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gwinnettcounty government news

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sales tax update 

**Road upgrades get green light**

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pet corner

sales tax update 

**If you are looking for a companionable addition to your household, you will find lots of adorable cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens at the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center.**

Visit [gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://gwinnettanimalcontrol.com)

to see photos of all the critters currently up for adoption or drop by the shelter located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200. In an attempt to prevent pet overpopulation, all cats and dogs are spayed or neutered before adoption.

## Road upgrades get green light

Commissioners on Tuesday awarded three contracts for roadway safety and sidewalk improvements to be funded from 2005 SPLOST revenues.

Hope Hollow Road will get safety improvements including wider shoulders from Plantation Run Drive to Hope Hollow Lane and an intersection upgrade at Hope Hollow Lane. Gary's Grading and Pipeline, Inc., was the lowest of 11 bidders at \$1.02 million for the nine-month project.

The Dickerson Group, Inc., was the lowest responsive bidder out of 13 bids received for two other safety projects. One will improve the intersection of Pate Road and Old Loganville Road by adding turn lanes at the intersection and at the entrances to nearby neighborhoods. The bid was just under \$818,000 for the nine-month project.

Dickerson will also extend sidewalks on Bethany Church Road from State Route 124 to the Centerville Library. The four-month, \$310,000 project will provide a continuous pedestrian connection from Shiloh High School to State Route 124.

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### check it out



Enjoying the summer music festivals? Learn more about the unique sounds of jazz and the stories behind those who perform it!

**The EAV History of Jazz,**  
(downloadable video)

**The Jazz Book: From Ragtime to the 21st Century,** by Joachim Berendt and Gunther Huesman

**Clawing at the Limits of Cool: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and the Greatest Jazz Collaboration Ever,** by Farah Griffin and Salim Washington

**Jazz,** by Christopher Handyside

**Jazz: The Rough Guide,** Edited by Ian Carr, Digby Fairweather, and Brian Priestley

**Weather Bird: Jazz at the Dawn of Its**

### county feature



## Waller moves to Juvenile Court; Blum moves up to full-time magistrate post

Judge **Robert L. Waller III** was sworn in to office as Gwinnett's new juvenile court judge on July 8 by Probate Judge Walter J. Clarke. He was previously a magistrate court judge.

Judge Waller has 24 years of legal experience, including 18 years in a judicial capacity. His past experience also includes teaching high school and working for the Georgia Department of Human Resources in the department's mental health and substance abuse division.

"Judge Waller served the Magistrate Court with distinction for many years. However, his concern for the well-being of this state's children and his service to the juvenile justice system predates even his service as a Magistrate," Chief Magistrate Judge **George Hutchinson** said. "It is a great pleasure to see Judge Waller fulfill his long time ambition to become a Juvenile Court Judge. While his departure will be a loss both personally and professionally, I know I speak for everyone in Magistrate Court when I say how much we wish our friend the best of luck and great success in his new adventure."

Judge Waller's vacant position in Magistrate Court has been filled by part-time magistrate **Kristina Blum**. Judge Blum has served as a part-time magistrate since 2005 and was selected to fill the vacant position from 27 applicants. "Given the quality of the candidates that had expressed an interest in serving, as well as their respective skills and abilities, it was a difficult decision to make," Hutchinson said.

Judge Blum was a partner at Williams, Morris, and Blum, LLP, where she specialized in complex civil litigation with an emphasis on representing

**Second Century**, by Gary Giddens

**Living with Jazz: A Reader**, by Sheldon Meyer

**The Jazz Channel Presents: BET on Jazz**, (downloadable video)

**Stephane Grappelli: Live in New Orleans**, (downloadable video)

**Jazz 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Jazz**, (also available as downloadable audio book) by John Szwed

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 website at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

governmental entities. Her previous experience also includes working as a law clerk in State Court, and she worked in the County's Law Department. She has heard cases in Superior, State, Juvenile, and Recorder's Courts. Judge Blum is a lecturer for the Georgia State Bar Association and is active with the Chamber of Commerce.

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protecting our resources



## Managing household hazardous wastes

Wondering what to do with those half-empty cans left over from your last house painting project? Concerned about the unfinished containers of toxic cleaners and solvents sitting in your shed, but not sure what to do with them?

**Household hazardous wastes (HHW)** are products containing hazardous substances that are used and disposed of by individual homeowners (rather than industrial businesses). Examples include paints, solvents, batteries, automobile fluids, herbicides, and pesticides. How you choose to handle your household hazardous wastes has a big impact on the health and safety of your home, your community, and the environment. In particular, proper disposal of HHW helps safeguard the health of our local rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater.

Here are a few tips for handling your HHW: **Do not** pour it down the household drain; throw it out with your regular garbage; pour it into ditches, storm drains, or gutters or dump, bury, or burn it. **Do** use it up or give the product to someone else who can use it, and avoid buying hazardous products in the future (or find safer alternative—for example, less toxic cleaning products).

To learn more about reducing, recycling, and disposing of HHW, visit the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) website: <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/EnvironmentalManagement>.

You can also find more information about HHW at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sustainability Division: [www.gasustainability.org](http://www.gasustainability.org).

For tips on reducing, recycling, and disposing of HHW in Gwinnett County, contact the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Call Center at 770.822.7141 or [gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcountry.com).

Another resource for finding disposal locations is the Earth 911 website, <http://earth911.com> or toll-free number, 1.877.EARTH911.

You can learn more about how to prevent nonpoint source pollution by calling Gwinnett County Stormwater Management at 678.376.6826 or by visiting our website at [www.gwinnettstormwater.com](http://www.gwinnettstormwater.com). To report instances of pollution, call 678.376.7000 (24 hours). By disposing of HHW properly, you can help protect Gwinnett's streams and waterways!

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advice from the tax commissioner



## Labor Day holiday closings

Please note the changes below and plan ahead. To view the complete tag office 2009 holiday schedule, please visit the Tax Commissioner's website at [www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com). The opening day following a holiday is typically very busy so please plan your visit accordingly.

### Lawrenceville and Norcross Tag Offices

**Closed:** Monday, September 7, 2009, and Friday, September 11, 2009

### Peachtree Corners and Snellville Tag Offices

**Closed:** Monday, September 7, 2009

### North Gwinnett Tag Office

**Closed:** Monday September 7, 2009, and Tuesday, September 8, 2009

**Skip a trip and save gas:** renew your vehicle [online](#)

To view the standard tag office schedule, visit the [Tag Office Hours and Locations](#) page of the Tax Commissioner's website.

## Reminder: Tag office closed for computer system maintenance

The North Gwinnett Tag Office, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, Buford, will be closed Saturday, September 26 while the Georgia Department of Revenue conducts computer system maintenance.

The maintenance period will take place from 7:00pm on Saturday, September 26 to 6:00am on Sunday, September 27. During this period, Internet and telephone tag renewals will not be available. Contact the Tax Commissioner's office for more information.

### Katherine Meyer, Tax Commissioner

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

#### Property Tax Customer Service

770.822.8800 • [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com)

#### Motor Vehicles Customer Service

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around gwinnett



### Puttin' on the ritz for Gwinnett seniors

On July 30, 2009, Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (Friends) raised over \$33,000 at its seventh annual silent auction to benefit Gwinnett seniors.

The event was hosted by Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett, which was transformed into a 1920s affair complete with food and refreshments. Friends' past-president and Delmar Executive Director Jennifer Thilo commented, "Every year this charity event gets even better. This could be our best ever and with all the economic uncertainty, we are so appreciative of such great community support. Every penny goes directly to helping seniors."

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#### **Back-to-School Bash** **August 28, 6:00pm – 9:30pm**

Back to school doesn't mean the fun has to end! Join us for swimming, Karaoke, dinner, and a movie! Ages 10 – 14; \$10/person; pre-registration required. Call 770.614.2060 and use code BPCC14205 when registering. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

#### **Moonlight and Music Concert** **August 28, 8:00pm – 10:00pm**

An evening of free live music with *Sons of Sailors*, a tribute to Jimmy Buffet. This alcohol-free event is in partnership with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association. Advanced reservations: \$60/table of six; lawn seating is free. Call 770.822.5450 for table reservations and use code GHCH14204. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

#### **Pinckneyville EXPO** **August 29, 10:00am – 3:00pm**

Free! Meet instructors and see class demos including ballet, pottery, karate, painting, and more. Kids ages 4 – 18 can enter the Awesome Artist Contest in three-dimensional art or drawing/painting. One entry per person; entry deadline is August 26. Call 770.417.2200 and use code PPCC04213 to register. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

#### **Museum Mania** **August 29, noon – 5:00pm**

Discover a behind-the-scenes look at the Gwinnett History Museum with living history demonstrations, family activities, and information sessions. Fun for all ages. \$6/person; pre-registration required. Call 770.822.5178 and use code FSHM10296 to register. The Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

### **Murder Mystery Theater**

**September 10, 6:30pm – 9:00pm**

**September 11, 6:30pm – 9:00pm**

Are you ready to roll the dice and join us in uncovering the mystery? You're invited to a VIP night at the Lady Luck Casino, where high rollers don't just gamble for big money...but for their lives. Casino doors will swing open promptly at 6:30pm. You won't want to miss any of the action. Ages 18 and up; \$30/person includes a buffet dinner in the high rollers lounge. Pre-registration required by September 7; call 770.822.5450 and use code GHCH14300 to register for the September 10 event; GHCH14301 for the September 11 event. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

### **Yard Sale**

**September 12, 10:00am – 2:00pm**

Free admission! Come to our first yard sale and recycle your kids' school clothes, find bargains, and have fun! Reservation required for sellers. Call 770.831.4173; \$20/space. Must provide your own table. Event held outdoors, rain or shine. Concessions are available. GCPR reserves the right to disallow items deemed inappropriate during this event. Use code GPCC14322 when registering. George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee.

**Sign up for these and other great activities at [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com).**

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## **county line**

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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 770.822.7135 or e-mail [shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com). The **County Line** is also available on the County's website, [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).



