



county Line

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SPLOST: New animal shelter opens to barks, purrs, applause

your pennies at work



The four-legged residents of Gwinnett's much-needed new Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center began moving in as construction crews moved out. County officials officially cut the ribbon on September 25, and several new occupants of the building were more than willing to chew on it.

With about 33,000 square feet, the new shelter on U.S. Highway 29 at Sweetgum Road in Lawrenceville is just over twice as big as the old facility on Hi-Hope Road. A small lake and dense forest on the property are perfect for walking dogs.

Funds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, paid for design and construction.

The new building features separate sections, each with its own ventilation and water to reduce contamination and the spread of diseases among the animals. Surgical facilities will allow spaying or neutering of all animals before adoption to help reduce overpopulation.

Gwinnett's old shelter was receiving as many as 15,000 stray or abandoned animals each year. About a third are usually returned, adopted,

or rescued. Manager **Sammy Jeanes** said, "We hope this great new facility will make it easier than ever for people to adopt a new pet." Strays become eligible for adoption after five days. The shelter holds all non-aggressive animals as long as it has space.

Adoption procedures plus pictures of some of the available cats, dogs, and even rabbits are posted online at gwinnettcountry.com.

Turn to the Pet Corner on page 3 for the shelter's new address and phone number.

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Around Gwinnett



SPLOST: County turns dirt for new fire station

Construction has started on the new Gwinnett County Fire Station 28 at 3725 Rosebud Road. Officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on September 4.

Fire Chief **Steve Rolader** said the new station will improve response time to both fire and medical emergencies in the growing area around Loganville. The station will be a two-bay, 8,700-square-foot design similar to two stations that opened in June near Dacula and Grayson.

Board Chairman **Charles Bannister** noted that "this is a good example of how we're making investments to expand and revitalize our public safety infrastructure in the southern end of the county." District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau** said, "Growth in the area necessitates an additional station and the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program will provide the funds to build it."



Officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on September 4. The station will be a two-bay, 8,700-square-foot design similar to two stations that opened in June near Dacula and Grayson.

The County is also planning to relocate stations in Norcross, near Gwinnett Center in Duluth, and in the Hamilton Mill area with funding from SPLOST. New equipment purchases this year include three fire engines, three aerial towers, an air/light unit, a hazardous materials truck, and five medical units.



Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Tag office aims to reduce wait times

Tax Commissioner **Katherine Sherrington** has begun testing a new system at the Lawrenceville Tag Office that is designed to reduce customer wait times. The electronic *Citizen Services Administration System* directs customers to a tag office agent who can most efficiently perform the desired transaction.

Customers who enter the tag office lobby are asked to select the type of transaction they need to complete at one of several touch-screen terminals. The machines issue numbered tickets. Customers may then take a seat while waiting for their number to be announced on an electronic display. A tag office agent will be stationed in the lobby to answer any questions.

The Lawrenceville Tag Office's pilot of this system is the first of two planned by Sherrington. The Norcross Tag Office will pilot a similar system later this year. While the system in Lawrenceville is in its 90-day test period, she asks that customers provide feedback through an online survey at **GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com**.

How to avoid insurance lapse fees

Did you know an insurance lapse fee could be charged if you do not follow the proper steps when selling or trading in your vehicle?

Oftentimes, an owner who sells or trades a vehicle will immediately cancel the insurance before canceling the registration. However, if the vehicle registration is not cancelled beforehand, the Georgia Department of Revenue will consider the vehicle as being operated without insurance and will charge the owner a \$25 insurance lapse fee.

To avoid this situation, vehicle owners need to cancel the vehicle's registration or transfer the vehicle tag to a new vehicle before canceling insurance coverage.

- To cancel a vehicle's registration, the registered owner must file a request with a Tax Commissioner tag office, either in person, by mail, e-mail, or fax. Telephone requests are not acceptable because written documentation is required. Requests to cancel a vehicle's registration must include: owner's name(s); vehicle license plate (tag) and title numbers; owner's daytime telephone; vehicle year, make, and model; and reason for canceling.
- To transfer a vehicle's tag to a newly purchased vehicle, the owner should visit a tag office to discuss the specific situation.

Ad valorem taxes are still due if a vehicle's registration is cancelled and still owned by the same individual(s).

For more information, visit **GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com** or call the Tax Commissioner's Department of Motor Vehicles Customer Service Line at 770.822.8818.

Property Tax Payments: 2nd installment due November 15

Visit **GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com** or call 770.822.8800 to find out how and where to make payments.

Composting and fall gardens workshop

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources Stormwater Management Division, in conjunction the Clean Water Campaign and Gwinnett County's Cooperative Extension Service, is hosting a free Composting and Fall Gardening Workshop on November 8 at 7:00pm.

Workshop presenter **Robert Brannen** will speak about fall gardening activities including preparing plants and turfgrass for the winter, methods to creatively reduce next year's landscape maintenance, pruning techniques, and how to create and manage a compost pile to save money and help protect our environment. "*Composting is fun and easy. It produces mulch and organic matter for our gardens, and it helps to protect the quality of water in our streams and lakes,*" says Brannen.

Registration is required and space is limited. Call 678.376.7126 or visit cleanwatercampaign.com to register.

County signs on with Partnership Gwinnett

A new, multi-sponsor economic development effort aimed at bringing new jobs to Gwinnett County, enhancing the workforce, and improving quality of life has received a financial commitment from the Board of Commissioners.

Last month the County agreed to contribute \$500,000 a year for up to five years provided that specified goals are met every six months. The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce leads Partnership Gwinnett with many public and private partners. It seeks to retain and expand existing Gwinnett businesses and develop new business in five key market segments: healthcare, distribution, corporate and regional offices, information technology, and advanced communications.

"County government has worked closely with the Chamber for years to help develop new jobs close to home for Gwinnett residents," said Board Chairman **Charles Bannister**. "*This appropriation shows the board's continuing commitment to improve the local economy.*"

Partnership Gwinnett's goals include promoting economic wealth and diversification and improving education, workforce excellence, quality of life and visibility. Over the next five years, it aims to help create 65,000 jobs and attract \$5.8 billion in new wealth.

"We're pleased and excited to have the County on board," says Chamber President and CEO **Jim Maran**.

Georgia voter ID requirements

A new Georgia law now requires voters to bring one of these six forms of identification when voting:

- A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
- A valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including one issued by the Department of Driver Services or your county registrar's office
- Valid U.S. passport
- Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state
- Valid U.S. military photo ID
- Valid tribal photo ID

If you do not have one of these forms of ID, a Georgia Voter Identification Card is available free of charge in your county registrar's office or at any Department of Driver Services Office.

**Call 1.877.725.9797
or visit GaPhotoID.com
for more information.**

Linkup for County information

Linkup is the leading information source on the news you need to know about Gwinnett County. Registering on gwinnettcountry.com will link you to a number of benefits including:

- Customize e-mail alerts about recent county news, animal adoptions, upcoming events, job opportunities, and much more
- Receive e-mail notifications of newsletters such as *County Line* and *Gwinnett LIFE*®
- Check permits online
- Personalize your homepage with the information most important to you

Even more benefits of registering will be added in the future. Look for the **mygwinnett** registration image on the left hand side of the gwinnettcountry.com home page to register on the site.



Watch **TVgwinnett** – Gwinnett County Government access cable channel 23 is also a great source of information.



Check It Out!

The Gwinnett County Library wants you to check out some of their hidden treasures. Look for these uncommon reads by literary and debut authors.

Lottery, by Patricia Wood

The Tenderness of Wolves, by Stef Penney

The Septembers of Shiraz, by Dalia Sofer

Ghostwalk, by Rebecca Stott

Consumption, by Kevin Patterson

Christine Falls, by Benjamin Black

The Street of a Thousand Blossoms, by Gail Tsukiyama

Gifted, by Nikita Lalwani

Maynard and Jennica, by Rudolph Delson

The Chicago Way, by Michael T. Harvey

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.

Pet Corner

The new Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center opened its doors last month with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, Animal Advisory Council members, and shelter staff.

If you are looking for a companionable addition to your household, you will find lots of adorable dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens at the shelter. For more information, stop by the Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.



Pet Corner

DA offers seminar

The Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office presents *Predators Among Us* on Tuesday, October 9 from 8:30am – 3:00pm. Topics will include sexual predators and profiling pedophiles, Georgia statutes and sexual offender registry, and adults resolving child sexual abuse.

For further information or to register for the seminar, please contact Candice Pitman at candice.pitman@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8491.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Pack a bathing suit and towel and gear up for fun and games during **Kids Night Out** at Bogan Park Community Center (2723 North Bogan Road in Buford) on October 12 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. Dinner will be served after swimming. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$10 for ages 6 – 10. 770.614.2060.

Join us for live music at **Coffeehouse Nights** from 8:00pm – 10:00pm. October 12 features High Cotton and October 26 brings Celtic and Scots-Irish music by George Her-gen. Starbucks coffee, drinks and desserts will be available for purchase. Lawrenceville Female Seminary/Gwinnett History Museum is located at 455 South Perry Street in Lawrenceville. 770.822.5178.

Dance the night away at the **Harvest Moon Ball** on October 12 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm. Kick up your heels with the Capital City Xpress band at Prime Timers Pointe/George Pierce Park Community Center. Admission is \$5. Ages 50 and up. George Pierce Park is located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee. 770.831.4173.

Learn how to save on fuel expenses at **How to Make and Use Biodiesel** on October 13 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive in Buford. Cost is \$75 per person or \$125 per couple, which includes lunch and a guided tour of the GEHC. Limited to 12 participants. Call 770.904.3500 to pre-register and pay by October 10.

Turn leaves into something good for your garden at the **Composting Workshop** on October 13 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center (2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford). Joel Hitt explains the tools needed and shows you how easy it is to compost! Event is free with paid admission and for GEHC members. 770.904.3500.

The whole family can dress up for the **Halloween Costume Carnival and Haunted Hall** on October 19 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Pinckneyville Park Community Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross. This fun carnival will have prizes for the best family costume, funniest, scariest, and more.

Cost is \$10/family of four plus \$3 for each additional person age 4 and up. 770.417.2200.

Join the Georgia Falconry Association on October 20 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm for **Hawks, Falcons and Owls – Oh My!** Bring the whole family to learn about the importance of protecting birds of prey. Admission is free at the Central Pavilion. Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive in Buford.

Moms and sons, bring a costume for the **3rd Annual Mother/Son Halloween Dance** at Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center (100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville) on October 26 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Enjoy dancing, games, prizes, snacks, and a keepsake photo. Costumes required. Pre-register by October 22. 770.822.5414.

The PrimeTime Health program of Gwinnett Medical Center and the Gwinnett Senior Center presents the **Gwinnett Senior Health Fair** on October 26 from 9:00am – 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville. Age 50 and up. 770.564.4680.

The **Shorty Howell Line Dance-a-thon** will be an evening filled with dancing on October 27 from 6:00pm – midnight at the Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth. Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. Early registration is \$5 per person. Price increases to \$8 after October 20. 770.814.4914.

Visit McDaniel Farm Park, located at 3251 McDaniel Road in Duluth, for **Farm Fest**. See live farm animals and enjoy hayrides, music, food, crafts, and blacksmithing and quilting demonstrations. The event is on October 27 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Admission is \$3 per person payable at the door. 770.814.4920.

The **Murder Mystery Dinner** presented by Parkview High School Drama Club will have you guessing until the very end. Dinner and the show take place on October 27 from 6:00pm – 9:30pm at the Mountain Park Activity Building, 1063 Rockbridge Road in Stone Mountain. Space is limited, so register

by October 19. \$20 per person or \$30 per couple (ages 18 and up). 770.564.3060.

Go batty during **Bat Basics** at the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center (2020 Clean Water Drive in Buford) on October 27 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Get the scoop on what bats are really like and search the grounds for real bats. Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 for a family of four. Register by October 25. 770.904.3500.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation sponsors 10 different senior recreation clubs at various parks located throughout the county. Find out how you can become active in one of the clubs by calling 770.564.4680.



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gwinnettcounty.com

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gwinnettcounty's information resources



countyline

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 770.822.7035 or e-mail heathersawyer@gwinnettcounty.com. The County Line is also available on the County's website, gwinnettcounty.com.