



county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

june 2004 v12, n6



Firefighters raising money for Georgia's burn victims

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

Gwinnett County firefighters will be popping up at local businesses throughout the summer to raise money during the 11th annual Give Burns the Boot® drive. The public safety professionals are raising money for the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation.

Donating is easy. If you see a firefighter on June 18 – 20 or June 25 – 27, just drop your donation in the boot. The Gwinnett County firefighters will also have a boot booth set up at Gwinnett's Fourth of July celebration, Gwinnett Glows. The

monies raised in the Give Burns the Boot® drive will help fund a summer camp for burned children.

Last year, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services raised \$46,000 for the burn foundation. If you would like to help the firefighters reach this year's goal of

\$50,000, but do not see them during the fundraising days, simply mail your donation to the new Fire Administration Headquarters at 408 Hurricane Shoals Road NE, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. Make checks payable to the Georgia Fire Fighters Burn Foundation.

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Gwinnett Glows: Fun for the whole family

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

Join 70,000 of your closest friends at the annual *Gwinnett Glows* celebration. The Fourth of July event at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville features free children's activities, arts and crafts, and a live band.

Enjoy concessions from Sonic Drive-in, Bob Phillips and Main Street Concessions, Papa John's Pizza, TNC Concessions, Supreme Vending, and Sonny's BAR-B-Q. Children will enjoy temporary tattoos, clowns, face painting, fire juggler, trackless train rides, pony rides, and live appearances from some of their favorite characters.

You won't want to miss the fireworks display after sundown. The display is the largest in the South-

east, costing nearly \$60,000. The event started in 1988 as a dedication party for the newly opened Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center with a budget of \$2,500. Now the event entertains tens of thousands of Gwinnett citizens with a free night of Fourth of July fun, all sponsored by area businesses.

Food, games, and live entertainment will fill the streets of Lawrenceville near the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center beginning at 4:00pm.

If you are unable to attend the Gwinnett Glows celebration, a live cablecast of the event will be shown on TV Gwinnett government access television, channel 23 on all cable providers within Gwinnett County.

For directions or more information, call 770.822.7126.

Gwinnett Glows

When: Sunday, July 4, 2004 beginning at 4:00pm

Where: Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Lawrenceville, GA

Live Band: Tim Purcell and The Mustangs

Children's activities

Clowns, Tattoos
Cartoon Network
Face Painting
Rock Climbing Wall
Sand Art, Super Slide ...
and more!

Other activities

Arts and Crafts
Gwinnett County Fire Truck
Gwinnett County Police
Car and Motorcycle



Join History Book Club

Be a part of the History Book Club! The next meeting is June 21 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett County Library Five Forks Branch.

Participants will discuss *A Year in the South: Four Lives in 1865*, by Stephen V. Ash. The selection is available at your local Gwinnett County Library for checkout.

About the book

A Year in the South is a multifaceted biography of four "ordinary people in an extraordinary time." After a succinct prologue, which follows the four up to 1865, Ash writes his characters' lives chronologically through the year, each character appearing in four chapters linked to the seasons. A brief epilogue traces the postwar lives of the four. Interestingly, all lived to see the beginning of the 20th century. This book is an original blending of social, military, and local history, crafted by an author with a keen eye for memorable details.

About the author

Stephen V. Ash is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He is also the author of several books on the Civil War.

Motor vehicle insurance requirements

by Katherine Sherrington, Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner

Part of Georgia's strategy to keep uninsured vehicles off our roads involves monitoring insurance coverage year-round, not just at registration time. State law has changed to guard against the practice of obtaining insurance just in time to register, then canceling coverage until the next year. As a result, insurance cards are no longer acceptable proof of vehicle insurance coverage when processing a tag registration.

Your insurance company must report motor vehicle insurance coverage and cancellations electronically to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) database.

If you have received a letter from the Georgia DMVS regarding insurance lapse fees or suspension of your vehicle registration/tag, but you had no lapse in insurance coverage on this vehicle, action by your insurance company is needed quickly to correct your record in the state computer system.

If you no longer own the vehicle in question, if you no longer live in Georgia, or if you wish to stop insurance coverage because the vehicle is not in operation, you must cancel the registration by completing the appropriate paperwork with the County tag office where you reside.

The Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner's Office wants to help you avoid unnecessary penalties and fees, possible suspension of registration, or delays when registering your vehicle. If you don't have liability insurance on this vehicle, please acquire it as soon as possible and pay the lapse fees in order to avoid suspension of your vehicle registration. Please visit your tag office or contact us at 770.822.8818 weekdays, 8:30am to 5:00pm.



2004 property tax bills in mail July 15

Property tax bills for 2004 will be mailed July 15. Just like last year, this will be your only tax bill, and it will include two payment coupons and two reply envelopes for both installment payments. Submit the payment coupons with your payment. You will not receive a reminder bill. If you are paying in installments, the first amount is due September 15 and the remainder is due November 15.

Because the 2000 census showed that Gwinnett County's population had exceeded 550,000 people, property tax collection is now governed by O.C.G.A. 48-5-23. The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved the due dates in 2001.

Installments not paid by the due dates will have a five percent penalty added to the installment amount. In addition, interest will begin to accrue at the rate of one percent per month beginning November 16.

For more information, you may call the 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800 or visit the Tax Commissioner's Web site at www.gwinnett-tax.com.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Outdoor Pool Hours

Outdoor pools are open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Collins Hill Park Aquatic Center	770.237.5647
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	1:00pm – 6:00pm
Tues, Thurs	1:00pm – 5:00pm, 7:10pm – 8:30pm (family swim)
Dacula Park Pool	770.822.5410
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun	1:00pm – 6:00pm
Tues	1:00pm – 5:00pm, 7:10pm – 8:30pm (family swim)
Mountain Park Aquatic Center	770.564.4650
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	noon – 6:00pm
Tues, Thurs	noon – 5:00pm, 7:10pm – 8:30pm (family swim)
Sun	1:00 – 6:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Aquatic Center	770.822.5143
Mon, Wed	11:00am – 5:00pm, 7:10pm – 8:30pm (family swim)
Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat	11:00am – 6:00pm
Sun	1:00 – 6:00pm

The Best Friend Park pool will be closed for renovation this summer. Indoor aquatic facilities are available at Collins Hill Park, Mountain Park Park, and Bogan Park. For more information on Gwinnett County pool hours, call 770.564.4650.



Meals on Wheels, other human service programs rely on volunteers for success

Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Health and Human Services Division's programs and services. The Meals on Wheels program, designed to help prolong senior independence through healthy eating, delivered 3,000 out of the more than 4,500 delivery routes with the help of volunteers.

"The Meals on Wheels program is dependent on the volunteers," said **Gary Galloway**, the division's volunteer services coordinator. The Health and Human Services Division recently showed its appreciation to volunteers at a recognition banquet, but the real rewards come in helping the seniors.

Additional volunteer opportunities include adopting a senior, offering a class at one of the service centers, or donating items for various senior events. *"The volunteer opportunities are endless,"* said **Celia Moore**, the division's resource development coordinator. *"Tell us what you can do and what your interests are and the volunteer services coordinator will match your needs."*

Interested volunteers should e-mail volunteer services coordinator Gary Galloway at gary.galloway@gwinnettcountry.com or call 770.822.8837.



Volunteer Zelma Haney sits with her granddaughter Maddie Flathmann at the Gwinnett County Health and Human Services Division's volunteer recognition event. Zelma volunteers at the Buford Senior Center.

Check it out!

Gwinnett Reads

Library offers starter kit for Gwinnett Reads participants

The Gwinnett County Public Library is offering book club tote bags for individuals or groups interested in participating in or leading a Gwinnett Reads book discussion group. The tote bags contain 10 copies of Clyde Edgerton's *Walk Across Egypt*, this summer's Gwinnett Reads selection. You will also find a discussion guide with questions and a question and answer list from the author.

As with all library materials, a library card will be needed to place a request and check out the tote bag. You may request and pick up your Gwinnett Reads tote bag at any library branch.

If you are interested in forming a book club and need a club leader, the library will be happy to provide someone to meet with and lead your group. For questions about Gwinnett Reads, contact Cindy Murphy at 770.822.5333.

Save the date!

Gwinnett County Public Library and community partners present Clyde Edgerton and the Rank Strangers in a concert of stories and songs.

**Friday, August 20
7:30pm
Gwinnett Performing
Arts Center**

To learn more about Gwinnett Reads, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154.

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

Pet Corner

Scott Medders adopted two-year-old boxer Lexi Lynn four months ago from the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter. *"She loves sunbathing in the yard, playing with/destroying her toys,"* said Scott. *"She also enjoys play dates with other dogs, and she loves kids. Lexi can be hyper, but most of the time she is a 70-pound lap dog. We really love having Lexi as part of our family and we know that she really loves her new home."*

To view photos of cats and dogs up for adoption, see www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com. Call 770.339.3200 or visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Bring the family out for **Kid's Fishing Day at Jones Bridge Park** on June 5 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. See the new shoreline at Jones Bridge Park in Norcross and enjoy a day of free fishing, food, and fun. Fishing instruction, prize drawings, crafts, and hotdogs and drinks will be provided. Bring your own rod and reel. Bait and assistance will be pro-

vided. License is not necessary for children 16 and under.

Enjoy a lunchtime music break at the 2004 **Brown Bag Concert Series**. The first concert is June 11 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse from noon – 1:00pm. Bring a lunch and enjoy the Wizard of Odd, a

comedy using silly magic and audience participation. Please call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Come hear **Montana Skies** (formerly known as the *Adams Duo*) perform the classical cello and guitar at **Grounds 'N' Sounds** on June 11 at the Gwinnett History Museum. *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. Call 770.822.5178 for more information, and to receive "Java Jottings," a monthly newsletter devoted to the museum's Coffeehouse Nights.

An **AARP 55 Alive Defensive Driving refresher course** will be offered at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park on June 15 and 17 from 9:30am – 1:30pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 770.564.4680.

Tin Penny Thistle will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of the **Coffeehouse Nights series, Coffee-Ceili/dh** (pronounced "kay-lee"). Doors open at 8:00pm, and the music and fun begin at 8:30pm. Drinks and light desserts will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178 for more information.



Military Recognition



Many families and communities have been affected in some way by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and more recently, by President Bush's call for military action in Iraq. At press time, Gwinnett County Government had 23 employees called to active duty and 18 of those employees have returned.

As a small token of their appreciation, the Board of Commissioners presented each of the "Returning American Heroes" with a plaque at the May 18 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Pictured from left to right are **Sergeant Robert Whitehead**, United States Army Reserves – Police Officer II; **Stoney Polite** – Fire Engineer; **Thorsten Mims** – Fire Lieutenant; **Specialist Benny McCollough, Jr.**, United States Army – Police Officer I; **Major Douglas Mattox**, United States Army National Guard – Police Sergeant; **Specialist Joseph Kimsey**, United States Army National Guard – Police Officer II; **Sergeant 1st Class Eddie Head**, United States Army – Police Services; **Captain Thomas Hayes**, Georgia Army National Guard – Sheriff's Department; **Tech Sergeant E-6 John Cobb**,

Air National Guard – Firefighter III; **Chief Petty Officer John Dunn**, United States Coast Guard Reserves – District 3 County Commissioner; **Staff Sergeant James Cavin**, United States Marine Corps – Assistant District Attorney; **Master Sergeant Franklin Brantley**, United States Air Force – Firefighter II; **Major Stuart Baker**, United States Army Reserves – Senior Law Assistant.

Not pictured are **John Bailey** – Police Officer I; **Jason Brown** – Correctional Officer I; **Sergeant Damien Cruz**, United States Army – Police Officer I; **Specialist IE-4 Leon Flowers**, United States Army National Guard – Corrections Officer; **Tech Sergeant E-6 Michael McGrath** – Corrections Officer I; **Petty Officer 2nd Class Luis Polanco**, United States Navy – Development Inspector; and **Staff Sergeant Marco Ricciardi**, United States Air Force – Police Officer II. these employees were unable to attend, but their service is appreciated as well.

There will be another ceremony around Veteran's Day to honor those who could not attend the ceremony and employees who may return from active duty in the next few months.

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