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september 2009 • v11 n9



sales tax update

Settles Bridge Park opens in Suwanee

The grand opening celebration for the new Settles Bridge Park will be held on September 18 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the park's new home, 380 Johnson Road in Suwanee. The grand opening festivities will include free kids' activities, parks safety programs, and skateboarding clinics and demonstrations.

The 268-acre park features a 1.8-mile paved trail and 3.2 miles of natural surface trails, 2.4-acre dog park area, playground, 3,500-square-foot pavilion with grill area ..[READ MORE](#)



protecting our resources

Car washing and stream health

Did you know that washing your car at home can contribute to **stormwater pollution**? Wastewater from washing your car contains oil, grease, detergents, and other pollutants. When you wash your car in your driveway... [READ MORE](#)



tax commissioner

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around gwinnett

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- TVgwinnett live
- On-demand BOC meetings
- Video on-demand

check it out



Check out these helpful books for taking care of business!

Your Credit Score, Your Money and What's at Stake: How to Improve the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future, by Liz Pulliam Weston

Running a Side Business: How to Create a Second Income, by Richard Stim

Leading the Charge: Leadership Lessons for the Battlefield to the Boardroom, by Toni Zinni and Tony

Settles Bridge Park opens in Suwanee

The grand opening celebration for the new Settles Bridge Park will be held on September 18 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the park's new home, 380 Johnson Road in Suwanee. The grand opening festivities will include free kids' activities, parks safety programs, and skateboarding clinics and demonstrations.

The 268-acre park features a 1.8-mile paved trail and 3.2 miles of natural surface trails, 2.4-acre dog park area, playground, 3,500-square-foot pavilion with grill area, two half-court basketball courts, 10,000-square-foot skate complex with bowls, and restrooms.

Funding for Settles Bridge Park was made possible through the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, and totaled \$3.6 million in construction costs. The park was master planned by The Jaeger Company and designed by Pond and Company. The park's construction was managed by Moreland Altobelli Associates and the contractor for the project was JHC Corporation.

For more information, call 770.822.8840 or visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

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county feature



Walk-a-thon held in memory of teen car crash victims

It Won't Happen To Me will host its third annual In Memory Of Walk-A-Thon on October 10, 2009, in Chastain Park in Atlanta. The purpose of this event is to bring about awareness of teen car crashes, the number one cause of teen deaths, and to remember teens who have died in car crashes. "By taking part in this event, you will be honoring those teens whose lives have been cut short and doing your part to support this cause to prevent more lives being lost to car crashes," said **Bill Richardson**, retired Gwinnett County police officer and president of It Won't Happen to Me.

The cost of registration for the event is \$25. Pre-registration is preferred in order to receive a t-shirt and lanyard. Pre-register online at www.itwonthappentome.org. Participants can also print a registration form from the website and mail to: **It Won't Happen To Me, Inc., 2645 Youth Monroe Road Monroe, GA 30655**. Mail-in registrations must be submitted by September 27, 2009. Make checks payable to It Won't Happen To Me or IWHTM. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards are accepted; please do not send cash. There will be a cookout after the walk for registered participants.

It Won't Happen To Me is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the number one cause of teen deaths, car crashes, through education and awareness. These educational

Koltz

Motherhood Is the New MBA: Using Your Parenting Skills to Be a Better Boss, by Shari Storm

The Score Takes Care of Itself: My Philosophy of Leadership, by Bill Walsh

Profits Aren't Everything, They're the Only Thing: No-nonsense Rules from the Ultimate Contrarian and Small Business Guru, by George Cloutier

Your Money or Your Life: A Practical Guide to Managing and Improving Your Financial Life, by Alvin Hall

Past Due: The End of Easy Money and the Renewal of the American Economy, by Peter Goodman

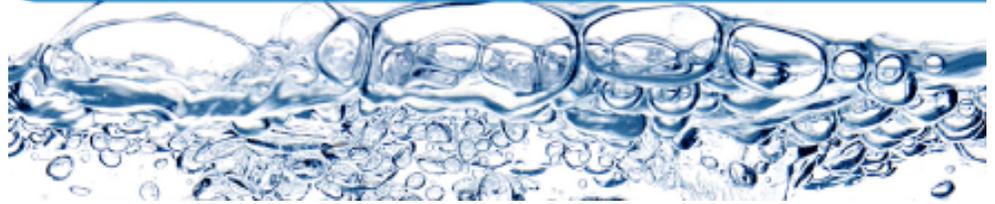
This list is provided by the Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit your local branch for additional selection assistance, or check out the GCPL website at www.gwinnettpl.org.

initiatives help teens become safer, more responsible drivers. The organization strives to make parents aware of the importance of proper training and monitoring of their teens.

For more information, contact Diane Richardson at 770.207.9698 or diane@itwonthappentome.org, Bill Richardson at 770.289.8598 or bill@itwonthappentome.org, or Lauren Winborne at 770.216.1740 or winborne8@yahoo.com. Visit their website at www.itwonthappentome.org.

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protecting our resources



Car washing and stream health

Did you know that washing your car at home can contribute to stormwater pollution?

Wastewater from washing your car contains oil, grease, detergents, and other pollutants. When you wash your car in your driveway or on the street, the wastewater flows directly through the stormwater drainage system and into local rivers, lakes, and streams. To help reduce stormwater pollution, follow these simple steps:

- Use a commercial car wash. Commercial car wash facilities often recycle their water or are required to send their wash water to the wastewater treatment plant; so if possible, use a facility to keep your car clean
- If you decide to wash at home, wash less often and wash on the grass. This allows all the wastewater to soak into the ground
- Avoid and report commercial car wash operations that allow wastewater to drain onto a paved area such as a parking lot or street, a storm drain, or waterway. It is illegal to allow car wash water to drain into these areas
- Report illegal discharges to the storm sewer system by calling 678.376.7000 (24-hours)

For more information, contact Gwinnett County Stormwater at 678.376.6826 or visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com.

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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



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.

Tax Commissioner first in Georgia to implement automated tag renewal processing

The Gwinnett Tax Commissioner's Office began processing mailed-in tag renewals electronically in July, becoming the first tax commissioner office in Georgia to automate this process.

Mailed-in renewals are now cycled through an electronic system that opens the envelopes, scans the contents, processes the payment, and electronically updates vehicle owner records. Benefits include decreased turnaround time and less manual entry for most mail transactions. The retention of paper records will be significantly reduced and will result in an even more accurate process for mailed-in renewals. In addition to faster, more accurate processing, research capabilities are greatly enhanced by this upgrade. Customer service staff will be able to immediately access checks and supporting documentation to assist customers.

Gwinnett citizens will benefit from faster turnaround time and improved customer service. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for more information on renewing your tag.

Katherine Meyer, Tax Commissioner

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Property Tax Customer Service

770.822.8800 • tax@gwinnettcountry.com

Motor Vehicles Customer Service

770.822.8818 • tag@gwinnettcountry.com

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com

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GJAC building closing nights and weekends

The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC) now closes on weekends and holidays and at 10:00pm most weekday evenings to reduce operating costs. It will be kept open as needed for public hearings, court activities, or other scheduled events.

The building's lighting and air conditioning systems will be shut down during these hours as much as possible. Some departments with 24/7 functions such as the computer center will still be allowed to operate during non-standard business hours, and the Sheriff's Control Desk in the lower level detention area will still be staffed.

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Fun Day Picnic

September 18 • 10:00am – 2:00pm

Enjoy a low country boil with fun, fellowship, and lots of activities and games! Come ready to have fun and meet our fabulous recreation club members! Ages 50 and up. \$2/person; purchase tickets at the Gwinnett Senior Center or at your club meetings and use code GCSC16365 when registering. Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Kids' Night Out

September 18 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm

Splash the night away! Bring a swimsuit and towel. Ages 6 – 10; \$10/person; pre-registration required, call 770.614.2060 and use code BPCC14397 when registering. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Yard Sale

September 19 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Free admission! Bargains galore! Reservation required for sellers. Call 770.814.4914 and use code SHAB14300 when reserving space. \$20/space; must provide your own table. Event held outdoors, rain or shine. Concessions for sale. GCPR reserves the right to disallow items deemed inappropriate during this event. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Outback at Work Charity Lunch

September 23

Help local seniors by ordering a delicious mixed-grill meal from Outback Steakhouse in Suwanee and have it delivered to your workplace! Cost is \$15. All proceeds will benefit Gwinnett County Senior Services via Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (a nonprofit organization) and provide funding for programs such as Meals on Wheels and emergency assistance. Call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775 or e-mail her at celia.moore@gwinnettcountry.com to place a minimum order of 10 lunches in your area. Meals are limited!

C.P.R. for R.A.P.

September 30 • 8:30am – 2:00pm

C.P.R. for R.A.P. (Connecting Parenting Resources for Relatives As Parents) forum will help grandparents raising grandchildren in Gwinnett find answers to questions, connect

with resources, and gain support from other "grandfamilies." Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Sponsored by Gwinnett Coalition Senior Issues Action Team. To register for the event, please call Shawn Valadez at 770.822.8846. The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center,
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford.

Fish Off

September 26 · 9:00am – 1:00pm

Bring the whole family for Georgia's last day of fishing in 2009 with no fishing license required! Fishing competitions, games, and scout badge tables. Hosted by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, Publix, Bass Pro Shops, and more. All ages; \$6/person or \$10/adult with one child under 12; pre-registration required, call 770.614.2060. Code: BPCC14322. Little Mulberry Park, 3855 Fence Road, Auburn.

Dog Park Safety

September 26 · 10:00am – 1:00pm

Free! Off-leash areas for your favorite pooch and his pals! Park Police, Animal Control, and Volunteer Resource Staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide valuable tips on how to "stay and play safe" in our dog parks. Call 770.822.8873 for more information. Ronald Reagan Park, 2777 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville.

Pumpkin Patch

Weekends in October

Saturdays 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sundays noon – 4:00pm

Free admission! Grab your camera and get some great fall shots of your family on the farm picking a pumpkin! Tour the farm and enjoy three miles of walking trails through the beautiful fall leaves. McDaniel Farm Park, 3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth. Call 770.814.4920 for more information.

Family Camp-In

October 2 and 3 · 7:00pm – 9:00am

Come join us for an old-fashioned cookout, ghost stories, games, and crafts! Bring your sleeping bag, pillow, and flashlight and spend the night with us! Ages 5 and up; \$7/person; pre-register required by September 25, call 770.723.951 and use code LSCC14341 when registering. Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross.

Dog Park Safety

October 3 · 10:00am – 1:00pm

Free! It's a pooch party in our off-leash areas for your favorite dog! Park Police, Animal Control, and Volunteer Resource Staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide valuable tips on how to "stay and play safe" in our dog parks. Call 770.822.8873 for more information. Graves Park 1540 Graves Road, Norcross.

Hispanic Heritage Census Celebration

October 3 · 10:00 am – 2:00pm

Free! Come and celebrate with us through dance and music from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain, USA, and many more. Special performances by Ballet Azteca de Mexico, Girl Scouts, and international youth groups. Information on services from 20 agencies and organizations will also be available. This event will be held at the Norcross Human Services Center, 5030 Georgia Belle Court in Norcross and is sponsored by the 2010 Census. For more information, please call the Norcross Human Services Center at 770.638.5661.

Line Dance-a-thon

October 3 · 6:00pm – midnight

Can you boot-scoot your boogie? Join us for nothing but line dancing! Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. Ages 13 and up; \$5/person early registration; \$8/person the week prior to the event. To pre-register, call 770.814.4914 and use code SHAB14301 when registering. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

See Gwinnett Gladiators with Friends

October 17 - 7:05pm

Be a spectator and cheer on the Gwinnett Gladiators. Get tickets for the game on Saturday, October 17 at a reduced price of \$15 each, and \$5 (less taxes) from each ticket sold goes to Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services. Funds collected will be used to help support selected Gwinnett County Senior Services programs. Order online at www.gwinnettgladiators.com, click on Special Ticket Offers and enter the code FOGS1017 to get your discounted ticket. All orders must be placed by Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Tickets will be available for pick up on game night at the Gladiators' Will Call window in the Box Office at the Arena. You may also order tickets by fax. For questions, contact Keith Davis at 770.497.5112 or kdavis@gwinnettgladiators.com.

Sign up for these and other great activities at 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@gwinnettcountry.com. The **County Line** is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.

