



countyline
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contents

- Sales Tax Update
- County Feature
- Protecting Our Resources
- Tax Commissioner
- Pet Corner
- Check It Out!
- Around Gwinnett

January 2010-v18 n1



sales tax update 

SPLOST: Three road projects benefit Gwinnett drivers

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protecting our resources 



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[READ MORE](#)

tax commissioner 



January tag office holiday hours

Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 18. Visit the Tax Commissioner's website to view the tag office holiday schedule. Tag office work schedules are different during holiday weeks and the day following a holiday is typically very busy. Be first in line every time; renew your vehicle online at the Tax Commissioner's website.

[READ MORE](#)

around gwinnett 



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sales tax update



SPLOST: Three new road projects benefit Gwinnett drivers

Three transportation projects funded by the 2005 and 2009 SPLOST programs received construction approvals from the Board of Commissioners on December 15. "In the midst of a recession, we're grateful to have these SPLOST revenues available so we can continue making needed road and safety improvements," said Commission Chairman **Charles Bannister**.

The approval of the construction contract for Section 3A of the **Sugarloaf Parkway Extension** Phase 1 will create a 1.6-mile section of new four-lane highway east of Lawrenceville. This section will extend from Martins Chapel Road to Campbell Road. The contract was awarded to E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., the lowest of nine bidders at \$15.5 million. This section includes two bridges, one over the Alcovy River, and another as part of the diamond interchange at Campbell Road. The project will also relocate West Campbell Road and build a half-mile Bramlett Shoals Road Connector. Section 3B will take the road from the Campbell Road interchange to State Route 316 and is currently under design. That section will begin construction in 2010.

Section 1 of the Sugarloaf Parkway Extension is nearing completion and will be opened to traffic in early 2010. That section will extend the road from its current end at State Route 20 south of Lawrenceville to a new interchange at New Hope Road. Section 2 is under construction and is expected to be completed in the first half of 2011. That section extends from the New Hope Road interchange to a new interchange at Martins Chapel Road. When completed, the four sections of Phase 1 will extend from State Route 20 to State Route 316 and will provide connectivity between the south Lawrenceville/Grayson area and the Dacula area.

Strickland and Sons Pipeline, Inc. was the lowest of 10 bidders at \$2.2 million to build three-quarters of a mile of new roadway with turn lanes and sidewalk near the Georgia Gwinnett College campus. This extension of **Collins Industrial Way** will be built as a two-lane roadway with a center turn lane from University Center Lane to Walther Boulevard, providing an additional access to the college.

The intersection of **Peachtree Industrial Boulevard** and **Abbott's Bridge Road/State Route 120** in Duluth will be improved with the installation of additional turn lanes and sidewalks. The \$2.2 million contract went to Baldwin Paving Co., Inc., the lowest of 12 bidders.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

check it out



county feature



Radon Action Month: Radon mitigation becomes contagious



Peggy Wilson moved to Lawrenceville from Florida in 1997 and, like many transplants, was later diagnosed with asthma.

She pays close attention to things that might cause her asthma to flare up. She is proactive, taking precautions at home to make her life healthier and easier.

A few months ago at a home show in Gwinnett County, Wilson visited the Gwinnett County Extension Services' radon exhibit where she learned about radon, the radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Afraid radon might affect her asthma condition, she talked with **Ines Beltran**, radon educator, who explained that there is no evidence to show that radon affects an asthma condition, but there is plenty of evidence that proves it causes lung cancer.

Wilson picked up a radon test kit at the exhibit to test her home. The result from the test was 4.1 pCi/L (pico Curies per liter of air), a level higher than the Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L. The Action Level is cited by EPA as the threshold for taking action to lower the radon level in a home. Beltran advised Wilson to do a second test to confirm the first high result. The second results proved to be even higher: 5.1 pCi/L.

Deciding to take action, Wilson contacted Beltran to get information about how to lower the radon level in her house. Beltran explained that opening the windows and sealing cracks in the foundation were not enough to bring the radon level down. She also showed Wilson pictures of a sub-slab mitigation system, explaining that it is the most effective way to lower the radon level in a home and gave her a current list of Georgia radon mitigators certified by the National Environmental Health Association and/or the National Radon Safety Board.

Armed with the list of certified radon mitigators, Wilson called three of them. She interviewed each one, received their written estimates, and compared their proposals and prices. In late September, a certified mitigator installed a mitigation system in her home in just a few hours. Beltran and many curious neighbors were there to observe the process. Beltran shared information about this dangerous gas with Wilson's neighbors and they, too, decided to test their homes for radon.

A few days after the system was installed, Wilson did a post-mitigation test and the level was reduced to 0.7 pCi/L. This result shows how efficient and important the mitigation system is in order to lower the levels of this dangerous gas.

January is Radon Action Month: join your fellow Gwinnett residents and get your home tested. For more information about radon and how to test your home, contact Ines Beltran at 678.377.4014 or inesb@uga.edu.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Gwinnett County Public Library now offers an even broader selection of e-media, including the following new additions to our e-book collection!

E-books are a convenient and time-saving way to access book length information on current events and issues, and they are just a few keystrokes away:

The Busy Family's Guide to Money, by Sandra Block

Make Money on Foreclosures Answer Book: Practical Answers to More Than 125 Questions on Investing in Foreclosure Property, by Denise Evans

Homebuyer's Answer Book: Practical Answers to More Than 250 Top Questions on Buying a Home, by Diana Brodman Summers

The Girl's Guide to Kicking Your Career into Gear: Valuable Lessons, True Stories, and Tips for Using What You've Got (A Brain!) to Make Your Worklife Work for You, by Caitlin Friedman

Guide to Internet Job Searching, by Margaret Riley Dikel

Get That Job: Interviews: How to Keep Your Head and Get Your Ideal Job, published by A&C Black

1001 Healthy Baby Answers: Pediatricians' Answers to All the Questions You Didn't Know to Ask, by Dr. Gary C. Morchower, MD

Introvert Power: Why Your Inner Life is Your Hidden Strength, by Laurie A. Helgoe, Ph.D

75 Biggest Myths About College Admissions: Stand Out from the Pack, Avoid Mistakes, and Get into the College of Your Dreams, by Jerry Israel

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.

protecting our resources



Recycle your Christmas tree for county parks

With the holidays quickly coming to an end, many of us will be taking down our decorations and wondering how to dispose of that once-beautiful Christmas tree. The solution is a simple and earth-friendly one: take your live tree to a designated drop-off point for the annual **Bring One for the Chipper** program.

The Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services Department, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, Jackson EMC, Georgia Power, and Home Depot have teamed up to help recycle Christmas trees in the county. Every year, Gwinnett residents recycle one out of every three trees in this statewide program. Mulch produced from the trees will be used in Gwinnett County's parks and recreational facilities.

The first step to recycle your tree is to remove all ornaments and the tree stand. Then deliver your live tree to one of the specially-designated drop-off sites. Please do not drop off your flocked live tree (live tree decorated with fake snow) or artificial Christmas tree. Flocked trees require disposal at an inert landfill; artificial trees can be placed with your regular garbage for disposal.

Leaves, grass, and shrub and tree prunings from your yards are also welcome at the drop off sites. Visit Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's website at www.gwinnettcba.org for dates and a list of drop-off locations.

Residents can also place their live trees into a Georgia Power lake, TVA lake, or private pond with the landowner's permission for wildlife purposes. Look up **fish attractor** on the Web for details. Detention ponds are not considered a permissible location, but instead are considered part of the local stormwater drainage system. County ordinances prohibit the use of the stormwater drainage system for the disposal of anything other than rainwater and provide penalties for violations. Visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com for more stormwater- related issues.

In light of the holidays, please remember to give a gift to the environment and recycle your Christmas tree.

[BACK TO TOP](#)



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 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.

advice from the tax commissioner



January holiday hours

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, January 18, 2010.

Tag office work schedules are different during holiday weeks and the day following a holiday is typically very busy. Be sure to check the [holiday schedule](#) for changes.

Be first in line—every time; renew your vehicle online at www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

around gwinnett



GJAC closed for January holidays

All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed on the following date:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 18
Normal work hours will resume Tuesday, January 19.

Please be reminded that GJAC is also closed on weekends and at 10:00pm most weekday evenings.

Sustainable design exhibit features local architects

Technology has transformed the world over the last 50 years, enabling us to live longer, instantaneously communicate with each other across the planet, and explore the tiniest bits of our world and the furthest regions of our solar system. We are only now beginning to recognize that this dizzying speed of technological advancement has resulted in exponential population growth, an insatiable appetite for energy, and an impact on the natural world.

In response to this recognition, markets have created a demand for technological innovation to reduce our impact on the natural world. The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will usher in the new year with **The Technology of Sustainable Design**, an exhibition about new developments in sustainable design that features the work of Atlanta-based firm Houser Walker Architecture, Timmons Design Engineers, United Renewable Energy Solar Integrators, and Suniva, a world leader in solar cell technology. The exhibition will run from January 9 to February 27.

The Technology of Sustainable Design exhibit will explore how technological innovations are changing the way that our buildings are conceived and constructed. Drawing on examples of designs by Houser Walker Architecture and Timmons Design Engineers, as well as materials from Suniva, the exhibition will not only consider available and emerging technologies that can be incorporated into building design, such as energy-efficient lighting or solar panels, but also explore new applications for evaluating the performance of buildings.

The exhibition will also demonstrate how Suniva's high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic cells result in clean, earth-friendly power generation that architects can incorporate into their designs, and how through the use of predictive modeling and evaluation, Timmons Design Engineers can improve a building's energy performance. United Renewable Energy will explain the local applications of photovoltaics and the importance of high-quality design and installation.

The Technology of Sustainable Design exhibit will show how architects integrate these building and evaluative technologies into a holistic vision that is beautiful, functional, and low-impact.

The **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center** is an ideal location for an exhibition of this scope. Since the Center opened in 2006, it has strived to be an exemplary, high-tech cultural center known for hands-on science exhibits and quality educational programming that inspire visitors to become better stewards of our environment. The 59,000-square-foot science and cultural center nestled on 233 pristine acres is also Gwinnett County's first "green" building.

Steve Cannon, executive director of the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, said, "We must continually learn and teach that sustainability by design is about maintaining a balance between man and the earth's natural resources in order to sustain a modern culture. This exhibit is a great learning and teaching tool that demonstrates the knowledge, art, and the innovative opportunities of sustainable design. If we fail to

understand this critical mission, then we will fail as a nation of people to make a difference in the quality of life and survival of future generations.”

For more information about The Technology of Sustainable Design exhibit, please contact **Catherine Long** at 770.904.3500 or catherine.long@gwinnettcountry.com.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

January events calendar

Meet the Author: Steve Berry

January 16 - 6:30pm

Steve Berry is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Charlemagne Pursuit*, *The Venetian Betrayal*, *The Alexandria Link*, *The Templar Legacy*, *The Third Secret*, *The Romanov Prophecy*, and *The Amber Room*. His new venture, *The Paris Vendetta*, tells the story of former Justice Department operative Cotton Malone. Starting in Denmark, moving to England, and ending up in the storied streets and cathedrals of Paris, Malone plays a breathless game of duplicity and death, all to claim a prize of untold value. This free event will take place at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center, 10 College Street in Norcross. Doors open at 6:00pm and an author book signing will be held after the discussion. Books will be available for purchase from Eagle Eye Book Shop. Hosted by the Gwinnett County Public Library. For more information, visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154.

Winter Bridal Show

January 17 - 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Calling all brides, it is your day to make history! From the old and the new to the borrowed and the blue, visit our vendors and enjoy a vintage and couture fashion show of wedding attire. Now is your chance to find all of your vendors under one roof in our premier wedding facility. Ongoing raffles and door prizes will be given away. Advanced registration \$3/person; day of the event \$5/person. Call 770.822.5450 and use code GHCH14100 to pre-register. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Line Dance-a-thon

January 23 - 6:00pm – midnight

Boot scoot your boogie on over here! Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. Advanced registration \$5/person; week of the event \$8/person. Call 770.417.2212 and use code: SHAB14350 to pre-register. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Movies and More

January 29 - 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Beat the winter blues and join us for a night of entertainment. Enjoy inflatables and crafts from 5:30pm – 6:30pm then stay for a family-friendly movie in the gym. Concessions available for a small fee. All ages; \$5/person. Pre-registration required; call 770.822.5450 and use code RJCC14100 to register. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center, 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Lifeguarding Job Fair

January 29 - 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Free! Learn how fun and rewarding lifeguarding can be by working for the nation's number one aquatic centers! Bring your swimsuit for this interactive job fair. Lifeguard training courses are available, so stop by to find out more. Parents are welcome too! Ages 13 – 17. Registration preferred, but not required use code BTAC11999 to register. For more information, contact lifeguard@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.237.5652. Bethesda Park Aquatic Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Sign up for these and other great activities at www.gwinnettparks.com.

BACK TO TOP

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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@gwinnettcountry.com. The **County Line** is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.

