



county Line

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Summer camps provide fun, learning for all ages

Challenge yourself to an adventure this summer at one of Gwinnett Parks and Recreation's summer day camps.

Camp opportunities are available for children ages 4 – 16. From the Knee-High camps to the Teen Exploration camps, activities include games, arts and crafts, swimming, inline skating, young aviators, dance, and much more. Also, special games and events are planned throughout the summer.

Have fun and learn something new while "Challenging Yourself to Adventures" at one of the day camps.



Camp opportunities are available for children ages 4 – 16. One of the more popular camps is the swimming camp.

Camps are located throughout Gwinnett County. For more information, visit www.gwinnettparks.com or call 770.822.8840.

Additional information and camp registration forms are available on-line at www.gwinnettcounty.com under *Departments > Parks and Recreation > Summer Camps*.

It may seem too early to be thinking about summer camp, but spring is as good as here and school will be out before you know it. Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities! Summer camps and activities are available for children ages 4 – 16.

Challenge Yourself to Adventures!

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Around Gwinnett



Gwinnett County drug court celebrates first anniversary

The Gwinnett County drug court recently celebrated its one-year anniversary! The first participant was accepted into drug court on January 7, 2005, and the program has since grown to more than 40 participants.

The drug court offers convicted felons a defined path away from drug use. The program lasts a minimum of 18 months, or longer for some participants, depending on the individual's progress. It is a rigorous program led by a team that includes a defense attorney, prosecutor, probation officer, drug court case manager,

law enforcement representative, and Superior Court Judge **Billy Ray**.

Like more than 1,600 drug courts nationwide, Gwinnett County's program combines intensive supervision and the threat of jail time with long-term treatment and the demands of a more conventional lifestyle. The drug court offers a structured program of baby steps towards a new life, but it helps only those who help themselves.

Each participant is expected to participate in court appearances, treatment, counseling, therapy, work,

12-step meetings, sessions with probation officers, and more. Each drug court participant is given a pocket-sized calendar to help keep up with the commitments. The calendar also serves to symbolize that they are now taking charge of their own lives; it eliminates the "I forgot" excuse and elevates them into the world of people who have appointments to keep and things to accomplish.

"It's a new way of thinking for most of them," said **Jeff West**, Drug Court Coordinator. *"Part of the busy sched-*

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Renew vehicle registration at new, reduced fee

Effective January 9, 2006, the credit card transaction fee to renew vehicle registrations on the Internet was reduced by 57 percent, from \$4.70 to just \$2.00, for residents who live in Gwinnett County. Residents may now renew from one to 50 vehicles, simultaneously, for the \$2.00 fee.

At the request of **Katherine Sherrington**, the Board of Commissioners approved the funding of \$2.70 per transaction in order to reduce the burden on citizens that renew via the Internet. Gwinnett County vehicle tag operations have increased significantly every year, reaching 592,260 active registrations in 2005 – more than any other county in Georgia.

To renew your vehicle via the Internet, visit www.tagrenewals.com. For more information, call customer service at 770.822.8818 or send an e-mail to tag@gwinnettcountry.com.

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com

Seniors benefit from community partnerships

Gwinnett County Senior Services recently presented a certificate of appreciation to Ricoh Electronics, Inc. and its employees for fulfilling the wish lists of 173 senior citizens in Gwinnett County.

The company first got involved with Senior Services in 2004 by adopting individuals living in a housing complex. Since then, Ricoh Electronics, Inc. has provided dinners to a number of needy seniors in the community and has established a dedicated partnership with the Lawrenceville Senior Center. Also, for the second year, Ricoh employees adopted several of the center's clients and fulfilled their wish lists.

More than 25 companies, churches, and civic groups have partnered with Gwinnett Senior Services, but Volunteer Services Coordinator **Gary Galloway** said that more help is always needed. "Our program is always looking for partnerships with individuals and companies like Ricoh Electronics, Inc.," said Galloway. "I know our seniors are always appreciative of the assistance and care from the community."

For additional information on how you can help, call Galloway at 770.822.8837. If you would like to make a donation, call the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS) at 770.822.8775.

Celebrate! Celebre! Celebrer!

The Gwinnett County Public Library and Dromedary presents **Celebrate! Celebre! Celebrer! Celebrations Around the World**. Dromedary is a musical and educational experience that blends traditional music from Latin America, North Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. This family program explores how people the world over use music to celebrate important events from celebrations to festivals.

Monday, March 20 at 7:00pm – Lawrenceville Branch
Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00pm – Five Forks Branch
Thursday, March 23 at 7:00pm – Collins Hill Branch

For more information about the event, visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154.

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 customer service at 770.822.8800 or send an e-mail to tax@gwinnettcountry.com.



Celebrate the grand re-opening of Lion's Club Park



Activities include moonwalks, giant slides, and more! You will also enjoy watching the baseball and softball games planned for the day.

You are invited to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Lion's Club Park in Lilburn on Saturday, March 25 from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Bring the family and join in the fun festivities, which include moonwalks, giant slides, face painting, temporary tattoos, a fun flag football game for kids, plus some of your favorite mascots. Also, come out and enjoy the baseball and softball games that will be taking place throughout the day. Food concessions will be available for sale.

Lion's Club Park is located at 5500 Rockbridge Circle in Lilburn. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

National County Government Day 2006

What: Open House

When: Saturday, April 29, 2006
11:00am – 2:00pm

Where: Dacula Activity Building
2735 Old Auburn Road
Dacula, GA 30019

Gwinnett County will hold its annual National County Government Day Open House at the new Dacula Activity Building this year. Expect to find all of the same great information and free kids' activities, which will

include inflatables, pony rides, face painting, and more! Free refreshments will be available while supplies last.

County departments will set up informational displays set up and representatives from each department will be on hand to answer any questions.

The Dacula Activity Building is located at 2375 Old Auburn Road, adjacent to Dacula Park.

For more information about National County Government Day, call 770.822.7135.

Give the gift of life!

The American Red Cross is holding a two-day blood drive at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in March! Walk-ins are welcome, or you can call **Dee Roberts** at 770.822.7923 to make an appointment.

Tuesday, March 21, 2006
10:00am – 4:00pm

Wednesday, March 22
9:00am – 3:00pm

Drug court

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ule is meant to foster improved habits. Another is to complete four phases of treatment, get a job and the like. But it is also to diminish idle time when there's nothing to do but drugs."

Program representatives look forward to graduating the first class – five participants – in August 2006.

For more information,
visit treatmentcourt.com
or call 770.822.8558 / 770.822.8589

Check it out!

The selection for Gwinnett Reads 2006 is Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The Gwinnett County Public Library has several activities planned as part of Gwinnett Reads, including book chats, theatrical interpretations of the book, and a re-enactment of the book's pivotal courtroom scene by students at Phoenix High School and State Court Judge Pam South. For more information about Gwinnett Reads, visit your local branch of the GCPL.

In the spirit of Gwinnett Reads, you may want to enjoy another one of these great southern fiction novels available at the library:

My South: A collection of spoken-word poems based on the works of Robert St. John, edited by Bryan Curtis

The Same Sweet Girls, by Cassandra King

Never Call Retreat: Lee and Grant: The Final Victory #3, by Newt Gingrich

Gods in Alabama, by Joshilyn Jackson

The Pleasure Was Mine, by Tommy Hays

Where The River Runs, by Patti Callahan Henry

The Woodsman's Daughter, by Gwyn Hyman Rubio

Novel, by George Singleton

Forests of the Night, by James W. Hall

New Stories from the South: The Year's Best 2005, edited by Shannon Ravenel

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, stop by the shelter, or call 770.339.3200.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Lace up your running shoes for the **Tribble Trot 5K** on Saturday, April 8, at 7:30am. Run a paved course through the wooded terrain of Tribble Mill Park. The registration fee is \$15 and includes a t-shirt. Medals will be awarded to the top three runners in several categories. Call 770.822.5404 for more information.

Enjoy a **free reception for a new art exhibit** at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on March 9 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Meet the artist, Sallie Reinsel, and view her art exhibit now on display at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville. Light refreshments will be served. Both the reception and the exhibit are free and open to the public. The exhibit will be on display through May 25. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

Parents, enjoy a night out and drop the kids at **Kids Night Out!** Kids will be entertained with puzzles, games, a movie, and hotdog dinner at Shorty Howell Park on March 10 from 5:30pm – 10:30pm. Pre-registration is required by March 3. The cost is \$10 for one child and \$5 for each additional child. Call 770.814.4914 for more information.

Claude Diamond will perform at the Gwinnett Historic Museum as part of the Coffeehouse Nights, **Grounds 'n' Sounds**, on March 10. Doors open at 8:00pm and the music starts at 8:30pm. The cost of admission is \$5, and Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. For more information or to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*, call 770.822.5178.

Don't miss **SK8 Fest**, an exciting day of skating demonstrations and competitions, on March 11 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at Pinckneyville Park Skate Complex. Show off your skills and receive great prizes! Sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Hooked Teen Volunteer Club. SK8 Fest is free and open to all ages. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Learn and explore on the **Fossils of Georgia** trip on March 15 (ages 8 and up). Take home the fossils you find! Children must be accompanied by a paying adult. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 and the fee includes

transportation and instructor. A trip packet will be mailed upon receipt of registration. Sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation's Outdoor Interpretive Program. The van will leave from 2723 North Bogan Road in Buford. Call 770.822.5404 for more information.

Have a blast at **Kids Night Out** on March 17 from 5:30pm – 10:30pm at the Rhodes Jordan Community Center. Activities will include games, a hotdog supper, dancing, and a magic show by a leprechaun! Ages 5 – 11; the cost is \$10 per person. Pre-registration required by March 15. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Mothers and sons (ages 6 – 12): pack your bedroll and roll on over to the gymnasium at Bogan Park for a night of scavenger hunts, flashlight tag, and a cookout at the **Mother/Son Camp-In** on March 17 from 7:00pm – 7:00am. REI Stores in Atlanta will provide tents. The cost is \$15 per person for one adult and one child and \$5 for each additional person. Call 770.614.2060 for additional information.

Youth cheerleading and football registration will be held on March 18 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the following locations for the listed youth athletic associations: Brookwood High School, Brookwood; Cemetery Field, Norcross; Collins Hill High School, Collins Hill; Dacula High School, Dacula; Grayson High School, Grayson; Lenora Park Concession Stand, Shiloh; Mill Creek High School, Mill Creek; Mountain Park Depot, Mountain Park; North Gwinnett High School, North Gwinnett; Peachtree Ridge High, Peachtree Ridge; Shorty Howell Activity Building, Duluth; Winn Holt Elementary School, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Keltic Kudzu will perform at **Coffee Ceilidh** (pronounced "kay-lee") at the Gwinnett History Museum in Lawrenceville on March 24. Doors open at 8:00pm and music starts at 8:30pm. Admission is \$5 and Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Call 770.822.5178 for more information.

There will be a countywide **Track and Field Meet** for children ages 7 – 14 on March 25 beginning at 9:00am at Central Gwinnett High School. Each participant can compete in up to three events. Running events include 50-, 100-, 200-, 400-, 800-, and 1600-meter races. Field events include running long jump, standing long jump, softball throw, and shot put. Winners will advance to GRPA district and state meets. The registration deadline is March 15. Age verification is required at registration. Call 770.564.3060 to register or for more information.

The Pinckneyville Community Center is presenting the following free art exhibits: **Paintings, by Sallie Reinsel** will be displayed at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse through May 25.

Portraits and Paintings, by Ernest Varner will be displayed at Pinckneyville Community Center through April 27.

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

countyline

Editor
Heather W. Sawyer

Writing, Layout and Design
Kinsey Snell

Art Direction
Shannon E. Coffey

Gwinnett County
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770.822.7035
www.gwinnettcounty.com

Call editor **Heather Sawyer** at **770.822.7035** with your newsletter articles and suggestions or e-mail heather.sawyer@gwinnettcounty.com. Please remember that information may not be printed in its entirety due to space constraints. The County Line can be read online at www.gwinnettcounty.com