



county Line

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Charlotte Nash named top public servant

Gwinnett County Administrator **Charlotte Nash** is one of five state and local government officials to receive the first Excellence in Public Service awards presented by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia and *Georgia Trend* magazine.

Other winners were Dr. Kenneth Breeden of the state Department of Technical and Adult Education, Decatur City Manager Peggy Merriess, Social Circle Mayor Jim Burgess, and Lumpkin County Commissioner Stephen Gooch.

Nash is a native of Gwinnett County and has served as County Administrator since 1995. She started her 26-year career with the County as a budget manager and later became finance director. The population has more than tripled during that time, creating constant demands for increased government facilities and services. "The secret to having an effective, efficient local government

is to have Charlotte on your team. She is extremely deserving of this award," said Chairman **F. Wayne Hill** of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners.

Nash insisted on long-range planning and citizen input as she helped Gwinnett County become one

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Deputy Director of Public Utilities Frank Stephens (left) and Gwinnett County Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill join Gwinnett County Administrator Charlotte Nash during the Excellence in Public Service awards presentation on November 6. Stephens and Hill were selected as finalists in the competition.

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Vigil will remember, honor crime victims

The Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office will host its annual candlelight vigil for crime victims on December 11. The ceremony will honor families who have lost loved ones as a result of a criminal act this year.

The vigil will begin at 6:45pm and will be held in the atrium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. "Not only does this vigil

give the victims' families a time to come together to see their loved ones recognized, it also affords the community an opportunity to send the message that these victims are not forgotten," said **Stan Hall**, Director of the Victim Witness Program.

This year's ceremony will feature a well-known member of the Atlanta media, Jocelyn Dorsey, as the keynote speaker. Dorsey, Director

of Community Affairs for WSB-TV, recently lost her son as a result of homicide in Fulton County. District Attorney Danny Porter is also scheduled to speak at this event. Dr. William Sheals of Hopewell Baptist Church and members of the church choir will be participating in the ceremony along with members of the Duluth High School orchestra and the Gwinnett County Fire Department Honor Guard.



New year brings vehicle registration changes

The following are requirements for 2004 vehicle registrations, as provided by the Georgia Clean Air Force:

- All gasoline-powered vehicles, model years 1980 through 2001, will require an emission inspection prior to registration.
- Emission inspections will cost approximately \$25; there are 750 inspection stations open to the public. If your vehicle does not pass inspection, you can return to the same emission station for a free test after the vehicle is repaired.

For more information regarding senior exemptions, repair waivers, military, and college student waivers, visit the Clear Air Force Web site at www.cleanairforce.com or the Gwinnett County DMV site at www.gwinnett-tag.com.

Simple precautions can save your home from fire

by Kinsey Hansel, *Communications Intern*

As the temperature drops outside, the quiet hum of the air conditioner is replaced with the crackling of fireplaces and wood stoves and the buzz of space heaters. All are acceptable means of heating your home, however, they are also major contributors to residential fires. With some simple safety precautions, most fires caused by various heating sources can be prevented.

- Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in a while
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire
- Always make sure your fire is out completely before going to bed at night
- Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace
- Avoid using space heaters in bathrooms or other area where they may come into contact with water
- Be sure every level of your home has a working fire alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis

For more fire safety tips, visit www.usfa.fema.gov or contact the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services Department at 770.513.5584.

Source: *United States Fire Administration*

The following changes to motor vehicle liability insurance laws also may affect your motor vehicle registration in December 2003 and in 2004:

- A valid insurance information card is acceptable proof of Georgia Liability Insurance Coverage through December 31, 2003.
- Effective January 1, 2004, acceptable proof of Georgia Liability Insurance must be electronically transmitted to the Georgia Electronic Insurance Compliance System (GEICS) directly by your insurance company. Exceptions to this are vehicles covered by a Fleet Insurance policy or a Self Insurance policy.

Please note, however, a current insurance card should be kept in your vehicle at all times in case of an accident or when traveling out of state. For more information regarding Georgia's new insurance laws please visit the state DMV Web site at www.dmv.ga.gov or the Gwinnett County DMV site listed above.



Children win Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest



Students Bryan Velez, Natalia Solano, Prisma Negrete Gomez, Adrian Claudio, Johanil Peet, Marlon Guzman, and Andy Saenz from Hopkins, Jackson, and Lilburn Elementary Schools are the winners of the "Mis Raices" essay contest in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. The Norcross and Buford Human Service Centers, the Hispanic Advisory Committee, and the Latino Youth Initiative of the East Metro Health District sponsored the contest. The children were awarded various prizes for writing essays about what being Latino means to them.



Outback at Work works for seniors

Outback Steakhouse Suwanee raised \$6,500 for Meals on Wheels with its fourth annual Outback at Work charity lunch event. The restaurant prepared and donated 500 meals. **Rob Langley**, proprietor of the Suwanee Outback, donated all the proceeds directly to the County's Meals on Wheels program. "With the help of local businesses, we can help take the waiting list of 84 seniors down to zero," said **Langley**.

The Outback at Work project has generated \$30,000 for the Meals on Wheels program in the past four years. This year, 19 local businesses participated in the fund

raiser. In addition to Outback's support, Schwan Food Company donated desserts and bread and the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services, a non-profit that supports Gwinnett County Senior Services programs, delivered the meals.

The Meals on Wheels program delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors who meet certain eligibility requirements. Last year, the program served 50,000 meals and hopes to increase to 70,000 in 2004. For more information about Meals on Wheels or to make a donation, please call 770.822.8775.

Nash wins award

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of only 20 in the U.S. to get Triple A bond ratings from all three ratings agencies. She has strongly supported the SPLOST sales tax referendums, which have helped finance such projects as the \$219 million in water and sewer improvements that are now under construction.

Nash graduated magna cum laude in accounting from the University of Georgia in 1975. Under her leadership, Gwinnett Coun-

ty has won numerous awards for financial reporting. Last year, she received the Public Service Award presented by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

"The secret to having an effective, efficient local government is to have Charlotte on your team."

With all 11 departments reporting to her, Nash is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the County. She is appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

County offerings ranked "Best of Gwinnett"

Gwinnett Magazine's second annual Best of Gwinnett showcase listed several Gwinnett County facilities among reader favorites. Categories included dining, retail, business, and places to play. Gwinnett County boasted several winners, listed in the November/December 2003 issue!

Bogan Park and Rhodes Jordan Park both were listed in the category of "Best Park." The Gwinnett County Public Library was honored in two categories – "Best Customer Service" and "Best Place to Take the Kids."

Check it out!

December is a time of special gatherings and celebrations. To make these occasions even more memorable, don't miss these new and traditional recipes.

America's Ethnic Cuisines, Better Homes and Gardens

Are You Hungry, Dear? Life, Laughs and Lasagna, from the star of *Everybody Loves Raymond* Doris Roberts

Bistro Cooking at Home, by Gordon Hamersley

Local Flavors: Cooking and Eating from America's Farmers' Markets, by Deborah Maddison

Endangered Recipes: Too Good to be Forgotten, by Lori Robling

Back to the Table: The Reunion of Food and Family, by Art Smith

Lost Recipes, by Marion Cunningham

Patti LaBelle's Lite Cuisine: Over 100 Dishes with to Die for Taste, Made with to Live for Recipes, by Patti LaBelle

The Way We Cook: Recipes from the New American Kitchen, by Sheryl Julian

American Classics: Best Recipes, Boston Common

List provided by Gwinnett County Public Library. Check availability of these items on the Web at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

Simon is such a happy pup. He runs and plays with his new owners everyday. "I even get to sleep in my owner's warm bed every night," said Simon. Simon is grateful that Animal Control took him in and gave him a new lease on life!

There are other wonderful pets who also need a loving home. If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com. You can also visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.



Pet Corner





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Get into the holiday spirit! Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will be hosting the annual **Holiday Ornament Making at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center** on December 5 from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Stop by the lobby at GJAC and decorate a complimentary ceramic ornament to take home with you.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and Meadowcreek Community School invite you to the **Holiday Craft Festival** at Meadowcreek High School in Norcross on December 6 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Admission is free. Tables for the craft sale are \$15 per table and must be purchased in advance. Call 770.417.2200.

Empowering Parents is a seminar designed to help parents rediscover the joy of parenthood by enhancing parenting skills using a common sense approach. Come to the Centerville Community Center on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00am – 12:30pm and learn methods of interacting with your children that will improve the quality of life for both your child and for you. Childcare will be provided at no cost, and registration is required. Call 770.985.4713.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation invites the young at heart to dust off your

dancing shoes and come to Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville on December 13 for the **Senior Holiday Dance**, a festive holiday evening that includes dancing and refreshments. Reservations are required. Call 770.822.5414.

Come have **Breakfast with Santa!** A continental buffet-style breakfast will be served. Come enjoy the fun and get your picture taken with Santa Claus on December 20 from 9:00am – 11:00am at the Centerville Community Center. Call 770.985.4713.

Eat lunch with Santa at the Singleton Road Activity Building in Norcross on December 20 from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Kids will also enjoy crafts, games, and a photo opportunity with Santa. The cost is \$15 for one parent and one child and \$5 per additional person. For more information, call Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation at 770.417.2200.

Gwinnett Organized Teens – Hope of Tomorrow, GOT HOT, is a positive youth development program founded by Gwinnett teens to promote a positive image for Gwinnett's youth linked through love, peace, and unity. GOT HOT youth partner with dedicated adult mentors to receive leadership and life skills training. GOT HOT meets every Thursday from 6:30pm – 9:00pm

at the Centerville Community Center. Call 770.985.4713.

The Pinckneyville Community Center hosts **art exhibits** at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, the Pinckneyville Community Center, and the Centerville Community Center. For more information about the shows, call 770.417.2200.

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: **A Work of Art**, a solo exhibition of paintings by Lala Mulherin Streett, runs through February 20. Streett's paintings cover a wide range of subject matter, rendered in a variety of media including watercolor, acrylics, oil, and collage.

Pinckneyville Community Center: **Natural Selections – Images on Cloth**, an exhibit of fine art quilts by members of the Fiber Connection quilt group, runs through January 28.

Centerville Community Center: **Portraits**, a solo exhibition of pastels to include drawings and paintings by artist K.V. Herndon, on display until December 14. Influenced by Hollywood poster art in the 1930s, Herndon's figurative work is nostalgic with a contemporary flair. **The Southern Colours Art Association** exhibit runs through March 12.



Teen dating violence subject of Solicitor's Office presentations

Victim advocates from the Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office, which is responsible for the prosecution of misdemeanor crimes, have been giving presentations to local high school classes on the subjects of domestic violence and dating violence.

The presentation begins with a video created by the Solicitor's Office containing injury photos from closed cases with recordings of domestic violence 911 calls. **Kelly Stone** then speaks about the psychodynamics of domestic violence and **Aubrey Lindner**

discusses dating violence and "date rape drugs." The discussion ends with information about safety planning and legal remedies for persons involved in abusive relationships.

The pair has spoken at Collins Hill, Grayson, Central Gwinnett, and North Gwinnett High Schools. Future engagements are planned at Grayson, Dacula, and Berkmar High Schools.

Please contact Kelly Stone at 770.822.8300 if you would like more information.

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