

county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

july 2006 v14, n7



Become part of the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute

How would you like to improve your leadership skills? Meet local leaders? Learn about community resources?

The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI) is an eight-month leadership training experience designed to build grassroots leaders from throughout Gwinnett County. Starting in the fall, the GNLI will hold training sessions one Saturday each month in which participants will meet leaders and learn about local current events.

Training Session topics include:

- Community and Communications
- Media Relations
- Growth
- Education
- Government
- Crime Prevention
- Human and Social Services/ Health Issues

Participants will also work in groups to develop a service project that they

plan and complete as part of the experience.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, become more involved in your community, and build your own leadership experience.

Go to <http://www.gnli.org> to learn more about GNLI and download an application, or call 678.377.4137 for more details. The application deadline is July 15, 2006.

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Around Gwinnett



Department of Fire and Emergency Services encourages water safety



Water-related deaths and injuries are the subject of a new education campaign from Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services.

Swimming and boating seasons are in full swing, and the campaign goal is to reduce the number of water-related emergencies such as near drownings. Fire and Emergency Services responded to 22 near drowning incidents in Gwinnett in 2005, down from 31 in 2004.

Safety tips include learning how to swim, supervising children in and around water, and getting trained in CPR, first aid, and use of Automated External Defibrillators.

Knowing how to swim is an important part of water safety, but it's not enough. More than 7,000 people drown in the U.S. each year, including more than 1,200 children. Many of these water-related deaths could have been prevented. In addition to lakes and swimming pools, deaths have occurred in wading pools, hot tubs, bathtubs, and even buckets. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services offers training in important lifesaving skills such as CPR, first aid, and use of Automated External Defibrillators. Also, adults are encouraged to keep a close eye on

children in and around water – even if those children know how to swim. A designated caregiver should be in the water with small children. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

Emergency phone numbers and life-saving equipment should be posted in designated swimming areas. Everyone should follow posted rules and directions given by lifeguards. Boating safety laws require life preservers for everyone on board and place certain restrictions on boat operation. Leaving room between yourself and others can help avoid accidents at pools, beaches, water parks, and lakes.



Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Disabled person license plates

If you are permanently disabled or handicapped, you may be eligible for a disabled person license plate for your vehicle, which would allow you to park your vehicle in special parking spaces designated for handicapped persons.

Disabled person tags can be issued to you or individuals living with you such as a spouse, parent, or guardian if you jointly own a vehicle with another individual, even if that individual is not disabled. You must apply for disabled person tags in the county in which you reside, and the special tags must be issued to a person; they cannot be issued to a business.

To apply for a disabled person tag, have your medical practitioner complete a *Disabled Person's Parking Affidavit* (Georgia Department of Revenue Form MV-9D). The completed form must be notarized. MV-9D forms are available at your local branch tag office or you can download the form from at www.motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms.

Once you are deemed eligible for a disabled person tag, you can have it renewed each year without having to complete a new form. For more information, visit www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com, call 770.822.8818, or send an e-mail to tag@gwinnettcounty.com.

2007 Property Tax Homestead Filing Period

Property owners may file for a 2007 homestead exemption through March 1, 2007. Homestead exemptions can offer tax savings to property owners who own and occupy a property as of January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is filed.

For more information about available exemptions, call 770.822.8800 or e-mail your questions to propertytax@gwinnettcounty.com.

2006 Property Tax Bills to be Mailed in August

Gwinnett County 2006 property tax bills will be mailed in August 2006 with two payment coupons and two reply envelopes for both installment payments. First installments are due by October 15, 2006. The second installment is due November 15, 2006.

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, send an e-mail to propertytax@gwinnettcounty.com or call 770.822.8800.



Silent auction benefits Gwinnett's seniors

Tickets are selling fast for the fourth annual silent auction benefitting Gwinnett's senior citizens. The theme for this year's auction is *An Evening in Emerald City* and the event will be held on August 10 from 6:00pm – 8:30pm at Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett.

The silent auction is hosted by Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS). FOGCSS is a non-profit organization that privately supports Gwinnett Senior Services programs. It is open to the public and all funds raised will go directly to support Gwinnett County Senior Services programs.

"The silent auction raises much-needed funds for Gwinnett's growing senior population," said Celia Moore, Resource and Marketing Coordinator for Gwinnett County Health and Human Services. "All funds raised will go directly to Gwinnett Senior Services. Programs, including Meals on Wheels and the senior emergency fund, are vital in making it possible for seniors to live longer in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes."

The evening will feature live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, large selection of silent auction items, door prizes, and new to this year's event – a live auction. Auction item categories include travel, jewelry, sports, fine art, specialty services, dining, apparel, home decor, and electronics.



Auction items include jewelry, sports gear, dining gift certificates, fine art, and more.

Tickets are \$10 if purchased in advance or \$15 at the door. To purchase advanced tickets or for more information, call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775 or visit www.fogcss.org.

You can be a part of making the silent auction a success for Gwinnett seniors. Get involved by donating an item, becoming a sponsor, or volunteering your time and talents. All donations are tax deductible.



Gwinnett County makes pandemic flu preparations

If you've been following news stories about avian influenza, commonly known as "bird flu," you know that the concern is that the flu could mutate into a deadly new human virus that would spread rapidly through the world's population. County officials and agencies are preparing for the disruption that such a global outbreak, called a pandemic, would almost certainly produce.

Predictions include massive absenteeism – as much as a quarter of the workforce out for three to four months – as people tend to the sick or are sick themselves. Doctors, hospitals, and the pharmaceutical manufacturers would be overwhelmed. Some business and govern-

ment operations would have to shut down. Individuals would need to be quarantined. Travel and public gatherings could be restricted or curtailed. Even our food supply could be disrupted.

Gwinnett's public health and emergency response officials held a planning summit last May to make plans, coordinate preparations, and help inform local businesses, charitable agencies, and local residents about the potential threat of a flu pandemic.

Dr. Lloyd Hofer reviewed the medical aspects of the situation, noting that the World

Health Organization established six threat levels for pandemic flu. We are currently at level three.

Frank Daniell, of Gwinnett Emergency Management Agency outlined plans for a comprehensive planning coordination group with representatives from government, business, healthcare, schools, media, and civic/non-profit/faith-based agencies, and previewed an upcoming training exercise.

Next month, we'll take a closer look at medical aspects of the flu with steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Parks and Recreation celebrates two grand openings in July

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will celebrate the grand openings of the Lenora Park Pool and Yellow River Park on July 1.

The new, outdoor leisure pool at Lenora Park in Snellville will open at 11:45am with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Everyone will enjoy free admission to the pool all day long! Door prizes will be given out every hour between 1:00pm – 5:00pm. The pool will stay open until 6:00pm.

The Grand Reopening of Yellow River Park will showcase improvements and refurbished trails at the park in Stone Mountain. Activities begin at 8:00am and include an early-bird ride for mountain bikers, an equestrian trail ride, trail safety demo, bicycling clinic, and a ribbon cutting ceremony. Activities are free and open to the public. Food concessions will be available for sale beginning at noon.

Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Check it out!

Relive your favorite classic stories from the past or enjoy them for the first time this summer.

All the King's Men, by Robert Penn Warren

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, by Carson McCullers

The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck

Sense and Sensibility, by Jane Austen

The Color Purple, by Alice Walker

Lonesome Dove, by Larry McMurtry

The Foundation Series, by Isaac Asimov

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

Crime and Punishment, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane

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



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 pictures of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, visit www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com. For more information, stop by the shelter, or call 770.339.3200.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Browse a wide-range of arts and crafts and take a look at the classes and programs offered through Parks and Recreation at the **Mountain Park Showcase and Craft Fair** on July 8 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Admission is free and open to all ages. Mountain Park Park is located in the Stone Mountain area. Call 770.564.3060 for more information.

Learn the basics to one of the fastest growing outdoor activities – **Geocaching** – at Little Mulberry Park in Auburn on July 8 from noon – 2:00pm. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$15 per person. Open to all ages. Call 770.822.5404.

Come out to McDaniel Farm Park in Duluth for a **Marble Tournament** on July 8 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Entry is free and open to all ages; awards will be given to top players. Call 770.814.4920.

Enjoy a free, family-friendly performance on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville. The next concert in the **Brown Bag Concert Series** will be held on July 14 at 11:00am. Bring a brown bag or picnic lunch and enjoy the **Bugaboos**, a five-piece performance group featuring great fun for the kids! Lunch can also be purchased from area restaurants. Call 770.822.5450.

The **Pizza and Puzzle Family Event** at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross on July 14 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm is great family fun! Each family will be given a puzzle and the first to complete it wins. Pizza will be served. Pre-register by July 6; the cost is \$15 for a family of four and \$2 for each additional person age four and up. Call 770.417.2200.

Debra Peterson will perform at the Gwinnett Historic Museum as part of the **Coffeehouse Nights** on July 14. The 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 in downtown Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*, or for more information about Coffeehouse Nights.

Seniors, don't miss **Pizza and Game Night** on July 17 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Senior Center in Lawrenceville. Make new friends while playing games and enjoying pizza and refreshments. The cost is \$5 per person. Call ahead to reserve a spot. Call 770.564.4680.

Enjoy an old-fashioned hot dog roast in the park with your family. The **Old Fashion Family Picnic** will be from 11:00am – 2:00pm on July 22 at Bogan Park and will feature games, food, face painting, ice cream sundaes, and more! Bring your beach blankets. The cost is \$15 for a family of four and \$3 for each additional person. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Enjoy music under the stars on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in historic downtown Lawrenceville at the **Moonlight and Music Concert** on July 28. The Soul Purpose Band will perform beginning at 8:00pm. Concertgoers can bring a picnic or dine at one of the restaurants on the Square. For more information on performers and table reservations, visit www.visitlawrenceville.com or call 770.822.5450.

Sign up now for the **Gwinnett Corporate Challenge**! The deadline for entry is July 31. The Lloyd-Bennett Gwinnett Corporate Challenge brings together business leaders for two weeks of sports competition to raise funds for youth recreation scholarships. The seventh annual event will be held September 10 – 22, 2006. In 2005, teams competed in 13 activities, including horseshoes, putt-putt, golf, kickball, a trivia game night, rock climbing, a 5K run, bowling, round-robin tennis, table shuffleboard, billiards, laser tag, and sand volleyball. Businesses can get involved as sponsors or by signing up a team or several teams. The entry fee is \$1,000 for companies with more than 100 employees and \$600 for companies with fewer than 100 employees. Call 770.822.8813 or send an e-mail to kim.joens@gwinnettcounty.com for more information or to sign up.

The Pinckneyville Community Center sponsors **art exhibits** at the following locations: **Pedestals: Paintings by Tanya Kent and Pedes-**

tals: Tangled Thread Doll Club will be on display at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross through July 27.

Joy of Color will be on display at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse through August 24.

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

Are you the most awesome artist in Gwinnett? Submit your artwork in the **Awesome Artist Contest** in one of two categories: three-dimensional art or drawing/painting. The contest is open for those ages 4 – 18. (One entry per person.) Winners will be awarded cash prizes. Deadline for entry into the contest is August 23. All work will be on display during the Pinckneyville Community Center Expo on August 26. Call 770.417.2200 for more information and an entry form.

Take a look at **Gwinnett LIFE** magazine at www.gwinnettparks.com for a complete listing of classes and programs, or pick up a brochure at your local library, park facilities, the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau, or GJAC. Call 770.822.8840.

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