



county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

august 2008 v16, n8

SPLOST: Two County parks get new improvements



The Board of Commissioners in June approved park improvements for both Graves Park and Yellow River Park to be funded through the SPLOST program for parks and recreation. Graves Park, which opened in 2005, is a 70-acre park located on Graves Road in western Gwinnett County. As a passive community park, at least two-thirds will remain undeveloped. In contrast, the 556-acre, Yellow River Park is a large open space park located in southern Gwinnett County.

"The new picnic pavilion at Graves Park will provide a much-needed facility for community groups and citizens to enhance their enjoyment of this park," said Commissioner **Bert Nasuti**. Graves Park boasts a variety of other

facilities including two tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, an open play area, a playground, a dog park, one-mile paved multi-purpose trail, and other park amenities.

"Yellow River Park is an extremely popular park and these new facilities will offer more recreational opportunities for Gwinnett County families," said Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau**. Yellow River Park already hosts a myriad of other amenities including an area for equestrian, mountain biking, and walking/jogging trails. The new improvements include a pavilion, restroom, building, and a playground.

The \$808,732 construction contract for both parks was awarded to F.E. Sims Enterprises.

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Around Gwinnett



County finds ways to reduce fuel costs

As fuel expenses increase, Gwinnett County government is finding ways to reduce consumption while continuing to provide a first-rate level of service to residents. The County has implemented several initiatives, from allowing employees to utilize alternative work schedules to reducing the number of County vehicles on the road in an effort to effectively reduce fuel costs.

Currently 217 employees within nine departments have flexible work schedules. As a result of the County's participation in the **Clean Air Campaign**, some employees are working two-week cycles of five nine-hour days in the first week and three nine-hour and one eight-hour day in the second week. This schedule reduces the number of days by one without reducing the hours an employee works within a two-week period. This work schedule also applies to employees who are classified as exempt under the *Fair Labor Standards Act* to avoid potential overtime costs. Other employees are working four 10-hour days per week, reducing the number of reporting days by one per week.

The County also encourages employees to participate in the Clean Air Campaign's **Commuter Rewards Pro-**

gram, which provides incentives such as monthly drawings worth up to \$100 for employees who use carpools, transit, and other congestion-reducing methods to get to work. Representatives from the Clean Air Campaign held clean commute information sessions throughout the month of July to sign up new participants for the Commuter Rewards Program.

The Department of Water Resources has joined the fuel-saving effort by increasing its three-man work crews to four-man crews. This reduces the number of vehicles by one for every 12 employees. The department also reduced vehicle idling except in circumstances where safety is an issue.

Police Services has also reduced vehicle idling and requested that uniform patrol officers turn off their patrol vehicles for at least 30 minutes during each shift. In addition, the department has decreased the number of in-person incident reports by dispatching minor-incidents and information-only calls directly to uniform patrol officers.

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

How to change an owner's name on a vehicle title due to divorce

If your name is changed due to a divorce, you may need to change your name on a vehicle's title. Here are some helpful hints on what you need to do:

1. Bring the following items with you:
 - A certified copy of the divorce decree awarding the vehicle to the applicant (a signed affidavit by the attorney on his or her letterhead is also permitted)
 - Current vehicle title
 - Release of lien or security interest, if applicable
 - Valid Georgia ID for all titled owners (a legible photocopy is also permitted)
2. Complete the *Georgia Title Application* form (Form MV-1). Visit any tag office or <http://motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms> for an application; please note that the application must be completed by each owner listed on the title
3. Pay an \$18 fee

For more information, contact the Tax Commissioner's office. Visit the Georgia Department of Driver Services at www.dds.ga.gov to learn how to obtain Georgia driver's licenses or identification cards.

Property tax bills: First installment due September 15

Last month, the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner mailed 2008 property tax bills to property owners in Gwinnett. For convenience, taxpayers received two payment coupons and reply envelopes and may pay in two installments due September 15 and November 15, 2008. Payment in full is also accepted by the due date. Penalties and interest apply for late payments.

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

Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service offers new weight loss program

*"Research has consistently shown that long-term weight maintenance is nearly impossible without exercise," according to **Connie Crawley**, Nutrition Specialist at The University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences. "Also, people who exercise are less likely to develop chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Those who already have chronic diseases find that they are more controllable with regular exercise."*

The Gwinnett Cooperative Extension implemented the Walk-A-Weigh Program to promote healthy weight management through exercise. The program differs from other weight control programs because most of the class time is devoted to exercise. The program is eight to 12 weeks long, with one-hour classes. The majority of each class will focus on participants actually walking, but the classes also include a brief presentation on some of these topics: vitamin and mineral supplements, maintaining weight loss, substituting herbs and spices for salt, understanding nutrition labels, reducing fat in recipes, and the importance of calcium in the diet. Some classes will end with tasty treats related to the week's topic.

This remarkable program will be implemented during the fall season when our diet consists of so many rich and delicious holiday foods

and when we tend to be a little less active. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Ines Beltran, Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service, at 678.377.4010.



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Fire and Emergency Services has been proactive in consolidating or eliminating discretionary travel. For example, firefighters will refuel apparatus when returning from calls. In addition to reducing vehicle idling, the department has been conducting staff training and apparatus repairs at their stations. They have also reduced the number of apparatus visits to special events. Also of significance is the 24-hour on, 48-hour off schedule for firefighters, which affects more than 600 of the department's employees and has been in place for years. This schedule means that employees travel to work fewer times during the week and, once they arrive, their vehicles typically stay parked for 24 hours. As with

flexible work schedules implemented in other departments, the firefighter schedule both decreases personal operating costs and keeps smog-producing pollutants out of the air in keeping with the Clean Air Campaign's objectives.

"We're encouraging department directors to make the best use of their resources to provide services to our citizens efficiently and effectively, while keeping environmental factors such as conservation and cost-saving efforts and opportunities in mind," said County Administrator **Jock Connell**. *"We will certainly continue to explore and implement additional fuel-conservation initiatives where we can."*

Residents are also encouraged to do their part to conserve our nonrenewable resources. For more information about the Clean Air Campaign's programs and ways to conserve fuel, visit www.cleanaircampaign.com.

Gwinnett County lifeguards win third state competition

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation won first place at the Georgia Recreation and Park Association's State Lifeguarding Competition on June 30 at Lake Oconee. The team was supervised by Aquatic Coordinators Christine Kinsella and Diane Brim.

"Needless to say, we are very proud of the team and their accomplishments. Thank you to all the staff that assisted in the training of the team

for this event," said **Jim Cyrus**, Aquatic Manager. *"This is another huge feather in our cap!"*

In order to defend their 2006 and 2007 first place titles, the lifeguards practiced all summer for the competition, which included activities such as rescue relays, lifeguard tests, swim relays, capture the flag, rescue board relays, critical incidents, and a triathlon.



Check It Out!

Enjoy these great new novels set in the South

How Dolly Parton Saved My Life, by Charlotte Connors

Divorcing Dwayne, by J.L. Miles

Sister's Choice, by Emilie Richards

The Pajama Girls of Lambert Square, by Rosina Lippi

Deep Dish, by Mary Kay Andrews

The Memory of Water, by Karen White

Red Helmet, by Homer Hickam

The Art of Keeping Secrets, by Patti Callahan Henry

Return of the Stardust Cowgirl, by Marsha Moyer

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

Gwinnett's animal shelter is trying out some new ideas in a 90-day trial this summer to increase pet adoptions. The changes include longer hours, free adoptions for seniors, and an upgraded nutrition program for all shelter animals.

The shelter is now open for adoptions on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am – 8:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am – 4:00pm. Hours on Wednesdays and Fridays remain the same, 10:00am – 4:00pm. The shelter is still closed to the public on Sunday and Monday.

Drop by the shelter located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200 to learn more.



"Charity sees the need, not the cause."

— German Proverb

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

The **Teacher Art Exhibit** will be held August 3 through October 4 during center hours at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. Reception is August 2 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Kitchen fun for kids at the **Young Chefs Academy**, August 2 from 10:00am – noon. Pre-registration required. Ages 6 – 12; cost is \$45/person. Bogan Park is located at 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Call 770.641.2060 for details.

Join us for beach party-themed **Family Swim Nights** from 7:10pm – 8:30pm on August 5 at Dacula Park Pool, 205 Dacula Road, and August 7 at Bogan Park Aquatic Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Each event will have special activities to add to the aquatic experience. No registration necessary. Regular pool admission fees apply; all ages. For more information, call the Dacula Park Pool at 770.614.2063 or the Bogan Park Aquatic Center at 770.641.2060.

Come out to the **Grandparent/Grandchild Ice Cream Social**, August 6 from noon – 2:00pm at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. Tickets are limited; no take-outs. Call 770.831.4173 for reservations. Ages 50 and up; cost is \$2/person. For more information, call 770.831.4173.

High Cotton will perform as part of **Coffee-Ceilidh Coffeehouse Nights**, August 8 at 8:00pm. Admission: \$5/\$4 for museum members. Event will be held at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for details.

Kids' activities, food concessions, and more at the **Block Party and Yard Sale**, August 9 from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Rain or shine; vendors pre-purchase tables \$25/inside or \$15/outside. Event will be held at Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For more information, call 770.723.9516.

Singers, songwriters, poets, musicians, and storytellers: share your talents at the **Open Mic Showcase**, from August 9 10:00am – 3:00pm. Pre-registration required. Cost is free. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. For details, call 770.417.2200.

Bring your teddy bear, lunch, and blanket for a special **Teddy Bear Picnic**, August 9 from noon – 2:00pm. Parent must participate; pre-register by August 1. Ages 3 – 5; cost is \$5/person. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center is located at 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

Join us for a real Hawaiian experience with food, fun, and music at the **Senior Luau**, August 15 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm. Ages 50 – up. Cost is \$5/person. The event will be held at the George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. For information, call 770.831.4173.

A **kids' photography contest and show** will be held August 18 – 29. Show off photos representing something about you—hobby, culture, talent, etc.—be creative! Prizes will be awarded. Ages 6 – 12; Event will be held at Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For more details, call 770.723.9516.

During the **Pinckneyville EXPO and Awesome Artist Concert**, on August 30 from 10:00am – 3:00pm, meet instructors and see class demonstrations, including ballet, pottery, karate, drama, and painting. Enter the Awesome Artist contest in three-dimensional art or drawing/painting (ages 4 – 18; one entry per person, deadline for entries August 28). All ages; cost is free. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. Call 770.417.2200 for more details.

Live music by *Rack of Spam* on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse during the **Moonlight and Music Concert Series**, August 22 from 8:00pm – 10:00pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for free seat-

ing on the lawn (reserve a table for six for \$60). Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For more details, call 770.822.5450.

The **Karen Orellana and Judy Mizel Art Exhibit** begins August 22 and continues through November 17. Reception is August 28 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. Call 770.417.2200 for details.

Grab your best friends or venture out on your own and come out to the **Latin Dance Party**, which is back by popular demand on August 23 from 7:00pm – 11:30pm. Cost is \$12 per person and includes dance lessons and refreshments; ages 14 – up. Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. Call 770.723.9516 for details.

There's nothing but line dancing at the **Line Dance-a-Thon** from 6:00pm – midnight. Bring a snack to share; drinks provided. All ages; pre-registration required; registration begins May 10 and continues through August 23; \$5/person if registered by August 23; \$8/person after. Event will be held at Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth. Call 770.814.4914.

For more information about the events and services sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation or Health and Human Services, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com under *News and Events* to download the *Gwinnett Life* and *One Stop* newsletters.

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