



New Deputy County Administrator appointed

Susan Lee was appointed as a new Deputy County Administrator in January. Lee fills this new position after having served as Human Resources Director



Susan Lee

for the past two years and will oversee several areas of county government operations, including human resources, support services, police, fire and emergency services, corrections, and human relations.

"I am always pleased to advance talented and deserving employees, and

Susan is no exception. She is a seasoned County employee who brings a tremendous level of problem-solving skills and new perspective to the table," said County Administrator **Jock Connell**.

The addition of a second deputy county administrator position comes as a result of the Board of Commissioners' annual planning retreat held in December. At that time, District 4 Commissioner **Kevin Kenerly** challenged Connell to strengthen his management team.

"Our senior management structure has not changed that much since I came into office (in 1992). Most governments

our size have several assistants or deputies. While it is good that we run a lean operation, at some point it just doesn't make sense to stretch things too thin," said Kenerly.

Before being appointed Director of Human Resources in January 2005, Lee had co-directed the department for the previous two years. Lee has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Georgia State University and is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources by the Society for Human Resource

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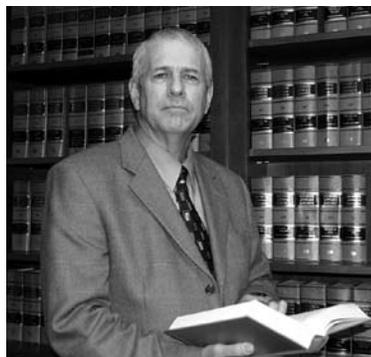
Around Gwinnett



New State Court Judge takes the bench

John Doran, Jr. was recently appointed by **Governor Sonny Perdue** to serve as the new State Court Judge in Gwinnett County, bringing the total number of State Court judges in Gwinnett to six. This new seat was established by the General Assembly in 2006 to keep up with a growing number of cases in the County.

In his new position, Judge Doran will focus primarily on complex civil litigations, including commercial, personal injury, and criminal misdemeanors. According to Doran, he decided to make the move from the private to public sector *"as a way to give back to the community that greeted him warmly and with*



State Court Judge John Doran, Jr.

open arms" when he arrived in Gwinnett more than 30 years ago as a law student.

Prior to his appointment Doran was a private practice attorney for close

to 30 years. Doran earned a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University and then moved to Georgia to attend Emory University School of Law, where he graduated in 1976. He began his private practice in 1980 and over the years has tried a number of cases, mostly civil and misdemeanor or criminal cases.

"My challenge is to manage a large case load and make the court operate in the most efficient manner possible," Doran said. *"I am looking forward to this new opportunity to serve the citizens of Gwinnett."*

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

State vehicle registration computer shut down

The Georgia Department of Revenue has announced that it will be performing scheduled maintenance on its vehicle registration computer system over several weekends throughout 2007.

During these scheduled maintenance periods, the vehicle registration system will be inaccessible to tag offices. The impact will be as follows:

- The Tax Commissioner's North Gwinnett branch tag office, located at 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford, will be closed on Saturday, February 17, for maintenance
- Internet tag renewals will not be accessible during each maintenance period
- Telephone tag renewals will be suspended during each maintenance period

The scheduled maintenance periods for February are: Friday, February 16, beginning at 7:00pm through Monday, February 19, at 6:00am.

Further information can be obtained by calling customer service at 770.822.8818, e-mailing tag@gwinnettcountry.com, or by visiting www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com.

State of the County Address on Web, TV

Check out Chairman Charles Bannister's State of the County speech on TVgwinnett (cable channel 23 on all cable systems in Gwinnett) or as an on-demand video at www.gwinnettcountry.com.

Adopt-a-firework

gwinnett glows



July 4, 2007

The Fourth of July Gwinnett Glows event is an annual celebration of the many things that make Gwinnett County great. Now you can adopt a firework to salute someone who has made our community a better place or friends and family who make your life glow year-round.

The cost is \$100 each and the name of the person you are honoring will be printed in the Gwinnett Glows event tabloid. To adopt a firework, go to www.gwinnettglows.com or call 770.822.7035.

Internet tag renewals – convenience fees

On December 15, 2006, the Georgia Department of Revenue modified the credit card convenience fees charged for Internet tag renewals. New online tag renewal convenience fees are as follows:

Transaction Amount	Convenience Fee	Type of Credit Card Accepted*
\$0.01 – \$1,000	\$2.25	American Express Discover, Mastercard, VISA
> \$1,000	2.75% of the total transaction amount	American Express, Discover, Mastercard

* Please note: VISA is not accepted for transactions over \$1,000.

For more information, visit www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com, e-mail the Motor Vehicles Department at tag@gwinnettcountry.com, or call 770.822.8818.

2007 property tax homestead filing period

Property owners may file for a 2007 homestead exemption now 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. Property owners who already receive an exemption and had no ownership changes to their deed do not need to reapply. They will continue to receive their current exemption on property taxes.

The Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner collects property taxes for the cities of Berkeley Lake, Dacula, Grayson, Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Snellville, and Sugar Hill. Property owners residing in 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, call the Department of Property Tax at 770.822.8800. Office hours are 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

For 24-hour service, call TaxTalk24 at 770.822.8800, send an e-mail to the Property Tax Department at tax@gwinnettcountry.com, or visit www.gwinnett-tax.com.

Mobile Home Taxes

For those who own a mobile home, the mobile home tax payment deadline is May 1, 2007. For additional information on homestead exemptions or mobile home taxes, call the Tax Commissioner's 24-hour customer service line at 770.822.8800 or send an e-mail to tax@gwinnettcountry.com.

Susan Lee

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Management. She has worked for Gwinnett County for 15 years and also counts several years of experience in the private sector as a compensation consultant. A 35-year resident of Gwinnett County, Lee is married and has two children.

Lee joins Deputy County Administrator **Mike Comer** in the County's Administrator's office. Comer will continue to administer the financial services, transportation, community services, and water resources departments.

"Susan is a strong addition to our senior management team. With both deputies in place, I will have the opportunity to focus more exclusively on carrying out the commissioners' goals and objectives," said Connell.

"Throughout my career with the County, I've been blessed with many opportunities to be involved in a variety of projects and programs that have had significant impact on County operations," said Lee. "As I begin work in my new position, I look forward to new initiatives and challenges, and the learning opportunities that I know will accompany them."

Replacing Lee in the position of human resources director will be **Kenneth Poe**, who has been the deputy director of human resources since April 2006.

Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the contributions African-Americans have made to our country. Centerville Community Center will host *Celebrating our People and Heritage: Black History Month* on Saturday, February 10, from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

The celebration will include a performance by the percussion trio Ritmo Blu, a high-energy ensemble offering educational and interactive multicultural performances. Their presentation *Out of Africa: The Journey to the Americas* follows African rhythm from its roots in villages around Ghana and Mali to the streets of Harlem and New Orleans. Musical styles include West African stick drumming, early American jazz, and modern day hip-hop performed in the style of percussion sensation STOMP.

The Educational Arts Program of America and the NAACP Gwinnett Youth Council will present skits, dance, song, and the spoken word. An exhibit highlighting works of famous African-Americans will also be on display during the month of February. The exhibit includes notable speeches, a photo gallery, artwork, and folkloric artifacts.

This celebration is free and open to all ages. Centerville Community Center is located at 3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville. For more information, call 770.985.4713.

Check it out!

In observance of Black History Month, enjoy these new fiction titles featuring African-American characters.

Red River, by Lalita Tademy

Man Gone Down, by Michael Thomas

For the Confederate Dead, by Kevin Young

First Fridays, by Cherlyn Michaels

Wind in a Box, by Terrance Hayes

Tambourines to Glory, by Langston Hughes

Splay Anthem, by Nathaniel Mackey

Something to Die For, by Travis Hunter

Unconfessed, by Yvette Christianse

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.

Judge Doran

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Doran was sworn in to office on January 4 and his term will run through December 31, 2008. Doran and his wife, Wanda, live in the Harbins community near Dacula and have four children, Tom, April, John III, Jim, and two grandchildren.

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.



February Holiday Schedule

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 date:

Monday, February 19 – President's Day

All offices will resume regular hours on Tuesday, February 20.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

A **Mother/Son Camp-in** will be held on February 2 from 7:00pm – 7:00am at Bogan Park in Buford. The cost is \$25, plus \$5 for each additional child. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Learn the art of storytelling at **The Story of our Lives** on February 3 from 10:30am – 11:30am at George Pierce Park in Suwanee. For seniors age 50 and up. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Get out with your girlfriends at the new **Ladies' Bunko Bash Night** on February 6 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Bunko games, prizes, and desserts. Event will take place monthly. The cost is \$12 for a group of four. Pre-register by February 1. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Enjoy live music by Bill Kahler at **Grounds 'n' Sounds** on February 9 at 8:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum/Lawrenceville Female Seminary building in Lawrenceville as part of Coffeehouse Nights. Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted. Admission is \$5; \$4 for museum members. Call 770.822.5178 to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*.

A **Daddy and Daughter Dance** will be held on February 9 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. For children age 4 and up. The cost is \$10 per couple. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Explore Georgia's prehistoric creatures in the western part of the state by joining the **Fossils of Georgia Trip** on February 10. Age 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by a paid adult. The cost is \$15 per person. Pre-registration required. Meet at 8:00am at McDaniel Farm Park in Duluth. For more information, call 770.814.4920.

Show off your basketball skills and compete for the championship trophy at the **Hot Shot Contest** on February 13 at 6:30pm at Best Friend Park Gym in Norcross. Shoot from your choice of seven locations on the floor

during the 60-second competition. Competition divided into age groups: 7 – 8, 9 – 10, 11 – 12, and 13 – 14. The entry fee is \$5 per person. For information, call 770.564.3060.

Bring your little ones to **Milk and Cookie Day** on February 16 from 10:00am – 11:30am at the Dacula Activity Building, a fun entertainment series for children. Pre-registration required by February 9. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

Lace up your running shoes and **Run the Reagan** on Saturday, February 17, 2007. Competition will be held in the half marathon, 10K, and 5K distances. There will also be a one-mile fun run. Online registration is available until midnight on February 14 at www.active.com. For more information, visit www.runthereagan.com.

A **Senior Mardi Gras Celebration** will be held on February 20 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at the new Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park in Suwanee for seniors 50 and up. Enjoy an afternoon filled with entertainment, refreshments, and dancing. Prizes awarded for the most festive and creative costumes. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 770.822.8840.

Pack a bathing suit and towel and gear up for fun and games at **Kids' Night Out** at Bogan on February 23 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. Must be on time to be able to swim. Dinner served after swimming. Ages 6 – 10. Pre-registration required. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Enjoy live music by Keltic Kudzu at **Coffee-Ceilidh** on February 23 at 8:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum/Lawrenceville Female Seminary building in Lawrenceville as part of the Coffeehouse Nights. Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted. Admission is \$5; \$4 for museum members. Call 770.822.5178 to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*.

The **Shorty Howell Dance-a-thon**, featuring line dancing, will be held on February 24

from 6:00pm – midnight at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth. Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. The early registration fee is \$5 per person if registered by February 17; \$8 per person after this date. For more information, call 770.822.8840.

The Pinckneyville Community Center sponsors art exhibits at the following locations.

Anita Lentz Group Show, Studio 13, will be on display at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville through March 1.

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

Online registration is now available for programs and classes offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. Check out **Gwinnett LIFE** magazine at www.gwinnettparks.com for a complete listing of programs and classes, or pick up a brochure at your local library, park facilities, the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau, or the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Call 770.822.8840.

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

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 770.822.7135 or e-mail tammy.gibson@gwinnettcounty.com. The County Line is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcounty.com.