



# county Line

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## Gwinnett County officials celebrate Gwinnett's progress!

Gwinnett County officials had plenty of reasons to celebrate in June and July as they opened or broke ground on six new facilities: Satellite Boulevard extension, Fire Administration Headquarters, Dacula Park Activity Building, Ronald Reagan Park, Pre-Trial Detention Center phase one expansion, and the relocation of Fire Station 5.

### County DOT opens Satellite Boulevard Extension to traffic

The Gwinnett County Department of Transportation celebrated the

opening of the Satellite Boulevard extension to traffic on Tuesday, July 6, 2004. The new 4.4-mile extension runs from Smithtown Road to State Route 20 and has four lanes with a median. With the completion of this project, a continuous four-lane roadway is now in place along the western side of Interstates 85 and 985 from State Route 20 in the Buford area to Beaver Ruin Road in the Norcross area.



The 4.4 mile extension of Satellite Boulevard runs from Smithtown Road to State Route 20.

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## Greenspace efforts garner national honors for Chairman F. Wayne Hill

The National Association of Counties picked Gwinnett Board of Commissioners Chairman **F. Wayne Hill** as one of two recipients of its 2004 Caucus Courthouse awards. He won in the large urban county category.

The award, sponsored by Siemens, includes a \$5,000 college scholarship for the recipient, or recipients, of Hill's choice. Hill received the honor at the association's annual conference held July 16 – 20 in Phoenix.

In recognition of his efforts to preserve greenspace in a rapidly growing county, the group noted that Gwinnett has acquired and preserved almost 5,000 acres over the past six years at a cost of about \$87 mil-

lion. The County now has more than 7,700 acres of both active and passive parks and recreation facilities.

Hill, an avid horseman, is especially proud of the 10 miles of trails for horseback riding and hiking that will soon be available to the public on

890 scenic acres at the new Little Mulberry Park north of Dacula.

An even larger park, now being master-planned by a citizen advisory committee, will cover almost 1,800 acres east of Grayson in the Harbins area. Most of the funding for these acquisitions came from the 2001 sales tax that voters approved.



Gwinnett County Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill (left) receives the Caucus Courthouse Award for Large Urban Counties during the National Association of Counties annual meeting in Phoenix last month.

## Gwinnett progress

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"We are very pleased to be able to open the Satellite Boulevard Extension to traffic," said Gwinnett Department of Transportation Director **Brian Allen**. "We are grateful for the participation and involvement of our Citizens' Project Selection Committee, who recommended that this project be funded by the 1997 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."

The County budget for this road improvement was approximately \$25.9 million.

### Officials open new fire headquarters



A ribbon-cutting on June 15 officially marked the opening of the new Fire Administration Headquarters which allowed for the consolidation of Fire Administrative Support Staff into one building from six separate work locations. The building was a \$7 million project, funded by the 1997 SPLOST, and includes a new Logistical Support Facility. The new phone number for the headquarters is 678.518.4800.

### Pre-Trial Detention Center phase one expansion



Gwinnett County officials celebrated the groundbreaking of the phase one expansion of the Pre-Trial Detention center on July 6. In November 2002, the citizens of Gwinnett County approved a \$75,000 General Obligation Bond to finance the expansion. Phase one will include 1,440 beds and areas to support both expansion phases, including medical, food service, laundry, and central plant areas.

### Dacula Park Activity Building

On July 6, officials gathered at the site of the future Dacula Park Activity Building, 125 Old Auburn Road, to celebrate the groundbreaking of this new amenity for Dacula Park. The Dacula Park Activity Building will be a 7,440-square-foot facility that will house a large community room and a smaller classroom designed for a wide range of activities including recreation classes, club meetings, and birthday parties. The site will also feature a 0.6-mile, paved multi-purpose trail that will connect to the 1.1-mile trail at Dacula Park.

### Fire Station 5



Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services began operating out of Fire Station 5 located at 3001 Old Norcross Road in Duluth on July 8. The station is a three-bay facility that will also house the offices of the department's District Chiefs. The facility replaces the old fire station on Club Drive. The personnel at Station 5 are among the busiest in the county, having answered more than 2,000 calls since January 2004.

### Ronald Reagan Park



Ronald Reagan Park (name changed from Five Forks Park in memory of former President Reagan) is a passive community park and is home to the County's first dog park. The 25-acre park also includes an area for Gwinnett's senior citizens to play horseshoes, shuffleboard, bocce ball, and chess and checkers under a covered picnic pavilion. The park officially opened on July 10, 2004.



## State law requires proper motor vehicle registration

It is not unusual to see vehicles on Gwinnett County roadways with license plates from other counties. Many motorists are unfamiliar with Georgia's motor vehicle registration requirements.

In an effort to educate citizens and ensure that Gwinnett County homeowners do not inadvertently jeopardize their homestead exemption, the Tax Commissioner's Office included an insert in the property tax bills informing citizens that in accordance with state law (O.C.G.A. 48-5-444), a vehicle owned by a resident of the State of Georgia

must be registered within the county where the owner claims a homestead exemption. Property tax bills were mailed in early July.

Proper registration helps to ensure that *ad valorem* taxes are paid to the proper county and it provides accurate information to any law enforcement agency that queries motor vehicle records. For more information on this state law, please visit [www.gwinnett-tag.com](http://www.gwinnett-tag.com) or call the customer service call center at 770.822.8818.

## Extension Service taking applications for county fair exhibits

The Gwinnett County Fair is coming up September 16 – 26 and that means it's time to start thinking about your entry. The take-in date for exhibits is September 13 and pre-registration is required if you plan to make an entry in this year's county fair. Fair booklets and pre-registration forms are available at the Gwinnett County Extension Service office at 750 South Perry

Street, Lawrenceville. The deadline for submitting the registration form is August 30, 2004. There will be no on-site registration.

Have fun working on your entry and we will see you at the fair! For more information, contact your local Gwinnett County Extension Service at 678.377.4010.

### Check it out!

**Who?** The Gwinnett County Public Library has a great new collection of biographies just out in 2004! Enjoy learning more about the lives of the following individuals.

*Ben Hogan: An American Life*, by James Dodson

*It Was Food Versus Me and I Won*, by Nancy Goodman

*I Rose Like A Rocket: The Political Education of Theodore Roosevelt*, by Paul Grondahl

*William Clark and the Shaping of the West*, by Landon Jones

*Moanin' at Midnight: The Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf*, by James Segrest and Mark Hoffman

*Tales From The Bed: On Living, Dying, and Having It All: A Memoir*, by Jenifer Estess as told to Valerie Estess

*Why You Crying? My Long, Hard Look At Life, Love, and Laughter*, by George Lopez with Armen Keteyian

*Blindsided: Lifting a Life Above Illness, a Reluctant Memoir*, by Richard Cohen

*An Innocent, A Broad*, by Ann Leary

*Edward R. Murrow and The Birth of Broadcast Journalism*, by Robert A. Edwards

List provided by Gwinnett County Public Library. Check availability of these items on the Web at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

#### Gwinnett Reads Reminder:

Clyde Edgerton  
and the Rank Strangers  
in concert

Gwinnett Performing Arts Center  
August 20, 7:00pm

## Pet Corner



Meet Tobie (left) and his sister Lina. Lina was adopted from the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter in November 2002. There are other wonderful pets that also need a loving home. If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, see [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com). You can also visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.

Share your pet story! E-mail a photo and description to [kinsey.snell@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:kinsey.snell@gwinnettcounty.com) or send it to Attn. Kinsey Snell, Communications Division, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville GA 30045.



**ESOL classes** are offered by the Asian-American Resource Center housed at the Norcross Human Services Center (NHSC). Basic ESOL: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am until noon and Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Advanced ESOL: Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am until noon. Registration is \$20 per month. Free childcare is provided during the evening classes. The classes are taught in English and speakers of all languages are welcome. Currently, classes have students from Korea, China, Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico. For more information or to enroll, call 770.638.5667. The NHSC is located at 5030 Georgia Bell Court in Norcross.

**Adult Fall Flag Football registration** takes place on August 4 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center, 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Sign up by team only. Fee is \$390 per team. Divisions

include Men's and Coed. Season begins September 5. Games played at Cemetery Field in Norcross. Call 770.822.5149 for more information.

**Registration for Adult Fall Soccer** is on August 4 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center, located at 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Sign up by team only. Fee is \$550 per team. Divisions include Men's and Coed. Season begins September 5. Games played at Rabbit Hill Park in Dacula. Call 770.822.5485 for more information.

Grab a blanket and your lunch for a free **Brown Bag Lunchtime Concert** on August 13. It's from noon until 1:00pm on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville. The 2004 Brown Bag Concert Series continues with the return of the popular musical storytelling group, The

Bugaboos. Come out to enjoy this singing/storytelling group. For more information call 770.822.5450.

Join your neighbors for **Family Fun Night** on August 20 at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. Enjoy a night of fun including basketball, volleyball, puzzles, game room, crafts, and bingo. Refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is required and admission is \$6 for a family of four and \$1 for each additional person. Children must be accompanied by an adult over 18. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Grab your blanket and some dinner for a **Moonlight and Music Concert** on August 27. Enjoy free music under the stars on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville. The 2004 Music and Moonlight Concert Series continues with the return of the popular Class Act Band. Enjoy a wonderful evening filled with dance and party music. Performance begins at 8:00pm. Reserved seating of tables for six may be purchased in advance for \$40. The series ends with the final performance on September 24 by On the Air. For more information, call 770.822.5450.

## Gwinnett County looking to fill public safety vacancies

Looking for a career in public safety? Gwinnett County is hiring in all four of its public safety departments: Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Police Department, and the Sheriff's Department. All four departments have openings for entry-level public safety positions, both civilian and sworn positions. All candidates will receive on the job training.

Most civilian positions have specific requirements that must be met or attained either before or after hire. Sworn positions require passing an entrance exam as part of the eligibility process. Some departments may waive the test for individuals with P.O.S.T. certification in specific areas, two- or four-year college degrees, military service, and/or prior law enforcement experience.

Senior level positions are also available in some departments, and require Georgia

P.O.S.T. certifications, or out of state certification and a minimum of three years in law enforcement in a certified agency, in order to be hired.

Due to the nature of public safety positions, the hiring process is lengthy and comprehensive. Background research is essential to ensure compliance with the department's hiring guidelines, and state requirements for certification.

All applicants (internal and external) must complete both a Gwinnett County Government application, and a Public Safety pre-employment background questionnaire form. For more information on positions available in the Police, Corrections, and Sheriff's Departments, call Rick Veit at 770.822.7916. For information on positions available in Fire and Emergency Services, contact Erica McDaniel at 770.822.7949.

### countyline

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