



county Line

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Travel "Around the World" at new Shorty Howell Activity Building

Go around the world in seven days, without traveling far from home!

Celebrate at a weeklong "Around the World" celebration for the grand opening of the Shorty Howell Activity Building September 9 – 15. Learn about the seven continents through activities, games, food, performances, and a daily art contest. Each day of the celebration will feature a different continent.

All activities are free. For a schedule of events, call 770.814.4914.



Celebrate all week long at the new Shorty Howell Activity Building. All activities are free and open to the public.

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Around Gwinnett



People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos program reaches out to new library customers

The Gwinnett County Public Library has quite a few new customers who speak Spanish as a primary language. In order to better serve these new customers, the library is offering a program that introduces literature from the customers' own language and life experiences.

"We want the library to be a valuable resource for learning and information access for everyone," said **Karen Harris**, Diversity Projects Coordinator for the library.

People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos provides a comfortable setting for students new to the English language to enjoy literature and practice speaking English in a relaxed, friendly environment. It also provides a way

for participants to connect to the meaning of the story by identifying elements that resonate with their own life experiences. The imagery and complexity in the stories, coupled with the opportunity to share life experiences allows participants to find their own "voice" and eliminates any self-consciousness.

People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos has a 38-year history of successfully orienting those new to reading and the study of literature and offers three discussion models – English, Spanish, and Bilingual: Spanish/English. The program began with a group of Puerto Rican women in Massachusetts; it was expanded in 1981 and 1986 under the National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

The program introduces people to the joys of reading and provides a non-classroom setting for students to speak English. The Bilingual program model serves as a bridge between the American and Hispanic cultures.

One student describes the People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos program as a *tertulia*, which means "a gathering of people who come together for conversation and to experience community."

The Gwinnett County Public Library is in the process of planning People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos series that will begin in fall 2005 and spring 2006. For information, call Karen Harris at 770.903.1072.



Silent auction garners more than \$13,000 for senior citizen programs

Pirates, music, laughter, delicious food, and refreshing drinks set the mood at the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS) 3rd Annual Island Treasures Silent Auction. The stakes were high as bidders kept an eye on the items they wanted, making sure to keep the highest bid.



More than 200 guests bid on items from jewelry to airline tickets.

Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett hosted more than 200 guests, who left with items such as paintings, gift certificates, massages, hotel stays, sports packages, home décor, jewelry, airline tickets, and more.

FOGCSS is a local nonprofit organization that privately supports Gwinnett County Senior Services. This year's auction raised more than \$13,000 that will help to ensure the success of programs that support hundreds of Gwinnett's senior citizens.

Be sure to keep an eye out for tickets to next year's silent auction!

Get involved with Gwinnett's seniors!

To donate, call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775

To volunteer, call Gary Galloway at 770.822.8837

www.gwinnettseniorservices.com

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:

September 24 and October 15
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.

Advice from the Tax Commissioner: How to apply for a prestige tag

While driving around town, you may notice vehicle license plates that have personal words or clever phrases. Personalized license plates, also called prestige tags, are easier to get than you may think.

First, decide what word or phrase you want to display on the back of your vehicle. Prestige tags can contain up to seven characters (letters, numbers, or a combination of both) for private passenger vehicles weighing less than 14,000 pounds; motorcycle tags can have up to six characters.

Next, stop by one of the Gwinnett County tag offices to see if your choice of letters or numbers is available. If it is available, you can reserve and order it by completing a prestige tag application form, along with a \$25 manufacturing fee. Once you have a prestige tag, there is an additional \$25 special tag fee each year in addition to your normal renewal fees.

For more information, call the Motor Vehicles Customer Service at 770.822.8818 or via e-mail at tag@gwinnettcounty.com, or visit the Tax Commissioner's Web site at www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.

2005 Property Tax Payment Deadlines

Gwinnett County 2005 property tax bills were mailed in August. This will be the only bill taxpayers will receive; it included two payment coupons and two reply envelopes for both installment payments.

The first installment is due on October 15. The second installment is due November 15.

Installments not paid by the stated due dates will have a five percent penalty added to the installment amount. In addition, interest will begin to accrue at the rate of one percent per month beginning on November 16.

For assistance, taxpayers should call the Tax Commissioner's 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800, or e-mail the Property Tax Department at propertytax@gwinnettcounty.com.

Remembering Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes

In remembrance of September 11 and in honor and memory of the brave men and women who serve and protect this country, be sure to visit Gwinnett County's Fallen Heroes Memorial, located behind the parking lot of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The memorial honors Gwinnett residents who have died in the line of duty while working in public service.



Norcross Head Start program celebrates new school year

More than 250 parents and children attended the Norcross Head Start program's back-to-school celebration in August. The event featured face painting, snow cones, cotton candy, a moonwalk, clowns, and raffles and each child in attendance received a backpack filled with school supplies, including notebooks, crayons, pencils, and glue. Gwinnett County Government employees donated the school supplies during last year's Great Days of Service.

The Ninth District Opportunity Head Start and Pre-K programs at Norcross offer child-care and educational services for children

ages three to five. Children in the program participate in a variety of educational activities, eat healthy meals and snacks, and receive free medical and dental care.

Head Start has partnered with SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) Georgia to provide services for about 350 low-income children. Smart Start Georgia (the leading agency partner) was awarded \$4 million over five years by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to implement SPARK Georgia.

For more information, call 770.638.5840 or visit www.gwinnettnhsc.com.

Teen Read Week 2005 includes writing contest for students in grades six – 12

Teen Read Week 2005 is around the corner (October 16 – 22) and the Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) is gearing up for a big celebration. The theme is "Get Real at Your Library." Teen Read Week kicks off with a poetry and writing contest. Entrants may submit any style writing on any topic.

The contest is open to students in grades six – 12; entrants must own a GCPL card. (Don't have one? Just visit the closest GCPL branch for help – it's easy and free!) Entries must be 200 words or less and may be on any subject, in any style. It must be original. Each participant may submit up to two en-

tries. Entries must be typed or handwritten (neatly in ink) and turned in at any one of the library's 12 branches, or submitted on the library's Web site, www.gwinnettpl.org. Include the following originality statement at the end of each submission: "This will certify that the above work is completely original," followed by the entrant's full name.

Entries must be received at one of the GCPL branches or online on or before Thursday, September 22.

Visit your local GCPL branch for official contest rules and entry information.

Check it out!

Remembering September 11

The Gwinnett County Public Library will honor Gwinnett's heroes by having Gwinnett firefighters and law enforcement officers read to children at local library branches on September 11, so watch for reading times at your local branch. If you don't get a chance to hear one of the readings, be sure to check out some of these inspirational accounts of courage and heroism.



United We Stand, by Nancy Louis

Heroes at Home: Help and Hope for America's Military Families, by Ellie Kay

Dog Heroes: Saving Lives and Protecting America, by Jenni Bidner

America September 11: The Courage to Give, edited by Jackie Walman

Among the Heroes: The Story of United Flight 93 and the passengers and crew who fought back, by Jere Longman

Invisible Heroes: Survivors of Trauma and How They Heal, by Belleruth Naparstek

Helping Hands: A City and Nation Lend Their Support at Ground Zero, by Marylou Kjelle

Let's Roll: Finding Hope in the Midst of Crisis, by Lisa Beamer

Never Forget: An Oral History of September 11, 2001, by Mitchell Fink

A Call to Heroism: Renewing the American Vision of Greatness, by Peter Gibbon

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



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 or call 770.339.3200.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Seniors (ages 50 and up), show off your talent and become **Gwinnett's Senior Idol 2005!** Preliminary contests will be held at several locations throughout Gwinnett from September 1 – October 7. Preliminary winners will move on to the finals October 21 at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville. Competitions are not limited to singing and entries are open to both solo and group acts. Entry into the competition is free. Call 770.564.4680 for details about preliminary competitions.

Register for **Adult Winter Street Hockey** on September 8 at 7:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center in Lawrenceville. Registration is by team only, and the cost is \$650 per team. Fees are due at registration. Each team will play a 10-game season. Divisions include Men's Open and Women's Open. All games will be played at Pinckneyville Park in Norcross. For more information, call 770.822.5152 or 770.822.5149.

Don't miss the **Senior Day Trip to the Yellow Daisy Festival** at Stone Mountain Park on September 8. The festival features more than 450 booths. Call 770.564.4680 for additional information.

Ron Hipp, guitarist and singer/songwriter, will perform on September 9 at 8:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum in Lawrenceville for **Grounds 'n' Sounds**. Admission is \$5. Starbucks Coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. For more information or to receive *Java Jottings*, the monthly newsletter devoted to the museum's coffeehouse nights, call 770.822.5178.

The **Hudlow Junior 2005 Championships** will be held at Hudlow Tennis Center at Best Friend Park September 9 – 11. Tournament players must register at Hudlow Tennis Center in Norcross. This is a United States Tennis Association sanctioned event. For more information, call 770.417.2210.

There will be a **World War II Veterans Memorial Architectural Model** on display in the main lobby of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville in mid-September. After a couple of weeks at GJAC, it will be moved to the Gwinnett County Veterans Memorial Museum in the Historic Courthouse. For more information, contact Russell Gray at 678.407.4376.

Every little girl wants to be a princess! Prepare for the royal tea while having fun making crafts and enjoying music at the **Princess Camp and Tea** on September 16 at Bogan Park in Buford from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Call 770.614.2060 for details. (Ages 3-6)

Join us as we celebrate the **150th anniversary of the Lawrenceville Female Seminary** September 18 – 24. Enjoy music from some of the Southeast's most talented musicians, arts, crafts, and food. While you're there, take a tour the Gwinnett History Museum. For details, call 770.822.5178.

Registration for **Adult Winter Basketball** will be held at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center in Lawrenceville on September 22 at 7:00pm. Registration is by team only, and the cost is \$460 per team. Fees are due at registration. Each team will play a 10-game season. Divisions include Men's Open, Men's Industrial, and Women's Open. Games will be played at Bogan Park, Best Friend Park, and Rhodes Jordan Park. For more information, call 770.822.5152.

Registration for **Adult Winter Volleyball** will be held at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center in Lawrenceville on September 22 at 7:00pm. Registration is by team only, and the cost is \$225 fee per team. Fees are due at registration. Each team will play a 10-match season and an end-of-season tournament. Divisions include Coed, Intermediate, and Coed Advanced. All games will be played at Bogan Park, Best Friend Park, and Rhodes Jordan Park. Call 770.822.5149 for details.

Parents, take advantage of **Kid's Night Out** at Rhodes Jordan Park on September 22 from 5:30pm – 10:30pm. Let us entertain your kids (ages 5 – 11) with arts, games, and a hotdog dinner. The cost is \$10 per person and pre-registration is required. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

Caledonia Swing (formerly known as La Scotia Nostra), a Celtic and Scots-Irish artist, will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum for **Coffee-Ceilidh** (pronounced "kay-lee") on September 23. The doors will open at 8:00pm; the music starts at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5. Starbucks coffee, drinks, and desserts will be available for purchase. For more information or to request a copy of *Java Jottings*, call 770.822.5178.

Bring your blankets, chairs, and picnic dinners and enjoy the **Moonlight and Music Concert Series** on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on September 23 at 8:00pm. The concert will feature various styles of music, including blues, jazz, rock, folk, bluegrass, country, Motown, swing, and more! For additional information or to reserve a table for six, call 770.822.5450.

Hey girls, take advantage of the **G.I.R.L.S. (Gaining Insight and Real Life Skills) Leadership Development Program**. Sessions are scheduled for September 10, October 15, November 5, and January 7 at the Buford Human Service Center, and then February 4, March 4, April 22, and May 6 at the Centerville Community Center. This program prepares female youths, ages 10 – 19, to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities. The program includes interactive workshops, focusing on public speaking, drug and alcohol prevention, leadership skills, and community service projects. The cost is \$20 per workshop or \$125 for the entire program, which includes supplies, books, and refreshments. Call 404.545.9051 to register, or call the Buford Human Service Center at 770.614.2537 for more information.

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