



county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

may 2003 vol. 11, no. 5



Gwinnett County finalizes passive park land acquisition details

Gwinnett County officials in April settled the price of a significant piece of land in eastern Gwinnett County, which the County acquired for use as a park. Located in the Harbins area, the total 1,615 acres will be used for future open space and recreational purposes and constitutes Gwinnett's largest single park acquisition.

The County purchased a 21.29-acre tract from Leslie P. Harrison for \$17,500 per acre. The second tract of 1,593.86 acres was purchased from J. Harold Harrison at a cost of \$16,626 per acre. The purchase was funded primarily by the 2001 SPLOST. The 2000 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program, which set priorities for the 2001 sales tax program, identified a need for a community park in the Harbins area of Gwinnett County.

The land, which is part of the Alcovy River watershed, contains hundreds of acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest, streams, tributaries, and a portion of the Alcovy River. Along with water quality protection, the acquisition meets other Gwinnett County Greenspace Program goals such as opportunities for passive recreation and protection of natural habitat and corridors for native plant and animal species.

"We are happy to conclude the purchase of this land," said Gwinnett County Commission Chairman **F. Wayne Hill**. "This property, with its many natural qualities, bolsters Gwinnett County's commitment to preserve na-

tural areas and will enhance the quality of life for all of Gwinnett's citizens. I am looking forward to the creation of a legacy park that residents will enjoy for many generations to come."

"This significant land purchase is a direct result of the cooperation of eight commissioners during their various terms of office," said Gwinnett County Administrator **Charlotte Nash**. "Over the course of several years, Commission Chairman **F. Wayne Hill** and Dis-

trict Commissioners **Marcia Neaton**, **Bert Nasuti**, **John Dunn**, and **Kevin Kernerly**, as well as former district commissioners **Tommy Hughes**, **Patti Muise**, and **Judy Waters** all played a key role in the preservation of this beautiful piece of land today."

Gwinnett County has taken steps to secure the property with Park Police patrols, fencing, barriers, and signage.

...continued on County Line page 3

Lisa Duffner receives 2003 Victims' Voice Award

The Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Program on March 20 recognized Lisa Duffner as the recipient of the 2003 Victims' Voice Award. The annual award goes to someone in the community who has gone beyond the call of duty as an advocate of crime victims.

Duffner was seriously injured and her two-year-old son Ryan was killed four years ago when they were struck by a vehicle operated by someone using a cell phone. She has since advocated for legislation banning certain cell phone usage while operating a vehicle.

"Instead of retreating, which would have been an understandable reaction, Lisa came out fighting," said **Stan Hall**, Director of the Victim Witness Program. "If legislators are waiting for Lisa to go away, they are in for a long wait."

District Attorney Danny Porter remarked about the importance of victims' advocacy in the judicial and criminal justice arena and commended Duffner for her work concerning the legislation.



Victim Witness Program Director Stan Hall and 2003 Victims' Voice Award winner Lisa Duffner. "Lisa has shown great courage and spirit in the light of a devastating tragedy that occurred in her family," said **Hall**.

contents

Bus "Roadeo"



Libraries forge partnership



In Memoriam



McDaniel Farm Park groundbreaking



Where rain water goes



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



In Memoriam

Fire Lieutenant John Robert Patrick

Lieutenant Bobby Patrick, age 54, Station 3-C, collapsed and died from a heart attack while ventilating the roof of a motorcycle repair shop fire on Monday, April 14, 2003. Bobby was a 15-year veteran of the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services Department.



Memorial services were held on Friday, April 18, 2003, at First Baptist Church of Buford. A Gwinnett County Firefighter since 1987, Mr. Patrick was a 1966 graduate of Tallulah Falls High School, a 1971 graduate of Berry College, and the owner of BP Custom Homes. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Mary Patrick, Buford.



Libraries forge new collaborative partnership

Scholars and recreational readers alike will have expanded library access through a partnership forged between the Gwinnett County Public Library and the Gwinnett University Center to offer universal borrowing and other shared resources for patrons of both systems who are 18 years of age or older.

"It is important to note that we are not merging the public libraries with the university library system," said **Joann Pinder**, GCPL Executive Director. *"We are simply working cooperatively to develop initiatives that will provide more resources and expertise to the audiences we serve."*

The two libraries' information services units will work together to better assist citizens in answering reference questions. The libraries also are planning to provide public education programs about available resources and how to use the libraries effectively.

"We are excited to have the privilege of partnering with the nation's top-ranked public library team," said **Gene Ruffin**, GUC Library Director. *"We encourage Gwinnett County Public Library patrons to come and explore the new Gwinnett University Center library. We have some of the best intellectual minds and academic resources on this campus."*

Co-sponsored cultural and historical programs will be another exciting by-product of the partnership. Already a writers' workshop was held in April and **Gwinnett Reads** (a one community, one book concept) is coming up in June.



McDaniel Farm story to come to life in new park

In the spirit of farming, Gwinnett County officials on April 1 grabbed pitchforks, donned straw hats, and tossed hay to officially mark the start of construction on McDaniel Farm Park. Duluth High School students Kevin Rodriguez, Chris Hopper, and Jay Moore's rendition of the National Anthem on guitar, banjo, and mandolin added to the nostalgia of the ceremony held on a flawless sunny afternoon.

A most unique park in a series of new parks and recreation facilities, McDaniel Farm is a serene haven in the midst of a commercially and residentially developed portion of Gwinnett County. *"As I look around this beautiful property it certainly does take me back to simpler, quieter time, and I am so thankful that our leadership had the foresight to purchase and preserve this land,"* said **Phylecia Wilson**, Gwinnett County Recreation Authority Chairman. *"This parcel of land, in fact, has remained relatively unchanged since the 1820 land lottery."*

In addition to restoration of the property's original barn, well house, chicken coop, blacksmith shed, and tenant farmer house, McDaniel Farm will offer passive recreation amenities. This \$1.7 million project is funded by the 2001 SPLOST and construction is scheduled to wrap up next year.



Bus "Roadeo" puts safety in the driver's seat

Gwinnett County Transit bus drivers participated in a Bus "Roadeo" on April 6 at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. This local safety competition is held prior to the state competition.

2003 Bus Roadeo Champion	Kenneth Smith
2 nd Runner Up	Donald Huskey
1 st Runner Up	David Lynn
Administrative Challenge Champion	Dawn Dixon
Pre-trip Bus Inspection Champion	Faye Jackson



Rain, rain goes away, but where does it go?

by Steve Leo, Gwinnett County Storm Water Management

Storm drains: They're everywhere – road-sides, parking lots, and even around your home. In fact, any drain, ditch, or pipe that collects rainwater is connected to the storm water drainage system.

Storm drains remove excess rainwater from areas that would otherwise be subject to flooding. They move the water safely to local rivers and streams.

While these drains are absolutely necessary, they are often misused for waste disposal. Sometimes people intentionally dump materials in storm drains. More often, however, citizens who are unaware of the effects of their actions cause pollutants to enter into the drains as they wash their cars in their driveways, over-fertilize their lawns, ignore the oil leak in their car, or neglect to pick up

pet waste. These drains are connected to waterways, so any materials that enter these drains also will end up in local rivers and streams.

Pollutants commonly discharged to local waterways through storm drains include litter, oil, detergents, grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, cigarette butts, paint, concrete, sewage, and animal waste. With more than 600,000 people living in our county, it's easy to see that if even a small percentage of people do the wrong thing it can negatively affect our waterways.

To learn more about this type of pollution and what you can do to help, visit the web site at www.gwinnettstormwater.com. You can also help by reporting illegal dumping to storm drains and drainage ditches by calling 678.376.7000. You may also file a report online (click on Citizen Service Request under Storm Water Management on the left side).

PASSIVE PARK LAND

...continued from County Line page 1

There are no public facilities on the land, which is not open to the public at this time.

County staff will soon begin an inventory and analysis phase for planning the park. This process includes thorough mapping, taking inventory of the site's natural features, learning the history of the site, and so on. The Parks and Recreation Project Administration Division will begin to create a master plan for the park in 2004.

Check it out!

Gwinnett Reads: A countywide reading event

The Gwinnett County Public Library invites all Gwinnett County citizens to join together in reading the same book this summer. Similar to the popular "one community, one book" programs taking place around the country, the library will host the first such event in Gwinnett.

This year's book selection is *All Over But the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg. It is the story of his childhood in rural Possum Trot, Alabama, and his successful journey to becoming a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

Readers will have the opportunity to attend discussion groups, join creative writing workshops, and participate in a variety of programs including author visits by Bragg. Programs run throughout June and July.

Be sure to get a copy of the book all Gwinnett residents will be reading this summer!

Books and book discussion kits (10 copies and a guide) are available for check out from any branch. Books also may be purchased at Chapter 11 Books in Snellville and Lawrenceville or online at www.gwinnettpl.org. Discussion guides are free.

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



Pet Corner

Pet Corner

According to her new family, this cute little dog named Mitzi adds lots of love and vitality to the Bennett 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 Petsmart near the corner of Georgia Hwy. 120 and Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road in Lawrenceville.

If you'd like to see photos of the pets currently up for adoption, you can 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.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

The **Centerville Senior Bridge Club** meets every Tuesday from 10:00 until 2:00pm at the Centerville Community Center. Bring a bag lunch and spend the day playing bridge with the new friends you will make. Call 770.985.4713.

Cheer on the athletes competing in the 4th annual **Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympic Games** from April 5 until May 17. For more information, call 770.564.4680.

Do you love writing and sharing your work? Would you like to become a better writer? Then join the new **"Pinckneyville at Centerville" Writers' Group**, which will meet from 10:00am until noon every first Thursday of the month beginning May 1. No reservations are necessary. For more information, call the Centerville Community Center at 770.982.4647.

GOT HOT (Gwinnett Organized Teens – Hope of Tomorrow) is a youth development program founded by Gwinnett teens who have organized to promote a positive image of youth. GOT HOT youth partner with dedicated adult mentors to receive leadership and life skills training. The group also sponsors a variety of activities and events for teens. Meets at 7:00pm on Thursdays through May 22 at the Centerville Community Center. Call 770.982.4647.

Books Ahoy! Kids can sign up for the Gwinnett County Public Library **Vacation Reading Program 2003** starting May 1 and continuing throughout the summer. Sign up locations are local library branches, school media centers, and the library Web site. Kids will receive a reading folder, sticker and bookmark when they register. Call or visit one of the library's 11 branches or go to www.gwinnettpl.org.

The Lanier Museum of Natural History hosts **Natural History Day** on May 3 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the museum in Buford. This event coincides with the grand opening of the new reptile and amphibian display. Enjoy live animal programs (reptiles, raptors, and more) and plant and animal exhibits. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.932.4460.

Senior Day Out: A Senior Citizen's Life Style Showcase takes place on May 9 from

9:00am – 3:00pm at the Gwinnett University Center on Collins Hill Road at Hwy. 316. Seniors will enjoy a wide variety of informative programs, booths, entertainment, crafts and special presentations. Call 770.564.4680.

To celebrate the anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Department of Public Utilities is holding an **Open House at the Lanier Water Production Facility** on May 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The event is open to the public. There will be facility tours, hayrides, arts and crafts, lunch, and refreshments. The Lanier Facility is located at 2601 Buford Dam Road, Buford. Contact Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157.

Registration for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation **summer classes and camps** begins May 12. These facilities accept registrations until classes/camps are filled (call ahead for hours): Best Friend Gymnasium 770.417.2200; Bogan Park Community Center 770.614.2060; Gwinnett Senior Center 770.564.4680; Lenora Park Gymnasium 770.978.5271; Pinckneyville Community Center 770.417.2200; Rhodes Jordan Community Center 770.822.5414.

Fallen Heroes Memorial dedication and **Memorial Day** observance will be held on May 26.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation **summer pools are open** from Memorial Day through Labor Day! Call for hours: Bogan Park Aquatic Center, Buford, 770.614.2063; Best Friend Park Pool, Norcross 770.417.2202; Dacula Park Pool, Dacula 770.822.5410; Collins Hill Aquatic Center, Lawrenceville, 770.237.5647; Mountain Park Pool, Lilburn 770.564.4650; Rhodes Jordan Park Aquatic Center, Lawrenceville 770.822.5143.

Join Dee Parker for a three-day workshop, **"Winning the Job You Want,"** that will provide the tools to sell your most valuable asset – YOU! Classes will take place on May 27, 28, and 29 from 6:30pm until 8:30pm at the Centerville Community Center. Class fee is \$25. Call 770.982.4647.

Meet **Dewey the Dinosaur**, the Gwinnett County Public Library mascot! He will be at the Centerville Branch on May 29 at 10:30am;

the Lilburn Branch on May 29 at 1:00pm; and the Norcross Branch on May 30 at 10:30am.

Meet author Rick Bragg at the **Gwinnett Reads Picnic** on June 7 and join in fun, food, and fellowship. For ticket information or for a complete listing of Gwinnett Reads events, call 770.978.5154, visit any library branch, or check www.co.gwinnett.ga.us

Gwinnett Adopt-A-Stream's **Community Cleanup Days** are designed for residents to boat down Gwinnett's waterways and help remove trash and debris from the banks and bottom. The trips are approximately three to four hours in length. Following a brief pre-trip meeting, volunteers are assigned a boat with trash bags and tools. A guide and staff will assist you and they will have a radio/cell phone for emergencies. The river guide is also trained in CPR/First Aid. Lunch follows the river trip and every volunteer will receive a T-shirt. Upcoming trips are June 7 to clean up Sweetwater Creek from U.S. 29 to Bethesda Park and July 19 cleaning up Sweetwater Creek from Bethesda Park to River Drive (meet at Bethesda Park at 9:00am for both events). These events are first come, first served (maximum of 20 volunteers per trip). To sign up or get more information, call Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157. In particular, ask about the rules and regulations you need to know before you go.

countyline

Editor

Heather R. Welch

Layout and Design

Shannon E. Coffey

Gwinnett County
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770.822.7035
www.co.gwinnett.ga.us

Call editor **Heather Welch** at **770.822.7035** with your newsletter articles and suggestions or e-mail welchhe@co.gwinnett.ga.us. Please remember that information may not be printed in its entirety due to space constraints. The County Line can be read online at www.co.gwinnett.ga.us.

