



county Line

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Celebrate Valentine's Day by exchanging vows

Celebrate this Valentine's Day at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. Magistrate Court judges will perform Valentine's Day ceremonies for couples looking to renew their wedding vows or for those exchanging vows for the first time on Tuesday, February 14, from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

Renewing your wedding vows can be the perfect Valentine's Day gift for your spouse. If you are getting married for the first time, you will need a valid marriage license. Couples renewing their wedding vows do not need to bring a copy of their wedding license.

All services are free and available in English or Spanish. No appointment is necessary. Simply come to the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center between 9:00am and 5:30pm on Valentine's Day.

This is the 9th anniversary of this Valentine's Day tradition. Many couples have taken advantage of the services offered by the Magistrate Court.

For additional information, call Chief Magistrate Judge Warren Davis at 770.822.8081 or send an e-mail to warren.davis@gwinnettcountry.com.

Chairman's State of the County address featured on website, TVgwinnett

Chairman **Charles Bannister** gave the State of the County address during the annual joint meeting of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth last month.

Catch the speech on TVgwinnett – channel 23 on all cable systems in Gwinnett County – or as an on-demand video on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.

The program schedule for TVgwinnett and links for the video can be found at www.tvgwinnett.com.

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Around Gwinnett



Officials break ground on new Holcomb Bridge Park in Norcross

County officials gathered on January 24 to break ground for the new Holcomb Bridge Park in Norcross. Located along the Chattahoochee River at Holcomb Bridge Road, the site formerly housed the Pinckneyville Arts Center, which has relocated to the new Community Center building at Pinckneyville Park.

The County purchased a six-acre expansion parcel in 1998, bringing the total site to 11.63 acres. Chairman **Charles Bannister** said the project is "the first of several new or improved

parks that will open this year thanks to funding from the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."

"This will be an open space park that allows public use while preserving greenspace and protecting this section of the Chattahoochee River corridor," said District 2 Commissioner **Bert Nasuti**.

Improvements will include two river overlook structures, a mulch trail, a playground, picnic pavilion, restrooms, landscaping, and parking.



The open space park will help to preserve greenspace and protect the Chattahoochee River corridor.



Gwinnett Reads: To Kill a Mockingbird

The Gwinnett County Public Library has selected *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by **Harper Lee**, as the 2006 Gwinnett Reads title. Join thousands of your Gwinnett County neighbors in celebrating Lee's timeless classic. Anyone can participate in Gwinnett Reads: simply read the book and then attend a discussion or participate in a number of countywide Gwinnett Reads events. The mission of the Gwinnett Reads program is to engage adults in the joys of reading and generate a dialogue throughout Gwinnett County.

Set in a small Southern town in the 1930s, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a powerful commentary on racial injustice. Written in 1960, this Pulitzer Prize winning work is an undeniable classic that is cherished for its warmth, humor, and portrayal of quiet heroism. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is available at the Gwinnett County Public Library. To request a copy, visit any library branch or www.gwinnettpl.org.

If you are a member of a book club, take advantage of the book club kits offered by the Gwinnett County Public Library. Kits contain 10 copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, plus related study materials. Upon checkout, book clubs will be entered in a drawing for a chance to have tea and talk with **Mary Badham**, Academy Award® nominee for her portrayal of **Scout** in the 1962 film, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Gwinnett Reads Events

More on Mockingbird: Beyond Boo

Enjoy a lively presentation of the themes, context, and characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on February 28 at the Gwinnett University Center at 7:00pm.

A modern interpretation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Local students from Phoenix High School and State Court Judge Pam South will perform a dramatic reenactment of the novel's pivotal courtroom scene on March 3 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.

Scout Remembers

Mary Badham, Academy Award® nominee for her portrayal of Scout in the film adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, will share her experiences and memories of this powerful work at the Gwinnett University Center on March 4 at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$7, and light refreshments will be served beginning at 7:30pm.

New London Theatre Presentation

Actors from New London Theatre will perform selected scenes from the novel: March 7, Lawrenceville Branch; March 16, Peachtree Corners Branch (both performances will be at 4:00pm); March 18, Buford Branch at 2:00pm.

Mockingbird Book Chat

Meet for coffee and discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird*: March 8 at 7:00pm at Starbucks, 4825 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville, and March 15 at 7:00pm at Starbucks, 4615 Highway 78 in Lilburn.



Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Tag renewal bill

The Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles normally mails tag renewal bills to vehicle owners six to eight weeks before the tag renewal deadline. For privately owned vehicles, the renewal deadline is the birthday of the first person listed on the title. Occasionally, the owner does not receive the tag renewal bill and there could be a number of reasons for not receiving the bill: the mailing address on file with the Department of Motor Vehicles may be incorrect or the tag bill may be lost in the mail.

If you do not receive your tag bill, you can do one of two things:

- Call the automated Motor Vehicles Customer Service line, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 770.822.8818; follow the prompts to request a duplicate bill
- Requesting a duplicate renewal notice by sending an e-mail to tag@gwinnettcountry.com; be sure to include the vehicle's tag number in the body of the e-mail

Remember, it is the owner's responsibility to renew the tag before the vehicle's renewal deadline. Late penalties are assessed after the deadline, even if the tag bill was not received. So, if the deadline is approaching and you have not received a tag bill, contact the Tax Commissioner's Office using one of the methods described above to request a duplicate bill.

Community center hosts Parents' Night Out

Attention parents! The staff at the Centerville Community Center has a special treat planned for you. On February 10, from 6:00pm – 11:00pm, the Educational Arts Programs of America, Inc., will provide childcare at the center to give parents the chance to celebrate Valentine's Day alone.

There are many activities planned for the children and the cost is \$10 per child. A completed emergency contact information packet is required. There is a limited amount of space and children will be taken on a first-come, first-paid basis.

The Centerville Community Center works with local organizations to offer area residents beneficial opportunities. The facility contains meeting rooms, a catering kitchen, and a portable stage to accommodate a variety of community events at the center. Call the Centerville Community Center at 770.985.4713 for more information.

New property tax homestead exemption filing period

A recent change in Georgia law resulted in a change in the homestead exemption application-filing period for property owners.

For a 2006 exemption, taxpayers must file a homestead application by March 1, 2006.

Property owners who already receive an exemption and who had no ownership changes to their deed do not need to reapply.

Gwinnett County also collects property taxes for the cities of Berkeley Lake, Dacula, Grayson, Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Snellville,

and Sugar Hill. Property owners residing inside these cities' limits and who apply for a county exemption will also receive applicable city exemptions to which they may be entitled.

For more information regarding available exemptions, visit www.gwinnett-tax.com or contact the Department of Property Tax at 770.822.8800.

Mobile home tax payment deadline: May 1, 2006

Mobile home tax bills were mailed by January 15, 2006, and the payment deadline is May 1, 2006. For additional information regarding mobile home taxes, call the 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800 or send an e-mail to tax@gwinnettcountry.com.

CPR Classes

Take advantage of free CPR classes offered by the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services

February 10 and February 11
8:30am – 4:30pm
Fire Headquarters

Call the Programs and Services Section at 678.518.4850 to register

Check it out!

Gwinnett County Public Library now offers even more downloadable audio titles! Download eAudio books from the convenience of your home or office computer, burn the books to a CD, or transfer the files to a portable audio device such as an MP3 player. Listed here are just a few of the popular titles in this exciting new collection!

Lost Light, by Michael Connelly

Cold Fire, by Dean Koontz

The First Law, by John LesCroart

Bait, by Karen Robards

VocabuLearn Spanish Word Booster, edited by Penton Overseas, Inc.

The Jane Austen Book Club, by Karen Joy Fowler and Kimberly Schraf

Firehouse, by David Halberstam

The Good Wife, by Stewart O'Nan

Abduction, by Robin Cook

Summer in Tuscany, by Elizabeth Adler

Leadership A – Z, by James O'Toole

Prince Caspian: The Chronicles of Namia, by C.S. Lewis

Riptide, by Catherine Coulter

Behind the Lines, by W.E.B. Griffin

Beyond the Blonde, by Kathleen Flynn-Hui

The Lean Body Promise, by Lee Labrada

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



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.

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





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Pack a bathing suit and towel and gear up for a night of fun and games at **Kids Night Out** (ages 6 – 10) at Bogan Community Center on February 10 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. Kids must be on time in order to swim. Dinner will be served after swimming, so parents, be sure to give your child a light snack before dropping them off. The cost is \$10 per person, and pre-registration is required. For additional information, call 770.614.2060.

Daddy, take your little sweetheart out for a special night at the **Daddy and Daughter Valentine Dance** on February 10 at 7:00pm at the Pinckneyville Community Center. Pre-registration is required by February 3, and the cost is \$20 for one parent and one child and \$5 for each additional person. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Don't miss the **Daddy and Daughter Valentine Dance** at Rhodes Jordan Park on February 11 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Enjoy dancing and desserts and receive a complimentary photo. Pre-registration is required by February 4, and the cost is \$20 for one parent and one child and \$5 for each additional person. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Enjoy dancing and light refreshments at the **Senior Valentine Dance** (age 50 and up) on February 11 at 7:00pm. Pre-registration is required by February 4, and the cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.814.4914.

Spring **Special Needs Baseball** registration for Bay Creek Park in Grayson will be held

on February 11. For registration time and location, call Michael Kohler at 678.377.9629.

Lace up your running shoes and **Run the Reagan** on Saturday, February 18, 2006. Competition will be held in the half marathon, 10K, and 5K distances. There will also be a mile fun run. Online registration is available until midnight on February 15 at www.active.com. Walk-in registration and race packet pick-up will be held from February 1 – February 16 at Fleet Feet Sports in Atlanta or Duluth, Big Peach Running in Brookhaven, and Phidippides in Sandy Springs or Atlanta/Ansley Mall. For more information, call Skip Breeser at 770.518.8002 or e-mail your questions to runthereagan@hotmail.com.

The Department of Public Utilities will hold a **public meeting** to provide background information on the new stormwater utility fee on February 22 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. The meeting will be at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. For more information, contact David Chastant at 678.376.6700 or e-mail your questions to swservice@gwinnettcountry.com.

Gwinnett County, in conjunction with the Clean Water Campaign and Gwinnett Environmental Health, is hosting a free **septic tank maintenance workshop** on February 23 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Topics will include common causes of system failure, maintenance for longevity and savings, and more. Register online at www.cleanwatercampaign.com or call 678.376.6976.

Party down at the **Family Barn Dance** on February 26 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. The barn dance is a traditional family/intergenerational dance sponsored by the CCD (Chattahoochee Country Dancers) and the Centerville Community Center. Dances include a caller and live fiddle and banjo music. The dance is free, but pre-registration is required. Call 770.985.4713.

The Pinckneyville Community Center is presenting the following free art exhibits:

Paintings by Barb Lincoln and LaTrecia Rafferty and **Quilts, by Anne Bassett** will be displayed at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville through March 1.

Shadows and Light, photography by Jay Kuhr will be displayed at the Centerville Community Center in Snellville through March 30.

Exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Call 770.417.2200.

Sign up now to receive your free issues of **Gwinnett L.I.F.E.™**

In the past, citizens have received *Gwinnett L.I.F.E.™* in the mail on a quarterly basis to every residential address in Gwinnett County. Due to population growth over the years, the quantities that are mailed out for each issue have increased.

In order to save money, *Gwinnett L.I.F.E.™* will now be published three times per year

and mailed out by request only through a subscription mailing list.

If you would like to continue to receive your free issues of *Gwinnett L.I.F.E.™* by mail, let us know by logging on to www.gwinnettlife.org.

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