



# County Line

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## Citizens, canines celebrate Five Forks Park grand opening

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will celebrate the grand opening of the new Five Forks Park on Saturday, July 10. The day will kick off with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9:00am, and the celebration will continue throughout the day with food vendors, face painting, temporary tattoos, storytelling by the Five Forks Public Library, and demonstrations in basketball, skating, chess, and checkers.

Five Forks Park is a passive community park, and at least 2/3 of the land will remain undeveloped. Be sure to include your canine friends in the grand opening celebration because Five Forks Park will be home to the county's first dog park, which includes a two-acre fenced-in area where dogs can play without their leashes.

The 25-acre park also includes an area for Gwinnett's senior citizens

to play and stretch their legs. The senior area includes horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, bocce ball courts, and a covered picnic pavilion with permanent chess and checkerboards. Members of the Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympics will be on hand at the grand opening to give demonstrations in shuffleboard, bocce ball, and horseshoes.

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### What information is required to vote?

You will be required to provide one form of identification. If you are unable to provide identification, you will be asked to complete an *Affidavit of Identification* and then be allowed to vote. First-time Georgia voters who cannot provide proper identification, will be allowed to vote using a *Provisional Ballot*. Failure to provide identification by the Thursday following elections will result in your ballot not being counted. Visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) for a complete list of approved forms of identification, and select "Elections" under the "department" link.

### Does Georgia allow early or advance voting?

Yes. You may vote in advance Monday, July 12, through Friday, July 16.

Advance voting takes place at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

### Do I have to register by party in Georgia?

No. Georgia has an open primary system. But, if a runoff is required after a primary election, you must vote the same party preference that you did in the primary. If you voted a Democratic ballot at the Presidential Preference Primary, but you want to vote Republican at the Primary you may do so.

The hours for voting are 7:00am to 7:00pm. The hours of operation are set by the state and have been precleared by the Justice Department. Voters who speak

English as a second language may bring someone with them to assist with voting, but they will need to read and sign an "Oath of Assisted Elector."

For important information involving the 2004 elections, including poll locations and a complete list of candidates, call 770.822.8787 or visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) and click "departments" and then "elections."

**Primary and Nonpartisan Election:**  
July 20

**Advance Voting Dates:**  
July 12 - 16



## Parks and Recreation opens new Mountain Park outdoor leisure pool, activity building

Citizens in the Lilburn area have a brand new place to cool off from the summer heat. Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR) celebrated the official Grand Opening of the new Mountain Park outdoor leisure pool and activity building on May 29.

The outdoor leisure pool is equipped with two large slides, a play structure with a slide for smaller children, a lazy river, raining buckets, a bubble bench, and a vortex area. The new 7,200 sq. ft. activity building includes a 2,419 sq. ft. community room and a 1,050 sq. ft. meeting room available for rent to the public. The Mountain Park facility also has a 1/2-mile paved multi-purpose trail and more than eight acres of undisturbed greenspace.

The Mountain Park Aquatic Center also offers citizens an indoor swimming option. A 25-yard x 25-meter indoor competition pool and indoor warm water pool opened in February of this year. The competition pool features 10 lap lanes, a diving well with two diving boards, and poolside seating for more than 500 spectators. The warm water pool is ideal for water aerobics, swim lessons, and water therapy. It is the first of its kind for GCPR.

*"The indoor pools have been a very popular attraction since they opened in February, and now everyone will be able to enjoy all the play features the outdoor pool offers,"* said **Sharon Plunkett**, director of GCPR. *"The activity building is something we really needed in this area for citizens looking to take a class or rent rooms for meetings, family gatherings, showers, and other get-togethers."*

Mountain Park Aquatic Center is one of six GCPR facilities that offer aquatics, including Bogan Park Pool, Collins Hill Aquatic Center, Dacula Park Pool, and Rhodes Jordan Aquatic Center. Best Friend Park Pool will be closed for renovations during the 2004 summer season.

Construction cost for the \$8.2 million Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building was funded through the voter-approved 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). For pool hours and other information, call 770.564.4650.

## Five Forks Park

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Other amenities at the new park include a skate area, a playground, two half-basketball courts, several covered picnic areas, a 3/4-mile paved multi-purpose trail, and a small pond. Five Forks Park is located at 2777 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lilburn. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.



## Solicitor's Office, Retired Educators teach children "Hands Are Not For Hitting"

The Hands Are Not For Hitting puppet show program teaches non-violent conflict resolution skills to students in the first through third grades. Teaching children to resolve conflict without violence and how to get help at school and in the home is a vital link in the effort to stem domestic violence and bullying in the schools.

The goal of the 30-minute program is to teach children how to deal with anger and conflict without hitting or using hurtful words. At the end of the puppet show, children are given the opportunity to pledge that they will not use their hands for hitting and receive a "Bully Buster Badge."

**Ralph Greene**, a retired Gwinnett County Public Schools teacher, helped revitalize the Hands Are Not For Hitting puppet show program and was named Senior of the Year at a luncheon for the Gwinnett Council for Seniors in May. *"This will be my academy award,"* Greene said of being named Senior of the Year. *"I'm very proud of it."*

The Hands Are Not For Hitting program was developed in cooperation with the Gwinnett County Public School's elementary guidance counselors, and it is used as a component of their bullying curriculum. The Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office provides the materials and the Gwinnett County Retired Educator's Association provides puppeteers. The program was presented to more than 7,000 children in the 2003-2004 school year.

## Volunteers needed for Yellow River cleanup workdays

Interested residents are invited to help remove trash and debris from Gwinnett's rivers and streams. Workdays are planned throughout the summer for different sections of the Yellow River. After a brief orientation, volunteers will be assigned to groups and taken to the cleanup site. The groups will get in boats and be given trash bags and tools for the cleanup. A first aid and CPR trained guide will be alongside the cleanup grounds at all times.

Volunteers must register by the Monday prior to the cleanup, and space is limited to the first 20 volunteers per trip. Children under the age of 12 will not be permitted on the boat. All participants will receive a free T-shirt.

Cleanup workdays have been planned for July 24, August 21, and September 25. All cleanup days begin at 8:30am at the Yellow River/Sweetwater Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Lilburn. To register, call Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157.



## New software provides quick, easy process for job applicants

The Department of Human Resources' Employment Division has implemented a new system for online applications. After researching several software providers, Neogov Insight Enterprise was selected based on cost efficiency, ease of use, and excellent customer service.

Neogov also works specifically with public sector government agencies. Insight Enterprise is designed to address five major areas of human resource activities: recruitment, selection, applicant tracking, reporting and analysis, and HR automation. This product allows prospective employees to view all class specifications and register to be electronically notified upon an external job opening.

Applicants will find this new online application system to be extremely user-friendly. When a prospective employee visits the job listing on the Gwinnett County Government Web site, they can apply online by clicking on the job title of interest and then clicking on the "Apply" link. Applicants would then need to create an account by selecting a username and password. After the account has been established, applicants can build an application by clicking on the "Build Job Application" link. This application can be saved and used to apply for more than one job opening.

The internal-only postings are not currently posted online: call 770.822.7931 or visit the Human Resources department.

## "Evening of Fun" benefits Gwinnett Senior Services

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services invite you to celebrate at the Tropical Temptations Evening of Fun on Thursday, July 22, from 6:00pm – 8:30pm at Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett. The celebration includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and entertainment by an authentic steel drum band. The fundraising event will also include a silent auction and door prizes. All funds

raised at the event will go directly to Gwinnett Senior Services and its programs.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. The dress is tropical casual or business casual. For information or tickets, call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775, or visit [www.gwinnettseniorservices.com](http://www.gwinnettseniorservices.com) and click the link to *Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services*.

### Check it out!

The countywide reading event returns ... **Gwinnett Reads!**

This year's selection is *Walking Across Egypt*, by North Carolina author Clyde Edgerton. The story describes the mix when an elderly widow who's "slowing down" meets up with a good-hearted juvenile delinquent. Clyde Edgerton spins this Southern yarn into a folksy but serious tale of our call to care for one another.

August 20: *Clyde Edgerton and the Rank Strangers* in concert at the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center, 7:00pm

#### Book Discussions

- July 10: Norcross Branch 2:00pm
- July 15: Elizabeth H. Williams (Snellville) Branch 7:00pm
- July 18: Lawrenceville Branch 2:00pm
- July 21: Collins Hill Branch 2:00pm
- July 26: Centerville Branch 7:00pm
- July 27: Five Forks Branch 7:00pm
- July 31: Buford – Sugar Hill Branch 2:00pm
- Aug 3: Peachtree Corners Branch 2:00pm
- Aug 8: Lilburn Branch 4:00pm
- Aug 12: Mountain Park Branch 2:00pm
- Aug 16: Duluth Branch 7:00pm

#### Movie Showings

- July 29: Collins Hill Branch 6:30pm
- Aug 14: Five Forks Branch 2:00pm

To reserve your copy of *Walking Across Egypt*, or for additional information, visit [www.gwinnettreads.org](http://www.gwinnettreads.org), or call 770.978.5154.

### Step to the Beat ... Read!

School is out for the summer, but more than 6,000 Gwinnett County students are still busy reading as part of the Gwinnett County Public Library's Vacation Reading Program. The theme for the 2004 reading program is "Step to the Beat ... Read." Visit your local library branch for more information.

## Pet Corner



Pet Corner

You can find lots of adorable cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens at the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter at Highway 316 and Hi Hope Road in Lawrenceville. The Animal Shelter also offers selected dogs for adoption at the Lawrenceville PETsMART located at 875 Lawrenceville – Suwanee Road on Sunday afternoons from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Share your pet adoption success story with us! E-mail a photo and brief description to [kinsey.hansel@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:kinsey.hansel@gwinnettcountry.com) or send it to Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville GA 30045.





The **Brown Bag Concert Series** continues with Curious Moon as they present the Grand Expeditions Trunk Puppet Show on July 9 from noon – 1:00pm. Bring a blanket and your lunch, relax, and enjoy the singing/storytelling group on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville. Admission is free. Call 770.822.5450.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation is hosting **Battle of the Bands** at Pinckneyville Community Center on July 9. Tickets are \$3 at the door. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Charlie Wayne will perform with Native American Flute Music at the Gwinnett History Museum on July 9 at **Grounds 'n' Sounds**. Drinks and light desserts will be available for purchase. Doors open at 8:00pm and the music and fun begin at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. The museum is located in the historic Lawrenceville Female Seminary in downtown Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for more information and to receive "Java Jottings," a monthly newsletter devoted to the museum's Coffeehouse Nights.

Show off your artistic abilities at the **Chalk-It-Up Family Event** at Pinckneyville Park Soccer Complex on July 10 from 10:00am – noon. Each family will be given all the supplies they need to create their sidewalk masterpiece. Participation is free and refreshments will be provided. Registration is at the large pavilion at the soccer complex at 9:30am, or register early by calling 770.417.2200.

Don't miss registration for GCPR's newest team sport: **Adult Kickball**. Registration is July 14 at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Divisions include Men's Open and Coed Open – Ages 18 and up. The season begins August 25, and games will be played Wednesday nights at George Pierce Park in Suwanee.

For more information, call 770.822.5152. **Adult Fall Softball Registration** is July 14 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Sign up is by team only and the cost is \$420 per team. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, Coed, Men's Industrial, and Men's Church. The season begins on August 23.

Games will be played at Bethesda Park, George Pierce Park, and Lucky Shoals Park. Call 770.822.5152 for more information.

The 2004 **Music and Moonlight Concert Series** kicks off July 23 at 8:00pm with an evening filled with blues music by Steve Cunningham and Dubious Tunes. Reserved seating of tables for six may be purchased in advance for \$40; otherwise, the event is free. Upcoming performances include the Class Act Band on August 27 and On the Air on September 24. Call 770.822.5450.

Celtic harpist Debra Peterson will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum in downtown Lawrenceville as part of the **Coffeehouse Nights series, Coffee-Ceilidh** (pronounced "kay-lee"), on July 23 at 8:30pm. Doors open at 8:00pm, and drinks and light desserts will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178 for more information.

Be a part of Gwinnett's newest tradition: **Free Movie Under the Stars!** Bring your blankets and low-back lawn chairs and enjoy *Homeward Bound* at Lenora Park in Snellville on July 24. Come out at 5:30pm for food, live music, and inflatable slides. The movie will start at approximately 8:30pm. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

The **AARP 55 Alive Defensive Driving** classroom refresher course will be offered at the Gwinnett Senior Center Lawrenceville on July 27 and 29 from 9:30am – 1:30pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 770.564.4680.

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

The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: **A Whole Lotta Heads, art by Carl Gombert** runs through August 27.

Pinckneyville Community Center: **Art by Erin Elizabeth** runs through August 25, with a reception on July 1 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

Centerville Community Center: **Art by Mary Frances** runs through September 17.

## Riding Safely in Childcare, **Transportación Segura para Niños en los Centros de Cuidado**

The Gwinnett County Extension Service, along with the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, presents *Riding Safely in Childcare: Child Passenger Safety for Georgia Childcare Providers*. The class will be taught in Spanish on July 12 and July 13 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Collins Hill Library.

*Riding Safely in Childcare* was developed in Georgia to increase awareness of the need for childcare providers to transport children using current best practice recommendations.

This training covers the following areas: Georgia law, crash dynamics, types of seats, gross misuse, and liability issues.

There is no charge for this class. This is an adult learning opportunity, so no children will be admitted. \*Registration is required; no walk-ins will be permitted. For information in English, call **Mary Ann Robinson** at 678.413.4288 or **Marilou Montalvo** at 678.413.4289 for information in Spanish.

*\*Free booster seats will be given to the first 25 registrants.*

## countyline

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