



County Line

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Gwinnett County selected as Georgia's top Sportstown

Gwinnett County was selected as one of 50 *Sports Illustrated* Sportstowns. The designation was announced Saturday, April 3, during the Gwinnett Gladiators game at the Arena at Gwinnett Center. Fifty communities were selected, one from each state, as part of the magazine's 50th Anniversary celebration. *Sports Illustrated* and the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) made the selections based on a variety of criteria that

demonstrate a community's involvement in facilitating and enhancing quality sports.

Applicants were judged in the following categories: philosophy, policy/procedures, education and training strategies, youth development strategies, community commitment to parks and recreation resources, innovations for community development, and scope of programming.

Each Sportstown recipient will be honored with a cash grant, recognition in *Sports Illustrated* magazine and online at www.si.com, and with a special commemorative road sign that recognizes the community as an official *Sports Illustrated* Sportstown. The Georgia section appears in the April 12 issue.



contents

Parks offer training



Seniors celebrate spring



Community leadership training



Job Fair



Job postings



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



Gwinnett seniors lace up for friendly competition

by Kinsey Hansel, Communications Division

In May 2000, the first Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympic Games were held with 76 participants. Now in its fifth year, the Senior Olympics offers 25 competitive events to its more than 250 participants. "Bowling is probably the most competitive. We have some really good bowlers," said Eileen Giselbach. She and her husband Bob Giselbach have been involved with Senior Olympics since 1988 and together they spearheaded the organization of Gwinnett County's program in 1999. "We traveled to other states and areas to compete, and we really wanted to start something here in Gwinnett County," she said.

The Olympics are going on at various venues around the county and will wrap up with a closing cere-

Registration is closed for the 2004 Olympic games, but feel free to stop by and cheer on this year's competitors. All events begin at 9:00am unless otherwise noted.

Brunswick/Gwinnett Lanes

May 3 Bowling
May 10 Bowling

Bunten Park

May 11 B-ball throw
Darts (10:30am)
Field Games (1:00pm)
May 19-21 Tennis

Gwinnett Senior Center

May 4 Cycling
Billiards (11:00am)
May 5-6 Holey Board
Horseshoes

Gwinnett Senior Center (con't.)

May 12-13 Shuffleboard
May 17 1/2-mile walk

May 18 Table Games
May 22 Closing Ceremony

J.M. Tull YMCA

May 7 Swimming (1:30pm)

Peach State Archery Lanes

May 8 Archery

Trophy Club of Gwinnett

May 19 Golf

mony celebration on May 22 at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, complete with apple peeling and corn shucking competitions. Events are open to anyone aged 50 or older, and competition

is separated by gender and age. The oldest competitor this year is 92. "Seniors compete in five-year age brackets. Bob says it is to keep

...continued on County Line page 2



Gwinnett parks offer training for park watch program

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Gwinnett County Park Police held a training class on Tuesday, April 22 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at the Five Forks Library in Lawrenceville to educate volunteers interested in participating in the Neighborhood Park Watch program.

The goal of the Neighborhood Park Watch program is to protect and promote the safe use of Gwinnett County's parks through an alliance between volunteers, Parks and Recreation staff, and the Park Police. Volunteers were trained to recognize and report potential concerns in the parks. Their observations will help the Parks and Recreation staff and the Park Police keep the parks clean and safe for the community.

Bethesda Park and Five Forks Park are the most recent parks to participate in the Neighborhood Park Watch program. Parks currently involved in the program include Yellow River Park, Jones Bridge Park, George Pierce Park, Tribble Mill Park, Lucky Shoals Park, the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, and Pinckneyville Park and Soccer Complex.

Neighborhood Park Watch training classes are planned for the Collins Hill Park area on August 17 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Collins Hill High School and for the Little Mulberry and Dacula Park areas at Dacula High School on September 21 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. To sign up as a Neighborhood Park Watch volunteer or to schedule a Neighborhood Park Watch representative to make a presentation in your area, call Kim Joens at 770.822.8840 or e-mail gwinnettparkwatch@gwinnettcountry.com. Volunteers must be aged 18 years or older.

“Gwinnett Seniors”

...continued from County Line page 1

the youngins' from being embarrassed," said Eileen. Not only do participants get the opportunity to compete and meet new friends, the Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympics are quite the bargain. For the \$10 registration fee, seniors get a goody bag, T-shirt, several free meals, and door prizes. "To run this kind of program, you have to be really good at begging," said Bob. "We really rely on corporate sponsors and donations." Bob is most proud of the fact that out of the 20 Senior Olympic programs in Georgia, Gwinnett's program is the only one that is run strictly by volunteers. Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation serves in an advisory capacity to the Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympics volunteer committee and provides many of the venues for the athletic activities. For more information about the Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympics, call **Bob** or **Eileen Giselsbach** at 770.441.1682 or send them an e-mail at beg378@aol.com.



Volunteers lend hand to seniors, kids

Some Gwinnett seniors got an early Easter present from Gwinnett County Health and Human Services.

At the Buford Senior Center, volunteers from Sugarloaf and Grayson United Methodist Churches designed and constructed a 12-foot octagonal gazebo, planted flowers and shrubs, spread pine straw, and decorated the facility for the seniors' Easter celebration. After the day of service, some senior clients were left with new carpet, clean gutters, mowed yards, and clean homes.

The Norcross Head Start and Pre-K program's playground at the Norcross Human Services Center received a facelift as the volunteers replaced thousands of shredded tire pieces with mulch and pressure washed all the playground equipment.

"We can never thank these volunteers enough," said Gary Galloway, the division's volunteer services coordinator. "Their hard work and dedication is phenomenal and we are always looking for committed volunteers like them."

Many volunteer opportunities exist for Gwinnett County's Health and Human Services division. Specifically for senior services, continued success of the Meals on Wheels program depends on volunteers. In 2003, 3,000 of the 4,500 delivery routes were completed by volunteers alone. Businesses, churches, groups, and individuals are all encouraged to volunteer. The time commitment is minimal and the rewards are endless. For more volunteer information, call 770.822.8837.



Gwinnett American Red Cross Youth Council member Shamreen Pradhan serves Lawrenceville Senior Center client Jean Davis cupcakes at the center's Easter celebration put on by the Council. Eight members of the Gwinnett American Red Cross Youth Council volunteered their time to put on the celebration for the seniors.



Community Leadership Training

August 2004 through May 2005

The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute is now recruiting for its upcoming Community Leadership Training Program, which will kick off in late August. GNLI provides training for Gwinnett County citizens interested in learning more about the resources available in the community so that they can take a more active role in community affairs.

Classes meet one Saturday a month for nine consecutive months. Monthly topics

include government, crime prevention, health, education, economics, community growth, and working with the media. The program begins with an orientation and followed by a local two-day kickoff retreat. Students will select various community projects as part of their training.

The deadline for applications is approaching. Download an application and 2004/2005-program schedule from www.gnli.org. For more information, contact **Trish Joyner** at 678.377.4137.

Gwinnett County job postings have a new look

Did you know that finding out about jobs with Gwinnett County Government is as easy as surfing the Internet? The Gwinnett County Department of Human Resources lists job openings at www.gwinnettcountry-jobs.com.

The department recently reformed the job postings with easier-to-read descriptions and a search feature. The postings also mirror the County's new class specifications.

Gwinnett County is an equal opportunity employer. Gwinnett County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment of the provision of services.



Job fair targets bilingual citizens in metro area

The Latin American Association is hosting the Career Expo 2004 on Friday, May 7 at the Cobb Galleria Centre from 10:00am – 3:00pm. The Career Expo is the premier professional job fair targeted towards bilingual Latinos in metro Atlanta.

Gwinnett County Government will be at the expo accepting applications for a vari-

ety of open positions. Bilingual representatives will be present to answer any questions you may have.

For more information, please contact the Gwinnett County Employment Office at 770.822.7915 or visit our Web site at www.gwinnettcountryjobs.com.

Check it out!

Shoot better photos with the help of these photography manuals. Learn more about digital, black and white, and 35-mm photography methods from these Gwinnett County Public Library materials.

Teach Yourself Photography, by Lee Frost

How to Photograph Your Life, by Nick Kelsh

Take Better Family Photos, by Steve Basiter

National Geographic Photography Field Guide, by Peter Burian

Digital Photography: All-In-One Reference for Dummies, by David Busch

A Simple Guide to Digital Photography, by Bill Corbett

Complete Guide to Outdoor Photography, by Paul Davies Harcourt

How to Take Great Vacation Photographs, by John Hedgecoe

Alpha Teach Yourself Black and White Photography in 24 Hours, by Thomas McGovern

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.

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

Pet Corner

"Ivey has the sweetest personality," said proud father **Scott Fuller**, employee in the Gwinnett County Law Department. Scott adopted Ivey from the animal shelter in December 1999. He says her favorite things to do are swimming with her step-brother Quiver (a golden retriever), teasing her step-sister Barny (a fat, white cat) and climbing trees. Yes, this yellow lab mix can climb trees.

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.gwinnettcountry.com. Call 770.339.3200 or visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville.





Bring your favorite teddy bear, a sack lunch, and a blanket for an outdoor **Teddy Bear Picnic** full of fun, games, stories, and prizes at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center on May 8 from noon – 2:00pm. Dessert will be provided. Parent participation and reservations required. Call 770.822.5414.

Visit the Gwinnett History Museum on May 8 for **Gwinnett History Museum Archaeology and Historic Preservation Day**. This daylong celebration includes exhibits, photo contests, lectures, and much more. Call 770.822.5179 for more information.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, the **Lanier Water Production Facility Open House** will be held on Saturday, May 8 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Everyone is invited to drop in for free tours, games, activities, and refreshments.

The whole family will enjoy **Family Game Night**, a night out full of games and refreshments at the Pinckneyville Community Center on May 14 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Bring one of your own favorite games or try some of ours. Test yourself with a special family challenge. The cost is \$5 for a family of four and \$2 for each additional person.

Acoustic bluegrass artist Eddie Rush will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum on May 14 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.

The **USTA National Open Championships** will be held at Hudlow Tennis Center at Best Friend Park on May 17 – 21. Call 770.417.2210.

Come enjoy the **Battle of the Bands** at Pinckneyville Community Center on May 21 at 7:00pm. Just listen to the music or sign up to compete against other bands in a series of concerts for the title of Gwinnett's best band. Band members must be 18 years old or younger. The cost to enter is \$35 per band. Call 770.417.2200 to sign up. Tickets are \$3 at the door for listeners.

Spend a **Weekend on the Wild Side at Cumberland Island** on May 21 – 23. Don't miss out on an unforgettable learning experience at one of the last undisturbed areas of Georgia. Campers will see a variety of unique species: alligators, armadillos, snakes, heron, and the famous island horses. The group will stay at Sea Camp primitive campground. Each person is responsible for equipment, food, and transportation to St. Mary's. The \$60 fee includes camping, boating, parking fees, and a pre-trip informational class. Call 770.932.4460.

Clean out your closets, empty your attics, and bring your "treasures" for a day of bargaining and fun at **Bogan's Backyard Sale** on May 22 from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Indoor tables and lawn space are available. Call 770.614.2060.

George Hergen will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of the **Coffeehouse Nights series, Coffee-Ceili/dh** (pronounced "kay-lee") on May 28. Doors open at 8:00pm and the music begins at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. Call 770.822.5178 for more information or 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.

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse: **Art by Latrecia Rafferty** runs through May 21 and **Art by Carl Gombert** runs from May 25 – August 27, with a reception on May 27 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

Pinckneyville Community Center: **Art by Travis Pack** runs through June 16.

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

Join in the **Public Stream Cleanups!** Cleanups are scheduled for the following dates: June 19 at Sweetwater Creek and July 24, August 21, and September 25 at Yellow River. For more information, contact Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157.

In celebration of the new Mountain Park Activity Building and Outdoor leisure pool:

Enjoy an evening of free fun for the entire family at the new Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain at the **Free Family Fling** on May 14 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Make crafts, play games, and enjoy refreshments while listening to the great tunes of the Mike Rogers Band.

Join Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation for the official **ribbon cutting ceremony** for the new outdoor leisure pool at Mountain Park Aquatic Center and the new 7,200 square-foot Mountain Park Activity Building on May 25 at 2:00pm.

There is something for everyone to enjoy at the new aquatic center and activity building. See the new indoor competition pool, indoor warm water pool, and outdoor pool with play features, indoor classrooms, and meeting rooms at the **Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building Open House** on May 29 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. There will be a bake sale, games for the kids, recreation class demonstrations, musical entertainment, and more.

The Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building is at 1063 Rockbridge Road in Stone Mountain. Call 770.564.4650 for more information.

countyline

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