



Veterans Day ceremony honors Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes

A crowd of about 300 gathered at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial on Friday, November 11, to celebrate and remember the men and women who have served and protected us throughout our nation's history.

The memorial was dedicated in 2003 as a way to remember and honor Gwinnett citizens who have died in the line of duty while serving Gwinnett County and our country.

Gwinnett County lost six servicemen this year whose names have been added to the memorial:

Active Duty Military Killed in the Line of Duty

Brian Marshall Smith

Global War on Terrorism

William A. Long
Lonnie James Parson
Paul Anthony Saylor
Michael James Stokely
Charles Houghton Warren

From native Americans "who were the first to love this land" to the most recent casualties, the memorial honors roughly 700 individuals, organized by categories of service. Their names,

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Some family and friends of Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes made etchings of the names on the memorial before and after the ceremony.

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Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



Four Gwinnett police officers honored for heroism by Governor Perdue

Four members of the Gwinnett County Police Department received special recognition from the Governor's Public Safety Award Committee and were awarded by Governor Sonny Perdue in a special ceremony. The officers were awarded for acts of heroism in situations that occurred in 2004 and 2005. Congratulations to **Sgt. Doug Mattox, Sgt. Mike McKeithan, Lt. Kevin Moran, and Sgt. Jerry Stancel.**

Sgt. McKeithan edged his patrol car into the path of a speeding vehicle. The wrong-way driver hit the front fender of his patrol car, sending it into a 360-degree spin backwards into a truck that was stopped in traffic. Sgt. McKeithan's actions ended the deadly threat of

the wrong-way, intoxicated driver without any loss of life. Sgt. McKeithan risked his life to protect innocent citizens.

Sgt. Mattox, Lt. Moran, and Sgt. Stancel rescued a male who had climbed over the guardrail on Pleasant Hill Road over I-85 and was sitting on the small ledge with his legs dangling over traffic. The man was confused and did not speak English. Fortunately, a citizen stopped to help translate. Lt. Moran approached the suspect and grabbed him from behind while Sgts. Stancel and Mattox grabbed each one of the man's arms. After a brief struggle, they were able to bring him back over the guardrail and subdue him. These officers risked their lives to save this man and clear a hazardous situation without injury.



Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Renew your tag by telephone

Did you know that several of the services offered by the Tax Commissioner's Office are available over the telephone? By making a telephone call, you may be able to eliminate the need to visit your local tag office.

The telephone system includes:

System Features

- Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- English and Spanish language options
- Live agents available during regular business hours

System Services

- Tag renewals by telephone
- General information about the Tax Commissioner's Office (hours of operations, tag office locations, etc.)
- General motor vehicle registration information
- Duplicate tag renewal bills
- Motor vehicle forms by fax

To take advantage of these over-the-phone services, call 770.822.8818.

You can also access the Tax Commissioner's Motor Vehicle Customer Service Center by e-mail at tag@gwinnettcountry.com, or by visiting the Tax Commissioner's website, www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.

Fallen Heroes Memorial

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in random order and without rank, are carved on 13 black granite markers that are nine feet tall and weigh almost four tons each. A central pedestal features a Gwinnett firefighter's bronze sculpture of an eagle carrying a rose.

The Remembrance Walk is located in the plaza of Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes Memorial and contains messages of love and support in addition to the names of heroes and donors alike. A brick donation honors our law enforcement, firefighters, military, and County employees who risked their lives to protect and serve our community and country.

Visit www.gwinnettfallenheroes.com for additional information about the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial, located in the back of the parking lot at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. To learn more about contributing to Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes Memorial with a remembrance brick, download or open the supporter bricks order form from the Fallen Heroes website mentioned above.

Breakfast with Santa event to benefit local nonprofit

The MOMS Club of Snellville and the Centerville Community Center is hosting *Breakfast with Santa* for children and families on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00am – 11:00am at the Centerville Community Center.

Kids will enjoy breakfast and have their picture taken with Santa, make a frame for the keepsake photo, and enjoy the festive music and decorations. The cost is \$3 per child and adult and the MOMS Club will donate all of the funds to a local nonprofit organization.

"I love that the MOMS club donates all of the money to a good cause," said Centerville Community Center coordinator **Vivian Gaither**. *"Not only do families get to have a good time at the event, but they are doing a good deed for the community as well."*

There are more than 1,800 MOMS club chapters about 85,000 members across the United States and in seven countries.

For additional information about Breakfast with Santa, call 770.985.4713.



Kids will enjoy breakfast and have their picture taken with Santa.

Sign up for Gwinnett LIFE™

In the past, **Gwinnett LIFE™** has been mailed out on a quarterly basis to every residential address in Gwinnett County. Due to population growth over the years, the quantity mailed out for each issue has increased. In order to save money, **Gwinnett LIFE™** will now be published three times per year and beginning with the May – August issue, the publication will only be mailed to residents requesting a copy.

Sign up for your free issues of **Gwinnett LIFE™**, which features information about classes and programs offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, at www.gwinnettlife.org beginning in January. Enter your name and complete mailing address. Please note: we can only mail to residential street addresses. We cannot mail to post office boxes or business addresses.

Beginning in the spring of 2006, you will be able to register online for classes and programs. Visit www.gwinnettparks.com for updates.



Seniors enjoy music, dancing at annual Senior Prom

Senior ladies paraded in sequined dresses and gentlemen wore suits and special ties. Some proudly displayed corsages and others wore new bonnets. Whatever the attire, everyone enjoyed the Senior Prom in October, complete with food, dancing, and lots of great music.

The senior prom is an annual event held for the Buford, Lawrenceville, and Norcross senior center clients. The centers plan weekday activities for seniors, including exercise classes, arts and crafts, games, and trips.

For more information about Gwinnett Senior Services and its programs, call 678.377.4150 or visit www.gwinnettseniorservices.com.



Richard Simril squeezes in a slow dance with his date at the annual senior prom.

County offices close for upcoming holidays

All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed half a day on Friday, December 23, and all day on Monday, December 26, in observance of the Christmas holidays. All offices

will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, December 27. The same offices will also be closed on Monday, January 2, and will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Check it out!

Do you need to get organized? Let the Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) help. Check out the newest organizing and de-cluttering strategies discussed in the following selections, which can be found at your local library branch.

The 60-Second Organizer: Sixty Solid Techniques for Beating Chaos at Home and at Work, by Jeffrey Davidson

Christopher Lowell's Seven Layers of Organization: Unclutter Your Home, Unclutter Your Life, by Christopher Lowell

Moving On: A Practical Guide to Cleaning out the Family Home While Preserving Memories, Family Harmony, and Your Sanity, by Linda Hetzer

Feather Your Nest: The Complete Guide to Outfitting, Cleaning, Organizing and Caring for your Home, by Cerentha Harris

The Complete Clutter Solution: Organize Your Home for Good, by Chris Peterson

The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond, by Donna Goldberg and Jennifer Zweibel

The Smart Approach to the Organized Home, by Leslie Plummer Clagett

Conquer the Clutter: Reclaim Your Space, Reclaim Your Life, edited by Meredith Books

Organizing from the Inside Out: The Foolproof System for Organizing Your Home, Your Office, and Your Life, by Julie Morgenstern

Stop Clutter from Wrecking Your Family: Organizing Your Children, Spouse and Home, by Mike Nelson

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 website at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

Pet Corner

Grace, a golden retriever, is sitting pretty in her favorite bandana. She was rescued by **Mariann Brown** of Parks and Recreation.

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. To see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, check out www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com. For more information, stop by the shelter or call 770.339.3200.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Don't miss the **Holiday Tours and Visits with Santa** at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse this holiday season. You will enjoy each of the holiday-themed rooms in the beautifully decorated Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. Kids can sit on Santa's lap and have a picture taken. Tours and entry into the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse are free. Photos with Santa cost \$4 each. Tours and visits with Santa will take place December 2 – 4; 9 – 11; and 16 – 18. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

Take a **scenic carriage ride** around downtown Lawrenceville and enjoy the holiday decorations. Carriage rides available on December 3, 10, and 1 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 children 12 and under. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

Kids, don't miss your chance to work at one of **Santa's Elf Workshops** on December 2 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Elves (age four – 10) will work to make holiday gifts. Refreshments will be provided. An adult must accompany children 4 – 6 years old. Elf Workshops will be held at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville and the Shorty Howell Activity Building in Duluth. Call 770.822.5414 for information about Rhodes Jordan Park and 770.814.4914 for information about the workshop at Shorty Howell Activity Building.

Join us for an unforgettable **Weekend On the Wild Side** at Cumberland Island, one of the last undisturbed areas of Georgia, December 3 – 5 (ages 8 – up). You will see a variety of unique species such as alligators, armadillos, snakes, heron, and the famous island horses and stay in the Sea Camp primitive campground. Each person is responsible for his or her own transportation to St. Mary's, equipment, and food. A pre-trip class will be held. The cost is \$60 and includes camping, boating, and parking fees. For more information, call 770.932.4460.

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready for the **Line Dance Marathon** at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth from 7:00pm – 10:00pm on

December 3. Light snacks will be served. The Line Dance Marathon will be held at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth. Call 770.814.4914 for more information.

Get all of your shopping done at the **Holiday Craft Festival** on December 3 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. This event is free and open to the public. Kids can get some holiday shopping at **Santa's Gift Shoppe** while you enjoy the arts and crafts festival. The gifts in Santa's Gift Shoppe are priced \$5 or less, so it is a great place for kids to find holiday gifts for the family. Presents will be wrapped, so that the gifts can remain a secret. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Create something special at **Mommy and Me Paint Your Own Pottery** on December 7 and 10 at 2:00pm. The event is sponsored by Around Town Pottery, a mobile pottery studio. The cost is \$15. For more information, call 770.985.4713.

Kids, don't miss your chance to work at one of **Santa's Elf Workshops** on December 7 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Elves (age 4 – 10) will work to make holiday gifts. Refreshments will be provided. An adult must accompany children 4 – 6 years old. Elf Workshops will be held at Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain and Dacula Activity Building in Dacula. Call 770.564.3060 for more information about the workshop at Mountain Park Activity Building and 770.822.5404 for the one at Dacula Activity Building.

Kids (ages 2 to 5) will love **Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy**. They will hear the story of the Nutcracker, learn the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and decorate their very own Nutcracker. Kids should come dressed in pajamas; photos will be taken with the Sugar Plum Fairy. Caregiver assistance is required for two year olds. Dancing with the Sugar Plum Fairy will take place on December 9 from 10:00am – 11:30am at Bogan Park in Buford. Call 770.614.2060.

Don't miss the **Senior Day Trip** to the Governor's Mansion and lunch at Lenox Square. For more information, call 770.564.4680.

The Pinckneyville Community Center is hosting **art exhibits** sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation:

Quilts, by Anne Bassett will be displayed at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross through March 1; **Pottery & Painters, by the Art Students of Pinckneyville** will also be displayed at the Pinckneyville Community Center through January 25 .

Work by the Artisans of Flowery Branch will be displayed at the Centerville Community Center in Snellville through December 21.

Informational meetings for the annual **Gwinnett Senior Golden Olympics** are held the third Monday each month at 10:00am at the Gwinnett Senior Center. For more information, visit www.gwinnettseniorolympics.org.

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