



# County Line

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## Smoking prohibited in public places

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners amended the **Clean Indoor Air Ordinance**, Chapter 42, Article VI, pertaining to smoking in public places and places of employment in December 2003.

The changes to this Article became effective April 1, 2004; smoking is not be permitted in workplaces and public places. Exceptions are limited to retail tobacco stores, property owned or leased by municipi-

palities, the State of Georgia or the federal government, designated smoking rooms in hotels and motels (not to exceed 25 percent of the total number of rooms available), designated smoking areas on external balconies at any indoor arena (with capacity of at least 5,000 persons), and outdoor areas of places of employment (unless the owner declares otherwise). The ordinance covers all of unincorporated Gwinnett County. The ordinance does not apply to private residences.

The Article requires all workplaces and public places in unincorporated Gwinnett County to be 100 percent smoke-free and that the owner, operator, manager, or other person having control of such building shall clearly and conspicuously post "NO SMOKING" signs or symbols at every building where smoking is prohibited by this Article.

The complete **Clean Indoor Air Ordinance** can be found online at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

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Gwinnett County  
invites you to its

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House

Saturday, April 24, 2004  
11:00am to 3:00pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

*Gwinnett: a great place to be . . .  
to live, to work, to play*

Come learn how your local government works for you. Booths will feature valuable programs and services provided by county government and courts.

#### FREE kids' activities

Pony rides, moonwalk, petting zoo, giant slide, sand art, face painting, characters, music

#### FREE refreshments for the first 2,000 people

Sonic hot dogs, Coca-Cola, dessert from Ryan's

For more information  
call 770.822.7035



## Gwinnett officials busy breaking ground on major projects

*Gwinnett County officials spent a busy winter breaking ground on several facilities to provide residents with better customer service and protection. Projects that are now under construction include a new driver's licensing center, tag office, fire station, and police precinct.*

**DMVS Customer Service Center**  
Gwinnett County Commissioners and Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety officials gathered February 17, 2004, for a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the future DMVS Customer Service Center.

Last year, Gwinnett County officials agreed to help the state DMVS achieve their goal to improve customer service and efficiency with the construction of a new custo-

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## Planning and Development relocates

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development and other related offices relocated to the One Justice Square building last month. The Building Inspector's Section is still located on the basement level of Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC).

In addition to the Department of Planning and Development, the following offices are now open for business at One Justice Square:

- Fire Marshal's Office
- Sewer and Water Plan Review
- Storm Water Management Plan Review
- Transportation Plan Review

One Justice Square is located approximately one block from GJAC at 446 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Visitors may enter the parking lot from either West Crogan Street or Constitution Boulevard.

### Property tax due dates

**May 1, 2004**  
Homestead filing  
Mobile home tax bills

For more information,  
call the 24-hour customer service line  
at 770.822.8800 or  
e-mail [propertytax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:propertytax@gwinnettcountry.com).

## Fire and Emergency Services receives second thermal imaging camera

Life Lines Council, Inc. (LLCI) recently presented Fire Chief Jack McElfish and Captain David Dusik of the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services with an E2V Technologies "Argus 2" Thermal Imaging Camera. This is the second thermal imaging camera donated to Gwinnett County by LLCI. Assistant Chiefs Steve Rolader, David Wiley, and Robert Post were also on hand for the presentation at the Fire and Emergency Services headquarters in Lawrenceville.

The camera makes it easier for firefighters to see people in smoke-filled rooms. The technology is especially helpful in finding scared children who may be hiding from the fire. The time saved using the thermal imaging camera can make the difference in life and death. Generous citizens and businesses made the purchase of the second camera possible, along with the discounted purchase price provided by the camera distributor.

## "Gwinnett Groundbreakings"

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mer service center on Hurricane Shoals Drive in Lawrenceville. Architects at Lindsay, Pope, Brayfield & Associates in Lawrenceville are designing the new facility, with Headley Construction Corporation working as the contractors.

The new \$3 million center funded by a portion of the 2001 SPLOST will replace the existing driver's licensing facility on Swanson Drive.

### Fire Station, Police Precinct, Tag Office

Officials from the Gwinnett County Police and Fire and Emergency Services departments joined the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner on March 2, 2004, for the groundbreaking of a new public safety facility and tag office near the Mall of Georgia.

The project is located on an 8.3-acre parcel of land east of the Mall of Georgia and will include Fire Station 24, the Northside Police Precinct and the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner's Office North Branch (primarily a motor vehicle tag office). Group VI Corporation was awarded the design and build contract and has sub-contracted design work to architecture firm Barker, Cunningham and Barrington.

The tag office is funded through the general fund, while the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is funding the fire and police stations.

*"This is just another example of how SPLOST is working in our community, and how it makes these types of new facilities possible," said Chairman F. Wayne Hill, "The fire station and police precinct will be wonderful additions to this area, and we look forward to providing these essential services to the folks out there."*

### Breaking it down

#### DMVS Customer Service Center

- 11,500 square-foot building
- 200 parking spaces
- 52,500 square-foot driving course
- 16 customer service stations
- 20 individual, computer-based testing stations

#### Fire Station 24

- 12,820 square-foot building
- Three bays
- Battalion headquarters
- Community room

#### Northside Police Precinct and Tag Office

- 18,860 square-foot building
- 205 public parking spaces



## Gardening 101: reaping the benefits of spring

Gwinnett County Extension Agent **Stephen Pettis** has some tips for getting your garden to grow this spring.

Some facts about nutrients in soil:

- Nutrients hold water, release nutrients, improve soil structure and tilth, and increase productivity of plants
- Removal of nutrients from soils without replenishment leads to poor soil structure, reduced productivity, and poor soil health

- In nature, nutrients are returned to the soil when the plant dies and decomposes, but in home gardens, the removal of leaves, dead limbs, fallen trees, and lawn clippings also removes nutrients

- The organisms that live in the soil (earthworms, nematodes, fungi, bacteria, insects, etc.) suffer when soil organic matter is not replenished

Restoring soil health takes time, but adding organic matter every fall and spring to your garden and flowerbeds can remedy poor

soil health in a few years. Organic matter can be in the form of home compost or store bought compost. Apply organic matter liberally over the gardening area. Set your tiller to its deepest setting, and till it in thoroughly. Be aware that some of these composts contain high amounts of nutrients, especially nitrogen, and should be incorporated into the soil well in advance of planting crops or ornamentals.

Get compost into your soil now to reap benefits this spring!



## Family Caregivers conference

Taking care of an elder and need help? The Gwinnett Senior Issues Task Force is holding a Gwinnett Family Caregivers conference on Saturday, April 17 from 9:30am to 2:30pm at the Lawrenceville First United Methodist Church, 395 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.

Conference topics will include the following: activities of daily living; tips for caregivers; Medicare and Medicaid; understanding the

differences between depression and dementia; living wills; grief and loss; caring for the caregiver; and elder law.

Representatives from many community service organizations such as Gwinnett County Senior Services will be present to answer questions. Lunch will be provided and cost is \$10. Registration is required to participate; call 770.541.9355.

### Check it out!

The weather is warming and we are all eager to spend some time outdoors. The following are just a few of the many landscape and gardening books available at the Gwinnett County Public Library.

*The Weather-Resilient Garden – a defensive approach to planting and landscaping*, by Charles Smith

*Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South*, by Norman Winter

*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

*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 our branches for additional selection assistance, or visit our Web site at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

## Pet Corner



### Pet Corner

Pet Corner

The Fuller family adopted their five-month-old Great Pyrenees puppy, Cody, from the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter. Callie and Cody love to play together. "Cody was picked up as a stray, all matted up and dirty. Now, he is the joy of our life," said Callie's mother, **Erin Fuller**, a Gwinnett County employee.

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





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Join the Easter Bunny at the **Easter Eggstravaganza** at Medlock Pavilion in Pinckneyville Park, Norcross, for crafts, pictures with the bunny, and a special Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3, from 10:00am – noon. Participants will be grouped by age. Find the prize egg and win a special treat. Parental participation is required with crafts. The cost is \$5 per child (up to age 12). Call 770.417.2200.

Come have a **Tea Party with Peter Cottontail!** Peter is hopping by Bogan Park in Buford on Sunday, April 4, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm to join us for tea, photos, crafts, and an egg hunt. Parents, bring your cameras, and kids bring your baskets for a hopping good time! The cost is \$20 for one child (ages 3 – 6) and one adult and \$3 for each additional adult. Call 770.614.2060.

A free workshop on how to **identify and treat pests in the yard** without harming the environment will be held on April 14 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Gwinnett County Extension Service Coordinator Robert Brannon will speak at the workshop given in partnership with the Clean Water Campaign and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. Advance registration is required. Call 404.463.3259 or visit [www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com).

Strap on your running shoes for the **Tribble Trot 5k Road Race** on Saturday, April 17, at 7:30am. Run a paved 3.1-mile course through the wooded terrain of Tribble Mill Park in Grayson. Registration fee is \$15 and includes a T-shirt. Awards will be given to the top three runners in several categories. Call 770.932.4460.

You won't hear "*don't touch*" here. Come **Touch-A-Truck** on Saturday, April 17, from 9:00am – 11:00am. Touch and climb aboard all types of trucks at Bogan Park in Buford. Admission is free, but some activities/crafts may have a small fee. Call 770.614.2060.

Mark your calendar now for the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gwinnett County Open House** on Saturday, April 24, from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville. Come learn how your local government works for you. Booths will feature the valuable programs and services provided by county government and courts. There will also be free kids' activities, music, and refreshments. Call 770.822.7035 for more information. Gwinnett: a great place to be . . . to live, to work, to play.

The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: **Art by Latrecia Rafferty** runs through May 21.

Pinckneyville Community Center hosts **free art exhibits** at several locations. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

The Pinckneyville Community Center: **Art by Travis Pack** runs from April 12 – June 16, with an opening reception on April 15 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

The Centerville Community Center: **Art by Laurette Reeves** runs through June 18.

The **Asian American Resource Center** offers the following programs at the Norcross Human Services Center, 5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross:

- **Citizenship Classes:** United States history, test taking skills and strategies
- **Computer Classes:** computer basics, keyboard training, basic and advanced Internet instruction, and advanced instruction of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint applications
- **Oriental Brush Painting:** oriental landscape and nature painting taught by a professional artist

Registration is required for all programming. Call 770.638.5667.

## Branch library now more user-friendly

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

Customers at Gwinnett County Public Library's Elizabeth H. Williams branch should notice new conveniences at their Snellville location. The library closed for renovations last month in order to make the library more user-friendly.

The shelves are now arranged away from the windows and lined up for maximum lighting. Teens will enjoy a new section just for them in the front of the library, and a new children's area is located near the back. The meeting room has been closed, and the offices in the center of the building have been moved to make use of the greatest amount of public space.

*"Comfortable seating and indirect lighting will allow customers to feel relaxed while reading a favorite magazine or newspaper," said Cindy Murphy, Marketing and Development Director for the Gwinnett County Public Library. "It is a perfect place to rest and wait for a child to finish homework."*

A new 24-hour book drop will allow materials to be processed as they are received, making materials available sooner for the next customer.

The Elizabeth H. Williams branch is located at 2740 Lenora Church Road in Snellville. Visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org) to find a library branch near you.

## countyline

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