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**COUNTY OFFICIALS BREAK GROUND
ON NEW FIRE STATION, TAG OFFICE**

(Lawrenceville, Ga., June 28, 2005) – The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners were joined by Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner Katherine Sherrington and Fire Chief Jack McElfish for the official groundbreaking for two replacement facilities and a new fueling station. The total construction contract to build Fire Station 12, the Snellville Tag Office and the fueling station is \$4.3 million.

Once completed, the new tag office will replace the existing Snellville facility, currently located on Oak Road between Highway 78 and Scenic Highway. “We have simply outgrown our Snellville tag office facility,” Tax Commissioner Katherine Sherrington said. The current Snellville Branch Tag Office processed more than 175,000 transactions in 2004.

Fire Station 12 will sit adjacent to the new tag office on Lenora Church Road and will house an engine, ladder truck and rescue unit. The relocation will provide some much-needed space for the crew at Fire Station 12. They currently run three pieces of equipment out of a building designed for only two. Commission Chairman Bannister acknowledged that improvements like these “would not be possible without the voter support of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.” Fire Station 12 is being funded by the 2001 SPLOST. The three-bay facility should be completed early next year.

“We are excited and proud to be able to improve upon these vital services in the southern portion of Gwinnett County,” said District 3 Commissioner Mike Beaudreau.

The contractor for the project is Swofford Construction.

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