

# County Line

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## Taking historic steps beneath Lake Lanier

by Conrad Gelot, Department of Public Utilities

While there is nothing unusual about floating atop Lake Lanier in a fishing boat, historic steps were taken recently when human beings walked underneath the lake – without the aid of SCUBA gear. The intrepid team of explorers were actually project managers and workers who recently completed construction of a tunnel drilled in solid rock underneath the lake floor to allow water to flow to Gwinnett County's new water treatment plant.

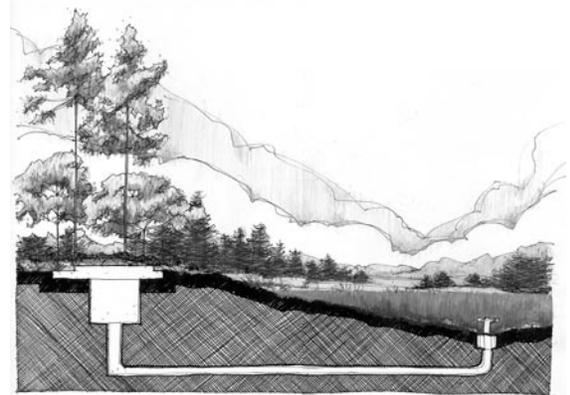
The tunnel and its below-ground pumping station and intake are just part of a group of inter-related infrastructure projects being constructed to ensure Gwinnett County citizens enjoy a safe, reliable drinking water supply for today and tomorrow. Given the name LANCOOL (LANier Community Outreach and Liaison Project), the projects include the new Shoal Creek Filter Plant, the new intake and pumping station, associated water lines, and a raw water distribution center to manage flow of lake water (also called raw water) between the facilities. These projects will add significant redundancy to the existing water system, ensuring that water will keep flowing in the event of an unforeseen outage at the existing facilities. They will also help meet the County's projected demand for drinking water through the year 2050 with the Shoal Creek Filter Plant working in unison with the existing Lanier Filter Plant to expand the County's

water treatment capacity from 150 million gallons-per-day (mgd) to 300 mgd.

Unique in its size and scope, the tunnel effort in particular is a testament to solid engineering and ingenuity. Designed to be as unobtrusive and environmentally sensitive to the surrounding area as possible, the massive undertaking first involved construction of an 80-foot diameter vertical shaft, followed by a 20-foot diameter shaft, reaching deep into the earth

where construction next involved tunneling out horizontally underneath the lake itself. The excavated 20-foot diameter shaft, which begins at elevation 1,112 and extends

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Gwinnett's new intake and pumping station.

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## Gwinnett Glows fireworks display biggest in the Southeast

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Intern

Gwinnett County will celebrate this Fourth of July with the biggest and best fireworks display in the Southeast. The 23-minute show cost \$55,000 to put on, but experiencing it live at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Gwinnett Glows celebration will be priceless.

The fireworks will begin just after dark, but the fun starts earlier than that. Starting at 4:00pm on July 4, food, games, and live entertainment will fill the streets of Lawrenceville near the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center.

Activities will include moonwalks, pony rides, train rides, a rock wall, a live band, and tons of food. There will be Sonny's Bar-B-Q, Papa John's Pizza, Sonic, and of course, sno-cones, boiled peanuts, cotton candy, and all of your other carnival favorites.

"We encourage people to come because this is something done for the community," said **Debbie Adam**, an organizer of the event. More than 60,000 people attended the Gwinnett Glows celebration in 2002.



## ARC invites public to GJAC for Regional Transportation Plan meeting

The Atlanta region is expected to have 2.3 million new residents by the year 2030. This growth will have a profound effect on what the region will look like tomorrow, so planning for it today is critical. The region already faces significant mobility challenges that we simply can't build our way out of. The numbers help tell the story:

- To accommodate 2.3 million new residents, 10 lanes would need to be added to every freeway within a 20-mile radius of downtown Atlanta just to hold the additional cars that would be commuting during peak hours.
- 2.3 million new people = 1.4 million additional vehicles = 6.9 million new parking spots = 80 square miles of land for parking lots.
- Transportation expenses consume \$6,800 of the average metro family's annual budget, which is second only to housing expenses.

The region's extraordinary growth and associated challenges require nothing less than extraordinary actions. In response, the Atlanta Regional Commission is crafting the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that takes an entirely new approach to transportation planning.

The region is currently slated to invest nearly \$40 billion through 2025 in new transportation options. Despite these investments, however, the plan does not do enough to solve our traffic congestion challenges over the next 25 years.

The new approach to updating the RTP involves first developing an aspirations-based plan. Typically when developing transportation plans, one looks at how much money is available and then develops a list of priority projects based on what's affordable – federal regulations require this process. This method, however, limits the ability to truly get at what the region needs to effectively battle congestion.

The Aspirations Plan will be a blueprint to effectively deal with congestion without the shackles of financial constraint. Once the ARC Board adopts this plan (sometime in late 2003), the next challenge will be to determine how much can be financed through conventional methods, and what can't. Clearly, new sources of revenue will have to be developed to fully fund the Aspirations Plan. This will be explored during the coming year.

The public will have an opportunity to see the first draft of the plan in mid-June. One of the public meetings will be held in Gwinnett County on June 16, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville.



## Tax Commissioner's office announces property tax deadlines

2003 property tax notices will be mailed July 15. The tax bill will include two payment coupons and two reply envelopes for both installment payments. No reminder notices will be mailed. Please retain the payment coupons for submittal with the payment. If paying in installments, one-half of the total is due September 15 and the remainder is due November 15.

The census conducted in 2000 revealed Gwinnett County's population exceeded 550,000 causing the collection of property taxes to be governed by O.C.G.A. 48-5-23. The due dates were approved by resolution by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on December 18, 2001.

Installments not paid by the stated due dates will have a five percent penalty added to the installment amount. In addition, interest will begin to accrue at the rate of one percent per month beginning November 16.

For more information, you may call the 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800 or visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).



## Jones Bridge Park shoreline repairs

Park enthusiasts who love Jones Bridge Park for its playground, soccer fields, fishing and beautiful views of the Chattahoochee River need to know that the riverbank at the popular park is getting a little TLC this spring and summer.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation contracted the \$910,855 shoreline restoration project recently to stabilize the riverbank, using bank armament and revegetation techniques to prevent erosion damage and preserve it for the future.

The renovation area consists of approximately 700 feet of shoreline. The project includes replacement of two pedestrian bridges, new asphalt, concrete and soft surface walkways, fencing and improved handicap access to the river with a wooden boardwalk/ramp. A drawing of the renovation project is on display at the Peachtree Corners Public Library at 5570 Spalding Drive in Norcross.

The soccer fields are closed mid-May through mid-September for turf remediation. The playground is also closed. Nearby parks with playgrounds include Pinckneyville Park and Pinckneyville Park Soccer Complex, both on South Old Peachtree Road in Norcross.

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## Radon detection and reduction

According to the Office of the Surgeon General, indoor radon gas is a serious health problem in our nation that can be addressed by individual action. Unless people become aware of the danger radon poses, however, they will not act. Millions of homes are estimated to have elevated radon levels. Fortunately, the solution to this problem is straightforward. Like the hazards from smoking, the health risks of radon can be reduced.

The Environmental Protection Agency conducted a survey during the Winter of 1988-1989. Fifteen percent of the homes tested in North Georgia revealed elevated radon levels while the number was less than 10 percent in the rest of the state. The EPA recommends taking action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels if your radon test results are elevated. No radon level is considered safe, and the risk of developing lung cancer is directly proportional to the levels and duration of exposure to radon. Today, mitigation

technology (approved methods of reducing radon levels) can almost always reduce high radon concentration levels below EPA's acceptable level, 70 to 80 percent of the time. The cost of radon mitigation in a typical home ranges from \$500 to \$2,500.

The EPA recommends that all homes be tested regardless whether you live in a geographical location where radon concentration in the soil is high. The danger posed by radon can be detected rather easily through inexpensive do-it-yourself testing, or through a trained radon contractor.

Radon test kits can be purchased by mail order or in hardware stores, or possibly secured through the Radon Educator at your local Extension Office. Contact the Gwinnett County Extension Office at 678.377.4010 for further information about radon testing and mitigation, and the availability of radon test kits.

## JONES BRIDGE

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"We know that Jones Bridge Park is particularly popular during the warm weather months. We needed to do the construction during this time because it's the most favorable weather for finishing the project," said **Phil Hoskins**, Director of the Department of Community Services. "Although park access will be restricted this summer, the construction will benefit generations to come in the long term."

Set on 30 acres, Jones Bridge Park offers beautiful views of the Chattahoochee River. It is located at 4901 East Jones Bridge Road in Norcross.

### Check it out!

#### Tales of Travels, Voyages, and Wanderings await you at the library!

*The Grand Tour: The European Adventures of a Continental Drifter*, by Tim Moore

*8 Men and a Duck: An Improbable Voyage by Reed Boat to Easter Island*, by I.J. Thorpe

*Departures and Arrivals*, by Eric Newby

*Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, by Rebecca Solnit

*Last Flight Out: True Tales of Adventure, Travel and Fishing*, by Randy Wayne White

*Adventure Capitalist: The Ultimate Investor's Road Trip*, by Jim Rogers

*Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World*, by Rita Golden Gelman

*Avoiding Prison and Other Noble Goals*, by Wendy Dale

*Places: A Travel Companion for Music and Art Lovers*, by Robert Craft

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](http://gwinnettpl.org)

## Pet Corner



The Walsh family adopted their dog, Ben, last year. The Walsh brothers say, "He is great! He is the friendliest dog you'll meet." They say that Ben is very fast and loves to greet you at the door when you get home. He loves belly scratches, and the brothers think that he is just an all-around great dog!

There are other wonderful pets just like Ben who need a loving home. If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, see [www.co.gwinnett.ga.us](http://www.co.gwinnett.ga.us). You can also visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.





# AROUND GWINNETT



## Summer concerts return

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation wants to “brown bag” it with you this summer. The public is invited to pack a lunch and head to the square in Lawrenceville as the 2003 Brown Bag Concert Series kicks off its summer concerts on June 13 from noon until 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. Jerry Zee and Boogie Woogie Bullfrog will perform original music with zany antics in this fun-filled family show.

The concert series continues on July 11 with a performance by The Bugaboos featuring Gerard McHugh. Children and adults of all ages will enjoy dancing and jumping to their lively, rhythmic songs.

The lunchtime series wraps up on August 8 with a performance by Wendy Bennett. Wendy brings a wide range of voice and music styles including operatic, belt, folk, jazz, and more.

All concerts are free and open to the public. Evening performances, the Moonlight and Music Series, will be held on the courthouse lawn at 8:00pm on July 25, August 22, and September 26. Check out the July issue of the County Line for more information.

For more information about the concerts, call 770.822.5450.

**Learn and Practice Basic Microsoft Word** at the Centerville Branch Library and Community Center. Classes are June 10 and July 8 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm and June 12 and July 10 from 10:00am – 11:30am. Registration is free, but classes are limited to 15 people and you must pre-register by calling 770.978.5154.

Come experience **Wildlife Weekdays** at the Lanier Museum of Natural History in Buford. The annual summer series on wildlife will run June 10 – 13, 17 – 20, and 24 – 27. Children of all ages are welcome, and no unsupervised children will be permitted. Call 770.932.4460.

Curious Moon will present a **puppet show** on June 20 at 7:00pm at the Pinckneyville Community Center for children three and older. Call 770.417.2200 for more information. Cost is \$3 for adults and children.

Cool off in the **Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Aquatic Centers**. The pools opened Memorial Day Weekend. Call the aquatic center nearest you for a detailed schedule.

**Best Friend Park Pool**  
Norcross, 770.417.2202

**Bogan Park Aquatic Center**  
Buford, 770.614.2063

**Collins Hill Aquatic Center**  
Lawrenceville, 770.237.5647

**Dacula Park Pool**  
Dacula, 770.822.5410

**Mountain Park Pool**  
Lilburn, 770.564.4650

**Rhodes Jordan Park Aquatic Center**  
Lawrenceville, 770.822.5143

## Taking historic steps beneath Lake Lanier

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to elevation 930, is supported by concrete poured into forms mounted along the walls. The tunnel under the lake is 12 feet in diameter and stretches for 627 feet. Simultaneous to this work, crews located in a stabilized barge on the lake drilled down to meet the tunnel as it extended into the lake. A cylinder was lowered into the lake shaft, and when opened, will allow raw water from the lake to flow into a pumping station for transport to the new Shoal Creek Filter Plant. There it will be treated and distributed as drinking water to thousands of Gwinnett County residents.

Work is also progressing well at the Shoal Creek Filter Plant site, with eight of the 10 buildings planned for the site now under construction. The pipeline corridor between the new Shoal Creek plant and the existing Lanier Filter Plant is in the easement acquisition phase.

Although the LANCOOL projects have been underway for nearly two years, interest among the public remains high. Recently more than 30 residents turned out for a community meeting providing

updates on the projects, and allowing citizens to speak directly with Gwinnett County project leaders. Interested residents may also visit the project Web site, [www.lancool.com](http://www.lancool.com), for more information.

### countyline

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