



county Line

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Meet Mike Beaudreau, District 3 Commissioner

District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau** hopes to bring “youth, energy, and my ability to think outside the box” to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. He decided to run for office to give Gwinnett citizens more of a voice in local government. “As a homeowner, I’ve been with those appearing before the Board and I feel like that experience will give me a different perspective on how to fight for our county,” said Beaudreau.



He grew up in Connecticut and graduated from the College of Business and Public Affairs at Clemson University in South Carolina in 1997. After spending a couple of years in Cobb County,

Beaudreau moved to Gwinnett looking for more of a small-town feel. One of his goals as commissioner is to preserve Gwinnett’s quaint lifestyle.

Beaudreau is a national accounts manager for Ricoh Corporation. He graduated from the Atlanta Regional Commission Planning Academy in 2003, and he has been nominated to attend the Coverdell Leadership Institute. He lives in the Grayson area with his wife, Tegwen, and their three cats Oreo, Snickers, and Kit Kat.

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Around Gwinnett



Gwinnett Stops: Cameras help police catch red-light runners



Beginning on April 15, 2005, Gwinnett police will begin issuing warnings to motorists who fail to stop for the red light at the corner of Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Singleton Road in Norcross. After a 30-day grace period, police will begin issuing traffic tickets by mail. Traditional enforcement is time-consuming and creates a safety hazard when police chase violators through a red light.

Red-light cameras are also being installed in two additional locations. The intersections will be chosen based on crash statistics and the lack of apparent engineering solutions: The intersections will be well marked and publicized before police begin issuing any warnings or citations.

The laser-activated cameras record a series of images showing the car behind the white line while the light is red, the car in the intersection, and a close-up of the tag. A police officer will review the images to determine if a violation has occurred. Mailed citations will include the three images and other relevant data, including vehicle speed, length of the yellow light, and how long the light had been red before the vehicle entered the intersection.

State law requires a penalty of up to \$70 for a red light violation. The County plans to use money collected through the **Gwinnett Stops** program for additional traffic safety and improvement programs. Points are not assessed on the driver’s license and no information is sent to the

Gwinnett County Open House

April 9, 2005
11:00am – 3:00pm

See page 4 of the County Line for details!

state. Registered owners who were not driving the car at the time of the violation may submit a notarized statement to the Recorder’s Court identifying the operator, testify in court, or submit a police report showing that the vehicle was stolen prior to the violation.

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Celebrating National Drinking Water Week at Shoal Creek

The Gwinnett County Department of Public Utilities will celebrate the 31st anniversary of National Drinking Water Week with an open house at the Shoal Creek Drinking Water Production Facility on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Activities will include tours, hayrides, arts and crafts, lunch, and refreshments. The Shoal Creek facility is located at 1755 Buford Dam Road in Buford.

National Drinking Water Week is an annual celebration of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which was passed to protect public health by regulating the nation's drinking water supply. It was amended in 1986 and again in 1996 to ensure the protection of drinking water sources including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and springs.

For more information on the open house celebration, call Michael O'Shield at 678.376.7157.

Looking for the Asian-American Resource Center?

The administrative office of the Asian-American Resource Center (AARC) will no longer be housed at the Norcross Human Services Center (NHSC). The NHSC will continue to provide space for the AARC's low-cost programming, including English as a Second Language, computer and art classes, and a floating office for client-based services on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Until the AARC settles into a new location, you can reach members of the staff at 770.873.1337 or send an e-mail to aarc@aarc-atlanta.org. The AARC is a collaborative partner with Gwinnett County's Norcross Human Services Center and strives to strengthen the Asian community and increase cultural awareness.

Gwinnett Stops

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Red light cameras are currently used in 17 states and have been used in Europe for nearly 20 years. The cities of Decatur, Duluth, Marietta, Rome, Savannah, and Athens-Clarke County currently use similar systems while others including Snellville, Lilburn, and Doraville will install them this spring. Gwinnett is the first county in the metro area to install a system. Studies show a substantial decrease in traffic crashes and injuries at intersections with red light cameras. For information on **Gwinnett Stops**, visit www.gwinnettstops.com.

Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Vehicle tag renewals

You should receive a tag renewal notice in the mail well before your tag renewal deadline, which is the registered vehicle owner's birthday. You will find the tag renewal date printed in the upper left-hand corner of the renewal notice. If the vehicle has more than one registered owner, the birthday of the first listed registered owner is used for the renewal purposes. Listed below are some helpful reminders regarding your tag renewal:

- There are tag and tax penalties due if you renew after your deadline; if your renewal date happens to fall on a day when the tag office is closed (such as a weekend), you have until the next business day to renew without a penalty
- If your vehicle has not successfully passed an emissions test before your renewal date, you can still pay the *ad valorem* taxes on time and avoid the tax penalty; however, a tag penalty will still apply and the tag will not be issued until all of the requirements have been satisfied
- Be sure to check your renewal notice for any comments on your vehicle's standing; if you see a message saying the vehicle is not properly insured, be sure to contact your insurance company immediately

Renewing your vehicle's tag is easy – you can even renew online at www.gwinnett-tag.com. If you encounter any difficulties during the renewal process, call the Tax Commissioner's Customer Information Line at 770.822.8818.

Homestead Exemption reminder

The deadline for filing homestead exemptions is **May 1, 2005**. A regular homestead exemption and value offset exemption is available to all homeowners who occupy their property as their primary residence. It is not applicable to rental property or vacant land. Other exemptions are also available to senior and disabled homeowners.

The mobile home tax payment deadline is **May 1, 2005**.

For more information on homestead exemptions or mobile home taxes, you can call the Tax Commissioner's 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800 or send an e-mail to propertytax@gwinnettcountry.com.



Shorty Howell Park celebrates Grand Re-opening

Come celebrate the grand re-opening of Shorty Howell Park on Saturday, April 16. The fun-filled day will kick off with a parade of athletes beginning at 9:45am, followed immediately by a ribbon cutting ceremony and the unveiling of a memorial to Shorty Howell near the concession plaza. Festivities will continue until 4:00pm with activities that include a moonwalk, giant slide, live music, concessions, and appearances by the Gwinnett Gladiators' *Maximus*, *McGruff the Crime Dog*, *Wendy* from Wendy's Restaurants, and the *Publix Platosaurus*.



One of the additions to Shorty Howell Park is a 1.25-mile multipurpose trail.

Shorty Howell Park in Duluth was one of the first parks purchased by Gwinnett County, and over the past year and a half has undergone an expansion and renovations. The 1996 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan recommended that the 42-acre park be expanded, so the County purchased an additional 25 acres with 1997 SPLOST funds, bringing the total acreage for the park to approximately 67 acres.

Renovations to the park, funded by the 2001 SPLOST, included the addition of a new lighted football field with a lighted walking track and concession building, the reconstruction of the seven, lighted baseball/softball fields and concession building, two new playgrounds and a pavilion, a 1.25-mile paved multipurpose trail, and a one-mile mulch trail. The entrance to the park on Pleasant Hill Road received a facelift and additional parking, including a walkover bridge to relieve traffic congestion.

Citizens can also look forward to a new 8,200-square-foot activity building set to open later this year. The building will house a large community room with a catering kitchen; a classroom for recreation classes, club meetings, and private rental functions;

and offices for Gwinnett County Park Police and the Parks and Recreation Facility Rentals staff.

Shorty Howell Park is located at 2750 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Check it out!

Take better pictures with the help of these amateur photography guides. Learn more about digital, black and white, and traditional photography methods.

How to Take Perfect Scrapbook Pictures, by Jonn Zocchi

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 Photographs, by John Hedgecoe

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

Fodor's Kodak Guide to Shooting Great Travel Pictures, by Jeff Wignall

How to Photograph Your Life, by Nick Kelsh

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

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

Pet Corner

Joe Brunton and Ashley Jones adopted Lexi in June 2004. Here she is relaxing after a fun day! She is a Basenji mix. Ashley says that some of Lexi's favorite things are playing fetch, camping, road trips to Indiana, and hogging the bed at night. "She is the greatest, and we couldn't have asked for a better adoption," said Ashley.



If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, check out 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

Seniors can take advantage of **free tax assistance** at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park on Tuesday and Fridays from 9:00am – noon through April 15. Don't forget to bring last year's returns. No appointment necessary. Call 770.564.4680 for more information.

Matthew Kahler will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of the Coffeehouse Nights series, **Grounds 'n' Sounds**, on April 8. Doors open at 8:00pm, and the music and fun begin 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.

Be sure to check out **Gwinnett County's 5th Annual Open House** on Saturday, April 9 from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Booths will feature the valuable programs and services provided by County departments and courts. There will be free kids' activities and music, pony rides, petting zoo, characters, face painting, and more! Plus, free refreshments for the first 2,000 people! Please call 770.822.7180 for more information.

Seniors, take an **overnight trip to Charleston, South Carolina**, April 12 – 15. This is an excellent opportunity to make new friends and visit a southern favorite. Experience a guided tour through Old South Charleston and Beaufort. Call the Gwinnett Senior Center for details at 770.564.4680.

Celebrate the arrival of spring on April 16 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. Pack a picnic and enjoy games, crafts, and more. Dessert will be provided. This event is for children ages 3-8, and parent participation is required. The cost is \$5 per child, and you must pre-register by April 10. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Registration for **adult kickball** will be April 20 at 6:30pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The cost is \$340 per team for a 10-game season. All games will be played at Bethesda Park and George Pierce Park. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, and Coed.

The season begins June 6. For more information, call 770.822.5152.

Don't forget to register for **adult spring softball** on April 20 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The cost is \$430 per team for a 10-game season. All games will be played at Bethesda Park, George Pierce Park, and Lucky Shoals Park. Divisions include Men's Open, Women's Open, Coed, Men's Industrial, and Men's Church. The season begins June 6. For more information, please call 770.822.5152.

Leave the driving to us and go on a **VAN GO Art Excursion** on April 21. We will go to the Emory-Carlos Museum to view the exhibit *Excavating Egypt: Great Discoveries from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology University College, London*. Pre-registration is required due to limited space, and the cost is \$10 per person. Bring museum entry fee and money for lunch at the Emory Village. The van will leave from Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross at 10:00am. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Have fun during **Kids Night Out** at the Bogan Community Center on April 22 from 5:30pm – 9:30pm. Pack a bathing suit and towel, and prepare for an evening filled with swimming, games, and dinner (ages 5 – 9). The cost is \$5 per person. Dinner served after swimming, so please feed your child a snack prior to arrival. Children must arrive on time in order to swim. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Strap on your running shoes, and don't miss the **Tribble Trot 5K** on April 23 at Tribble Mill Park in Grayson. The cost is \$15 for pre-registration and \$20 on race day. Race-day registration begins at 7:15am, and the race will begin at 8:00am. Medals will be given to the top three runners in several categories. Call 770.932.4460 to sign up or for more information.

Exhibitors from the Georgia Herpetological Society, Southern Wings Bird Club, and more will be on hand at **Natural History Day at Lanier Museum** in Buford on April 30 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Animal shows will feature reptiles, raptors, and other cool

creatures. The cost is \$3 per person. Call 770.932.4460 for more information.

Visit the **Gwinnett Veterans Council War Memorial Museum**, a tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. The museum is located on the first floor of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville and includes wartime artifacts, memorabilia, and uniforms from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf Wars, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Call 770.822.5450 for information.

The Pinckneyville Community Center hosts **free art exhibits** sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. **Artwork in honor of Black History Month** will run through April 27 at Pinckneyville Community Center. **Drawings and Paintings by Russ Carnes** will be displayed through May 25 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. The Centerville Community Center will house the **Bethesda Group Show** from April 5 – July 6, with a reception on April 7 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Call 770.417.2200.

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