



county Line

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Fire Prevention Week: October 3 – 9, 2004

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that approximately 80 percent of all fire deaths in the United States and Canada occur in the home. Roughly 11 people per day die in house fires in the U.S. and Canada. Many lives can be saved if people plan ahead in case of a fire. Once a fire starts, there's no time to develop a plan.

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services is hosting a Fire Prevention Open House at Station 20 in Lawrenceville on Sunday, October 3 to kick off *Fire Prevention Week*. Open house activities include tours of the station; a fire safety-training facility for kids; photos, apparatus, and gear displays; safety tips; education materials; and fire safety trinkets and photos for the kids to take home. Light refreshments will be served.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel will then spend Fire Prevention Week at local day care centers and schools educating students and teachers about fire safety.

Some simple precautions could save your life or the life of a loved one:

- Change your smoke alarm batteries: fire experts nationwide encourage people to change smoke alarm batteries at least once a year
- Check your smoke alarms using the "test" button
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, including every bedroom and one outside each sleeping area
- Install fire extinguishers and know how to use them
- Plan and practice your escape: create at least two different es-

cape routes and practice them with the entire family

Cooking is the leading cause of house fires. Never leave cooking unattended.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States, and is the leading cause during the months of December, January and February. Most heating equipment fires start as a result of misuse or improper maintenance. When purchasing new heating equipment, be sure to select products that have been tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory. Install and maintain heating equipment correctly, and be sure it complies with local fire building codes.

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Gwinnett celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Gwinnett County will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an exhibit displayed October 4 – 28 on the first floor of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC). The goal of the event is to celebrate diversity in Gwinnett and to highlight the contributions and accomplishments of Latinos in the community.

The Buford and Norcross Human Services Centers, Centerville Community Center, and the Hispanic

Advisory Committee are sponsors of the 2004 Hispanic Heritage Month festivities. The exhibit is a self-guided tour on topics including:

- Countries: Information about each country including pottery, basket weaving, paintings, clothing, music and dance, etc.
- Role Models/Success Stories: Pictures and biographies of people who are considered role models or success stories in the

community, focusing mainly on Latinos who have impacted society through their work and service

In addition to the exhibit, festivities will include dance and song demonstrations on October 8, 15, and 22 from noon – 1:00pm on the first floor of GJAC. Admission to all events is free. Call Vivian Gaither at 770.982.4647 for more information.

Agencies offer health fair to Gwinnett senior citizens

Seniors can take advantage of free and low-cost health screenings and demonstrations offered at Gwinnett Senior Health Fair 2004. The Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park will offer fun activities, health information, door prizes, goodie bags, and refreshments from 9:00am – noon on Friday, October 29.

The following screenings or risk assessments will be available for free and without an appointment:

- Balance and Falls
- Blood Pressure
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Foot
- Skin Cancer
- Spinal and Posture

The following low-cost screenings will be available without an appointment:

- Bone Density Testing
- Colorectal Screening Kits (take-home kit)

The following screenings and activities require an appointment:

- Flu Vaccine (may be covered by your Medicare plan) – fee: \$14
- Hearing – free
- Lipid Profile (includes total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and blood glucose) Please fast! – fee: \$15
- Mammogram (may be covered by your health insurance or Medicare) or \$75 Private Pay
- TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) blood test – fee: \$10

Call HealthCall at 770.541.WELL (9355) to schedule an appointment.

The health fair is presented by Prime Time Health program of Gwinnett Health System, the Gwinnett Senior Center, and Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation.

Grand opening!

The new Department of Motor Vehicle Safety Customer Service Center opened to the public Tuesday, September 28, 2004. The new center replaced the driver's license facility on Swanson Road.

Location: 310 Hurricane Shoals Road in Lawrenceville

Hours of operation: Tuesday – Saturday
9:00am – 4:30pm for testing
9:00am – 5:00pm for renewals/cards

Gwinnett Courts offering parenting seminar in Spanish

The Navigating Family Change seminar is a four-hour educational seminar offered to all parties in divorce, separate maintenance, paternity, change of custody, visitation, and other domestic relations actions. Gwinnett County Courts now offers the seminar in Spanish.

The seminar focuses on the developmental needs of children, with an emphasis on fostering the child's emotional health during times of stress. Instructors will discuss the needs of children at different ages and age-appropriate expectations, behaviors children may exhibit while coping with change, indicators that a child may be having difficulty adjusting, and community resources available for children and families.

Navigating Family Change in Spanish is held the last Tuesday of every month from 9:00am – 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Childcare is not provided and no children are allowed. Registration is required, and the cost is \$30. For more information on the parenting seminar in Spanish, call the Administrative Office of the Courts at 770.822.8583 or visit www.gwinnettcourts.com/programs/parents.htm.

County to auction off surplus items on October 16

The surplus auction of 2004 will be held Saturday, October 16, 2004, at the Fleet Maintenance Facility. Vehicles, mowers, office furniture, and miscellaneous items will be on sale. Viewing opens at 8:00am, and the auction will start at 10:00am. A professional auction company will conduct all sales; County employees will not receive preferential treatment. Items must be paid for at the auction and picked up within one week. For more information, call Charlotte Needham at 770.822.7858.

Senior Prom 2004

Lawrenceville couple Richard Simril and Vera Bowren danced the afternoon away at the annual Senior Prom held for the Buford, Lawrenceville, and Norcross senior clients. The Gwinnett senior centers plan weekday activities for local seniors, including exercise classes, arts and crafts, games, and more. For information about Gwinnett Senior Services and its programs, call 678.377.4150 or visit the Web at www.gwinnettseniorservices.com.





Georgia law allows citizens to vote early

Georgia law now allows registered voters looking to save time at the polls to vote early! The polls will be open Monday, October 25 – Friday, October 29 at the Voter Registration and Elections Division office located at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. You do not have to supply a reason to vote early. Advance voting will take place from 8:00am – 5:00pm.

You must be registered 30 days prior to any election to be eligible to vote in that

election. If you are already registered and have had a change of name or address, within the county, it must be changed 30 days prior to any election, to be effective for that election.

Registration deadline	October 4
Advance Voting	October 25 – 29
General Election	November 2

Check it out!

Did you know that the Gwinnett County Public Library offers access to many online practice exams for a variety of academic and professional pursuits? The following is a partial list of the available practice exams:

Advanced Placement exams

- Biology
- Calculus
- English Literature and Composition
- U.S. History

Civil Service

- Civil Service Careers
- Federal Clerical
- Postal Worker

College Preparation

- ACT
- CUNY
- SAT Practice Tests
- SAT Preparation Course

Cosmetology

EMT – Basic, Paramedic

Firefighter

GED Preparation

Graduate School Entrance

- GMAT
- GRE
- LSAT
- MCAT

Law Enforcement

- Border Patrol
- Corrections Officer
- Police Officer
- Police Sergeant
- Treasury Enforcement Agent

Military – ASVAB Preparation

Nurse Aide/Nursing Assistant

Real Estate

- Broker
- Sales Agent

Teacher Certification

List provided by Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit your local branch for additional selection assistance, or check www.gwinnettpl.org, the GCPL Web site.

Reminder: Property tax installments due

If you are paying your property tax bill in installments, the second installment is due November 15. If not paid in full by the due date, a five percent penalty will be added based on the unpaid installment amount. Beginning November 16, interest accrues at one percent per calendar month or any part thereof (12 percent annually).

For more information, visit our Web site at www.gwinnett-tax.com or call Tax Talk 24 at 770.822.8800.

History Book Club

What: Gwinnett's History Book Club will meet to discuss *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn: A Saga of Race and Family*, by Gary Pomerantz

When: October 11 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Where: Female Seminary on Perry Street

This selection can be checked out at your local branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. For more information, call 770.822.5178.

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.

Share your pet adoption success story with us! If you have adopted a pet from the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter, please e-mail a picture and brief description to kinsey.snell@gwinnettcountry.com or send it to Kinsey Snell, Communications Division, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville GA 30045.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

The **grand opening for McDaniel Farm Park** is scheduled for Saturday, October 9 from 10:00am – 4:00pm, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the park at 11:00am. McDaniel Farm Park will offer kids and adults the opportunity to experience what life on the farm was like in the 1930s. For more information on McDaniel Farm Park and the grand opening celebration, call 770.814.4920.

Registration for **fall swim lessons** is October 9 at Bogan Park Aquatic Center in Buford, the Collins Hill Aquatic Center in Lawrenceville, and Mountain Park Aquatic Center in Stone Mountain. The session will run from October 18 – November 11. Gwinnett County residents can register starting at 10:00am and non-residents at 11:00am. Please sign up in person at the pool where you plan to take lessons. For additional information, call Bogan Park at 770.614.2063, Collins Hill at 770.237.5647, or Mountain Park at 770.564.4650.

Bring the whole family for a fun day at the **Lenora Harvest Festival and Craft Expo** on October 16 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Enjoy crafts, music, pony rides, moonwalk,

and plenty of good food. Reservations are required for crafters. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

The Gwinnett County Public Library will celebrate **Teen Read Week** October 17 – 23. Teen Read Week is a weeklong celebration of programming and reading activities encouraging teens to read just for the fun of it. This year's theme is "It's Alive" and plans for the event will combine literature with fun activities for teens. Call or visit your local branch for details.

Be prepared to be scared! Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation presents **Halloween Scary Tales** Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross on October 22. Professional storytellers will captivate audiences of all ages with original ghost stories, urban legends, and more. Storytelling begins at 7:00pm with "Not So Scary," tales geared toward 3 – 6 year olds. "Scary Tales" will be at 8:00pm for 7 – 9 year olds, and then "Enter At Your Own Risk" stories for ages 9 and up. Tickets are \$4 for one show and \$3 when you purchase tickets for two or more shows. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Gwinnett's newest tradition continues! Bring your blankets and low-back lawn chairs and enjoy a **Free Movie Under the Stars** at Tribble Mill Park in Grayson on October 23. Food, live music, and inflatable slides will be available beginning at 5:30pm and the movie will start at sundown (approximately 8:30pm). Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

The Gwinnett County Public Library invites you to celebrate the **grand opening of the Suwanee Branch Library** on Saturday, October 30 from 9:00am – noon. Refreshments will follow the ribbon cutting ceremony at 9:00am, and the library will be open for business until noon. Normal business hours will begin at the branch on Sunday, October 31. The new library is located at 361 Main Street in Suwanee.

Don't miss the Gwinnett Parks Foundation's **5K Road Race** November 13 at Tribble Mill Park in Grayson. The registration fee is \$15 for pre-registered racers and \$20 for those registering after November 5 and on the day of the race. For more information, visit www.gwinnettparksfoundation.org.

Grease: The primary contributor to sewer blockages, spills

Gwinnett County Department of Public Utilities is asking customers to avoid disposing of grease in household drains. Grease solidifies after cooling and bonds to pipe walls and debris within households and public sewers, gradually creating blockages that lead to backups and sewer system spills. Grease has been a contributing factor to more than 60 percent of all reportable sewer spills in Gwinnett County in the last three years.

Sewer backups and spills contribute to environmental and health concerns. Sewer spills in excess of 10,000 gallons must be reported to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division.

Citizens can greatly decrease the chances of a sewer spill by disposing of grease and oil properly:

- Don't put any kind of frying oil, salad oil, cooking grease, or motor oil into the sewage system by dumping it down the sink, in a toilet, or into a storm drain
- Do put excess cooking oil or grease into a container and throw it into the trash
- Do wipe out greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing
- Don't use the garbage disposal to grind fat trimmings. Instead, wrap them up and put them into the trash
- Do recycle used motor oil

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