



County Line

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Meet your new commissioners

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners welcomed three new members on January 1. Following swearing-in ceremonies in December, they were ready to get down to business at the first meeting of the year on January 4. The newly elected officials are serving alongside District 2 Commissioner Bert Nasuti and District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly.

served as a planning commissioner for Gwinnett County.



**Mike Beaudreau
District 3
Commissioner**
Mike Beaudreau is a national accounts manager for Ricoh Corporation. He grad-

uated in 1997 from the College of Business and Public Affairs at Clemson University. He graduated from the Atlanta Regional Commission Planning Academy in 2003, and he has been nominated to attend the Coverdell Leadership Institute.

In one of the board's first actions, **Jock Connell** was named County

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Charles Bannister, Chairman

Charles Bannister served in the Georgia General Assembly for 18 years. He was a member of the Lilburn City Council for six years, and Mayor of Lilburn for four years. Bannister attended both the University of



Georgia and Georgia State University and served in the U.S. Marine Reserves. He has also enjoyed a successful career in the insurance and financial services field.

Lorraine Green District 1 Commissioner

Lorraine Green is president and owner of an environmental engineering firm. She graduated from Georgia Tech with a BS and an MS in engineering, and is a registered professional engineer. Green previously



Officials break ground on Fire Station 26

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and Fire and Emergency Services officials gathered Tuesday, December 8 at the future site of Fire Station 26 to break ground for the new facility. The 8,800-square-foot station will be a two-bay facility featuring 10 bunk rooms, a fitness room, a day room (living room), a kitchen and dining

area, and a station office. The project also includes the addition of new Engine Company 26. Precision Planning, Inc. is the architect and the general contractor is Bon Building Services, Inc. Fire Station 26 will be located at 6075 Suwanee Dam Road in Sugar Hill. The \$2.7 million project budget is being funded by the 1997 SPLOST.

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Around Gwinnett



Officials celebrate new educational center

Officials celebrated at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on Tuesday, December 14. The educational center, which will be built near the County's F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center, will contain exhibits and classrooms for learning about Gwinnett's environment and history and the importance of water. It is a joint project of the County's Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, and the University of Georgia. The 200-acre site will feature a greenway, a wetlands area, and nature trails with geologic and historic markers. Development of the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is envisioned as a long-term project with construction to be completed in phases. Funding comes from the 2001 and 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The projected completion for the building is August 2006.

During the ceremony, **Chairman Hill** awarded three college scholarships to local high school students. Two of the scholarships were for \$2,500 and one was for \$1,000. The three recipients plan to pursue environmental or agricultural studies in college. Congratulations to **Megan Sulpy**, a senior at Buford High; **Toby Whiting**, a senior at North Gwinnett High; and **Sean Bright**, a senior at Collins Hill High.

Harry Volande, Executive Vice president and CFO of Siemens Energy and Automation, helped Chairman Hill with the presentations. Siemens Energy and Automation funded two of the scholarships as part of a national environmental award presented to Chairman Hill by the National Association of Counties last summer. The third was sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation.



Chairman Hill and representatives from Siemens Energy and Automation and the Georgia Farm Bureau presented three local students with college scholarships. Scholarship recipients (from left to right) are Sean Bright, Toby Whiting, and Megan Sulpy.

Dacula residents celebrate new branch library



The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and members of the Gwinnett County Library Board of Trustees gathered Wednesday, December 15 at the future site of the Dacula Branch Library to break ground on the new facility. The 19,992-square-foot library will include children, teen, and adult sections. *"Libraries are such an important part of this county, adding to our quality of life and economic development. Building this library branch will make a valuable resource much more convenient to Dacula area residents,"* said Library Director **JoAnn Pinder**.

Retired County Administrator **Charlotte Nash** is especially proud of the Dacula Branch. She grew up and still lives in the Dacula area and remembers when the Gwinnett County Public Library consisted of *"four shelving units in a building in Lawrenceville."*

The Dacula Branch will be located at 265 Dacula Road in Dacula adjacent to Dacula Park. The location will be extremely convenient to Dacula Middle and High School students. The branch is scheduled to open in early spring 2006.

Homestead Exemption Update

The homestead exemption filing season begins January 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 deadline for filing for homestead exemptions is May 1, 2005. Also, mobile home tax bills will be mailed by January 15, 2005, and the deadline for payment is May 1, 2005.

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

Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Save time – renew your tag by mail

Save time this year by renewing your vehicle's tag through the mail. Instead of driving to the tag office, simply mail in your renewal notice and payment. Your renewal tag will be mailed to you.

Renewing your tags through the mail is as easy as one, two, three!

1. Be sure the vehicle information on the renewal notice is correct, and that your vehicle has passed the required emissions test. (Emissions test results are electronically reported to the state, so tag offices are automatically notified that a vehicle has passed an emissions test.)
2. Verify that your insurance coverage is current and valid; visit the state's DMVS Web site, www.dmv.ga.gov, and select "What's New – Insurance" and then "Insurance Status Inquiry" to ensure that your insurance company has correctly reported your insurance policy to the state.
3. Mail the renewal notice and your payment in the return envelope. Payment

is accepted via check, Visa, or MasterCard. Be sure to fill in any credit card information completely on the return payment portion of the renewal notice. Postage is required on the return envelope – don't forget a stamp!

That is all there is to it. You should receive your renewal tag within seven business days. Renewing your tag by mail is a convenient and inexpensive way to save time, money, and effort. For more information about Georgia vehicle registration procedures or insurance and emissions requirements, visit www.gwinnett-tag.com.

New Tag Office Coming Soon

The North Gwinnett Branch Tag Office, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard, is expected to open to the public during the first quarter of 2005. The office will be a part of a complex just east of the Mall of Georgia that will also include a Police Station and a Fire Station.

Check it out!

Cozy up to the fireplace with a book that will put Georgia on your mind. The following books either take place in Georgia or have a regional setting. Relax and enjoy this diverse collection of interesting stories!

True Hope, by Frank Manley

Swan, by Frances Mayes

The Old Religion, by David Mamet

Last Scene Alive, by Charlene Harris

Lake Moon, by John M. Williams

Atlanta Live!, by Carmen Green

The Night Spinners, by Lucretia W. Grindle

Devil's Hearth: A Fever Devilin Mystery,
By Phillip Depoy

The Lazard Legacy, by William Rawlings, Jr.

My Dearest Cecelia: A Novel of the Southern Belle Who Stole General Sherman's Heart, by Diane Haeger

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.

Did you know?

The Gwinnett County Public Library has 12 convenient locations throughout the county with three more in various stages of development. Future branches include ones in Dacula, Grayson, and Hamilton Mill.

Every branch of the GCPL offers scheduled programs for individual children and their parents. Childcare and private preschool groups are scheduled by appointment at 770.822.5368. Children's programming calendars are available at any branch or at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Pet Corner



Pet Corner

County employee Penny Burgess adopted Casey, a pit bull, from the Gwinnett County animal shelter in July. The seven-month-old pup is great with kids and other family members. Penny loves her new pet. She has been a wonderful addition to the family.

There are other wonderful pets that need a loving home. If you would like to see photos of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, check out www.gwinnettcountry.com. You can also visit the shelter at Hi-Hope Road and Ga. 316 in Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.339.3200.



Pet Corner





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Don't miss registration for winter quarter **SeniorNet computer classes** on January 11 from 9:00am – 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Senior Center in Lawrenceville. SeniorNet is a great way for seniors to learn about computers because the classes are taught at a comfortable pace in a setting where all teachers and students are older adults. Winter session classes begin the week of January 24, and all classes meet at the Gwinnett Senior Center. Fees vary per class. Call 770.564.4699 for more information.

Wipe out the winter blues at the **Winter Fun Wipeout** on January 22 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm at Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building in Stone Mountain. Bring your family, swimsuits, towels, and a picnic blanket for a fun-filled afternoon of swimming indoors, picnicking, games, crafts, and music. All ages are welcome. Reservations are required, and the cost is \$12 for one parent and one child and \$5 for each additional person. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

The Pinckneyville Community Center hosts free art exhibits at various locations around

Gwinnett County. **Art by Michi** and **Art by Pedestals: Tangled Threads Doll Club** will run through February 3, 2005, at the Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. Art by **The Painters of Tannery Row** will also be displayed at Pinckneyville through February 23, 2005. **Paintings by Beth Arnold** will be displayed at the Centerville Community Center in Snellville from January 12 – March 30, 2005. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Attention teens: Have fun while making a difference in your community! Join the Pinckneyville **Teen Volunteer Club**. The club meets twice a month for dinner to plan service projects in the community. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Join the **Senior Softball League** at Lucky Shoals Park in Norcross. Games will be played at Lucky Shoals during the renovation at Best Friend Park. The league is open to all men and women seniors. Practice is on Saturdays and games are on Tuesdays. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, call 770.963.6578.

Enjoy **Senior BINGO** at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville from 1:30pm – 2:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month. Play at the Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville from 11:00am – noon on the first Thursday of each month. Games are free. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

New commissioners

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Administrator to succeed Charlotte Nash, who retired in December.

Connell began his career with Gwinnett County in 1986 as Risk Manager/Deputy Director of Finance. He later served as Assistant Director of Financial Services, then Director of Financial Services before assuming the duties of Deputy County Administrator/Chief Operating Officer under Nash.



Indoor Swimming Venues

It may be chilly outside, but you can still enjoy swimming at one of Gwinnett Parks and Recreation's indoor aquatic centers. The following hours will be in effect through Memorial Day:

Bogan Park Aquatic Center

770.614.2063

Indoor Lap Pool

Monday, Wednesday 7:00am – 8:50am
11:00am – 3:00pm
Tues., Thur., Fri. 11:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday Noon – 6:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Indoor Leisure Pool

Monday, Wednesday 3:00pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday, Thursday 3:00pm – 8:30pm
Friday 3:00pm – 6:00pm
Saturday Noon – 6:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Collins Hill Park Aquatic Center

770.237.5647

Indoor Lap Pool

Monday, Wednesday 9:00am – 9:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday 6:00am – 9:00pm
Friday 9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday Noon – 6:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Mountain Park Aquatic Center

770.564.4650

Indoor Lap Pool

Monday, Wednesday 6:00am – 9:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday 9:00am – 9:00pm
Friday 9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday Noon – 6:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Warm/Instructional Pool

Monday – Saturday Noon – 6:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm – 6:00pm

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