid for their work.

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#### 6. What permits and approvals are needed?

Your contractor should have the correct permits before starting your project. The contractor should obtain the permits because the person pulling the permits is responsible for meeting local codes, but you will probably pay for them. Request that all final inspections be completed by the local building official prior to final payment.

#### 7. What provisions should be made for project terminations or disputes?

It's not fun to think about before you've even started, but some projects can go south for a variety of reasons. Do not pay a contractor for poor work. This could mean stopping a project, debating if the contract was completed, or dropping the contract.

**For your part, this creates a need to plan in advance by including the following provisions for a contract:**

- Termination clause for failure to meet scope, schedule, payment, quality or expectations
- Termination clause for convenience
- Specifications on how disputes will be resolved (mediation/arbitration)

#### 8. Are there any warranties, guarantees or future service agreements?

Ensure you know your warranty coverage and how to deal with service issues. Specify exactly what is expected of contractors. Explain how to address product defects. Outline acceptable timeframes for revisiting unfinished or unsatisfactory work.

**This section should include language that addresses the following:**

- Warranties and guarantees for all work performed
- Length of the warranty period
- What's covered under warranty (labor, products, materials)
- Guarantees of work such as quality or performance
- Future service agreements

#### 9. Do you have signatures from the homeowner and the contractor?

The name and contact information of the contractor and the homeowner should be included. Additionally, both parties should sign the document on the "dotted line." Both parties must sign and date all documents before work begins. Copies of the signed contracts should be given to everyone.

#### 10. Have you requested a receipt?

Technically, this won't be part of your contract, but make sure you request a receipt marked "Paid in Full" when the job is completed and your final payment made. This will be another reference point to keep on file for legal and tax purposes.

#### Final thoughts: Keep your contract

Lastly, be sure to hold on to your contract for future reference. One of BBB's Standards for Trust is to "Honor Promises." This is, after all, a trusted document forged between you and your contractor.

If any questions arise after the work is complete, you want to ensure that every promise made is fulfilled.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Web site: BBB.org or Email: info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org.**

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# This December, Follow the Yellow Brick Road to City Springs Theatre Company's The Wizard of Oz, Live On Stage, Dec. 12 -28!

This magical stage production is based on the beloved 1939 film and will be directed/choreographed by Tony Award®-recipient and Broadway legend Baayork Lee!

Special to *SeniorNewsGeorgia*

Metro Atlanta (Oct. 31, 2025)

**C**ity Springs Theatre Company (CSTC) invites Atlanta-area audiences to journey “over the rainbow” with the exciting stage adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, December 12 through 28 at the Byers Theatre in Sandy Springs. The production is the second production in the company’s 2025-2026 PNC Bank Season and is presented by Atlanta Orthodontic Specialists and Resurgens Spine Center.

Based on the book by L. Frank Baum, and based on the classic 1939 MGM film adaptation, *The Wizard of Oz* is the timeless tale of Kansas teenager Dorothy Gale, who finds herself transported to the magical Land of Oz, where she meets colorful characters along the way, and makes an enemy of a truly wicked witch. The production features all the legendary songs featured in the 1939 film including “Over The Rainbow” and “Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead.”

“With a cast of 48 performers, *The Wizard of Oz* is certainly one of our most-ambitious productions to date,” said CSTC’s Executive Director **Natalie DeLancey**. “As this is our December production, we’re adding a heavy dose of holiday magic to accompany the Broadway-sized dazzle that audiences have come to expect, especially from our previous Baayork Lee-helmed productions.”

Oz marks the company’s sixth collaboration with the esteemed director-choreographer **Baayork Lee**, who is a veteran of 14 Broadway shows as either a performer or choreographer. She has previously staged CSTC’s wildly successful productions of *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast*, *Cats*, *A Chorus Line*, and more. As with those previous productions staged by Ms. Lee, *The Wizard of Oz* will include many young performers from the City Springs Theatre Conservatory and other area schools. With music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, this adaptation (by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company) has thrilled audiences worldwide since its 1987 debut, and includes the additional classic songs “We’re Off to See the Wizard,” “If I Were King of the Forest,” and “The Merry Old Land of Oz,” plus one song famously cut from the original 1939 film, “The Jitterbug.”

*The Wizard of Oz* will star **Elizabeth Hall** as Dorothy Gale. Hall is an alumnus of City Springs Theatre Conservatory’s pre-professional program and now a student at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She leads a cast that includes Broadway and CSTC veterans **Courtenay Collins** (Broadway’s *The Prom*, CSTC’s *Beautiful*, *The Music Man*, *Fiddler on the Roof*) as The Wicked Witch, and **Kristine Reese** (Broadway’s *Les Misérables*, CSTC’s *Ragtime*, *Spamalot*, *Mamma Mia!*). Broadway’s **Stanley Martin** (*Disney’s Aladdin*) makes his CSTC debut as The Scarecrow. Also returning to the CSTC stage are **Tyler Pирrung** (CSTC’s *The Producers*, *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*) as The Tin Man; **Nick Morrett** (CSTC’s *The Music Man*) is The Cowardly Lion, **Jeff McKerley** (CSTC’s *The Producers*, *Into The Woods*) will play The Wizard, and **Chris Damiano** (CSTC’s *Ragtime*, *Jersey Boys*) is Uncle Henry.



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Baayork Lee as Dorothy!

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Returning CSTC performers also include ensemble members **Ruby Calamia, David Grindrod, Trevor “TJay” Groce, Evan Hamilton, Grace Arnold Hogan, Imani Joseph, Zac Pritts, Zach Shanks, Lauren Brooke Tatum, Olivia Windley, and Alexis Yard**. Making their CSTC debuts are ensemble members **Amber Lux Archer, Thomas Hamilton and Sebastian Serra**.

*The Wizard of Oz*’s ensemble will also feature ten (10) students from the City Springs Theatre Conservatory Pre-Professional Program **Bella Dole, Bram Fages, Yennelle Gordon, Gabe Hardin, Justin Kimbro, Jayla Lopez, Adrienne Ocfemia, Adrian Perez-Arciniegas, Ivy Stull and Elizabeth Windley**. Appearing as Munchkins are Pre-Professional students **Jackson Arthur, Katie Kraushaar, Genevieve Noel, Rene Takahashi and Mary Taylor**, as well as young performers **Margo Aust, Haley Byrd, Jack Chipchase, Harrison Choice, Cece Fields, and Lyric Khamauri Monroy**. Alternating as additional Munchkins are **Madeline Beamer, Avery Belote, Felicity Cranmer, Ruby Jolly, Margot Kirchoff, Alexandra Noel, Crosby Radding, Bess Shepherd, Emma Smith and Scarlett Wamsley**. (For a list of when the alternating youth performers are appearing, visit [CitySpringsTheatre.com/oz](http://CitySpringsTheatre.com/oz)).

*The Wizard of Oz*’s creative team is **Baayork Lee** (Director and Choreographer); **Holt McCarley** (Music Director), **David Grindrod** (Associate Choreographer), **Kaitlyn Peterson** (Scenic Designer), **Thomas Hase** (Lighting Designer), **Ryan Moller** (Costume Designer), **Alicia Berry** (Hair and Makeup Design), **Anthony Narciso** (Sound Designer), and **Nicholas Chimienti** (Projections Designer).

Performances of *The Wizard of Oz* take place December 12th through December 28th at the Byers Theatre in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. A special 1pm performance is scheduled for Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24. Tickets are now on sale at [www.CitySpringsTheatre.com](http://www.CitySpringsTheatre.com). For more information contact City Springs Theatre Company at 404-477-4365 during regular business hours.

#### Performance Schedule:

- Friday, December 12 @ 8:00pm
- Saturday, December 13 @ 2:00pm
- Saturday, December 13 @ 8:00pm
- Sunday, December 14 @ 2:00pm
- Tuesday, December 16 @ 7:30pm (added performance)
- Wednesday, December 17 @ 7:30pm
- Thursday, December 18 @ 7:30pm
- Friday, December 19 @ 2:00pm (added performance)
- Friday, December 19 @ 8:00pm
- Saturday, December 20 @ 2:00pm
- Saturday, December 20 @ 8:00pm
- Sunday, December 21 @ 2:00pm
- Tuesday, December 23 @ 2:00pm (added performance)
- Tuesday, December 23 @ 7:30pm
- Wednesday, December 24 @ 1:00pm
- Friday, December 26 @ 2:00pm (added performance)
- Friday, December 26 @ 8:00pm
- Saturday, December 27 @ 2:00pm
- Saturday, December 27 @ 8:00pm
- Sunday, December 28 @ 2:00pm

Individual tickets to *The Wizard of Oz* begin at \$70. Tickets include all fees, with discounts for seniors, groups, and active and retired military personnel. \$25 rush tickets (available 2 hours prior to showtime) are available for students, educators, first responders and entertainment industry professionals. Call 404-477-4365 or visit [CitySpringsTheatre.com](http://CitySpringsTheatre.com) for more information. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling the Box Office at 404-477-4365. CSTC’s Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am 5:00 pm. City Springs Theatre Company productions take place at the Byers Theatre in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs. There is covered parking onsite.

City Springs Theatre Company (CSTC) is dedicated to entertaining, educating, and enriching lives by creating world-class entertainment experiences and innovative arts education programs that drive cultural and economic vitality. Through musical theatre productions that utilize the talents of local and national artists, CSTC provides Broadway-quality entertainment to the diverse Atlanta populace, helping to establish Sandy Springs,

Georgia, as a growing cultural center. City Springs Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, led by Natalie DeLancey as executive director, and Tony Award®-winner and Atlanta native Shuler Hensley as artistic director. To date, CSTC has served over 320,000 patrons and 150,000 students through its mainstage musicals and educational programs. For tickets and more information call 404-477-4365. [www.CitySpringsTheatre.com](http://www.CitySpringsTheatre.com).

