



County Line

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Public safety and tag facilities open for business near Mall of Georgia

On July 28, County officials celebrated the official ribbon cutting for three new facilities off Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford: Fire Station 24, North Police Precinct, and the North Gwinnett Branch Tag Office. The facilities are located on an 8.3-acre parcel of land just east of the Mall of Georgia.



The new three-bay facility will increase coverage in the Mall of Georgia area, which has experienced tremendous growth over the last few years.

Fire Station 24 is a three-bay facility, which will house an engine, squad, Georgia Search and Rescue truck, and rescue unit. Also, the department's technical rescue team will respond from Station 24. The 12,800-square-foot facility includes a community classroom. Station 24 will increase coverage in the Mall of Georgia area, which has experienced tremendous growth over the last few years.

The North Police Precinct and the North Gwinnett Branch Tag Office share an 18,860-square-foot building adjacent to the fire station. The tag office is open Tuesday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. In keeping with her commitment to customer service, Tax Commissioner Katherine Sherrington hopes that the Saturday hours will offer a new convenience for individuals who can't make it to a tag office during traditional business hours.

The police precinct is open to the public 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday (closed from noon to

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Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



Officials celebrate groundbreaking for Grayson Branch Library

Gwinnett County officials gathered on July 28 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Grayson Branch Library. The library will be in a convenient location, not far from downtown on Grayson Parkway. Some children and families will even be able to walk to the library. The branch will open with all new books and a courier will bring in items from other branches at the request of the customers.

"Citizens in the City of Grayson have wanted a library for quite some time," said District 3 Commissioner Mike

Beaudreau. "Even school children wrote letters of support to library board members and commission members to build a library in Grayson."

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners awarded the con-

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The library will be in a convenient location, not far from downtown on Grayson Parkway. It will be the County's 14th branch after the Dacula Branch opens in early 2006.

Medicare training available for prescription drug coverage changes

More than 300,000 people in metro Atlanta will have to make decisions regarding Medicare's new prescription drug coverage by May 15, 2006. This new coverage, enacted in 2003 as the *Medicare Modernization Act*, will be the most sweeping change to Medicare since the program was created in 1965.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is conducting training seminars on Medicare prescription drug coverage for social services agencies, non-profit organizations, hospitals, churches, and any other groups that serve older adult clients. The seminars will include basic information about Medicare coverage, details of the new drug benefit, enrollment information, and information about assistance for low-income individuals.

"The new Medicare prescription drug coverage is complex, and people are bound to have questions," said Cathie Berger, division chief of the ARC Aging Services Division. *"We are offering this training to help organizations better serve the needs of their older members and clients."*

ARC will provide one training session per month from July through December. There is no charge for the training, but registration is required and space is limited. For information on the training sessions, send an e-mail to georgiacares@atlantaregional.com.

Gwinnett County seeking qualified law enforcement applicants

The Department of Human Resources is offering an incremental hiring incentive for qualified applicants interested in an exciting career in law enforcement with Gwinnett County Government! New hires will receive a \$1,000 bonus after six months on the job and another \$1,000 after one year on the job.

Check out these competitive annual salaries:

Police Officer	\$33,197
Senior Police Officer	\$35,685
Deputy Sheriff/Jailer	\$31,315
Senior Deputy Sheriff	\$33,689

For more information on job openings with Gwinnett County Government, visit www.gwinnettcountyjobs.com.

Advice from the Tax Commissioner: transferring tags to a new vehicle

Did you know that you can transfer a valid Georgia license plate (tag) from a vehicle you sell, or no longer own, to another vehicle? By transferring a tag for a fee of five dollars, you can avoid having to buy a new tag and save \$15! A standard Georgia tag is not transferable between individuals; the person wishing to transfer a tag must be the first titled or registered owner of both the sold vehicle and the new vehicle.

Prestige or specialty plates may be transferred from one individual to another. To do this, complete a relinquishment form; it must be signed by both the current holder of the tag (you) and the person to whom you are transferring the tag. The relinquishment form is available at any of the tag offices or you can download the form from the state's Web site, www.dmv.ga.gov.

Remember, you must transfer a tag to the newly acquired vehicle within 30 days of the purchase date. Both vehicles involved in the transfer must require the same type of tag. For example, you cannot transfer an automobile tag to a trailer. The title must be applied for on the newly acquired vehicle prior to or at the same time that the tag is transferred. You must provide the tag number that you want transferred and either the vehicle identification number or title number of the newly acquired vehicle.

The normal charge associated with a tag transfer is \$5. However, other fees may apply depending on each situation. For more information, contact motor vehicles customer service at 770.822.8818 or via e-mail at tag@gwinnettcounty.com. Additional information is also available at www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.

Groundbreakings

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struction contract for the library to low bidder Ricks Construction, Inc. at the July 5 commission meeting. The construction amount is not to exceed \$3.3 million. *"Once again, we have the citizens of Gwinnett County to thank for this project,"* said Commission Chairman **Charles Bannister**. *"This library branch is being funded by the voter-approved 2001 and 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."*

Patrons of the Gwinnett County Public Library checked out more than 6.3 million items from July 2004 – June 2005, which equals approximately one book every two seconds or 29.3 books per minute. The GCPL consists of 12 branches, with a 13th branch in Dacula set to open in early 2006. All branches are open 71 hours per week, and Virtualville, the access online branch, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The library sees approximately four million visitors each year at local branches and about two million each year to Virtualville.



DPU works with communities affected by major projects

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) makes a concerted effort to reach out to communities that will be affected by water and wastewater projects.

Recently, DPU reached out to the Lanier Boulevard/Hammond Drive neighborhood off Jimmy Carter Boulevard in an effort to educate the community about a major infrastructure project in that area. The project will affect nearly 200 residents.

Some of the water and sewer lines in this area are more than 40 years old. Improvements will include the replacement of 10,000 feet of water line (along most streets in the neighborhood) and 3,900 feet of sewer line, some of which will actually go behind homes. The new, larger pipes for water and sewer, which will be made of a stronger material, and 26 new fire hydrants will improve the quality of life for the neighborhood by reducing the chances of a sewer overflow and increasing fire protection.

DPU staff called a community meeting to address concerns and questions about the construction with the area residents. Because of the large Hispanic population, an interpreter was present at the meeting. In addition to the group meeting, DPU staff also worked with individuals on specific concerns.

Even though not everyone in the community attended the meeting, the real value in holding it was connecting with those residents who were concerned about the project and wanted to know more. By getting together before backhoes were involved, the community and project team were able to solve potential issues before they became major problems.

Submitted by Marci Hawk Davis, Brown and Caldwell, for DPU

CPR Saturday

Take advantage of free CPR classes offered by the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Two upcoming class dates are listed below:

August 20 and September 24
8:30am – 4:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center

To register for a free class, call the Programs and Services Section at 678.518.4850.

Check it out!

Summer is the perfect time to kick back and enjoy local music festivals. Jazz is one of the most popular styles of music for outdoor concerts, so check out some of these selections from the Gwinnett County Public Library to learn more about the unique sounds of jazz and the stories behind those who perform it.

Jazz: The Rough Guide, edited by Ian Carr, Digby Fairweather, and Brian Priestley

Weather Bird: Jazz at the Dawn of Its Second Century, by Gary Giddens

Living With Jazz: A Reader, by Sheldon Meyer

Giants of Jazz, by Jazz Terkel

Visions of Jazz: The First Century, by Gary Giddens

Jazz: A History of America's Music, by Geoffrey C. Ward

The Oxford Companion to Jazz, by Bill Kirchner

Keep Cool: The Black Activists Who Built the Jazz Age (e-book), by Ted Vincent

Jazz 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Jazz (also available as downloadable audio book), by John Szwed

The Jazz Exiles: American Musicians Abroad (e-book), by Bill Moody

Afro-Cuban Jazz, by Scott Tanow

This list is 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

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. Adoption counselors are available to help you find the perfect pet to fit your lifestyle.

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.



Pet Corner





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Celebrate the **grand opening of the new Dacula Activity Building** in Dacula on August 2. The 8,130-square-foot building includes a community room and a classroom. In addition, four lighted tennis courts and a multi-purpose trail have been added; the new trail connects to the existing 1.1-mile trail at Dacula Park. The Dacula Activity Building is located at 2735 Old Auburn Road in Dacula.

Bring your blankets and low-back lawn chairs and enjoy a **free Movie Under the Stars**, *Field of Dreams*, at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville on August 6 at 6:00pm. There will be food, music, and entertainment, and the movie will begin at sundown (approximately 8:00pm). Bethesda Park is located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.978.5270.

Bring your lunch, or purchase a lunch to go from one of the nearby restaurants and enjoy free entertainment at the **Brown Bag Lunchtime Summer Concert Series** on August 12 from noon – 1:00pm. *The Wizard of Odd* will perform a comedy and magic show on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

Enjoy **Grounds 'N' Sounds – Coffeehouse Nights** at the Gwinnett Historic Museum

on August 12 at 8:00pm. The Skillet Lickers will entertain with live music from bluegrass to contemporary guitar to classical. Doors open at 8:00pm, and the music starts at 8:30pm. Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5. The museum is located inside the Lawrenceville Female Seminary on South Perry Street in downtown Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for more information or to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*.

Come prepared to be fast, creative, and hungry to the **Pizza and Puzzles Family Event** at the Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross on August 12 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Each family will be given a puzzle and the first family to complete their puzzle will receive a trophy. A pizza dinner will be served during the competition. The cost is \$15 for a family of four and \$2 for each additional person. Pre-registration is required. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Bring your blankets, chairs, and picnic dinners and enjoy a free concert on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on August 26 at 8:00pm. The **Moonlight and Music Concert Series** offers various styles of music, including blues, jazz, rock, folk, country and bluegrass, Motown, swing, and more. Concertgoers can bring a picnic or dine at one of the restaurants in downtown

Lawrenceville. No alcohol is allowed on the grounds of the Historic Courthouse. Only reserved tables are permitted. Call 770.822.5450 for more information or to reserve a table for six (\$40 per table).

Pack a bathing suit and towel for an evening filled with swimming, games, and dinner. It's **Kids Night Out** for kids ages five through nine at Bogan Park in Buford on August 26 from 5:30pm – 9:30pm. Dinner will be served after swimming, so please give children a snack prior to arrival. Children must arrive on time to swim. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

The **Pinckneyville Community Center Expo** will be held at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross on August 27 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. The expo will be a day filled with class demonstrations, games, make-n-take crafts, an art contest, and much more! Call 770.417.2200 for more information or to enter the Awesome Artist contest; prizes will be awarded at the Expo.

For a complete listing of upcoming events, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

Public safety

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1:00pm for lunch). The records department at the precinct is closed on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. The North Police Precinct was dedicated to Ralph Davis – one of three officers killed in the line of duty on April 17,

1964. A bronze plaque with his picture will be placed in the precinct lobby in his memory.

The tag office was funded by the general fund, while the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax paid for the fire and police stations.



The North Police Precinct and the North Gwinnett Branch Tag Office share an 18,860-square-foot building adjacent to the new fire station.

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