



county Line

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Board approves Highway 78 Community Improvement District

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on March 18 approved the establishment of a U.S. Highway 78 Community Improvement District (CID).

During the Board of Commissioners afternoon meeting, District 3 Commissioner **John Dunn**, who represents the area encompassed by the CID, praised the group's organizers and supporters. These people include businessman **Emory Morsberger**, **Dave Rosselle**, the Executive Director of the 78 Corridor Improvement Association, the 78 Corridor Improve-

ment Association members, Congressman **John Linder**, Gwinnett's state senate and house delegations, and Gwinnett County Planning Commissioner **M.B. Strickland**.

The U.S. Highway 78 CID is the latest in a number of projects impacting Highway 78 in a positive way. One of these projects is the Georgia Department of Transportation's \$15 million plan to eliminate the reversible lanes, ensure traffic safety through a median system, and to provide sidewalks from the DeKalb County line to SR 124.

Other initiatives include the Highway 78 Revitalization Study recommended by the Revitalization Task Force and sponsored by the Board of Commissioners; the Highway 78 Overlay District drafted by the 78 Corridor Improvement Association and currently being reviewed by Gwinnett County staff. Additionally, the County has requested through \$13.2 million for U.S. 78 in high priority project funding under the T-21 Reauthorization of the *Surface Transportation Act*.

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February and March prove to be "groundbreaking" months

(From left) Col. Charlie Walters, District 1 Commissioner Marcia L. Neaton, County Administrator Charlotte Nash, District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly, District 2 Commissioner Bert Nasuti, Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill, and Police Chief Bill Dean break ground at the site of the new Westside Precinct on February 25. The 11,000-square-foot replacement building will more than double the amount of space currently used by 70 police officers at the old facility.



Gwinnett County officials celebrated the beginning of construction on the new Five Forks Park on March 4. Here a neighboring citizen, Recreation Authority Chairman Phylecia Wilson, and Gwinnett County Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill view the park master plan.

The 25-acre park, located on Five Forks Trickum Road at Ronald Reagan Parkway, will include the County's first dog park as well as amenities for people of all ages. Other amenities will include a senior area, basketball courts, a small skate area, a playground, and a multi-purpose trail.



Live Homework Help: Online tutor relieves homework headaches

Busy schedules and high expectations can contribute to homework headaches for schoolchildren. Then consider the gap between what parents learned in school and what they remember! A new program funded by a grant secured by Gwinnett County Public Schools and Gwinnett County Public Library offers students homework relief.

"With Live Homework Help, Gwinnett students in grades four through 12 have a personal online tutor as close as their home computer or the library," says **Mabel Anne Kincheloe**, materials management director for the library system. *"And this free service is easy to use and available to students when they need homework help the most, between 4:00pm and 11:00pm Sunday through Thursday."*

And who's on the other end of the modem? Teachers, college professors, and graduate students work with students in mathematics, language arts, social studies, or science. Tutors undergo a background check and extensive training before being certified by Tutor.com, the nation's largest online tutoring service.

Students can access tutoring from a computer at one of GCPL's 11 branches or from home by logging onto www.gwinnettpl.org. Users need a library card and personal ID number, and first-time users from home are prompted to download software, an easy process. Sessions last on average 15-20 minutes, but a tutor will stay online until the student understands the concepts.

Gwinnett has offered the service for just a short time, but already students are raving about Live Homework Help. *"It is really helpful to have someone there to help you step by step,"* wrote one Gwinnett student in an evaluation. *"AWESOME!"* wrote another. The service had more than 200 visitors in just two weeks and nine out of 10 users said they would recommend Live Homework Help to a friend.

"From explaining passive voice and electrical fields to suggesting note-taking strategies and links to additional resources, Live Homework Help is a valuable resource for students that complements the teaching and learning that goes on in Gwinnett classrooms," says **Tricia Kennedy**, executive director for curriculum and instruction for GCPS.

Article co-written by Cindy Murphy, Gwinnett County Public Library, and Laura Nurse, Gwinnett County Public Schools.

Attention taxpayers!



Gwinnett County property owners should apply for home-
stead and value offset exemptions with the office of the Tax
Commissioner by **May 1, 2003**. There is no charge for this
service.

For additional information regarding available exemptions,
the public should call 770.822.8800 or visit the web site at
www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.



4th Annual Senior Day Out: A lifestyle show- case for senior citizens

Many of Gwinnett's senior adults look forward each year to Senior Day Out, a day-long fair jammed packed with free educational seminars on leisure activities, travel, and finances, arts and crafts displays, and more. This year the fourth annual event, which takes place on May 9 from 9:00am until 3:00pm, moves to a new location at the Gwinnett University Center on the corner of Collins Hill Road and Highway 316.

"We held this popular event at the Gwinnett Senior Center (in Bethesda Park) for the first three years, but by forging new partnerships we are moving Senior Day Out to a new, larger location this year," said **Pam Hoffman**, head of the Gwinnett County Senior Center. *"Gwinnett's senior population is steadily growing and with people living longer, healthier lives, it's more important than ever to showcase activities and educational programming that can add to the enjoyment of one's 'golden years.'"*

Other event highlights will be a "Taste of Gwinnett" offered by local restaurants, displays of products and services geared to senior lifestyles, on-site shopping opportunities, a raffle, and door prizes. Admission is free.

Call 678.407.5000 for directions or 770.963.5856 for more information.



Gwinnett Senior Day Out Sponsors

Gwinnett University Center
J.M. Tull-Gwinnett Family YMCA
Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation
Gwinnett County Senior Services
Gwinnett Christian Terrace
Eastside Senior Friends
DelMar Gardens of Gwinnett
Park Springs
Atria Assisted and Retirement Living
Sunrise Assisted Living
Southern Plantation

Meet David Wiley, the new Assistant Fire and Emergency Services Chief



Wiley will oversee the operations of the Fire Marshal's office and the Fire Academy/College. He also will manage the Fire Services' accreditation project. Wiley will report to Fire Chief Jack McElfish.

Wiley brings 30 years of experience to the role of assistant fire chief. His career began as a firefighter with the city of Snellville in 1973. He moved up through the ranks as a driver, lieutenant, captain, training officer, and served as second in command until the city fire department merged with Gwinnett County's fire operations in 1980. Wiley progressed through various positions with Gwinnett County and has held the title Battalion Chief for 20 years.

"David brings the kind of dedication and experience really valued on a leadership team," said Jack McElfish. "I know he will make a great assistant fire chief."

Wiley holds an Associate in Science from DeKalb College. He is a graduate of the

Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program, where he attained the highest level of certificate, NFPA Level VI Fire Officer. He holds numerous certifications and diplomas in the areas of public safety, fire, emergency medicine, and personnel management, to name a few. He was a member of the first class of certified state fire instructors.

Wiley, who is married and has three children, said, *"I look forward to working with Chief McElfish and the other members of the department in meeting the challenge of growth that we continue to face in serving our citizens."*

Gwinnett County officials announced the promotion of **J. David Wiley** to the position of Assistant Chief of the Safety and Education Division of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. The veteran battalion chief took over his new position effective March 15.

Check it out!

Take better pictures with the help of these amateur photography guides. Learn more about digital, black and white, and traditional photography methods.

Take Better Family Photos, by Steve Basiter

National Geographic Photography Field Guide, by Peter Burian

Digital Photography: All-In-One Reference for Dummies, by David Busch

A Simple Guide to Digital Photography, by Bill Corbett

Complete Guide to Outdoor Photography, by Paul Davies Harcourt

How to Take Great Photographs, by John Hedgecoe

Alpha Teach Yourself Black and White Photography in 24 Hours, by Thomas McGovern

Fodor's Kodak Guide to Shooting Great Travel Pictures, by Jeff Wignall

List provided by Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit one of the library's 11 branches for additional selection assistance or visit the Web site at gwinnettpl.org!

Pet Corner



The following is an excerpt from a letter received by the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter: *"I just wanted to write you a letter thank you for helping me find my new family! I was only three months old when my new mommy and daddy found me at the shelter this past summer. My brother and I had been abandoned. Now we both have happy homes."*

"My daddy likes to take me for walks. . . He has also taught me to sit, shake, and lay down! We're still working on roll over. My mommy loves to spoil me with lots of toys and treats. Thanks again, Max."

Are you looking for an addition to your household that will give you unconditional love and affection? You need to look no farther than the Gwinnett County Animal Control Shelter where you can adopt one of the cats and dogs

they have available. Dogs and cats are also available for adoption every Sunday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm at the Pet-smart near the corner of Georgia Hwy. 120 and Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road in Lawrenceville.





AROUND GWINNETT – APRIL

Battle of the Bands registration deadline is April 1. Band members must be 18 years old or younger. Bands compete against each other for the title of Gwinnett's Best Band. Fee is \$35 per band. To sign up, call 770.417.2200. Show will be held April 19 at 7:00pm at Pinckneyville Community Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross. Tickets for the show are \$3 at the door.

Gwinnett County Open House is April 5 from 11:00am until 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Come for free food, kids' activities, and lots of useful information about the services your government provides. Call 770.822.7180.

Spring Break Adventure for kids ages six through 12 is April 7–11 from 9:00am until 5:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Park. Fee is \$100 per child. Join Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation for history, nature, swimming, sports, art, and more activities. Call 770.822.5414.

Spring Break Madness for kids age six through 12 is April 7–11 from 9:00am until 3:00pm at Best Friend Park. Fee is \$70 per child. Join Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation for kooky games, wild crafts, and weird science activities. Call 770.417.2200.

Join the **Park Watch Volunteer Program** at George Pierce Park in Suwanee on April 8. Organizers of this neighborhood park watch program are seeking volunteers to participate in this worthwhile program to protect and promote safe use of the County's parks through a collaborative effort between volunteers, park police, and Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. Classes are April 8 at 7:00pm, April 22 at 7:00pm, and May 3 at 10:00am. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and complete all three classes. Call 770.822.8813 or you can e-mail gwinnettparkwatch@co.gwinnett.ga.us.

Bluegrass group **Bailey Jester** performs at Grounds 'n' Sounds on April 11 at the Gwinnett History Museum, located inside the Lawrenceville Female Seminary at 455 Perry Street in downtown Lawrenceville. The doors for this alcohol- and smoke-free event open at 8:00pm, music begins at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178.

Sign up now for the **Tribble Trot 5K Race** on April 12. Fee is \$15 per entry postmarked

by April 7 and \$20 on the morning of the race. Race day registration begins at 6:30am; the race starts at 7:30am. Runners will complete a scenic 3.1-mile course through Tribble Mill Park, located at 2125 Tribble Mill Parkway in Grayson. Call 770.932.4460.

Join Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation for **A Weekend on the Wildside** at Okefenokee Swamp, an unforgettable camping trip to the Land of the Trembling Earth from April 18–20. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, food, and equipment. A pre-trip class will be held. Trip is open to anyone age eight and up. Fee is \$60 per person and includes camping, boating, and parking fees. Call 770.932.4460.

Registration for **Adult Summer Softball** will be held April 23 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Sign up by team only. Fee is \$415 per team. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, Coed, Men's Industrial, and Men's Church. Season begins June 2. Games will be played at Bethesda, George Pierce, and Lucky Shoals parks. Call 770.822.5152.

The **Border Collies** will perform for the Coffee-Ceili/dh on April 25 at the Gwinnett History Museum, located inside the Lawrenceville Female Seminary at 455 Perry Street in downtown Lawrenceville. The doors for this alcohol- and smoke-free event open at 8:00pm, music begins at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178.

Come out for the **Spring Sports Celebration** at Lucky Shoals Park, a family fun day at the park on April 26 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Enjoy activities for the whole family like moonwalks, facepainting, and refreshments. Admission is free. Lucky Shoals Park is located at 4651 Britt Road in Norcross. Call 770.822.8840.

The Lanier Water Production Facility will hold an open house Saturday, May 10, from 10:00am until 2:00pm in celebration of **National Drinking Water Week**. The facility, located at 2601 Buford Dam Road in Buford, provides safe drinking water to all of Gwinnett's citizens. Open House festivities will include guided tours, refreshments, face painting, birdhouse building, kid's crafts, hayrides, and more fun for the entire family. Call 678.376.6944.

VALENTINE'S DAY ART DISPLAYED AT GJAC

by Kendra Young, Communications Intern

Couples who visited the courthouse on Valentine's Day to get married were treated to festive artwork produced by Gwinnett County students. **Carole Bowman** of Beaver Ridge Elementary and **Patricia Osborne** of Shiloh Middle School took time from their busy schedules to display their students' handmade Valentine's Day cards at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center the week of February 10–14.

Bowman spoke of one student's delight over his Valentine. *"Marco struggles a little in school, but he was so determined to make a card for someone else,"* said **Bowman**. She gave each student a large piece of construction paper, which he cut into a small heart. Then he punched holes to create stitching, which is difficult for a six-year-old according to Bowman. Marco smiled the biggest smile she had ever seen after he carefully laced yarn through the holes of his paper heart. He was the first to raise his hand when asked who wanted to display their hearts in front of the Justice of the Peace.

Other schools displaying student art included Pinckneyville Middle, Harbins Elementary, Mason Elementary, K.E. Taylor Elementary, and Camp Creek Elementary.

"Art can change a shy or unconfident student to a proud motivated learner," said **Bowman**. *"Through the use of their hands and new found creativity they can build up their confidence for better learning."*

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