
The Ark on Lake Lanier

From Dr Henry J Lewis <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 8/26/2026 5:59 PM
To Planning <planning@hallcounty.org>
Cc Billy Powell (County Commission) <bpowell@hallcounty.org>

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I am writing to support the Ark on Lake Lanier to be designated an event center with up to 80 guests. I am a resident of Hall County for 26 years and I have attended a number of events there over the years. Every event was always first class. While there was temporarily increased traffic for the event, nothing was burdensome as attendants parked the cars or directed parking on an ample empty lot across the street and ferried guests to the door in golf carts. Nothing was loud or garish. Music was indoors or very muted to allow conversation outdoors. I am well familiar with the owner and he wants events to be classy affairs, not cheap and rowdy. He is very conscious of neighbors and the neighborhood in which this facility has operated these events for many years.

My understanding is the facility has operated for years as a de facto event center without incident for corporate and religious retreats and family reunions where a limited number of people stay at the Ark under an existing permitted use and a number of other guests of related to those staying at the Ark are invited during the day, not overnight, to enjoy the Ark's amenities with friends and relatives and perhaps to share a meal in the same way that a family would invite guests over to their house for the same purpose. The Ark is already approved by the County for a maximum set number of overnight guests and that is not being increased in capacity. It already has hosted events that expand the number of people at the facility as guests of those staying there. As such, it is my understanding that Hall County suggested that the owner of the Ark formalize the events that have already been well and peacefully hosted there over the years to allow up to 80 total for any event hosted there. I understand there is an attached approval to allow parking on the lot across the street, which makes sense to keep traffic orderly and contained, but is not necessary to approval of the Ark as an event center for 80 guests. I support the application for both, but especially for the event center. This is an asset for Hall County and I am sure it has a positive economic impact on the County. While no one wants other than a residence in their community, the use that is being applied for has already been in existence in their community de facto for many years. This application is having the zoning rules catch up with the existing use and is not a change for the community. It certainly is not burdensome in any manner. To prohibit non residents of the Ark from having ingress and egress to and from the facility may not be legal for other reasons as the roads are not designated as private roads or gated. I will not be able to attend to show support, but please mention my email as evidence of other county residents that support the Ark. I live in District 2. Billy Powell is my Commissioner.

Sent from iPhone
Henry J Lewis, MD, JD

