



# county Line

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## SPLOST: Sugarloaf Parkway extension gets underway

your pennies at work



Gwinnett officials gathered on November 27 to break ground on the extension of Sugarloaf Parkway from State Route 20 south of Lawrenceville to a new interchange to be built at New Hope Road. The Board of Commissioners awarded the construction contract for the project only two years after they awarded the design contract that kicked off the engineering and land acquisition associated with this project.



Officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Grayson Highway/Sugarloaf Parkway intersection on November 27.

*"We're excited to get this much-needed congestion relief project under construction,"* said District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau**. *"Our constituents have tasked us to do something about traffic and this is a huge step in answering that mandate."*

ject. The work is scheduled to take 30 months. Construction will begin by upgrading the intersection with State Route 20 where Sugarloaf Parkway currently ends, providing new turn lanes at the intersection. A bridge will carry Sugarloaf traffic

E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., was the lowest of six bidders at about \$23.5 million for the 2.7-mile pro-

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Around Gwinnett



## Fire safety for the holidays



Each year in the United States, fires during the holiday season injure hundreds of people and cause over \$500 million in direct property loss. According to Gwinnett County firefighters, there are simple lifesaving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday.

*"During the holidays the fire load inside a home increases,"* said Lt. **Thomas Rutledge**, spokesman for the Gwinnett Fire Department. A live tree can fill your home with the scent of fresh pine and illuminating beauty but it can also pose a fire hazard if not properly maintained. Firefighters suggest selecting a fresh, green tree. The needles should bend

but not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. The trunk will be sticky from the sap. When choosing a live tree, bounce the trunk on the ground. If a considerable number of needles fall off, the tree could be a fire hazard.

After you have selected the perfect tree and brought it home, remember to care for the tree to keep it fresh. Never place the tree near a heat source and avoid placing the tree under or near a heat vent. Doing so will cause the tree to dry out faster. Keep the tree stand filled with plenty of water. A real Christmas tree should not be up for more than two weeks. If you're using an

artificial tree, choose one that is flame retardant and approved by an independent testing laboratory.

Select flame retardant ornaments and lights approved by an independent testing laboratory. Do not link more than three light strands together and inspect them for damages. Periodically check wires and outlet covers. They should not be warm or hot to the touch.

Candles should be snuffed out and Christmas lights turned off whenever you leave home. Never place a lit candle near a window or close

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# Advice from the Tax Commissioner

## Reminder: Computer system maintenance

The State of Georgia will shut down the vehicle registration system on Sunday, December 9, 2007, from 11:00am to 5:00pm while computer system maintenance is performed. Customers will not be able to renew their tags over the Internet.

Visit [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com), call 770.822.8818, or send an e-mail to [tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com) for more information.

### Motor Vehicle Tag Office Holiday Operating Hours

Monday, December 24, 2007	All tag offices closed
Tuesday, December 25, 2007	All tag offices closed
Wednesday, December 26, 2007	All offices ( <b>except North Gwinnett</b> ) open
Tuesday, January 1, 2008	All tag offices closed

The Lawrenceville, Norcross, Peachtree Corners, and Snellville tag offices are open 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The North Gwinnett tag office is open 8:30am – 5:00pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00am – 4:00pm Saturdays, excluding holidays.



## Pipeline to lake moves closer

Gwinnett's long-term plan to return treated wastewater to Lake Lanier took another step last month when commissioners approved a contract to build the remaining 5.1 underground miles of a 72-inch diameter pipeline. Low bidder John D. Stephens, Inc., got the \$26 million, 18-month job. Construction will begin soon after the first of the year.

The new line, to be built almost entirely under roadways, will carry highly cleaned and disinfected wastewater from the F. Wayne Hill treatment plant approximately 8.4 miles to a discharge point deep within the lake. The new line is expected to return up to 40 million gallons per day.

*"By returning our water to its source, we'll be helping folks downstream along the Chattahoochee instead of sending it the other way to the Atlantic Ocean,"* said Board Chairman **Charles Bannister**.

## Out-of-area emission extensions

Gwinnett County residents can apply for out-of-area emission extensions at any Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner tag office. You may qualify for an extension if you (or a family member) and your vehicle are temporarily located outside of the 13-county emission testing area because of school, military, or business obligations. To apply, each applicant must submit:

- An *Out-of-Area Emission Extension Application* form (available at Gwinnett County tag offices or [cleanairforce.com](http://cleanairforce.com))
- Copy of vehicle renewal notice, Georgia registration or title
- Proof of vehicle location (vehicle identification number [VIN] or license plate number and the make, model, and year of the vehicle) and proof of assignment
- All documentation must be dated no more than 60 days prior to the date of the application

Documentation proving that the vehicle is located outside the metro Atlanta area and that the driver is located out of the area is required. Acceptable examples of both types of documentation are listed below.

Type	Acceptable proof of vehicle location	Acceptable proof of assignment
Student	Vehicle emission/safety inspection report, parking receipts, repair receipts, or affidavit campus police	Copy of student transcript, school registration, or tuition bill
Military	Affidavit from military police, vehicle emission/safety inspection reports, or vehicle repair receipts	Copy of military orders and copy of current military identification card
Business	Vehicle emission/safety inspection, parking receipt, repair receipt, or affidavit from local police	Letter from supervisor or Human Resources office on corporate letterhead, including contact information

For more information, visit the Georgia Clean Air Force website at [cleanairforce.com](http://cleanairforce.com) or contact the Motor Vehicle Customer Service Center at [tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8818.

## Fire safety, *cont'd from page 1*

to anything that could catch on fire. Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Finally, as in every season, have a working smoke detector on every level of your home, test them weekly, and change the batteries twice a year. Develop a home escape plan and practice fire drills with the whole family.



## The Gwinnett Force debuts on TVgwinnett

The *Gwinnett Force* is a new program on TVgwinnett that provides valuable information to citizens about how they can get help on domestic violence issues. The show was created by members of the Gwinnett County Family Violence Task Force with assistance from Sheriff **Butch Conway** and his department's Family Violence Unit. The show premiered on October 1 in time for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and airs regularly on TVgwinnett, Cable Channel 23 in Gwinnett County.

The *Gwinnett Force* is the first television show of its kind in Georgia. Its format is similar to *The View* with catchy theme music, humor, drama, and discussion of issues such as taking out a protective order. The show is hosted by members **Julie Mauney**, **Linda Wagner**, and Sgt. **Tracy Lee**. Future shows will in-

clude discussions with victims of domestic violence and special guests.

Sgt. Lee of the Family Violence Unit said, "I believe this show has the potential of saving lives and families. Georgia ranks seventh in the nation for men who kill women and Gwinnett County ranked number one in 2005 for domestic violence homicides. We are determined to fight this by educating the citizens along with other law enforcement officers. Sheriff Conway has built Gwinnett's Family Violence Unit into the largest and most productive in the state of Georgia. Without him the show would not have been possible."

Visit [tvgwinnett.com](http://tvgwinnett.com) for future show airings. For more information about the Gwinnett County Family Violence Task Force, visit [familyviolence.org](http://familyviolence.org).

## SPLOST, cont'd from page 1

over Chandler Road to a temporary end at the New Hope Road interchange.

District 4 Commissioner **Kevin Kenerly** said, "This County project will eventually extend Sugarloaf Parkway beyond New Hope Road to State Route 316, giving us a four-lane, cross-

county highway all the way from Duluth to Dacula."

While the project is primarily funded by SPLOST, Georgia Department of Transportation board member Rudy Bowen and GDOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl worked with the County to secure state funding of \$2.5 million.



## Check It Out!

Get some great ideas for holiday cooking! This month's selections are sure to complement your culinary skills.

*Seriously Simple Holidays: Recipes and Ideas to Celebrate the Season*, by Diane Rossen Worthington

*Pillsbury Holiday Baking*, by Pillsbury Editors

*At Oma's Table: More Than 100 Recipes and Remembrances from a Jewish Family's Kitchen*, by Doris Schechter

*Paula Deen Celebrates! Best Dishes and Best Wishes for the Best Times of Your Life*, by Paula Deen

*Rocco's Real Life Recipes: Fast Flavor for Every Day*, by Rocco DiSpirito

*1,080 Recipes*, by Simone Ortega

*Hip Tastes: The Fresh Guide to Wine*, by Courtney Cochran

*The Ghirardelli Chocolate Cookbook: Recipes and History from America's Premier Chocolate Maker*, by Ghirardelli Chocolate Company

*Around the Opry Table: A Feast of Recipes and Stories from the Grand Ole Opry*, by Kay West

*Celebrate*, by Sheila Lukins

*The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook*, edited by Joan Schwartz Michel

*Healthy Holidays: Total Health Entertaining All Year Round*, by Marilu Henner

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 [gwinnettpl.org](http://gwinnettpl.org).

## Pet Corner

The Arnett family adopted Ike from the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center just in the nick of time. He suffered from some health complications, but after receiving loving care Ike is now a happy, healthy dog who loves to go on walks, cuddle, and explore the family yard. His new family can't imagine life without him!

You can find a companionable addition to your household like Ike by visiting the center located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or going to [gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://gwinnettanimalcontrol.com). To prevent overpopulation, all cats and dogs are spayed and neutered before adoption.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Where's the North Pole? Join GEHC staff to learn how to **make a homemade compass** on Saturday, December 8 from 3:00pm – 3:45pm. This activity is appropriate for young scientists. Free with paid admission to the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford.

**Shop for your family...** while you drop your kids off with us for a fun day of crafts, pizza, and games on December 8 from 10:00am – 2:00pm! All ages; \$12 per person. Call 770.417.2200. Pinckneyville Park Community Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

Bring the kids out to the **Kid's Christmas Craft Fair** for a fun-filled day on December 8 from 10:00am – noon. There will be themed crafts, snacks, and cookie decorating. Parents are asked to stay and assist their children. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$8 per person; ages 3 – 6. Call 770.614.2060. Bogan Park Community Center is located at 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

The reception for the opening of the **Anne Gordon Art Exhibit** will be held at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse at 7:00pm, December 12. The exhibit will be on display from December 7 – February 27. Call 770.822.5450. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Pack a bathing suit and towel and gear up for fun and games at **Kids Night Out** on December 14 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Participants must be on time to be able to swim. Dinner will be served after swimming; please give your child a light snack before arriving. Event fills quickly. Pre-registration required. \$10 per person; ages 6 – 10. Call 770.614.2060. Bogan Park Community Center is located at 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Have you ever wondered what might be lurking in your nearby stream? Find out all about the creepy, crawly critters that live in streams and indicate water quality at the **Adopt-A-Stream Biological Monitoring Workshop** on Saturday, December 15 from

9:00am – 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Free admission. If you care about your streams you will want to be here. Bring your lunch, boots if you have them, and call 770.904.3505 to register.

Gather your family members and **Build-Your-Own-Bird Feeder** for your feathered friends to enjoy during winter on December 15 at 3:00pm, Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. GEHC staff will help you assemble them and participants will receive a free poster. \$5 per family.

Come join us for an evening of nothing but Line Dancing at the **Shorty Howell Line Dance-a-thon** on December 15 6:00pm – midnight! Bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Early registration \$5 per person; price increases to \$8 on December 8. All ages. Call 770.814.4914. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building is located at 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

## Bust the Winter Break Blahs!

December 26 – December 29; free with paid admission to Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center:

- **Water Pressure Gauge**, 11:00am. Gravity works its force on everything on earth. In this activity, gravity puts the pressure on water. Ages 7 – 10.
- **Winter Walk**, 2:00pm. Ever wonder what is going on outside during the colder months? Join an educator as you explore the trails during this seasonal change and see what you can find. Please wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing. Meet at the ticket counter. Great for families! Walks will be adjusted according to audience.
- **Making Paper**, 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Join us as we learn how to make paper by re-using scraps of paper. Be prepared to get a little messy during this experience. Ages 6 – 10.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation sponsors 10 different senior recreation clubs at various parks located throughout the county. Find out how you can become active in one by calling 770.564.4680.

For more information about the events and services sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation or Health and Human Services, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) under *News and Events* to download the *Gwinnett Life* and *One Stop* newsletters.

## Holiday Closings

All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed on the following days:

**Monday, December 24, 2007**

**Tuesday, December 25, 2007**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2008**



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[gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com)

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## countyline

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The *County Line* is published monthly by the Gwinnett County Communications Division to inform residents about County services and items of interest. For more information or to submit newsletter suggestions, call 770.822.7035 or e-mail [heathersawyer@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:heathersawyer@gwinnettcounty.com). The *County Line* is also available on the County's website, [gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com).