



# county Line

a monthly publication of gwinnett county, georgia

january 2008 v16, n1

## SPLOST: Southern end of county gets new park land



In recent months, Gwinnett County commissioners have purchased 56 acres for a new park in the Lilburn area, expanded South Gwinnett Park near Snellville by nine acres, and added acreage to a future park along the Yellow River.

The new Bryson Park is named for the family selling the land on U.S. 29 near Lilburn. The County is combining this land tract with another 11 acres to create a 67-acre active community park. The comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation identifies a need especially for soccer facilities in the area.

sioner **Bert Nasuti**. "With land becoming scarcer in this part of the county, I am thankful for the opportunity to purchase this property with SPLOST funds to meet the recreation needs of the community." The public will be invited to participate in creating a master plan for the park this year.

South Gwinnett Park on McGee Road in the Snellville area was acquired by the County in 2006. The expansion of the park comes through a land exchange.

"By approving this exchange, we are enlarging the park to 32 acres and bolstering our support of youth sports programs in the Snellville area," said District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau**. "Best of all, this is being done at no cost to the taxpayers."

Finally, the future Lee Park, located where Five Forks Trickum Road crosses the Yellow River between Snellville and Lilburn, has expanded with the purchase of about seven more acres along the river adjacent to 16 acres the County acquired last September. This greenspace acquisition will help protect water quality, preserve natural resources, and expand a greenway along the river as recommended in the County's Open Space and Greenways master plan.

Board Chairman **Charles Bannister** said, "These acquisitions demonstrate how we're continuing to support the older, established areas of the county where we have documented needs for improved facilities and additional greenspace."

## contents

Advice from Tax Commissioner



Assistance for Grandparents



Funcard



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



## SPLOST: Lucky Shoals Park reopens with new community recreation center

Lucky Shoals Park has received a significant facelift thanks to 2005 SPLOST funding. On January 5, 2008, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will hold a grand opening for the new community recreation center and gymnasium. The free festivities will be held from noon until 4:00pm, and will include a mariachi band, balloon artist, trackless children's train, circus performers, henna-style temporary tattoos, door prizes, crafts, and a family walk-a-thon. There will also be cultural performances and class demonstrations including ballet, hip-hop, karate, tai chi, and yoga. Food vendors will also be on site selling concessions.



Lucky Shoals Park Community Center is the fifth community recreation center in the county.

...cont'd on page 3



# Advice from the Tax Commissioner

## Motor Vehicle Tag Office Holiday Operating Hours

Tuesday, January 1, 2008	All tag offices closed
Monday, January 21, 2008	All tag offices closed
Tuesday, January 22, 2008	All offices ( <b>except North Gwinnett</b> ) open

The Lawrenceville, Norcross, Peachtree Corners, and Snellville tag offices are open 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The North Gwinnett tag office is open 8:30am – 5:00pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00am – 4:00pm Saturdays, excluding holidays.

## Helpful information on applying for Homestead Exemptions

Several types of homestead exemptions have been enacted to reduce the burden of *ad valorem* taxation for eligible homeowners. These exemptions apply to property owned and occupied by a taxpayer at his or her legal residence as of January 1 of the tax year. Also, any vehicles owned by Gwinnett County homeowners must be registered in Gwinnett County at the time of a homestead application.

You may apply for regular homestead exemptions year round, but you must apply by March 1 to receive the exemption for that tax year. You may apply in several ways: online, by telephone, by mail, or in person.

Regular homestead exemptions are automatically renewed each year unless there is a change in ownership, a name or spelling correction on the deed, the taxpayer seeks to qualify for a different type of exemption, or the eligibility requirements can no longer be met by the homeowner. Only one person needs to apply if more than one name appears on the deed.

In addition to the regular homestead exemption, several special homestead exemptions exist for eligible seniors, certain disabled persons including veterans, and others.

## 2008 Vehicle emission testing requirements

In 2008, all 1984 to 2005 model year gasoline-powered cars or light trucks (up to 8,500 lbs.) must have a valid Georgia emissions inspection completed before registering or renewing tags. Some important tips to know:

- **Where to go:** Newer vehicles (1996 to 2005) can be inspected at any emissions inspection station. Vehicle models 1984 to 1995 can only be inspected at stations marked "All Vehicles Welcome."
- **Inspect early:** It is best to get your vehicle inspected four to six weeks before the registration renewal date (the first vehicle owner's birthday), in the event repairs need to be made. An

emissions inspection is valid for 12 months or for one registration renewal by the same owner.

- **Senior exemptions:** If you are age 65 or older and are a registered owner of a vehicle 10 model-years old or older, and if you drive less than 5,000 miles per year, you may be eligible for a senior exemption.
- **Out-of-area emissions extensions:** Special emissions extensions for student, military, and business situations may be made at tag offices by qualified Gwinnett residents if you or your family members, and vehicle(s), are temporarily located outside the 13-county Atlanta emissions test area. Contact the Tax Commissioner's office or visit a tag office to apply or for more information.

Locations of Georgia Clean Air Force Waiver Centers, as well as information for new Georgia residents, repair waivers, alternative fuel vehicles, or what to do when you sell your vehicle, are available at [cleanairforce.com](http://cleanairforce.com).

## 2008 Mobile Home Taxes

Mobile home tax bills will be mailed by January 15. Payment deadline is May 1.

## Second customer services system at Norcross tag office

An electronic **Citizen Services Administration System** is currently being tested by the Tax Commissioner at the Norcross Tag Office. Similar to the one at the Lawrenceville Tag Office, the system will reduce wait time in the lobby and electronically direct customers to the tag office agent who can most efficiently perform the motor vehicle transaction.

Customers will no longer stand in line; after the customer selects a transaction type at a touch-screen terminal, he or she will receive a numbered ticket and is seated until his or her ticket number is announced. Tag office agents will also be available in the lobby to answer questions. This test program will last for approximately 90 days. Customers are asked to provide comments regarding the system by completing a survey at [gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com).

**Katherine Sherrington**, Tax Commissioner

75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

**Property Tax Customer Service:** 770.822.8800  
[tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com)

**Motor Vehicles Customer Service:** 770.822.8818  
[tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com)

**[gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com)**

# gwinnettcounty parks and recreation



**SAVE MONEY** by purchasing the new **FUNCARD** that offers discounted admission fees. Visit [gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com).

Seasonal Funcard*		Year-Round Funcard*		10-Visit Funcard**	
Individual	\$ 75	Individual	\$144	Individual	\$45
Family of 2	\$125	Family of 2	\$232	Senior Citizen	\$18
Family of 3	\$170	Family of 3	\$313		
Family of 4	\$200	Family of 4	\$375		
Family of 5	\$232	Family of 5	\$438		
Family of 6	\$265	Family of 6	\$500		

Funcards can only be purchased at Bethesda, Bogan, Collins Hill, Mountain Park, and West Gwinnett Aquatic Centers, but are valid at all Gwinnett County pools. Seasonal Funcards are valid Memorial Day through Labor Day (all indoor and outdoor pools) and Labor Day through Memorial Day (indoor pools only).

\* Prices listed are for Gwinnett County residents; prices doubled for non-residents  
 \*\* 10-visit Funcard available to Gwinnett County residents only

## Assistance for grandparents

A forum, *CPR to Grandparents – Connecting Parenting Resources to Grandparents*, will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville from 10:00am to noon. It will be hosted by the Fast Trackers Group of the 2008 grad-

uating class of the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI). This is a free event for grandparents, concerned citizens, and community leaders. Please RSVP by calling 770.455.7602 extension 103 or visit the GNLI website, [gnli.org](http://gnli.org).



## Check It Out!

Liven up your commute as you move into the New Year! Try these great new stories on CD.

*Atomic Lobster*, by Tim Dorsey

*Capitol Conspiracy*, by William Bernhardt

*The Opposite of Invisible*, by Liz Gallagher

*Souvenir*, by Therese Fowler

*The Heroines*, by Eileen Favorite

*Split Estate*, by Charlotte Bacon

*The Killing Ground*, by Jack Higgins

*Obedience*, by Will Lavender

*Ice Trap*, by Kitty Sewell

*Gardens of Water*, by Alan Drew

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](http://gwinnettpl.org).

## 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 the brand new Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center. In an attempt to prevent pet overpopulation, all cats and dogs are now spayed or neutered before adoption.

To see photos of all the critters currently up for adoption, visit [gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://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.



## Lucky Shoals, *cont'd from page 1*

The 28,450-square-foot community recreation center features an indoor gymnasium with two basketball courts, volleyball and badminton court areas, and a walking track around the top level. The facility also features a dance studio, community room with a catering kitchen, two classrooms, and a game room. The outdoor tennis and basketball courts have also been renovated.

The project was designed by Sutton Architectural Services and completed by Piedmont Construction Company. For more information, visit [gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com) or call 770.822.8840.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

**What is Georgia's culture?** Come learn a little about the diversity of the state found in music, recreation, language, folktales, and more while mapping your state's culture. Participants will work together to create a small state scrapbook or Georgia license tag for display at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford. Saturdays from 11:00am to noon. Free with paid admission to the center.

**Do you want to earn the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Green Power Patch?** Participate in hands-on activities and receive our special patch on January 5 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. (This program can be completed during the week, too.) Ages 6 to 10; \$6 per child. Center admission included.

**Boy Scouts:** Get knee-deep in knowledge about soil and water conservation. Be prepared to get dirty as you complete most of the requirements for the **Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge**, January 12 from noon to 4:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Program minimum 8; maximum 15; \$10 per scout. To pre-register and for more information about prerequisites, call 770.904.3500.

Learn about solar energy as you **construct a simple solar grasshopper robot** on January 12 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Heritage and Environmental Center. This activity is appropriate for ages 8 and up and is limited to 25 participants. Pre-registration and payment is required by December 20. \$20 per person; \$10 for center members. Center admission included.

We are hosting a party with Latin flair! Come out to the **Latin Dance Party** held on January 12 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Dance lessons during the first hour, mini-dance lessons taught throughout the night. Singles and couples are welcome. Refreshments provided. \$12 per person; all ages. Call 770.564.3060. Lucky Shoals Park Community Center is located at 4651 Britt Road, Norcross.

**Bring One for the Chipper!** Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree? Bring it to the overflow parking lot at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center and join Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and GEHC in this joint volunteer effort to recycle your tree into mulch. Grind it up for free on January 19 from 9:00am to 1:30pm.

Visit with local wedding professionals, win valuable prizes, and view the latest bridal fashions at the **Winter Bridal and Fashion Show** on January 20 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Runway shows will be held at 3:30pm and 5:30pm. \$3 per person; all ages. For information, call 770.822.5450. The Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Come **help set up bluebird habitats** on January 26 from 10:30am to noon. Our beautiful feathered friends will be looking for good homes in early February. We will set up boxes in the open grassy edge habitats of the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford. The use of wooden, manmade nesting boxes have made a wonderful difference in the survival of bluebirds. Please dress warmly and bring binoculars.

**Nature Spies:** Visit the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on January 26 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm and learn how to sneak up and spy on wildlife. Your observation skills will definitely sharpen and you may spot evidence of animal activities. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes and bring water. This event is appropriate for children in the second through fourth grades. \$5 per child.

Join other seniors in your community for a spaghetti dinner, conversation, and a movie. **Dinner and a Movie** will be held January 27 at 5:30pm. \$3 per person; ages 50 and over. Call 770.822.4914. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building is located at 2750 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation sponsors 10 different **senior recreation clubs** at various parks located throughout the county. Call 770.564.4680 for information.

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

## Holiday Closing

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** – All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, January 21, 2008, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. All offices will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

linkup

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

+



[gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com)'s information resources

## countyline

Gwinnett County  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770.822.7035  
[gwinnettcounty.com](http://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](mailto:heathersawyer@gwinnettcounty.com). The County Line is also available on the County's website, [gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com).