



# county Line

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## Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation kicks off its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this month. Two thousand and seven marks the 20-year anniversary of forming the GCPR as a county-wide department.

GCPR has celebrated many milestones in the past 20 years. Honors include being named *Sportstown* for the State of Georgia by Sports Illustrated and the National Recreation and Park Association in 2004 and placing as a top finalist nationwide for NRPA's National Gold Medal Award in 1999 and 2006.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will offer a variety of events and special activities to commemorate this special year. Check

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Around Gwinnett



## SPLOST projects open for public safety

Gwinnett public safety officials recently opened two new fire stations and a state-of-the-art police training complex, all funded by SPLOST.

Gwinnett Police dedicated the new, \$25-million training facility in June with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The 50-acre facility is located at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

Police Chief **Charles Walters** said, "This state-of-the-art facility is among the best in the country and we're very proud of it. It will help us continue to put the best trained officers on the streets of Gwinnett County." The fa-

cility includes a driver training course, 44 indoor firing ranges, a "green" classroom building, and special conditions simulators.

Just one week earlier, Gwinnett officials dedicated two new fire stations with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Fire Chief **Steve Rolader** hosted the events and pledged to continue "to provide well-trained, well-equipped firefighters and medics to serve the entire county."

Fire Station 27, between the Dacula and Hamilton Mill areas, "will improve our ability to respond quickly to both

fire and medical emergencies in this growing part of the county," said Board Chairman **Charles Bannister**.

Fire Station 8 in Grayson was relocated for a road-widening project. District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau** praised the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services for its "long and proud tradition of serving Gwinnett residents with a well-trained and well-equipped staff."

Both stations are a two-bay prototype design with 8,700 square feet and cost about \$3.5 million each.



# Advice from the Tax Commissioner

## New law requires ID for vehicle registration

Effective July 1, Georgia State Law (Senate Bill 38) will require that first-time vehicle registrants provide a valid Georgia driver's license/identification card before a license plate can be issued.

Accordingly, all Gwinnett County Tag Offices will begin verifying legal residence in Gwinnett County before processing a vehicle registration. Vehicle owners requesting registration or applying for a tag at Gwinnett Tag Offices must provide a valid Georgia driver's license or a valid Georgia issued identification card reflecting a Gwinnett County address.

New residents moving to Gwinnett County from out of state are required to provide a valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia ID card with their current Gwinnett County address before a license plate can be issued.



New residents moving to Gwinnett from another Georgia county must provide:

- A valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia ID card with the current Gwinnett County address (required for initial tag issuance) **OR**
- A valid driver's license or a valid government issued photo ID and one of the following documents dated within the last year and in the vehicle owner's name with the current Gwinnett County address:
  - Utility bill
  - Lease/rental agreement
  - Bank statement
  - Closing papers
  - Voter registration card

Current Gwinnett County residents who have already registered vehicles in Gwinnett and move within the county may change their address by telephone or e-mail. Go to [gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com) for proof of residency requirements and change of address request forms. The form can be submitted with the required residency documentation by mail, fax, or in person at any Gwinnett County tag office. Call the customer service line at 770.822.8818 for more information or send an e-mail to [tag@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcounty.com).

## Look for 2007 property tax bills this month

The Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner will mail 2007 property tax bills on July 15. Installation dates for 2007 property tax payments are September 15 and November 15. As a benefit for our customers, more property tax payment locations are available this year.

Only one bill will be mailed. It includes payment coupons and reply envelopes for both installment payments. First installment amounts shown on tax bills must be paid by September 15 or taxpayers may pay the entire amount by this date. The second installment will be due November 15. Installments not paid by the stated due dates will incur a five percent penalty. In addition, interest will begin to accrue

at the rate of one percent per month beginning on November 16. Gwinnett taxpayers will have the option of making 2007 property tax payments in person at two Tax Commissioner locations:

- Property Tax Customer Service Office in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville
- Tax Commissioner's North Gwinnett Motor Vehicle tag office, located on Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford

Both of these locations will process property tax payments and provide receipts to taxpayers, plus each tag office location has a payment drop-off location that can be used anytime.

Tax payments may be made over the telephone, using banking information on the TaxTalk 24 line. For customer assistance or to make payments by telephone, call 770.822.8800. Customers may also e-mail [tax@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcounty.com) or go to [gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com).



## Wild Night to benefit Gwinnett seniors

Leave the ordinary behind and step into *A Night in the Wild*, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual silent auction, hosted by the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (FOGCSS) to benefit seniors. Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett will once again open its doors to host the event, which is open to the public and all proceeds will benefit the senior citizens of Gwinnett County.

With the money raised in this year's silent auction, FOGCSS hopes to purchase a new vehicle for the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers frozen, chilled, or hot meals to homebound seniors Monday through Friday with the exception of holidays. The program helps seniors meet their daily nutritional needs and serves over 70,000 meals to its clients each year.

The auction will feature items and services given by local businesses and individuals along with live music, an African dance troupe, tropical drinks, and assorted exotic foods. Some of the big-ticket items include roundtrip airline tickets, weekend get-a-ways, and Braves baseball tickets and apparel.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. The event will take place on Thursday, July 26 from 6:00pm until 8:30pm. Ticket price includes admittance to the festivities, entertainment, food and beverages, a door prize ticket, and participation in the silent auction. Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett is located at 3100 Club Drive in Lawrenceville.

For more information or to purchase advance tickets, please contact **Celia Moore** at 770.822.8775 or [celia.moore@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:celia.moore@gwinnettcounty.com).

## Civilians honored for heroic actions

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services occasionally recognizes civilians who have performed lifesaving acts with the department's Meritorious Award.

Recently, two employees and a customer of Bass Pro Shop were honored for performing CPR and applying an automated defibrillator to a customer who experienced sudden cardiac arrest while shopping at the Bass Pro Shop at Discover Mills. Thanks to the quick actions of store manager **Scotlan Hughes**, employee **Michael White**, and store patron **Gerald Bramtley**, the patient was conscious, alert, and breathing when paramedics arrived.

The department also recognized UPS driver **Allen Jones**, who arrived to deliver a package to a home along his delivery route in Peachtree Corners when he recognized that the occupant of the home was down and needed medical attention. He quickly called 911 and began immediate and effective CPR.

You can prepare to face various emergency situations by taking one of the free safety education classes offered by your Department of Fire and Emergency Services. For more information, call 678.518.4850 or e-mail [fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:fireprograms@gwinnettcountry.com).

*"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."*

— Samuel Johnson

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with your favorite park or recreation facility for details about upcoming events.

The opening of a new park this month will kick things off in style. A grand opening celebration will take place at Sweet Water Park in Lawrenceville on July 21. SPLOST, the voter-approved sales tax program, funded land acquisition and construction for the park.

The grand opening ceremony at Sweet Water Park will be held at 10:00am followed by festivities such as tennis demonstrations, face painting and temporary tattoos, cultural dance performances, and a "tastes of the world" food sampling.



**A grand opening celebration will be held at the new Sweet Water Park on July 21.**

Amenities include a large concrete plaza area with seating, a three-quarter-mile multi-purpose trail, playgrounds, a restroom build-

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## Check It Out!

### The Importance of Pets

The following books discuss just how important pets are to us humans, and how we can take care of them as they improve the quality of our own lives.

*Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People*, by Sheila Keenan

*Shock to the System: The Facts About Animal Vaccination, Pet Food, and How to Keep Your Pets Healthy*, by Catherine O'Driscoll

*Traveling With Your Pet: The AAA Petbook*

*The Healing Power of Pets*, by Marty Becker

*Scrapbooking Your Pets: 200 Page Designs*, by Stacey Panassidi

*All My Relations: Living With Animals as Teachers and Healers*, by Susan Chernak McElroy

*The Medici Giraffe and Other Tales of Exotic Animals and Power*, by Marina Belozerskaya

*Unlocking the Animal Mind: How Your Pet's Feelings Hold the Key to His Health and Happiness*, by Franklin McMillan

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).

### Water Restrictions

Gwinnett County follows the State of Georgia's outdoor watering regulations:

Even-numbered addresses: Saturday, Monday, Wednesday (midnight to 10:00am)

Odd-numbered addresses: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday (midnight to 10:00am)

**No watering after 10:00am. No watering on Fridays.**

## 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](http://www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com). For more information, stop by the shelter, or call 770.339.3200.



Pet Corner



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Pack a picnic and bring your little ones out for an afternoon of fun and music at the next installment of the **Brown Bag Concert** series! The Bugaboos will perform at this free family-friendly performance on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in downtown Lawrenceville on July 13 starting at 11:00am. For more information, call 770.822.5450.

Enjoy live music at the **Coffee-Ceilidh** scheduled on July 13! Debra Peterson will perform at the Gwinnett History Museum as part of Coffeehouse Nights. Doors open at 8:00pm, music starts at 8:30pm. Starbucks, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted. Admission is \$5 and \$4 for museum members. The museum is located inside the Lawrenceville Female Seminary. Call 770.822.5178 to receive the monthly *Java Jottings* newsletter.

Landscape thirsty? Learn how your landscape will thrive with little water at a **Xeriscaping Class** on July 14 at 2:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Gwinnett County Master Gardeners will show how to use these techniques in your own backyard! Call 770.904.3500 to register.

**History Book Club** members discuss books relating to Southern or Georgia history. Co-sponsored by the Gwinnett History Museum and the Gwinnett County Public Library, the next meeting will take place on July 16 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary. Call 770.822.5178 for book title information.

Bring your favorite fixin' or side dish and a white elephant prize (\$3 or less) to the Gwinnett Senior Center for **Cowboy Bingo** on July 20 from 10:30am – noon. We'll cook hot dogs and hamburgers while you play bingo. For seniors ages 50 and up. Cost is \$1. Pre-register by July 16. The Gwinnett Senior Center is located in Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville. Call 770.564.4680 for more information.

Join Judy Stoops of Wildbirds Unlimited on July 21 at 8:00am as she takes you on a personal guided **Bird Walk**. Location: Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Call

770.904.3500 to pre-register. Cost: \$3 per person; free for GEHC members.

Continue your **Exploration of Birds with Jason Lang** from the University of Georgia as he speaks about bluebirds at 2:00pm on July 21 at the Central Pavilion next to the parking lot of the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. This event is free.

Do you like bugs? Look at them up close and personal with our cool Discovery Scopes during **Investigating Insects** on July 21 at 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center! Check out how important bugs are to the life cycle at this free event.

Join Erik van Dyck of the **Georgia Geocachers Association** at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center as he teaches you about Global Positioning Systems and introduces you to the exciting sport of **geocaching**. Class is limited to 15 participants, ages 16 and up. Call 770.904.3500 to register. Class is July 28 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm; free with center admission.

Join a Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center educator for a fun **Nature Walk** along one of our trails on our beautiful, wooded 233-acre campus. Walk is July 28 at 1:00pm for families, or 3:00pm for adults only. Free with paid admission and for GEHC members. Please register by calling 770.904.3500.

On July 30 it's time to **VAN GO!** with Pinckneyville Community Center to Zoo Atlanta. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Remember to bring lunch money. Cost is \$10 plus cost of admission to the zoo: \$18 for ages 12 and up, \$13 for ages 8 – 11. Pre-registration required. Meet at 9:00am at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

The **Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center** (2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford) is open to the public Monday through Friday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Daily admission fees:

- Adults – \$7
- Students – \$5
- Children (3 to 12) – \$3

- Children (2 and under) – Free
- Seniors (55 and over) – \$5

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ing, two half-court basketball courts, two unlighted tennis courts, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, grills, porch swings, and a large central pavilion. The park is located at 800 Bethesda School Road in Lawrenceville.

Call 770.822.8840 or visit [gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com) for more information about GCPR's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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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).