

county Line

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Prepare for summer days and avoid summer haze

Summer is around the corner – and with it comes an increased potential for poor air quality. While poor air quality is a year-round concern in metro Atlanta, the hot, sunny weather seen mainly from May 1 to September 30 makes it more likely that ground-level ozone levels will exceed federal air quality limits. Across Georgia, 28 counties or parts of counties are classified by the EPA as a nonattainment area for either ground-level ozone, particle pollution, or both. This includes 20-plus counties in metro Atlanta.

Ground-level ozone is created from a recipe of nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds, cooked by sun and high temperatures. When ozone combines with particulate matter and other pollutants, smog is formed. Ozone levels can vary significantly over the course of the day, with the highest concentrations occurring from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Because of this, health experts recommend that active people exercise in the mornings rather than evenings on Smog Alert Days. The Air Quality Index can help you determine days

that exposure may impact you and your family.

The good news is commute options programs can help reduce air pollution. The best evidence of this comes from 1996 when Atlanta hosted the Olympics. During the games, many employers offered flextime, teleworking, and alternative work schedules, while many residents tried transit. The result? Although weather conditions were favorable for smog production,

... continued on page 4

contents

Advice from Tax Commissioner



Older Americans Month



Trail Mix Celebration



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



No watering on Fridays and other conservation reminders

“Georgia’s water conservation restrictions were tightened on April 18,” says Frank Stephens, of Gwinnett’s Water Resources department. “With continued drought conditions, people need to adjust automated lawn sprinklers and reduce outdoor water use.”



Most outdoor water use is now prohibited statewide after 10:00am every day and all day on Fridays. Between midnight and 10:00am, even numbered addresses should water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, while odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

The rules make exceptions for businesses that depend on water like landscapers and car washes. About half the water many homes use during the summer months goes for outdoor purposes like lawn watering and car washing, according to Stephens. Most of the water used

in Gwinnett and the Atlanta area comes from the Chattahoochee River basin.

The state has maintained its statewide water restrictions in order to conserve water so there will be enough for everyone in case of further drought conditions.

Several websites besides our own (www.gwinnettcounty.com) contain additional information about water conservation:

- www.gaepd.org
- www.georgiadrought.org
- www.conservewatergeorgia.net



Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Selling or trading your vehicle to a dealer?

There is a lot to remember when you trade in a vehicle at a dealer. One important thing you should be sure to do is cancel your vehicle's registration before you cancel the insurance on the vehicle. Dealers do not notify the state's Department of Revenue that they have purchased a vehicle from you or that you have traded in your vehicle to them.

To cancel a vehicle registration, the Tax Commissioner's Office needs the vehicle owner's name and either the vehicle's tag number or identification number (VIN). You can request a registration cancellation by sending this information to the Tax Commissioner's Office in one of the following ways:

- Mail the information to the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner Motor Vehicles Department, PO Box 829, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0829
- Send an e-mail to tag@gwinnettcountry.com
- Fax the information to 678.377.4330
- Visit your local branch tag office

If you cancel the vehicle insurance without first canceling the registration, the state's computer system will consider the vehicle as registered but without insurance coverage. The Georgia Department of Revenue will send a letter notifying the last owner on record of a lapse in insurance coverage.

For additional assistance, send an e-mail to tag@gwinnettcountry.com, call 770.822.8818, or visit www.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, or go to www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com for more information.

Older Americans Month honors great generation

Gwinnett residents **Margaret and Henry Provost** are just two of many seniors being honored nationally in May during *Older Americans Month*.

They met at a New York state prison where they were both employees many years ago. She was a guard in the women's prison and Henry supervised the prison farm where inmates helped grow fruits and vegetables. He worked there for 28 years.

Margaret's mother taught her to "work hard and you'll never be sorry." She worked 40 hours a week until she turned 80 with Henry beside her.



Henry and Margaret Provost are being honored during the month of May in celebration of Older Americans Month.

After their son was born, Margaret left the prison and opened a bakeshop. She also put her earlier nursing training to use by caring for others in her home, including her parents and Henry's mother. Today at age 88 and after 59 years of marriage, she's caring for Henry.

For the past few years, she's had help with light housekeeping from the County's Community Services department and they also receive Meals On Wheels.

"Seniors add relevance to our lives. They are the people who shaped us," says **Linda Lavelle**, managing partner of Outback Steakhouse. A long-time Senior Services supporter, she knows that many seniors get overlooked.

"Older Americans Month is a time to honor seniors like the Provosts for their lifetime of contributions to our nation," said Senior Services Manager **Linda Bailey**. "Tom Brokaw had it right when he called today's seniors the 'greatest generation.'"



Little Mulberry Park site of Trail Mix celebration

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation is hosting Trail Mix in celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2. Little Mulberry Park north of Dacula is the setting for a two-mile fun run/walk with lots of other activities for the whole family as well.

Registration for a Fun Run/Walk hosted by the Gwinnett Parks Foundation begins at



Equestrian trails are among Little Mulberry Park's many amenities.

8:00am near the park entrance at 3900 Hog Mountain Road. Entrants also may register in advance at 770.339.0203. The entry fee is \$10 per person or \$25 for a family up to five. The Fun Run/Walk starts at 8:30am.

A four-mile nature hike and an equestrian ride will begin at 8:00am. Free activities throughout the park will include hayrides, a petting zoo, pony rides, a rock climbing wall, make-and-take crafts, scout badge programs, and educational exhibits on the environment, animals, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Dogs on leashes are welcome and the park's equestrian trails will be open all day.

Additional parking with a shuttle bus will be located across the street at Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church.

At 890 acres, Little Mulberry became the County's second-largest park when phase two opened last fall, adding the 200-acre Karina Miller Nature Preserve, four additional miles of trails, and a fishing lake.

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation is to provide quality parks and leisure activities to the citizens of Gwinnett County.

Check it out!

She who sleuths! Take a look at these great new novels featuring women solving mysteries, enforcing the law and much more!

In Firm Pursuit, by Pamela Samuels-Young

Edge of Midnight, by Charlene Weir

Staying Home is Killer, by Sara Rosett

Hog Wild, Cathy Pickens

Rogue in Porcelain, by Anthea Fraser

Mockingbird in the Moonlight, by Jaclyn Weldon White

The Refuge, by Sue Henry

Blind Spot, by Terri Persons

Murder of a Botoxed Blonde, by Denise Swanson

Aunt Dimity Goes West, by Nancy Atherton

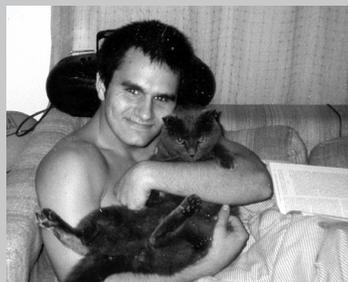
This list is provided by the Gwinnett County Public Library. Call or visit your local branch for additional selection assistance, or check out the GCPL website at www.gwinnettpl.org.

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.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Come make a bracelet and earring set and enjoy cookies and tea with your grandchild at the Gwinnett Senior Center. **Granny and Me Jewelry and Tea** is from 10:00am – noon on May 5 for grandparents age 50 and up. Cost is \$15. Please call 770.564.4680 to register. The Gwinnett Senior Center is located in Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville.

Scrapbooking with Sarah takes place at Bogan Park in Buford on May 5 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Learn tips and techniques to help make your next scrapbook great. Ages 6 – 12. Cost is \$25. Call 770.614.2060.

Learn how to protect the air we breathe from the **Clean Air Campaign** on May 5 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Bring your kids for hands-on activities and a visit with BAIR, the Clean Air Campaign's mascot (from 11:00am – 1:00pm). Send an e-mail to environmentalheritage@gwinnettcountry.com to register or pay at the door. Free with paid admission.

Moms, grab your little ones and come out to the Dacula Activity Building for the next **Milk and Cookies Day** on May 11 from 10:00am – 11:30am. There will be special entertainment along with snacks. Pre-registration required no later than one week prior to the event. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.822.5414 for more information.

The **Prime Timers Health Fair** on May 11 from 9:00am – 1:00pm is designed to keep the senior population informed of health options that are currently available. There will be an organized collection of exhibits on health, wellness programs, and services. Health professionals will be available to conduct health screenings and demonstrations and distribute educational information. Age 50 and up. Call 770.831.4173 for more information. Location is George Pierce Park's Prime Timers Pointe senior activity center in Suwanee.

Bring your blankets/lawn chairs and enjoy **Movie Under the Stars** at Tribble Mill Park in Lawrenceville. Food concessions, music, and amusements will be available and the movie *Happy Feet* will begin at sundown. Sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and

Recreation, Star94, and Special Events Network. This fun, free event starts 6:00pm on May 12.

Bring the kids out to McDaniel Farm Park in Duluth for a day of farm fun at the **Nature on the Farm and Hoof-It 5K** on May 12! Hayrides, wildlife exhibits, and farm animals from 11:00am – 3:00pm! Admission is \$3. Cost of the 5K is \$15 for pre-registration, \$20 day of race. 5K registration begins at 8:00am. Call 770.814.4920 for more information.

Celebrate **Archaeology Month** at the Archaeology Festival on May 12 at the Gwinnett County Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford! Fun activities for all ages from 10:00am – 4:00pm include Ask an Archaeologist, Primitive Tool Making, Deciphering the Documents, It's in the Dirt, Making Pottery, and more! Come learn about the fascinating world of archaeology and how you can protect Georgia's past! Cost is \$5 per person or \$12 for a family of four plus. Center admission is an additional fee. Call 770.904.3500 for more information.

Celebrate **National Pizza Party Day** at Bogan Park on May 18 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. Swimming, games, crafts, and pizza will all be part of the celebration. Cost is \$10. Call 770.614.2060.

Laughing Matters will have you rolling on the floor with laughter at the all-new **A Night of Comedy!** Join us on May 18 from 6:00pm – 9:30pm for dinner and the show at Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain. Register by May 14; cost is \$20 per person/ \$30 per couple. Space is limited. For more information, call 770.564.3060.

Leave the driving to us as **VAN GO** travels to some of Georgia's finest sights on May 18. Travel back in time on a visit to the Atlanta History Center and tour two historic homes and tranquil gardens. Bring \$15 plus tax and lunch money. Ages 12 and up. Contact the Pinckneyville Community Center for more information, 770.417.2212.

Love to run? Then the **EcoRun 5K and One Mile Fun Run** on May 19 is for you! Experience beautiful scenery and a challenging race

course through the multi-surface trails. The 5K race starts at 8:00am and the One-Mile Fun Run starts at 9:30am. Download the registration form at www.gwinnettEHC.com or register on race day. Registration fee of \$20 by May 5 or \$25 on race day includes a T-shirt for all runners. Center admission is an additional fee. Call 770.904.3500 for more information.

The **Teddy Bear Picnic** will be from noon – 2:00pm on May 19. Bring your favorite teddy bear, a sack lunch, and a blanket for an outdoor picnic full of fun, games, stories, and prizes at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Dessert will be provided. Ages 3 – 5 (parent participation is required). Cost is \$5. Pre-register by May 14. Call 770.822.5414.

Smog season

... continued from page 1

the reduced number of vehicle miles traveled on our roads helped keep the region from experiencing any ozone exceedences – even with hundreds of thousands of additional visitors in the area!

If you are interested in learning more about The Clean Air Campaign and what it can do for you, visit cleanaircampaign.com or call 1.877.CLEANAIR.

Source: *The Clean Air Campaign*

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@gwinnettcountry.com. The County Line is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.