



county Line

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SPLOST: County's first fire station gets new home



At 10:15am on March 30, 1971, Fire Station 1 took its first call. At the time, the department consisted of 10 firefighters, one engine, and an annual budget of \$89,000. Almost 37 years and \$2.5 million later, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services opened the doors to a brand new Fire Station 1, one of many stations that the 700-member department uses to serve the largest fire district in Georgia. The Board of Commissioners dedicated the new station on February 26, 2008, at its new location, 165 Lawrenceville Street in Norcross. Staff from Fire and Emergency Services and Norcross city officials also participated in this event.



Official ribbon cutting for the new Fire Station 1

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By Kevin Carraher, Engineer II, Department of Water Resources/Stormwater Management Division

Oil drips, pesticides, leaky septic tanks, small chemical spills, wastewater from car washing, and a host of other similar contaminants accumulate on the ground and are washed into our streams every time it rains. Alone, each small spill or leak is negligible, but add them all together and it is estimated that they create approximately 80 percent of the pollution that exists in our waterways. Because this pollution originates from so many different locations, it is known as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

While NPS pollution is caused in part by each person in the community, Gwinnett County has recognized that several commercial activities are more likely than others to contribute to the overall NPS pollution load present within our streams. In an attempt to address these higher priority sources, Gwinnett County has developed and commenced the Industrial Inspection Program. The purpose of this program is to identify

those business and industry types that, by their nature, are more likely to produce significant amounts of NPS pollution. Each business of this type within the County is inspected to identify individual sources of NPS pollution produced by that business.

A Stormwater Management Inspection involves a thorough inspection of a facility to ensure only rain or stormwater is allowed to flow into the storm sewer. These inspections are completed under the authority of Gwinnett County's *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance*. This ordinance provides that a person may not discharge any material other than rainwater into the County's storm drainage system.

During the inspection, the inspector is looking for certain conditions or work practices that are or could be contributing to NPS pollution. Some examples may include fuel containers that leak or spill and are stored near storm drains, wastewater from floor washing, or outside

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Title and register your vehicle

If you're a new or a current resident, it may seem overwhelming if you don't have the proper documents to title and register a vehicle.

Here is a helpful checklist of what you need to title and register your vehicle in Gwinnett County:

- Valid Georgia driver's license or ID card
- Proof of Gwinnett County residency dated within one year and in the vehicle owner's name; acceptable proofs are a utility bill, rental/lease agreement, bank statement, closing papers, or voter registration card
- Original Georgia/out-of-state title (1986 or newer model). *Note – if the title has "Rebuilt" or "Salvage" brands, you must first submit the title to the Georgia Department of Revenue Salvage Division; call 404.362.6500 for details*
- Current Georgia/out-of-state valid certificate of registration, or a purchase contract if the vehicle registration has expired
- Valid Georgia insurance coverage
- Current vehicle mileage and the purchase date
- Seller's name and address
- Current Georgia emission certificate
- Title Application form (MV-1) signed by all owners or with a notarized power of attorney from any owner not present at the time of application
- If the vehicle has a lien, the complete name and address of the lien holder
- If the vehicle is leased, an original notarized power of attorney, name, and address of the leasing company

New Georgia residents have 30 days after establishing residency to apply for a Georgia title and tag. Be aware that if the vehicle's current registration is expired, law enforcement can issue a citation.

Contact the Tax Commissioner's office for more information.

2008 Mobile Home Taxes

Reminder: The deadline to pay mobile home taxes is May 1.

Katherine Sherrington
Tax Commissioner

75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Property Tax Customer Service: 770.822.8800
tax@gwinnettcountry.com

Motor Vehicles Customer Service: 770.822.8818
tag@gwinnettcountry.com

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com



Annual Gwinnett Corporate Challenge

Companies are beginning to gear up for the ninth annual Gwinnett Corporate Challenge. Although the Challenge begins in September, several companies have already made a commitment to return this year including the *Gwinnett Daily Post* and Scientific Atlanta, both participants for several years.

This year's Challenge will include competitions in golf, kickball, rock climbing, tennis, trivia, bowling, a 5K run, a fitness challenge team building exercise, table tennis, laser tag, sand volleyball, and a new activity: an Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt at Little Mulberry Park. "Teams really love to go for the gold each year," said **Tammy Gibson**, Marketing Coordinator for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. "They have a lot of fun competing against one another each year, while at the same time knowing they are helping to raise money for a great cause. New companies are always welcome, and once they get started they catch 'going for the gold' fever, too!" Monies raised from the Gwinnett Corporate Challenge fund recreation scholarships that allow children—and even senior citizens—to participate in summer camps, swim lessons, and other recreation classes.

Tiffany Sanders found out about the recreation scholarships two years ago and enrolled her two children, Christopher, seven, and Hannah, two, in a summer day camp and the Moving Tots program offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation. Without the scholarship money, neither child would have been able to attend. Christopher said the best thing about being able to attend the summer day camps was "playing neat games like bulldog-chicken in the gymnasium and making friends—it was really fun!"

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April: National Volunteer Month

Get involved in your community by making a difference in a senior's life. Contact Gwinnett County Senior Services Volunteer Coordinator, **Gary Galloway** at 770.822.8837 or visit the senior services website, www.gwinnettseniorservices.com, to find out how you can lend a helping hand.

National County Government Day Open House

Saturday, April 26, 2008

11:00am – 2:00pm

Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center

Free kids' activities, music, and more!

Inspection program, ...cont'd from page 1

equipment where wastewater naturally flows to a storm drain. The business owner is advised of the problems identified and given possible solutions. A notice clearly summarizing the issues that need to be addressed is sent to the business owner. For documentation purposes, photographs are taken and a written report is produced. Where violations are noted a violation notice is issued. Continuing to inadequately rectify a viola-

tion may result in a citation, up to a \$1,000 fine, and/or 60 days in the County jail.

The goal of the Industrial Inspection Program, however, is to work with businesses through a process of education and cooperation to improve the quality of Gwinnett County's waterways by eliminating as many nonpoint sources of pollution as possible.

SPLOST: Peachtree Ridge Park opens with trails, special needs ball field

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will hold a ribbon cutting and grand opening with free kids' activities on April 19 to highlight phase one construction of the park and to unveil two very special elements of the park still under construction: a special needs ball field and playground. The park also includes one mile of paved surface with .23-mile handicap accessible loop, a playground, large pavilion, basketball courts, restroom facility, and an open play area. Upon completion, Peachtree Ridge Park will be 155.7 acres.

The INSPIRE program (Intramural Sports that Promote Inclusion, Respect, and Excellence) is part of the Peachtree Ridge Youth Athletic Association and provides athletics for individuals with special needs. Funding for the first phase of construction was provided by the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). For more information, visit www.gwinnettparks.com or call 770.822.8840.

For information on pavilion rental, call 770.831.4173.



Check It Out!

Still making those summer travel plans? Get inspired with these exciting tales of world exploration:

Way Off the Road: Discovering the Peculiar Charms of Small Town America, by Bill Geist

Weird Georgia: Your Travel Guide to Georgia's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets, by Jim Miles

Around the World on Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride, by Peter Zheutlin

Pedaling to Hawaii: A Human-Powered Odyssey, by Stevie Smith

Nomad: Letters from a Westward Lap of the World, by Jason Jones

Long Way 'Round: Chasing Shadows Around the World, by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman

100 Best Cruise Vacations, by Theodore W. Scull

North Florida and the Florida Panhandle, by Sandra Friend and Kathy Wolf

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.

SPLOST, ...cont'd from page 1

"We are very excited to open this station where our Fire and Emergency Services department first started. Today, we are one of the largest fire units in the Southeast, and we are proud of the men and women who serve our community every day," District 2 Commissioner Bert Nasuti said. A fire museum is also located at the station's new site. The museum, which will include an antique fire truck, was

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Pet Corner

If you are looking for a companionable addition to your household, you will find lots of adorable cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens at Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center. In an attempt to prevent pet overpopulation, all cats and dogs are now either spayed or neutered before adoption.

To see photos of all the critters currently up for adoption, visit gwinnettanimalcontrol.com. For more information, drop by the shelter located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200. Kennel hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am until 4:00pm.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

You'll become a witness in this "who-dun-it" **Murder Mystery Theatre**, complete with catered meal and wedding cake on April 7, 24, 21, and 28 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Pre-register by Wednesday prior to event. All ages. Cost is \$25/person. Call 770.822.5450 for more information.

The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority** will meet on April 10 at 3:00pm in Conference Room B at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Three-on-three basketball tournaments, open game room, inflatables, trivia, and karaoke at the **Friday Night RecZONE** on April 11 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Dinner included; ages 10-15. Cost is \$20. Event will be held at Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For more information, call 770.564.3060.

Play your favorite family board and trivia games or bring a game to share at **Family Game Night** on April 11 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Ages 4 and up; cost is \$3 per person. Call 770.417.220 to pre-register or for more information. Event will be held at Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

Teens, spend your evening dancing and socializing at **Spring Fling for Teens**, April 18 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Refreshments provided; pre-registration required. Ages 13-18; cost is \$5/person. George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center is located at 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. For details, call 770.831.4173.

Bring your grandchild and favorite remote control car for a fun-filled afternoon at **Papa & Pal Day**, April 18 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Ages 50 and up, plus grandchildren of any age; cost is \$5/person. Event will be held at Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. Call 770.564.4680 for more information.

Get a Taste of the Civil War and join our re-enactors for an evening of **Civil War-era food and entertainment** on April 19 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. All ages; cost is \$10/person. Event will be held at Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for details.

Bring your lawn chair and blankets for an evening of **Barbecue and Blues**, April 19 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. All ages; cost is \$6/person. Pre-register by April 10. Event will be held at Bogan Park, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Call 770.416.2060 for more information.

There's nothing but line dancing at the **Line Dance-a-Thon** on April 19 from 6:00pm to midnight. Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. All ages; early registration is \$5, but increases to \$8 on April 12. Event will be held at Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth. Call 770.814.4914 for more information.

Come out to the **Latin Dance Party** for dance lessons and refreshments on April 26 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Singles and couples welcome. Ages 13-18; cost is \$12/person. Event will be held at Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. Call 770.564.3060 for details.

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 by calling 770.564.4680.

Challenge, ...cont'd from page 2

Gwinnett Corporate Challenge team entry fees are: Companies with 100+ employees, \$1,000 before May 31 or \$1,200 after. Companies with 1 – 99 employees, \$600 before May 31 or \$750 after.

Don't think you don't have enough employees to make up a team? Many companies combine forces to make up a team. For more information, contact John Register, team liaison, at john.register@gwinnettcounty.com or 770.822.5454.

Station 1, ...cont'd from page 3

constructed by the County and will be managed by the City of Norcross.

"As the City of Norcross has grown, so has their need for improved public safety facilities," Commission Chairman Charles Banister said. "We thank the citizens of Gwinnett County for providing the funding for this facility through SPLOST, and we pledge to continue to provide exceptional service for Gwinnett's cities as well as the county," he said.

Precision Planning designed and C.P. Richards Construction built the new station, which was funded by the sales tax program.

linkup

www.gwinnettcounty.com

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gwinnettcounty's information resources

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