



county Line

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McDaniel Farm Park to reconstruct farming era

When Gwinnett County purchased the 128-acre McDaniel Farm in 2000, it was one of the last remaining farms in the county. Even more rare was it's location just minutes from Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth, one of the busiest areas of the county. Recognizing the significance of the property, the County decided to build a park, that will offer visitors a first-hand look into Gwinnett County's rich farming history.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held for McDaniel Farm Park on Tuesday, April 1 at 3:00pm. The public is invited to attend.

erty will be restored, as will the barn, well house, chicken coop, and blacksmith shed.

The park will serve as an educational and historical resource where visitors can experience a unique period of Gwinnett's history. The park also will offer several recreation amenities, including a paved multi-purpose trail, a picnic pavilion, and a large informal play area.

See *County Line* page 4 for directions to McDaniel Farm Park.



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History of McDaniel Farm

During the first half of the 20th century, McDaniel Farm followed the same path as many other farms in the area. It experienced a period of relative prosperity in the early 1900s, as Gwinnett became one of the largest cotton producing counties in Georgia. This era of prosperity ended in the 1930s with the arrival of the Great Depression and the boll weevil, which destroyed many cotton crops in the area. Many farm workers left to find factory jobs in the cities, and more and more farmers began housing sharecroppers to make ends meet. Farmers typically paid the sharecroppers, or tenant farmers, in supplies rather than money.

McDaniel Farm housed sharecroppers from 1913 to 1941 and it is this period that will be recreated at McDaniel Farm Park. One of the original tenant farmhouses on the pro-

Gwinnett County invites you to its 3rd Annual Open House

Saturday, April 5, 2003

11:00am – 3:00pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

“Counties Care for Kids”

National County Government Week

April 6 – 12, 2003

Come see displays on the valuable programs and services provided to residents by local government and courts. In addition, there will be lots of activities for the kids and free food!

This is a rain or shine event.

For more information, call Heather Welch, 770.822.7035.

Directions to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center: Take I-85 North and exit onto Highway 316. Exit Highway 316 at Highway 120 (Duluth-Lawrenceville exit) and go right approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right at the sixth light (Langley Drive). Go approximately 0.5 mile and the complex will be on your right.



Water reclamation facility wins highest honor in state

Gwinnett County's first advanced water reclamation facility has won the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association's 2003 Plant of the Year Award in the 1.1-3.0 MGD (million gallons per day) treatment capacity category.

Jackson Creek Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), built in 1975, was the first advanced treatment plant put in service in Gwinnett County. The plant discharges into Jackson Creek, a tributary of the Yellow River in the upper Ocmulgee river basin. The original flow design was 2.4 MGD and later upgraded to 3.0 MGD after proving that the plant treatment process in use would meet NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements.

"Gwinnett County takes pride in the operation and management of its water reclamation facilities with the continued upgrade of equipment and the implementation of new technologies," said **Tommy Furlow**, director of the Gwinnett County Department of Public Utilities. *"We can proudly say that as a result of many years of consistent operation and upkeep, Jackson Creek Water Reclamation Facility has operated for more than eight years without any NPDES permit violations."*

In addition to this year's top award, the plant has over the years received numerous accolades from the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. The 2003 Plant of the Year Award will be presented on April 15 during the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association's spring conference in Macon.

The Jackson Creek WRF staff is comprised of four teams that operate on 12-hour shifts for continuous coverage. Two mechanics service the equipment needs for corrective maintenance and two additional mechanics service equipment for preventive maintenance.

Over the years, Jackson Creek WRF has undergone many equipment upgrades to continue to meet the needs of the growing county. Improvements have included the use of a grit removal system; addition of disc aeration to supplement the original mechanical system; addition of a belt filter press to replace sand-drying beds; automatic bar screening system to replace manual screening; and ultra-violet (UV) disinfection system to eliminate the use of chlorine.

Here's how the Jackson Creek Water Reclamation Facility works:

After the influent is screened and grit removed, the flow is treated with the use of four aeration tanks and two clarifiers. Small amounts of chemicals are used for the phosphorus removal process as well as the clarification process. The clarified secondary effluent is then filtered by three traveling bridge filters and then disinfected by the use of UV light before discharge into Jackson Creek.

For more information about Jackson Creek Water Reclamation Facility, call Tyler Richards 678.376.6923.



It's Your Doodie: Pick up after your pet in the parks

by *Megan Kingsley, Department of Community Services*

Never mind that it's the polite thing to do, it's also your "doodie."

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) are teaming up to remind pet owners to pick up after their dogs when they take them to the park.

As part of a pilot program at Lenora Park, Parks and Recreation is providing plastic grocery bags for pet owners to use to clean up after their pets. The bags are attached to a wooden post at the park underneath a sign explaining their purpose. Pet owners are also encouraged to bring replacement bags when they visit the park.

The program will expand to additional parks later this year, with Mountain Park Park and Bogan Park likely to be next.

Meanwhile, the DPU will post 30 signs at parks throughout Gwinnett encouraging pet owners to pick up after their pets.

Both steps are being taken as part of the DPU's **"Pick It Up – It's Your Doodie"** campaign.

The DPU first implemented the campaign in 1999 to educate pet owners about the harmful effects of pet waste, or fecal bacteria, in rivers, lakes, and streams. The Atlanta Regional Commission's Clean Water Campaign recently adopted the program and will use it throughout metro Atlanta.

Pet waste left on sidewalks, streets, or in other open areas can wash into lakes, rivers, and streams and cause numerous problems.

"Fecal bacteria may contain as many as 75 diseases that can make our water unsafe for fishing, swimming, and other types of recreation," said **Michael O'Shield**, the DPU's educational outreach coordinator. It also endangers fish and other wildlife that live in the water and can cause excessive algae growth that disrupts the natural balance of the water body, he said.

O'Shield said parks are a logical place to spread the message about the dangers of fecal bacteria because they are popular with dog walkers.

"We're excited to bring this program to the parks," he said. *"It will make our parks safer and more enjoyable for everyone."*



County purchases 64 acres for park

Gwinnett County has purchased 64 acres at Old Peachtree Road and Rock Springs Road for a future park to help relieve the busy Collins Hill Park.

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners ratified the purchase, which occurred in late 2002, on January 21, 2003.

The 2000 Capital Improvement Program had identified the need for additional active recreational facilities in the Collins Hill area to supplement Collins Hill Park, an extremely popular park and home to one of the county's largest youth athletic associations. Last year, 4,727 children participated in the Collins Hill Youth Athletic Association's baseball, softball, football, cheerleading and basketball programs.

The new park site is located less than two miles north of Collins Hill Park. There was insufficient land available for an expansion immediately surrounding the existing park.

No funding has been allocated for the development of the new park site but preliminary

plans call for tennis courts, a gymnasium and a stand-alone football field, which would replace the overlay football field at Collins Hill Park. The overlay football field is built over the park's baseball and softball fields every year during football season. The new stand-alone football field will allow year-round use of the baseball and softball fields at Collins Hill.

The new park site, located north of Old Peachtree Road and Rock Springs Road and west of Spriggs Road about one mile south of Interstate 85, also will serve as a buffer between a residential area and a burgeoning industrial site.

"This future park will relieve Collins Hill Park, which is one of the county's busiest recreational sites," said Gwinnett County Commission Chairman **F. Wayne Hill**. *"The park will also provide some new amenities in the area, such as a gymnasium."*

Revenues from the 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funded the purchase.

Planning and Development adds Internet functionality

Doing business with the County has become even easier lately. The Department of Planning and Development has updated its portion of the official Gwinnett County Web site.

In addition to a comprehensive list of telephone numbers, additional features allow citizens to view or download documents, regulations, and forms. Visitors will find among other documents the Buffer, Landscape and Tree Ordinance, various building permit requirements, the Municipal-Gwinnett County Planning Commission bylaws, the Property Maintenance Ordinance, and the Sign Ordinance. Forms include the building permit application, modification application, property owners association bylaws certification form, swimming pool (residential) affidavit, and variance application.

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Check it out!

Spring will be here before you know it! Plan now for a beautiful lawn and garden. The library offers many colorful and instructive gardening guides. Here are just a few. . .

P. Allen Smith's Garden Home, by P. Allen Smith

Trowel and Error, by Sharon Lovejoy

The Well-Designed Mixed Garden, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Accent Your Garden, from the editors of Fine Gardening Design Guides

Care-free Plants, from the editors of Readers' Digest Books

A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds, by James Fenton

The Gardener's Palette: Creating Color in the Garden, by Sydney Eddison

Landscape with Roses, by Jeff Cox

Plants for Places, an American Horticultural Guide

Month-by-Month Gardening in Georgia, by Walter Reeves

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 Heisman family adopted this brother and sister pair of kittens, named Ms. Yin and Mr. Yang, from the Gwinnett County Animal Control Shelter in September. Their new family says the kittens are a delightful addition and have really grown since settling into their new home.

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.

If you'd like to see photos of pets currently up for adoption, go to www.co.gwinnett.ga.us. You can also visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Georgia Hwy. 316 in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.





How to “be a solution to storm water pollution”

You can be a solution to storm water pollution by participating in community activities or workshops and taking what you learn back to your community. Try a few of these tips:

Automotive Care

- Regularly tune up your car and fix any leaks.
- Collect and recycle motor oil, oil filters, and other automobile fluids at vehicle service center or auto parts stores.
- If you have a spill while changing vehicle fluids, use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb the spill, bag it, and throw it in the trash.

Household Hazardous Wastes

Improperly disposing of household hazardous wastes allows these materials to make their way into our streams and water supply. Improper disposal includes:

- Throwing hazardous waste in the garbage
- Pouring it down a sink or in the toilet
- Pouring it down a storm drain or in a drainage ditch

Yard Care

- Keep leaves and grass out of streets, drainage ditches, storm drains, and creeks.
- Compost yard clippings and leaves or bag them for curbside pickup.
- Do not apply fertilizer before rain.

For more information call Gwinnett County Storm Water Management at 678.376.6929 or visit www.cleanwatercampaign.com.

Internet functionality

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Residents may also report complaints or code violations online. The form allows the complainant to fill it out and submit it through the Web.

The Department of Planning and Development’s function is to promote and enhance the well being of residents, visitors, property owners, and businesses of Gwinnett County. The department accomplishes its mission through programs and services that encourage high quality development as well as maintenance and revitalization of existing neighborhoods. The department consists of the Planning Division and the Development Division.

The Planning and Development staff welcomes comments on how to make improvements to its Web site. To make suggestions or to learn more about the department, visit www.co.gwinnett.ga.us (first select Departments, then select Planning and Development) or call 770.822.7500.

Directions to McDaniel Farm Park Groundbreaking Ceremony

From I- 85N, take Pleasant Hill Road exit and turn left.

From I- 85S, take Pleasant Hill Road exit and turn right.

Follow Pleasant Hill Road, then take a right on Old Norcross Road. Take a left on McDaniel Road and follow signs to event.

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The days are getting warmer and the grass is getting greener. With the beginning of spring comes registration for adult athletic seasons, so break out your sports equipment and get active!

Adult Spring Basketball Registration will take place March 5 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only and the fee is \$420 per team. Divisions include Men’s Open, Women’s Open, and Men’s Industrial. Season begins April 1. Call 770.822.5152.

Adult Spring Volleyball Registration will take place March 5 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only and the fee is \$210 per team. Divisions include Coed Intermediate and Coed Advanced. Season begins April 6. Call 770.822.5149.

Adult Spring Roller Hockey Registration will take place March 5 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only and the fee is \$550 per team. Divisions include Men’s Open and Coed Open. Season begins April 6. Call 770.822.5485.

Adult Spring Soccer Registration will take place March 5 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only and the fee is \$550 per team. Divisions include Men’s Open, Women’s Open, and Coed Open. Season begins April 6. Call 770.822.5485.

Adult Spring Flag Football Registration will take place March 5 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only and the fee is \$385 per team. Divisions include Men’s Open and Coed Open. Season begins April 5. Call 770.822.5485.

Springtime is also a great time for people of all ages to learn how to swim. Registration for **Swim Lessons** sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will take place on March 22 at Bogan Aquatic Center in Buford, Collins Hill Aquatic Center in Lawrenceville, and Mountain Park Pool in Lilburn from 10:00am – 10:50am. Sign up in person at the pool where you plan to take lessons. Session costs \$45 and runs from March 31 through May 1. Call Bogan at 770.614.2063, Collins Hill at 770.237.5647, or Mountain Park at 770.564.4650.