

# county Line

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## New aquatic center opens with unique indoor-outdoor slide feature

The new 31,040-square-foot Bethesda Park Aquatic Center opened on February 3 and includes a nearly 7,000-square-foot indoor leisure pool with zero-entry beach-style access, a 100-foot slide that exits and then re-enters the building, a river channel, hydrotherapy benches, water play structure, tumble buckets, vortex, and a ceiling spray.

The facility, operated by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, also boasts a four-lane, 2,500-square-foot constant-depth instructional pool, and a wet classroom. The aquatic center is one of several improvements made to Bethesda Park as part of the \$10.4 million park expansion. Other improvements include the new football complex and picnic area that opened summer 2006.

Bethesda Park's amenities include three adult softball fields, seven baseball/softball fields with a football field overlay, six soccer fields, a concession/restroom area, a playground, a short walking



The new Bethesda Aquatic Center includes a 100-foot slide that exits and then re-enters the building.

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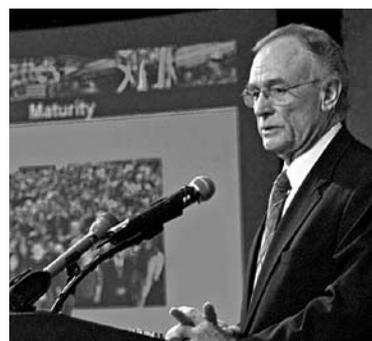
Around Gwinnett



## State of the County: Maturing, improving, with an exciting outlook

Board Chairman **Charles Bannister** promised "another exciting year" for Gwinnett County in the annual State of the County address. He highlighted the many accomplishments of 2006, including new parks, roads, libraries, and the hiring of more than 200 public safety officers, before looking ahead to 2007 and beyond.

A short video gave his audience at the Gwinnett Place Marriott a look at many of the new buildings and facilities. Bannister stressed the importance of revitalization, economic development, public safety, water,



Chairman Bannister addressed business and community leaders at the 2007 State of the County address on January 25 at the Gwinnett Place Marriott in Duluth.

and transportation as he discussed his 2007 goals.

Opening this year will be a new police training center, an animal welfare facility, and three new or expanded fire stations. Design work is underway on a library in the Hamilton Mill area and an expanded 911 Call Center and police headquarters. An extension of Sugarloaf Parkway should also be under construction by the end of this year.

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## Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Temporary tags

If you are a Gwinnett County resident and you purchase a vehicle from a dealership, a dealer-issued temporary tag should be issued for the vehicle by the dealer. The dealer-issued temporary tag is valid for 30 days from the date of purchase. This provides time for the dealership to process the title paperwork so you can register the vehicle. You should then receive the license plate within the 30-day period allowed by law.

If for some reason your vehicle's title paperwork is not submitted within 30 days of the date of purchase, visit a Gwinnett County Tag Office and request a one-time 30-day extension. In order to get an extension, you will be required to:

- Turn in your dealer-issued temporary tag for destruction
- Bring the original bill of sale
- Show positive identification – such as a valid Georgia driver's license or a Georgia identification card
- Complete an *Application to Extend the Registration Period of a Motor Vehicle Purchased From a Dealer* (Georgia Department of Revenue Form T-226). You may download this form at [www.etax.dor.ga.gov](http://www.etax.dor.ga.gov) and complete it before going to the tag office, or you can pick up the form from a tag office
- Provide a current Georgia emissions certificate, if required
- Have valid Georgia insurance electronically submitted to the state insurance database by your auto insurer

For additional information or assistance, e-mail the Motor Vehicles Department at [tag@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcounty.com) or call 770.822.8818.

## 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](http://www.gwinnettglows.com) or call 770.822.7035.



## Rosanna Szabo: new Gwinnett Solicitor General

By Michael T. Eskey, Jr., *Communications Intern*

New Year's Day meant more than fireworks and college bowl games for some residents of Gwinnett County. On the first day of 2007, **Rosanna Szabo** began her term as the newly-elected Gwinnett Solicitor General. In this advanced position, Rosanna is responsible for the prosecution of misdemeanor crimes in the State Court.



Rosanna Szabo

Rosanna brings vast legal knowledge with her to her new position. She has served as a prosecuting attorney in Gwinnett County since 1989, including eight years as an assistant solicitor, a position that saw her try more than 300 jury trials. She has ultimately been responsible for the prosecution of thousands of criminal misdemeanor cases. Since 1997, Rosanna served as the Chief Assistant Solicitor of State Court and Solicitor of Recorder's Court where she managed the daily operations of the office and its 50 employees.

Before coming to Gwinnett County, Rosanna spent two years as an assistant district attorney on the Ocmulgee Circuit in Milledgeville, Georgia. This assignment was drawn shortly after her graduation from Mercer University School of Law in 1987. Prior to law school, Rosanna attended the University of South Florida where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in business in 1983.

*"What I love about what I get to do is that I have a lot of contact with the public. Each day the cases that I deal with are so different and I get to hear some unique and interesting stories,"* Szabo says about her chosen profession, especially as it relates to her new position. *"Gwinnett citizens deserve the best and should expect the best of their elected officials; the best in professionalism and integrity, service to the public, and commitment to duty."*

Rosanna has been married to Louis, a Gwinnett County Police Officer, for 15 years. They reside with their two children Andy and Marisa in Lawrenceville.

### 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@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcounty.com).

## Aquatic center

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path around the lake, and a 1.5-mile paved multi-purpose trail. Bethesda Park is also home to the Gwinnett Senior Center. Both the leisure and instructional pools are available for rent Friday through Sunday (after normal operating hours). Registration is now available for swim lessons and water exercise classes.

Bethesda Park Aquatic Center is located inside Bethesda Park at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville. For more information, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com) or call 678.924.6334.

## State of the County

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Bannister commended Parks and Recreation for being named one of the best four comparable departments in the U.S. last year. He asked his audience for their "help, advice, vision, investments, time, talents, and dedication to building a better Gwinnett County for our children and grandchildren."

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](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

## Want to do business with Gwinnett?

Gwinnett County's Purchasing Division will hold an all-day symposium on April 13 to acquaint potential suppliers with the County's procurement procedures.

"Gwinnett County is a \$1.3 billion-a-year consumer and it is time that the business community takes note. Businesses that bid to provide goods or services have a stable consumer in us," Purchasing Director **Scott Callan** said.

Beginning at 9:30am at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, the morning session will focus on how to do business with the County. In the afternoon, participants will break into smaller groups focusing on construction and capital projects, small business opportunities, and technology and procurement. The symposium will introduce potential suppliers and vendors to buyers and contracting officers and explain the local government's bidding procedures and requirements.

"We want to encourage more businesses to bid on our contracts," said Chairman **Charles Bannister**, "and we hope this symposium will help show them how."

See current projects open for bidding online at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com) under *Financial Services Department* then *Purchasing*.

## Check it out!

Did you know that the Gwinnett County Public Library offers access to many online practice exams for a variety of academic and professional pursuits? The following is just a partial list of the available practice exams available.

- **Advanced Placement:** Biology, Calculus, U.S. History, English Literature, and Composition
- **Civil Service Careers:** Federal Clerical and Postal Worker
- **College Preparation:** SAT Preparation Course, SAT Practice Exams, ACT, CUNY
- **Cosmetology**
- **EMT:** Basic and Paramedic
- **Firefighter**
- **GED Preparation**
- **Graduate School Entrance Exams:** GMAT, GRE, LSAT, and MCAT
- **Law Enforcement:** Border Patrol, Corrections Officer, Police Officer, Police Sergeant, and Treasury Enforcement Agent
- **Military:** ASVAB Preparation
- **Nurse Aide/Nursing Assistant**
- **Real Estate:** Broker and Sales Agent
- **Teacher Certification**

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](http://www.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.



## Mark Your Calendar!

National County Government Day  
Open House

Saturday, April 28, 2007

11:00am – 2:00pm

Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Get out with your girlfriends at the new **Ladies' Bunko Bash Night** on March 6 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Bunko, prizes, and desserts. This event will take place monthly, and the cost is \$12 for a group of four. Call 770.822.5414 to pre-register.

Enjoy music by Claude Diamond at **Grounds 'n' Sounds** on March 9 at 8:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum/Lawrenceville Female Seminary 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. Cost is \$5; \$4 for museum members. Call 770.822.5178 to receive your copy of the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*.

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

Crafts, games, moonwalks, and food are just a few of the fun treats you will find at **Leprechaun Leap**. This indoor festival will be held on March 10 from 9:00am – 2:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

A **Mommy and Me Day Out** will be held for mothers and daughters on March 10 from 10:00am – noon at Rhodes Jordan Community Center in Lawrenceville. Enjoy a tea, make-up fun, and a pedicure from mom. For daughters ages 3 – 8 and their mothers. The cost is \$7.50 per person. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

Seniors, enjoy a three-day adventure filled with tours, excursions, a dolphin watch, and boat cruise during the **St. Simons Getaway** March 12 – 14. For more information, call the Gwinnett Senior Center at 770.564.4680.

Join the **Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society** on March 12 at 7:30pm at the Gwinnett History Museum/Female Seminary in

Lawrenceville. Dr. Dennis Blanton of the Fernbank Museum of Natural History will be speaking on St. Catherine's Island. For more information, call 770.822.5178.

Seniors, mark your calendar for **Brown Bag Bingo** on March 16 from 10:30am – 12:30pm at the new Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park in Suwanee. Make new friends while enjoying this popular game. Bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. The cost is \$1 per person. Call 770.822.8840.

Kids will enjoy entertainment and snacks at **Milk and Cookies Day** on March 16 from 10:00am – 11:30am at the Dacula Activity Building. Register by March 9. The cost is \$5 per person. Parents and children must register separately. For more information, call 770.822.5414

Join a discussion on books relating to southern and Georgia history at the next meeting of the **History Book Club** on March 19 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum/Lawrenceville Female Seminary in Lawrenceville. Co-sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and the Gwinnett County Public Library. Call 770.822.5178 for book title and information.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will sponsor a **Youth Track and Field Meet** on March 24 at 9:00am at Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville. For ages 7 – 14 (age as of December 31, 2007). Running events include the 50-meter (7 – 10 year-olds only), 100-meter, 200-meter, 400-meter, 800-meter, and 1,600-meter races. Field events include running long jump, standing long jump, softball throw, and shot put (11 – 14 year-olds only). Winners will advance to the Georgia Recreation and Park Association District and State meet. The deadline for registration is March 14. Age verification required at registration. The entry fee is \$15 per person. Call 770.564.3060 for more information.

The **Gwinnett Lifestyle Showcase – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Day Out** will be held March 24 from 9:00am – noon at Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville. Informative programs, entertainment, crafts, and special

presentations geared toward seniors will be on display. On-site shopping and door prizes will be available. Free admission to the showcase, but bring your money for shopping. For more information call the Gwinnett Senior Center at 770.564.4680.

Learn tips and techniques that will make your scrapbook look great at **Scrapbooking with Sarah** on March 24 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Bogan Park in Buford. For ages 18 and up. Call 770.614.2060 for more information.

Find that perfect item at the **Shorty Howell Yard Sale and Craft Fair** on March 31 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth. Event held rain or shine. For information on indoor and outdoor booth rental to sell your items, call 770.814.4914.

Online registration is available for programs and classes offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. Check out **Gwinnett LIFE magazine** at [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://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.

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

## 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, [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).