



# county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

june 2007 v15, n6



## Senior Services celebrates 35 years caring for seniors

Thirty-five years ago, a new community nutrition out-reach project for the elderly was started by Economic Opportunity Atlanta. A news article from 1972 explains that the program "provided home food delivery, a daily hot meal, and fellowship at the Lawrenceville center, transportation to purchase individual groceries or pay bills, and additional services to senior citizens."

As the client base grew, it became evident that the program needed more space. The County built the current Lawrenceville Senior Center in Rhodes Jordan Park in 1994, the Buford Senior Center in 1997, and then the Norcross Senior Center a

year later. The spirit of the original program has remained unchanged through the years with a sincere desire to help seniors live independently in their own homes and "not be a bother to anyone."

Gwinnett County Senior Services Manager **Linda Bailey** says, "Our commitment to the well being of seniors is an investment in quality of life. We're fortunate that our county continues to understand and support our programs, because we are all getting older."

The senior population is expected to exceed the school-age population in Gwinnett within just a few years. As with any population growth, the

need for services will increase as time goes by. Individual volunteers, corporate, and community support will be crucial to maintain and expand existing services. Those are the keys to the success of Senior Services.



To celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Senior Services, there will be a reception at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, on June 27 at 10:00am. An exhibit, *There's No Place Like Home*, will also be on display through the end of July.

## contents

Advice from Tax Commissioner



Fire Safety



Public Input Meetings



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



## Spend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in downtown Lawrenceville

**gwinnett glows**



**july 4, 2007**

Celebrate this Independence Day at the historic courthouse square in Lawrenceville. The Gwinnett Glows celebration begins at 5:00pm with many free, family-friendly activities and entertainment, including crowd-pleasing band Tim Purcell and The Mustangs.

The fireworks will be visible throughout the downtown area. Live TV coverage of the fireworks display will be carried on TVgwinnett (cable channel 23) and at [gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com). Onsite vendors will provide a variety of food options for sale until the fireworks begin at about 9:30pm.

Gwinnett Glows 2007 is brought to you by Gwinnett County Government, Gwinnett Parks Foundation, The Gwinnett Daily Post, and EAGLE 106.7 FM.

For more information, call 770.822.7126 or visit [gwinnettgrows.com](http://gwinnettgrows.com).

## Keep cool in County pools

**Best Friend Pool**  
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard  
Norcross  
770.417.2202

**Dacula Pool**  
205 Dacula Road, Dacula  
770.822.5410

**Lenora Pool**  
4515 Lenora Church Road  
Snellville  
770.982.5309

**Rhodes Jordan Pool**  
100 East Crogan Street  
Lawrenceville  
770.822.5143

... cont'd on page 3



## Advice from the Tax Commissioner

### Drive-through services offered at two tag office branches

Did you know that the Tax Commissioner's Department of Motor Vehicles offers drive-through window services at two locations? At these locations, you can renew your vehicle's tag registration or apply for a disabled person's parking placard using the convenient drive-through service.

Drive-through services are ideal for rainy days or when your kids are with you in the car. These services are especially valuable for disabled or elderly persons who can avoid parking and walking into a tag office.

The two Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner drive-through locations are open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm:

- Lawrenceville Tag Office at 750 South Perry Street
- Snellville Tag Office at 2845 Lenora Church Road (next to Fire Station 12 and across from Briscoe Park)

You can renew up to three tags in one transaction when renewing tags at a drive-through window. You may pay using VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, cash, check, or money order. Please note that debit cards cannot be processed at drive-through windows. You can pick up a disabled person's parking placard application at drive-through locations. The placard itself may be issued at a drive-through window if the application is properly completed, including sections to be completed by a health care professional.

For more information, contact the Tax Commissioner's Motor Vehicle Customer Service Center by e-mail at [tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com), by telephone at 770.822.8818, or on the Web at [gwinnett-tag.com](http://gwinnett-tag.com).

### Announcing vehicle registration computer shutdowns for 2007

The Georgia Department of Revenue is 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 the Saturday of each weekend scheduled for maintenance
- Internet and telephone tag renewals will not be available during each maintenance period

**The scheduled maintenance periods for the remainder of 2007 are:**  
Friday, June 8 at 7:00pm – Monday, June 11 at 6:00am  
Friday, September 14 at 7:00pm – Monday, September 17 at 6:00am  
Friday, December 7 at 7:00pm – Monday, December 10 at 6:00am

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



## Safety precautions prevent house fires

By Tommy Rutledge, Fire and Emergency Services

Gwinnett firefighters responded to 350 residential fires in the first quarter of 2007, a 30 percent increase over the same time last year. Firefighters attribute the increase to three things: growth within county, age of existing dwellings, and personal habits of occupants.

Growth naturally means more housing is being built, which increases the potential for fires. The age of existing houses is especially important if they are not maintained properly. Faulty electrical components and home heating appliances increase the chance of fire. But the main problem seems to be the actions of residents themselves.

Food left cooking on the stove unattended is the leading cause of home fires, so Gwinnett's Fire and Emergency Services department adopted last year's National Fire Prevention Week campaign theme **Prevent Kitchen Fires: Watch What You Heat.**

To prevent cooking fires, firefighters suggest following simple fire safety rules:

- Pay attention: Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove and turn it off if you must leave the kitchen
- If you are using the oven, remember to check on food regularly and use a cooking timer as a reminder
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher close at hand in the kitchen to douse a small, contained fire; if the fire is too big or starts to spread, leave the kitchen immediately, and close the door to slow the spread of smoke and fire
- Call 911 from outside the burning building using a cell phone or a neighbor's phone and wait for firefighters to arrive

Four basic facts about fires could save your life. **Fire is DARK** – Smoke in a fire is blinding. The fire starts out bright, but quickly produces acrid, bitter smoke that is so dark you may not be able to see your hands directly in front of your face. You may become lost or disoriented, even in a home you've lived in for years.

**Fire is HOT** – Heat alone can kill. Room temperatures can reach 100 degrees at the floor and a blistering 600 degrees at head level. Temperatures will rise to deadly levels within a minute or two. Breathing super heated air can kill you instantly.

**SMOKE and GAS** – Smoke and toxic gases kill more people in a fire than flames. Fire consumes oxygen and produces toxic smoke and gases. Breathing even small amounts of smoke can make you drowsy, disoriented, and short of breath because smoke contains carbon monoxide. Colorless, odorless, and tasteless, fumes of carbon dioxide will lull you into a deep sleep and eventually kill you.

**TIME is your enemy** – In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. In a few minutes, a home can be totally engulfed in flames. If you suddenly wake up to a fire, use what little time you have to get out safely.

## Parks and Recreation: 2007 Capital Improvement Plan

### Public Input Meetings

Come give us your thoughts on what you want in YOUR parks. A series of public input meetings will be held on several days in June at the following locations.

**June 11: 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Centerville Community Center**  
3025 Bethany Church Rd., Snellville

**Pinkneyville Park Community Center**  
4650 Peachtree Ind. Blvd., Norcross

**June 12: 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center**  
100 E. Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

**George Pierce Park Community Center**  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

**June 13: 10:30am – 12:30pm**

**Gwinnett Senior Center in Bethesda Park**  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

## Newspaper names Sherrington public official hero

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* recently recognized **Katherine Sherrington** as a *Public Official Hero* for her success as the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner. The newspaper honored four private citizens and four public officials as *Open Government Heroes* at a luncheon and awards ceremony held in Atlanta. Publisher **John Mellott** and Editor **Julia Wallace** honored each recipient with a plaque and a personalized print of the **Mike Luckovich** cartoon that accompanied the newspaper article.

## Pools... cont'd from page 1

### Bogan Aquatic Center

2723 North Bogan Road, Buford  
770.614.2063

### Mountain Park Aquatic Center

1063 Rockbridge Road  
Stone Mountain  
770.564.4650

### Bethesda Aquatic Center

225 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville  
678.924.6334

### Collins Hill Aquatic Center

2200 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville  
770.237.5647

Visit [gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com) for hours of operation and admission fees.

## Check it out!

Make the most of your summer evenings with these great guides to outdoor cooking and entertaining!

*Semi-Homemade Grilling*, by Sandra Lee

*Katie Brown's Outdoor Entertaining: Taking the Party Outside*, by Katie Brown

*Mario Tailgates NASCAR Style*, by Mario Batali

*Parties, Potlucks and Barbeques: Recipes for Casual Gatherings*, by Readers Digest Association

*Mastering the Grill: The Owner's Manual for Outdoor Cooking*, by Andrew Schloss and David Joachim

*The Urban Picnic*, by John Burns and Elisabeth Caton

*A Man, a Can, a Tailgate Plan: 50 Easy Game Time Recipes That Are Sure to Please*, by Zachary Schisgal

*The Big Book of Outdoor Cooking and Entertaining*, by Cheryl and Bill Jamison

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

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.



# linkup

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



gwinnettcounty's information resources



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Bring a friend and explore the natural world with a fun, 45-minute long **Nature Adventure** activity at the Environmental and Heritage Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June at 3:00pm. Grades 3 – 5; limited to 20 participants. Call 770.904.3500 to reserve a spot. Free with paid admission.

Celebrate **National Trails Day** with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation at Trail Mix on June 2 at Little Mulberry Park in Dacula! Come for a variety of fun activities throughout the day from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Call 770.822.8840.

Butterfly lovers should attend **Flutter by Butterflies** with Susan Myers of Monarch Across Georgia to learn how you can be involved with the program. Kids will complete a fun butterfly activity. Takes place on June 2 at 2:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Event free with paid admission and to GEHC members

Empty your attic or find a hidden treasure at the **Family Festival and Yard Sale** at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville on June 2 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Indoor tables \$15; outside lawn space \$10. To reserve space, call 770.822.5414.

**Kids Fishing Day** is designed to introduce kids 15 and under to the sport of fishing. Giveaways, hot dogs, and soft drinks for kids while supplies last. Bring your own rod and reel. Bait and assistance will be provided. No fishing license necessary for ages 16 and under. Takes place at Jones Bridge Park June 2 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Call 770.814.4914.

The Bugaboos will perform as part of the free **Brown Bag Concert Series** on June 8 at 11:00am! Family-friendly performance takes place on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. Call 770.822.5150.

**Grounds 'N' Sounds** on June 8 features musician Mike Rogers performing at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary. Cost: \$5 or \$4 for members. Starbucks, drinks, and desserts available for purchase. Alcohol, smoking, and dancing prohibited. Doors open at 8:00pm. Call 770.822.5178 for monthly e-newsletter.

The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse hosts a **Summer Bridal Show** on June 10 at 11:00am. Vendor booths, giveaways, wedding ideas, meeting planners, and a bridal and formal wear fashion show make this an event you won't want to miss. Admission: \$1. For more information, call 770.822.5150.

Join Judy Stoops of Wildbirds Unlimited as she takes you on a guided **Bird Walk** starting at 8:00am on June 9 at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Cost: \$3 per person or free for GEHC members. Please register in advance at 770.904.3500 or at [environmentalheritage@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:environmentalheritage@gwinnettcountry.com).

Calling all aspiring geologists and avid rock collectors! Join Kerry Cornwell from the Weinman Mineral Museum for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Georgia Rocks!** to learn more about the different type of rocks found in Georgia. Event will be held at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on June 9 at 2:00pm. Free with paid admission and to GEHC members.

**VAN GO!** Leave the driving to us and experience two of Atlanta's great art museums, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia and the Atlanta International Museum of Art and Design on June 13. Bring money for lunch. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$10. Ages 12 and up. Call 770.417.2200.

Come join us for an evening of nothing but line dancing! The Shorty Howell Activity Building **Line Dance-a-thon** is June 16 from 6:00pm – midnight. Bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Early registration is \$5 and after June 8 it is \$8. Call 770.814.4914.

A **Nature Walk** will take place at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on June 16 at 1:00pm for families and 3:00pm for adults. Join a GEHC educator for a fun walk along one of our trails on the beautiful, wooded 233-acre campus. Free with paid admission to the center and to GEHC members. You can register by sending an e-mail to [environmentalheritage@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:environmentalheritage@gwinnettcountry.com) or calling 770.904.3500.

Spend an **Evening with Mark Twain** while he shares his wit, wisdom, humor, and sing-

alongs. June 22 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at George Pierce Community Center in Suwanee. Light refreshments following performance. Ages 50 and up. Call 770.831.4173 for more information.

Help celebrate the **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gwinnett County Senior Services**. The Lawrenceville Senior Center at 100 East Crogan Street inside Rhodes Jordan Park will host a fun and free event for the entire family starting at 10:00am on July 17. Meet the king and princess from Medieval Times, watch knights jousting, and ride in a horse-drawn carriage. You can also win prizes at an onsite health fair. Food from Chick-fil-A and Bruster's will be available for purchase. For more information, call 770.822.8842.

Join us on June 30 for a **Full Moon Hike** on the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center's trails. Experience GEHC like never before by investigating nocturnal activities while awaiting the moonrise. Event is from 8:30pm – 9:45pm and is \$5 per person or \$17 for a family of four.

**Moonlight and Music**, a series of five free concerts jointly produced by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association, takes place on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. Concerts begin at 8:00pm every fourth Friday through September. Go to [visitlawrenceville.com](http://visitlawrenceville.com) for more information on performers and table reservations.

## countyline

Gwinnett County  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770.822.7035  
[www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.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 770.822.7035 or e-mail [heathersawyer@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:heathersawyer@gwinnettcountry.com). The County Line is also available on the County's website, [gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com).