



county Line

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Police Chief announces retirement

After three decades of service to the citizens of Gwinnett County, **Chief William H. Dean** of the Gwinnett County Police Department intends to retire early next year. Dean has been with the GCPD since 1972, serving as Chief of Police for the past five years.

According to County Administrator **Charlotte Nash**, Dean's decision to retire was not unexpected. "Chief Dean and I have been discussing his future plans over the last year or two. With 30 years of service to his credit, he has earned the right to enjoy retirement," Nash said. She also expressed her admiration and gratitude for the leadership Dean has given to the GCPD.

To succeed Dean, Nash appointed Colonel Charles M. Walters as the new Gwinnett County Police Chief effective October 1, 2003. Walters is a 24-year veteran of the GCPD.

Dean has assumed an advisory role to the new chief to ensure an orderly transition, particularly in relation to communications plans and construction programs underway. Additionally, Dean will continue to assist with the development of the County's Homeland Security efforts and protocol, working with Deputy County Administrator Jock Connell and other County officials to coordinate plans, funding, and information systems.

Prior to his tenure as Chief of Police, Dean served as commander of both the Criminal Investigation and Uniform Divisions. He successfully led the GCPD through the national accreditation process and helped write the current operational manuals. In November 1993, Gwinnett County became only the seventh department in the state of Georgia to receive accreditation. He is past-president of the Gwin-



nett County Police Chief's Association, a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, and a team leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Coming next month: Meet new Police Chief Charles M. Walters.

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New Georgia tags hit the streets December 1

A recent decision made by Governor Perdue will affect the way the 1997 series license plates will be replaced. As a money-saving measure, certain 1997 tags will not be replaced, but instead will be renewed with a 2005 decal.

The following vehicles will receive the 2005 decal: passenger/light truck, habitual violator, motorcycle, trailer, government vehicle, hearse/ambulance, low speed vehicle, government motorcycle, all dealer license plates.

Vehicles not falling in the mentioned categories will receive the new www.georgia.gov license plate. All new residents registering a vehicle for the first time will get a new 2004 license plate.

The Georgia DMVS has indicated that it will be providing more specific information on this issue in the coming months. The Gwinnett DMV is currently assessing the impact to its operations, budget, and customers.

County gets new, simpler Web address

by Kinsey Hansel,
Communications Intern

Citizen: Where can I find information on applying for a business license?

County employee: You can check our Web site at [Sound familiar? Now, citizens can access Gwinnett County's home page easier and faster using the new Web address, \[www.gwinnettcountry.com\]\(http://www.gwinnettcountry.com\). It doesn't get much simpler than that.](http://www.dot.co dot . . . no, it's ga dot us dot . . . no ma'am it's www dot co dot Gwinnett dot . . .</p></div>
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New director welcomes uniqueness of center

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Intern

Steve Cannon brings more than 18 years of experience and leadership in environmental protection, environmental education, and public health to his new role as executive director of the Gwinnett County Environmental and Heritage Center. He will oversee day-to-day operations and play a major role in working with the academic and environmental communities to provide educational opportunities for the citizens of Gwinnett County.



"The center is going to be a unique blend of environmental education with a water theme and County heritage," said Cannon, "It is one-of-a-kind. There is no template and that is what I like about it."

Cannon is no stranger to Gwinnett County, water resources, or environmental protection. He worked in Gwinnett County Public Utilities for 15 years before serving as Deputy Director for Rockdale County Water Resources. *"I am glad to be back. I think Gwinnett County is a well-run organization with strong leadership,"* he said.

Cannon is a member of the Georgia Water Wise Council and the American Water Works Association, and most recently was appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. As a Gwinnett resident, he looks forward to giving something back to the community. *"This center is at the forefront of environmental education and will serve as a resource for water education,"* he said.

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Stone Mountain Highway study under way

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Intern

Planning is in progress for the section of Stone Mountain Highway (U.S. Highway 78) from the DeKalb County line to the Snellville city limits. The Georgia Department of Transportation is planning a median in that section of the highway that may lead to changes in travel and land use patterns. In August, consultants held group interviews with residents, business owners, school and government officials, ministers, environmentalists, and senior citizens to discuss the possible changes for the area as part of a revitalization study.

The corridor is the first of three pilot studies set into motion by the Revitalization Task Force and authorized by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. The group interviews were the first step in the Stone Mountain Highway study. A residential section of Beaver Ruin Road near Beaver Springs Lane and the Gwinnett Place Mall area are next on the list for study. *"The revitalization pilot studies are being conducted using many different consulting firms,"* said **Nancy Roney**, Gwinnett County Long-Range Planning Manager. Each consultant has a specialty: transportation, water and sewerage facilities, economic issues, market study, etc.

"The consultants were looking for the public to tell them what they would like to see changed in their community and the government officials supplied information about programs the County already has in place in the area and future plans," said **Steve Logan**, Gwinnett County Director of Planning. Many people at the meetings expressed to the consultants and County staff that they were pleased to have been sought out for input.

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Rivers Alive kicks off Norcross Adopt-a-Stream program

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Intern

Organizers and volunteers will clean more than 70,000 miles of rivers and streams in Georgia during the 12th annual river cleanup, **Rivers Alive**. Gwinnett County will host three cleanup locations, all in the City of Norcross.

"This year's Rivers Alive will also double as a kickoff for the Adopt-a-Stream program in Norcross," said **Michael O'Shield**, event organizer. Volunteers should meet at Norcross City Hall on October 11 at 8:00am. Cleanup will last until 11:00am followed by a volunteer recognition lunch from noon to 1:00pm. The first 80 volunteers will receive T-shirts.

More than 30,000 residents are expected to participate in the Rivers Alive program statewide. In metro Atlanta, the Clean Water

Campaign and Keep Georgia Beautiful are spearheading more than 800 miles of stream cleanup in 10 counties.

For more information on the Rivers Alive program, call Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157 or visit www.riversalive.org.

Public Utilities Open House October 18, 10:00am – 2:00pm Yellow River/Sweetwater Plant

Hayrides, arts and crafts, refreshments, facility tours
Special event at 1:00pm recognizing
International Water Monitoring Day
Call Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157



Library ends successful fiscal year

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Intern

The Gwinnett County Public Library offers no ordinary summer reading program. More than 30,500 children participated in "Books Ahoy." The reading program included puppet shows, character meet and greets, and a literature-based magic show.

"We have never seen a decrease in participation," said **Cindy Murphy**, the library's Marketing and Development Director. Murphy

says the increase of more than 4,000 from last summer is thanks to the role teachers played in encouraging students to sign up.

For the 2003 fiscal year, Gwinnett County Public Library became the only library in Georgia to reach six million checkouts. A grand total of 6,100,381 materials were checked out, more than 51,100 new library cards were issued, and more than a million customers received online service in "Virtualville."



More than 260 people joined officials from the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and the Gwinnett County Library Board of Trustees as they broke ground on the Suwanee branch library in a ceremony held on September 16, 2003. The 2001 SPLOST is funding the design and construction of the county's 12th branch library.

Stone Mountain

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Information from the meetings will help in forming a plan for the corridor. The consultants will use the information to complete a market analysis, look at the market potential and infrastructure of the area, and balance the attitudes and desires of the public with the economic and development issues. They will come up with creative ideas on land use and landscaping in addition to dealing with the impacts of the median. The recommendations will be taken to the Revitalization Task Force to analyze and then will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners. A final report will be submitted in 2004.

"This is not going to be an easy task for the consultants," said Logan, "They are going to try and stimulate the economic engine that runs the area by increasing the revenue being generated."

Check it out!

As the weather cools it's nice to be outdoors. Make the most of your outings with these guides.

Fun with the family in Georgia: hundreds of ideas for day trips with the kids, by Carol Thalimer

Georgia curiosities: quirky characters, roadside oddities, & other offbeat stuff, by William Schemmel

Georgia: off the beaten path, 6th edition, by William Schemmel

Camping Georgia, by Alex Nutt

Birding Georgia, by Giff Neaton

Natural adventures in the mountains of North Georgia, by Mary Ellen Hammond

Longstreet Highroad Guide to the Georgia coast and Okefenokee, by Richard J. Lenz

Road Bike North Georgia: 25 great rides in the mountains and valleys of north Georgia, by Jim Parham

List provided by Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit our branches for additional selection assistance, or check out www.gwinnettpl.org.

Pet Corner

Pet Corner

You can find lots of adorable cats, dogs, and other critters at your Gwinnett County Animal Shelter. If you are thinking about adopting a new fuzzy family member, please stop by for a visit. Our animal control counselors will help you find the perfect pet for your lifestyle.

If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com. You can also stop by the shelter at the corner of Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.



Swiffer was adopted by Heather Welch, Communications Office.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Bring the whole family for a day of fun at **Lenora Harvest Festival and Craft Expo** on October 4 at Lenora Park from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Enjoy crafts, music, pony rides, a moonwalk, and plenty of good food. To reserve a space, or for more information, call 770.822.5414.

The **Gwinnett County Surplus Auction** of 2003 will be held October 11 at the Fleet Maintenance Facility at 620 Swanson Drive, Lawrenceville. Vehicles, mowers, office furniture, and miscellaneous items will be on sale. Viewing opens at 8:00am, and the auction will begin at 10:00am. A professional auction company will conduct all sales. Items must be paid for at the auction and picked up within one week.

Registration for **swim lessons** sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will be from 10:00am – noon on October 11 at the Bogan Aquatic Center in Buford, Collins Hill Aquatic Center in Lawrenceville, and Mountain Park Pool in Lilburn. Sign up at the pool where you plan to take lessons. The session runs from October 20 through November 11 and the cost is \$45. Call Bogan at 770.614.2063, Collins Hill at 770.237.5647, or Mountain Park at 770.564.4650.

Meet at the Gwinnett Senior Center at 9:00am on October 15 for a day at the annual **Oktoberfest in Helen**. Enjoy food, music, and shops with the scenic backdrop of an old Bavarian village. Bring your walking shoes! Call 770.564.4680.

Registration for **Adult Winter One-Pitch Softball** by team only will be October 22 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Fee is \$325 per team. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, Coed, Men's Industrial, and Men's Church. The season begins December 1. Call 770.822.5152.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation presents **Halloween Scary Tales** on October 24 at the Bogan Community Center in Buford and the Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. Professional storytellers will captivate audiences of all ages with original ghost stories, urban legends, and more. Storytelling begins at 7:00pm with "Not So Scary" tales geared toward four- and five-year-olds and continues at 8:00pm with

"Scary Tales" for six- to nine-year-olds. "Enter At Your Own Risk" stories for ages 10 and up start at 9:00pm. For ticket information, call 770.417.2200.

Bring your pet to the 6th annual **Hairy Halloween Pet Costume Contest** hosted by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation from 10:00am to noon on October 25. Enjoy refreshments and the chance to show off your best friend. Judging and awards will be based upon originality, creativity, durability, and owner/pet look-a-likes. The fee is \$5 per pet. Pre-registration is preferred. All animals must be on a leash and/or restraint. Judging will begin promptly at 11:00am. Call 770.417.2200.

Sign up for **Gwinnett Parks Foundation's 5K Road Race**. The race will take place November 8 at Tribble Mill Park in Grayson. Registration is \$15 and the deadline is October 31. For more information, visit www.gwinnettparksfoundation.org.

Join us for the 6th annual **Senior Health Fair** sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, the Gwinnett Senior Center, and Gwinnett Health System on October 31. The event is open to all senior adults in Gwinnett County. The health fair will provide free and low cost screenings such as diabetes testing, stroke screening, cholesterol testing, blood pressure, vision screening, bone density test, and foot screening. Flu and pneumonia vaccines also will be available. Call the Gwinnett Senior Center at 770.564.4680 to register for the screenings.

Pinckneyville Community Center presents **Momou Courirde Mardi Gras**, an exhibition of black and white documentary photographs by Derek Bell. These images look into the roots of the Mardi Gras still celebrated in a small town in Louisiana. The exhibition will run through November 19. The free exhibit is open Monday to Friday from 9:00am – 9:00pm, and Saturday and Sunday from noon – 5:00pm. Call 770.417.2200.

The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse presents **Travels in Small Town Georgia**, an exhibition of black and white documentary photographs by Christopher Burdett. The free exhibition will run through November 17. The show is open Monday – Friday from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Call 770.417.2200.

Centerville Community Center is hosting **Portraits**, a solo exhibition of pastels to include drawings and paintings by artist K.V. Herndon through December 14. The free show is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Call 770.417.2200.

Controlling deer damage in urban landscapes

by **Stephen D. Pettis, Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service**

Wildlife animals are beautiful to observe. However, many people would rather observe the animals on someone else's property. The Gwinnett County Extension Office receives calls on a regular basis from people who need advice on how to deal with nuisance wildlife such as squirrels, moles, and deer without harming the animals.

The following advice for protecting your landscape from deer, perhaps the biggest nuisance of all, is backed by research from the University of Georgia.

- Plant deer-tolerant flowers like marigolds and snapdragons
- Do not feed deer
- Remove/thin shrub cover at forest edge
- Fence your yard with 8-ft. hog wire
- Use scare tactics like sprinklers and lights
- Spray chemicals containing sulfurous odors over crops to deter deer feeding; generally these chemicals are not long-lasting

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