

SPLOST: County begins work on Hamilton Mill area road project



The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners broke ground on a road-widening project for Braselton Highway (SR 124) on May 20. The roadway will get an additional lane in each direction in addition to a center turn lane from Hamilton Mill Road east to Pine Road. Existing pavement will be recycled through a large portion of the project. The County will also modify the signals on Braselton Highway at the Hamilton Mill Road and Hamilton Creek Parkway intersections for better performance. The total project will be approximately 1.3 miles. "This is one of many projects that we are working on this year to help reduce congestion and keep traffic moving efficiently," said Gwinnett DOT Director Brian Allen.



Commissioners break ground for the widening project.

residents for providing funds through SPLOST to help relieve traffic in our County," said District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau**. The developer of a new commercial center on State Route 124 also contributed \$500,000 towards construction costs. Construction is expected to be completed late 2008 or early 2009.

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Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



GJAC turns 20, Gwinnett Glows going strong

by David Knope, Staff Writer

Twenty years ago on July 4, 1988, the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC) celebrated its grand opening with a five-minute fireworks show for a crowd of about 500.

gwinnett glows



july 4, 2008

The following year, County Manager Chuck Button suggested making the fireworks show an annual July 4 tradition. With the help of local business sponsors, Gwinnett Glows has grown over the two decades and now attracts some 70,000 people each year to downtown Lawrenceville. The Nash Street parking lot continues to serve as the fireworks staging area as it has from the beginning.

When GJAC opened, it was the first new home for County government in 103 years. Gwinnett's first

SPLOST program raised \$65.7 million in 24 months to pay for the new building and its 65-acre site.

The East Wing originally housed 28 courtrooms plus offices for the District Attorney and Clerk of Court staff. The West Wing housed many of the County's 11 departments along with offices for the Board of Commissioners. Lillian Webb was chairman when the building opened and the commissioners were Ken Suffridge, Scott Ferguson, Mike Berg, and Don Loggins.

Spectators watched the early fireworks shows from the 650-car circular parking lot in front of the building. Two years ago, the festivities outgrew the parking lot and County officials forged a new partnership with the City of Lawrenceville to move the food vendors and free children's activities to the Historic Courthouse Square nearby.

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Reminder: Tax bills will be mailed

The Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner will mail 2008 property tax bills to all property owners in Gwinnett by July 15, 2008. For convenience, taxpayers will receive two payment coupons and reply envelopes and may pay in two installments due September 15 and November 15, 2008. Payment in full is also accepted by the first installment date. Penalties and interest apply for late payments.

This year, taxpayers have even more options to pay their property tax:

- Use credit card or e-check at www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com (Convenience fees apply for credit card transactions over the Internet)
- Pay by check and use the drop-off boxes accessible 24 hours a day at all Tax Commissioner's offices
- Mail payments to the Tax Commissioner's office at 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Katherine Sherrington

Tax Commissioner

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Property Tax Customer Service

770.822.8800

tax@gwinnettcountry.com

Motor Vehicles Customer Service

770.822.8818

tag@gwinnettcountry.com

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com

- Pay in person during regular business hours at the main Property Tax Office located in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville, or at any of the five motor vehicle tag branch offices
- Pay using banking information over the telephone by calling TaxTalk 24 at 770.822.8800

For property owners with funds held in escrow accounts, tax bills are automatically mailed to mortgage companies. Contact the Tax Commissioner's office for more information.

House Bill 518 reduces title application period

During the 2007 – 2008 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed *House Bill 518*, which reduces the time to apply for a vehicle title. Effective July 1, 2008, a title application must be made within 30 days following the date of purchase, as opposed to the current 90-day requirement, or a \$10 penalty will be assessed.

If the title application is rejected, the party applying for a title has 60 days from the rejection date to resubmit the title application or an additional \$10 penalty will be assessed. Also, the owner of the vehicle must immediately remove the license plate of the vehicle and return it to the Department of Revenue or a County tag office. The license plate will be considered expired as of midnight on the 60th day following the initial rejection of the documents.

Also during the legislative session, *Senate Bill 437* passed requiring vehicle security interest holders (lienholders) to apply for a title within 30 days of the date they create a lien on a vehicle. The effective date for this bill is July 1, 2009.

Fundraiser to benefit Gwinnett seniors

Lights, Camera, Auction! Step out onto the red carpet: the focus will be on you because you will be the celebrity for the night. Leave all your worries behind and come out and enjoy yourself. We will cater to your needs by offering delectable hors d'oeuvres, sparkling drinks, and entertainment—all this and more to benefit Gwinnett County senior citizens.

This spectacular event is the Sixth Annual Silent Auction hosted by the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS). It will be held at Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett, located at 3100 Club Drive in Lawrenceville, on Thursday, July 24, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm.

FOGCSS is a volunteer-governed, nonprofit organization. Its fund-raising efforts have been crucial to the funding of programs to benefit the senior citizens of Gwinnett, especially the Meals on Wheels

program, which helps serve over 80,000 meals to homebound senior clients to meet their daily nutritional needs.

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A patron looks over items at FOGCSS' 2007 Silent Auction.

gwinnettcounty parks & recreation



SAVE MONEY by purchasing the new **FUNCARD** that offers discounted admission fees to Gwinnett's pools. Visit www.gwinnettparks.com for more information

Seasonal Funcard*		Year-Round Funcard*		10-visit Funcard**	
Individual	\$ 75	Individual	\$144	Individual (18-49)	\$45
Family of 2	\$125	Family of 2	\$232	Senior Citizen (50-up)	\$18
Family of 3	\$170	Family of 3	\$313		
Family of 4	\$200	Family of 4	\$375		
Family of 5	\$232	Family of 5	\$438		
Family of 6	\$265	Family of 6	\$500		

Funcards can only be purchased at Bethesda, Bogan, Collins Hill, Mountain Park, and West Gwinnett Aquatic Centers, but are valid at all Gwinnett County pools. Seasonal fun cards are valid Memorial Day through Labor Day (all indoor and outdoor pools) and Labor Day through Memorial Day (indoor pools only).

* Prices listed are for Gwinnett residents; prices doubled for non-residents

** 10-visit Funcard available for Gwinnett County residents only

Groundbreaking: Gwinnett Braves Stadium

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Gwinnett Braves Stadium, hosted by the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau on Tuesday, June 3. John Schuerholz, president, Atlanta Braves; Pat O'Conner, president, Minor League Baseball; and Randy Mobley, president, In-



Pet Corner

The Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center will begin a new program, **Paws for Seniors**, that will allow adults 55 and over to receive unlimited, free pet adoptions. Additionally, they will receive a discount on all veterinarian services performed on the adopted pets.

Also, effective June 14, the center will have extended hours on the following days: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am – 8:00pm, and Saturdays, 10:00am – 4:00pm

For more information, drop by the shelter located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.



Check It Out!

Here are some great books for the armchair athlete:

American Son: My Story, by Oscar de la Hoya

Around the World in 80 Rounds: Chasing a Golf Ball from Tierra del Fuego to the Land of the Midnight Sun, by David Wood

The Best Sports Writing of Pat Jordan, by Pat Jordan

Dark Summit: The True story of Everest's Most Controversial Season, by Nick Heil

Women of the Court: Inside the WNBA, by Juliette Terzieff

A Champion's Mind: Lessons from a Life in Tennis, by Pete Sampras

Don't Let the Lipstick Fool You, by Lisa Leslie and Larry Burnett

Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and the Battle to Save Baseball, by Jose Canseco

Brett Favre: The Tribute, edited by Sports Illustrated

An Incomplete and Inaccurate History of Sport, by Kenny Mayne

This list is provided by the Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit your local branch for additional selection assistance, or check out the GCPL web site at www.gwinnettpl.org.

"It is the love of country that has lighted and will continue glowing the holy fire of patriotism."

— J. Horace McFarland

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

The Buford Artist Group presents **Painted Spaces – Special Places Art Exhibit** through July 24 at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, during center hours. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

The **Sharon Margolis Art Exhibit** continues through August 18 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. The exhibit is free and is open during regular courthouse hours. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

Play Bingo and socialize with your friends at **Brown Bag Bingo**, July 16, at 10:30am at the George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. Bring lunch and a white elephant gift; ages 50 and up. Cost is \$2 per person. Call 770.831.4173 for more information.

Grab your best friends or venture out on your own and come out to the **Latin Dance Party**, which is back by popular demand on July 19 from 7:00pm to 11:30pm. Cost is \$12 per person and includes dance lessons and refreshments; ages 14 and up. Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For details, call 770.723.9516.

Argh! Join us for our Pirate-themed **Family Swim Nights** from 7:10pm to 8:30pm on

Auction... cont'd from page 2

The auction will feature items and services donated by local businesses and individuals along with big-ticket items such as roundtrip airline tickets, weekend get-a-ways, Braves Baseball tickets, and apparel.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door; price includes admission, entertainment, food and beverages, a door prize ticket, and participation in the silent and live auction.

For additional information or to purchase advance tickets, please call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775 or you can send an e-mail to celia.moore@gwinnettcountry.com.

July 22 at Dacula Park Pool, 205 Dacula Road, and July 24 at Bogan Park Aquatic Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Each event will have special activities to add to the aquatic experience. No registration necessary; regular pool admission fees apply. For more information, call the Dacula Park Pool at 770.614.2063 or the Bogan Park Aquatic Center at 770.641.2060.

Live music by Shawn Mullins at the **Moonlight and Music Concert Series** on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, July 25 from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for free seating on the lawn (reserve a table for six for \$60). The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For details, call 770.822.5450.

Ice cream on a hot summer day—it doesn't get any better! Register for the July 25 **Ice Cream Social** by July 21. The event will be held from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Gwin-

GJAC... cont'd from page 1

To ensure visibility all over the downtown area, fireworks show producer Melrose Pyrotechnics began using larger shells so the fireworks would go higher in the sky. As the shows became computerized, they were synchronized with a music track.

For the past 12 years, Gwinnett Glows has been televised by the County's TVgwinnett, a government-access cable channel available throughout Gwinnett on cable channel 23. Television cameras on the GJAC roof supplement pre-recorded segments and bring live coverage of the fireworks to Gwinnett residents and those who can't attend in person.

Many families have made Gwinnett Glows an annual tradition and they return to their favorite viewing spots year after year. As its reputation grows, more Gwinnett residents are discovering the fun each year. Independence Day is the perfect occasion to bring a widely diverse audience together to celebrate our shared heritage of freedom.

nett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.564.4680.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation sponsors 10 different **senior recreation clubs** at various parks located throughout the county. Find out how you can become active by calling 770.564.4680.

For more information about the events and services sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation or Health and Human Services, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com under News and Events to download the *Gwinnett Life* and *One Stop* newsletters.


www.gwinnettcountry.com
+

gwinnett county government
access cable channel 23
gwinnettcountry's information resources

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ternational League, also participated in the ceremony, held at the future ballpark site at 2500 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville. The ballpark is expected to open to the public next spring.

countyline

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The *County Line* is published monthly by the Gwinnett County Communications Division to inform residents about County services and items of interest. For more information or to submit newsletter suggestions, call 770.822.7035 or e-mail heather.sawyer@gwinnettcountry.com. The *County Line* is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.