

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

february 2004 v12, n2



## Human Resources working to close cultural gaps in Gwinnett County

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

With diversity in Gwinnett County on the rise, the Gwinnett County Department of Human Resources constantly is improving its practices in order to recruit pools of job applicants reflective of the county's diverse population. "We use a variety of recruiting techniques to attract applicants," said Employment Manager **Michele Westerfield**. "We aim for a group of applicants that will be reflective of our multicultural community. Our goal is to attract and hire the most qualified candidates to serve the complex and diverse needs of our citizens."

Human Resources' employment staff belongs to the Gwinnett County Department of Labor Employer Committee, which sponsors job fairs, seminars, and workshops aiming to bridge the gap between employers and applicants.

Efforts are also made to close the language gap between Gwinnett County employees and the citizens they serve. "In response to the growing need within the County to develop effective real-life communication skills in the Latin and South American/Mexican

dialect, the Organizational Development Section of Human Resources began offering opportunities for employees to learn Spanish during the summer of 2000," said **Jerry Kelly**, Acting Organizational Development Manager.

Seventy employees participated in the Spanish classes in 2001, and participation soared to 448 during 2002. "Due to ever-increasing demand for Spanish classes, instructors were commissioned to teach Spanish classes on a year-round basis in 2003," said Kelly.

## contents

Black History Month



Proof of insurance



Valentine weddings



Severe weather awareness



Meet Philip Boudewyns



Pollution soup



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



Arbor Day event



Human Resources participated in a number of job fairs in 2003, including fairs hosted by the *Gwinnett Daily Post*, Latin American Association, Department of Labor, Camp Lejeune, and the University of Georgia. Working with the Gwinnett County Communications Division, Human Resources posts and receives electronic applications and résumés through the County's Web site, making the process quicker and more accessible. Other dot com job sites are also used to advertise the County's open positions: HotJobs, AJCJobs, CareerBuilder, America's-JobBank, and VetJobs. By October 2003, the Employment Office had already processed 23,217 applications and résumés, compared to 22,957 for all of 2002.

The Department of Labor is another important resource. The Hu-

## Meals program gets more wheels



**George Underwood**, part owner of Lou Sobh Ford, and Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS) board members **Dennis Stevens**, **Penny Rodriguez**, **Frank Wilkins**, **Bobby Boss**, **Phil Tidwell**, **Gloria Berry**, and **Amy Wheatman** present the keys and a check for two new Meals on Wheels delivery trucks to Commissioners **John Dunn**, **Marcia L. Neaton**, **Bert Nasuti**, and **Kevin Kenerly**. FOGCSS donated the two vehicles purchased from Lou Sobh at a discounted price. "We are so blessed to have such a wonderful company support our organization," said **Gloria Berry**, FOGCSS chairman.



## Celebrate Black History Month

During the month of February, visit the first floor of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center for the annual Black History exhibit sponsored by the Gwinnett Human Relations Commission and the Ebony Society of Gwinnett.

The celebration of Black History Month can be traced to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. A son of former slaves, Woodson worked in Kentucky coalmines as a child and later earned a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar found that history books largely ignored the Black American population and established in 1926 what is today Black History Month.

Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmintro1.html>



## Tie the knot this Valentine's Day

Couples who want to make a commitment on Valentine's Day can tie the knot in festive Courtroom 1-C at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center on Saturday, February 14 from 9:00am – 5:00pm. This is the eighth year a courtroom has been decorated for the holiday nuptials.

*"It is just such a popular thing to renew your vows or get married on Valentine's Day that Probate Judge Jim Clarke and I decided to make it an annual event," said Magistrate Court Judge **Warren Davis**. Last year about 80 couples were married and 50 renewed their vows.*

## Prepare for severe weather

by Frank Daniell, Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**Severe Weather Awareness Week 2004** will be held February 22 – 28 across Georgia. The purpose of this designation is to prepare for the severe weather season in March, April, and May.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service will conduct a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, February 25. All departments, schools, businesses, medical facilities, and citizens are requested to participate by practicing your tornado safety plans when the NWS initiates the drill.

For tips on severe weather planning, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) and select Emergency Management Agency under the A-Z Index.



## Proof of insurance news for motor vehicle owners

Effective January 1, 2004, insurance information cards are no longer acceptable proof of insurance coverage for Georgia law enforcement and County tag offices. Proof of insurance will be verified electronically using a database known as GEICS (Georgia Electronic Insurance Compliance System) that is maintained by the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles.

What is acceptable proof of insurance?

- A valid binder issued by a Georgia licensed insurer showing the vehicle's identification number (VIN) for 30 days from the binder's issue date
- Within the first 30 days from the date of the purchase of a vehicle, a dealer's bill of sale and the owner's valid insurance policy declaration page issued by a Georgia licensed insurer
- A valid insurance coverage indicator on a vehicle's tag record on the state motor vehicle record database
- A valid fleet insurance information card for a vehicle insured under a fleet insurance policy
- A self-insured insurance information card and a certificate of self insurance issued by the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's office for a self-insured vehicle

...continued on County Line page 3

## Meet Philip Boudewyns

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division



When new Court Administrator **Philip Boudewyns** turned on his TV in December to see the northeast buried in two to three feet of snow, he was glad to be able to call Gwinnett County his new home. Boudewyns moved to Gwinnett early this fall from Pennsylvania where he worked for the State Court system. Boudewyns served in the Air Force Intelligence during Desert Storm. His last stop in the military landed him in North Dakota, so he stayed there and earned his undergraduate degree in criminal justice administration from the University of North Dakota. He also holds a master's in business leadership from Upper Iowa University and will complete his Ph.D. in 2004 in organizational leadership from Capella University.

Among the challenges of his new position, Boudewyns cites dealing with the increase in population, retaining judgeships in Superior and State Courts, and developing new programs to address issues Gwinnett's Hispanic population may have with the court system. He also looks forward to implementing new technologies to save money. First on his list of priorities, Boudewyns wants to review Gwinnett's court operations to get a better understanding of where the judges want to go and find a way to help them get there.



# Pollution Soup: Are you in the mix?

by Katherine A. Lewis, Department of Public Utilities

In the fable *Stone Soup*, a hungry traveler happens upon a village that claims to have no food to spare. The traveler tells the villagers that he will make everyone stone soup for dinner with a special stone he has acquired during his travels. As the villagers watch the traveler boil his stone, they begin to offer meat and vegetables to make the soup taste better. By the time the soup is finished, the villagers' individual contributions have created a tasty meal for everyone.

Non-point source pollution could be considered the ingredients in Gwinnett County's pollution soup. Non-point source pollution occurs when runoff from rain and snowmelt carries pollutants into waterways such as rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and even groundwater. The name "non-point source pollution" is derived from the concept that there is no single point from which the pollution originates. It comes from everyone and everywhere, and is the state's and the nation's number one threat to water quality.

Just as the villagers chose to add their meat and vegetables, Gwinnett citizens can choose their contribution to our waterways. When leaking vehicles are not repaired, pet waste is left in the yard, pesticides are improperly applied, or septic systems are not repaired, Gwinnett's waterways become pollution soup. By taking action to prevent non-point source pollutants from entering our water bodies, you are helping to protect our most precious natural resource – water.

The moral is the same for both stories. When everyone contributes a small part to the whole of the community, a greater good is achieved. You can take part in preventing the pollution of Gwinnett's waterways by removing non-point sources of pollution from your home and community.

In addition, be watchful for polluters in your area and report problems through our 24-hour call center at 678.376.7000. When you call, please provide as much information as possible. Try to answer the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how as they apply to each situation.

## Proof of insurance

...continued from County Line page 2

Insurers must continue issuing insurance information cards to their policyholders and your insurance information card must remain in your vehicle at all times in case of the following situations:

- While traveling in another state
- When exchanging information if you are involved in an accident
- When driving vehicles covered on a fleet policy
- When driving vehicles covered on a self-insurance policy

If your insurance coverage information has not been transmitted to the state database and valid proof of insurance cannot be verified, your tag transaction cannot be processed. For more information, please visit [www.gwinnett-tag.com](http://www.gwinnett-tag.com).

## Check it out!

Gwinnett County Public Library has a great collection of popular biographies. Pick up a good book and learn more about the fascinating lives of some popular, influential people.

*Arthur Miller: His Life and Work*, by Martin Gottfried

*Chasing Churchill: The Travels of Winston Churchill*, by Celia Sandys

*Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Champion of Freedom*, by Conrad Black

*Hawthorne: A Life*, by Brenda Wineapple

*Jung: A Biography*, by Deirdre Bair

*Lyndon B. Johnson: Portrait of a President*, by Robert Dallek

*Mendelssohn: A Life in Music*, by R. Larry Todd

*Ulysses S. Grant: An Album*, by William McFeely

*Napoleon: A Political Biography*, by Steven Englund

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

## Pet Corner



The Waters family couldn't be happier with Coco and Morgan. They adopted Coco the Cocker Spaniel and Morgan the Miniature Pinscher from the animal control shelter last year and say they love the new additions to their family. "Coco and Morgan just adore our children and they are in love with the dogs," said Mrs. Waters.

There are other wonderful pets that also need a loving home. To see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, go to [www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.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

Bring your lunch and take part in free acting class exercises and demonstrations at the **Start with Art Lunch Program** at Pinckneyville Community Center from noon – 1:30pm on February 2. This program is offered simultaneously at Centerville Community Center. To learn more about classes and programs at the Pinckneyville and Centerville Community Centers, call 770.417.2200.

You won't want to miss puppeteer Lee Bryan! Come see the funny **Circus Fantasy Puppet Show** at 7:00pm on February 6 at Pinckneyville Community Center. Cost is \$3 per person. Call 770.417.2200.

Attend the **Neighborhood Park Watch Meeting** if you are interested in helping to enhance the quality of parks in Gwinnett County. The meeting will be held on February 10 at 10:00am at the Gwinnett Senior Center in Bethesda Park and will focus on improving Gwinnett County parks through an alliance between park patrons, Neighborhood Park Watch volunteers, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, and the Gwinnett County park police. For more information, please e-mail questions to gwinnettparkwatch@gwinnettcounty.com or call 770.822.8813.

**Adult Spring Softball registration** will be held on February 11 at 7:00pm in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center auditorium. Sign up is by team only and the cost is \$460 per team. The 10-game season will begin March 1, followed by a post-season tournament. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, Coed, Men's Industrial, and Men's Church. Call 770.822.5152 for more information.

## McDaniel Farm Park receives Arbor Day gifts

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

On April 10, 1872, more than one million trees were planted in the Nebraska plains. It became known as the first national Arbor Day. Today all 50 states and many countries around the world celebrate a day for trees. Although Arbor Day 2004 is February 20, Gwinnett's celebratory tree planting will

take place on Saturday, February 28, from 8:00am – noon. Volunteers will be planting a mixture of hardwoods at the new McDaniel Farm Park and should bring planting tools and gloves. Lunch will be served at noon.

Event organizer **Michael O'Shield** said the event attracted approximately 200 volunteers last year and he expects the same this year. For more information on the Arbor Day celebration, call 678.376.7157.

Bring your kids out for an evening filled with swimming, games, and dinner. **Kids Night Out** will be held at Bogan Park on February 13 from 6:00pm – 10:00pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 770.614.2060.

Rhodes Jordan Community Center and Pinckneyville Community Center are offering Gwinnett County dads a chance to take their little sweethearts out for a night on the town. Dance the night away and enjoy games, refreshments, and a keepsake photograph at the **Daddy and Daughter Valentine Dances** on February 13 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Cost is \$15 per pair and \$5 for each additional person. Call 770.417.2200 for information.

Take your special someone out for a romantic evening of dinner and dancing in the beautifully restored 19<sup>th</sup> century Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. The **Valentine's Dinner** is set for February 14 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm and includes a buffet dinner, DJ and dancing, and a keepsake photo. Make reservations by February 10. Admission is \$50 per couple. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

Acoustic guitarist and conga drums player Matthew Kahler will perform on February 14 at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of the Coffeehouse Nights series, **Grounds 'n' Sounds**. The doors open at 8:00pm and the music begins at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178.

**Friday Night Live**, a fun evening that will include improvisations, monologues, and scenes performed by the Pinckneyville adult acting class, will be held on February 27 at 8:00pm at the Pinckneyville Community

Center. Coffee and dessert will be served after the FNL performances. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.417.2200.

Mickle-a-do will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of the **Coffeehouse Nights series, Coffee-Ceili/dh** (pronounced "kay-lee") featuring a different Celtic band each month. On February 27, doors will open at 8:00pm. Admission is \$5. For information, call 770.822.5178, and to receive Java Jottings, a monthly newsletter devoted to the museum's Coffeehouse Nights.

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

The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: **A Work of Art** by Lala Streett runs through February 20 and **Art by Latrecia Rafferty** February 24 through May 21.

The Pinckneyville Community Center: **In Honor of Black History Month**, artwork by Tunde Afolayan, Sammy Nicely, and Vernon Robinson, Jr. runs February 2 through April 7, with a reception on February 5 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

The Centerville Community Center: **Art by Southern Colours Art Association** runs through March 12.

## countyline

**Editor**  
Heather R. Welch

**Art Direction**  
Shannon E. Coffey

**Layout and Design**  
Laura Heck  
Rock, Paper, Scissors llc.

Gwinnett County  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770.822.7035  
[www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

Call editor **Heather Welch** at **770.822.7035** with your newsletter articles and suggestions or e-mail [heather.welch@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:heather.welch@gwinnettcounty.com). Please remember that information may not be printed in its entirety due to space constraints. The County Line can be read online at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)