



# county Line

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## SPLOST: County breaks ground on new fire station



The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners held a groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 7 on Tuesday, May 6. The fire station will be relocating from its current location on Duluth Highway to a new, expanded station at 3343 Bunten Road in Duluth. The \$2.6 million, 13,000-square-foot station is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2009.

The relocated station will improve both service capability and response time in the area. Located on three acres, the new site will feature three drive-through equipment bays and 49 parking spaces along with a kitchen, dayroom, dining room, fitness room, a bunk



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## NHSC celebrates 10 years of service

On May 6, 2008, the Norcross Human Services Center (NHSC) celebrated 10 years of providing quality services and programming to Gwinnett citizens.

The public was welcomed by students from the Head Start program as they sang their hearts out with "A Beautiful Day." It was a time to reflect on the success of the Health and Human Services Division in opening place a building that offers much needed services to the public. The location on Georgia Belle Court in Norcross is ideal because its central location provides easy access.

NHSC houses six different agencies including Head Start, GRN Mental Health, Public Health, Four Corners Primary Care, Tag Office, and Senior Services.

**Ingrid Hervey**, Center Coordinator for the past four-and-a-half years boasts, "Norcross Human Services Center is truly a one-stop center for the entire family. It provides education, health services, vehicle registration and renewal, a senior center, multi-cultural programming, and other activities. I am honored to be part of center which provides such services to the community."

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## Spend July 4 in downtown Lawrenceville

Celebrate the County's 20<sup>th</sup> year of making Gwinnett "glow" this Independence Day in downtown Lawrenceville. The Gwinnett Glows 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration begins at 5:00pm on July 4 with many free, family-friendly activities and entertainment, including the popular band *Tim Purcell and The Mustangs*.

### gwinnett glows



July 4, 2008

The fireworks will be visible throughout the downtown area. Live coverage of the fireworks display will be carried on TVgwinnett (cable channel 23) and on the County's website [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com). Onsite vendors will provide a variety of food options until the fireworks begin at approximately 9:30pm.

For more information about Gwinnett Glows 2008, call 770.822.7126 or visit online at [www.gwinnettglows.com](http://www.gwinnettglows.com).





# Advice from the Tax Commissioner

## Mobile home tax payments due

2008 Mobile Home property tax payments were due May 1; late payments are subject to a 10 percent penalty, and beginning July 1 interest will accrue on any unpaid balance one percent per month. For 24-hour service, customers are encouraged to use **TaxTalk24** at 770.822.8800.

## Look out for 2008 property tax bills

The Tax Commissioner will mail 2008 property tax bills by July 15. As in the past, only one bill will be mailed and will include payment coupons and reply envelopes for both installment payments. First installment amounts shown on tax bills must be paid by September 15 or taxpayers may pay the entire amount by this date. The balance must be paid by the second installment date of November 15. Installments not paid by the due dates will incur a five percent penalty. In addition, interest will begin to accrue on any unpaid amount at one percent per month beginning November 16.

Tax payments may be made on the Tax Commissioner's TaxTalk 24 line at 770.822.8800 or by credit card or e-check over the Internet at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) (convenience fees will be applied for credit card transactions over the Internet).

Customers may also pay in person at the main property tax office in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville or one of the Tax Commissioner's five motor vehicle tag branch offices. Tag office locations will only process property tax payments and provide receipts to taxpayers, while the main property tax office will continue to process payments, and assist with all other property tax-related transactions. In addition, each tag office has a payment drop-off location for check-only payments accessible at any time.

## Vehicle owner name changes

If you change your name when you get married, you need to change your name on your car title. Here are some helpful hints on what you need to do:

1. Bring the following items with you:
  - A certified copy of the marriage certificate
  - Current vehicle title
  - Release of lien or security interest, if applicable
  - Valid Georgia ID card 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](http://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; Georgia sales tax is required if you purchased the vehicle out-of-state (use bill of sale to calculate sales tax)

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

## Computer system maintenance

The State of Georgia will shut down the vehicle registration system while computer maintenance is performed. The next maintenance period is scheduled from Friday, June 20, 2008, at 7:00pm to Monday, June 23, 2008, at 6:00am. 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 Saturday, June 21
- Internet and telephone tag renewals will be unavailable

### 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)

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

## NHSC ... cont'd from page 1

For more information on the services Norcross Human Services Center has to offer, call the center at 770.638.5660 or visit the website at [www.gwinnettnhsc.com](http://www.gwinnettnhsc.com).

## County opens largest skate park



Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will hold a grand opening celebration for Duncan Creek Park on Saturday, June 14. A ribbon cutting ceremony will kick off the day at 10:00am and afterwards everyone can join in on the free, fun activities including a rock climbing wall, giant slide, skateboarding and BMX bike demonstrations, safety clinics, sand volleyball and basketball demonstrations, and other fun kids' activities. Food concessions will be available throughout the day.

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## County unveils new fuel-efficient transit buses

Gwinnett County purchased nine new commuter coaches that provide seating for up to 57 passengers each. The new buses are powered by clean diesel engines that use ultra-low sulfur fuel and meet strict EPA air quality emission standards. Amenities include reclining seats with foot rests, overhead rack storage, individual reading lights, and airflow controls in addition to wheelchair accessibility. The County purchased the nine new coaches for \$4.2 million. Federal transit funds provided 80 percent of the purchase price, the Georgia Department of Transportation provided 10 percent, and Gwinnett County provided 10 percent.



*Gwinnett officials preview one of the County's new commuter buses. (l to r) Gwinnett Department of Transportation Director Brian Allen, Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Charles Bannister, Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board District 4 Member Gerard Richardson, District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly, District 2 Commissioner Bert Nasuti, Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board Chairman Jon Richards, and Gwinnett County Administrator Jock Connell*

## Skate park... *cont'd from page 2*

Duncan Creek Park features a 20,000-square-foot lighted skate complex—GCPR's largest skate complex to date—as well as four lighted (two full-size and two half-court) basketball courts, three lighted sand volleyball courts, a playground with handicapped-accessible features, a 60-foot octagonal rental pavilion, football field with lighted walking track, a concession stand, and press box.

Funds for the park construction were provided by the 2001 SPLOST program.

### Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation

**Mission Statement:** In partnership with our citizens, the division of Parks and Recreation provides high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life.



## Check It Out!

Here are some great books to pop in the CD player during summer road trips:

*America, America*, by Ethan Canin

*The Miracle at Speedy Motors*, by Alexander McCall Smith

*Shadow of Power*, by Steve Martini

*Executive Privilege*, by Phillip Margolin

*The Plague of Doves*, by Louise Erdrich

*Promise of the Wolves*, by Dorothy Hearst

*The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein

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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](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

## Law Day 2008



*Members of the Gwinnett County Bar Association volunteered their time to do some spring cleaning at the Lawrenceville Senior Center. This was one of several service projects completed for their annual Law Day celebration. Clockwise from top: Dennis "Trip" Collins III, GCBA President Jorgia Northrup, Joshua Johnson, Tyrone Hodnett, Anthony Williams, Law Day Chair Tuwanda Williams and daughter Autumn, Taylor Johnson, and Demetria Johnson*

## Pet Corner



### 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 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.

Visit [www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com) to see photos of all the critters currently up for adoption or drop by the shelter at 884 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville. Kennel hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am until 4:00pm. The phone number is 770.339.3200.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Join us for extra family fun at **Family Swim Night** from 7:10pm to 8:30pm on June 10 at Dacula Park Pool, 205 Dacula Road and June 12 at Bogan Park Aquatic Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. No registration necessary; regular pool admission fees applies; all ages. For more information, call the Dacula Park Pool at 770.614.2063 or Bogan Park Aquatic Center at 770.641.2060.

**Coffeehouse Nights** will feature live music by Jeff Talmadge, June 13 at 8:00pm at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary/Gwinnett History Museum, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Admission: \$5/\$4 for museum members. Call 770.822.5178 for details.

Play Bingo and socialize with your friends at **Brown Bag Bingo**, June 18, at 10:30am at the George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. Bring lunch and a white elephant gift; ages 50 and up. Cost is \$2/person. For more information, call 770.831.4173.

## Fire station ... cont'd from page 1

room with 14 cubicles, offices, and a meeting room that will be available to the community. The expanded station will also house a ladder company that will help with the community's substantial residential and business growth. The station's quality architectural details will allow the building to blend into the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

"This new fire station is part of a vision for the future because we're putting the physical facilities in place today that we will need to become stronger and better in the future," District 1 Commissioner **Lorraine Green** said.

"Fire Station 7 will be a huge improvement and it will serve the City of Duluth and area residents and businesses well for many years to come," Chief **Steve Rolader** said.

Ward General Contractors will construct the facility and funds for the fire station are coming from the 2001 SPLOST program.

Dads, come spend a relaxing afternoon with your special little guy at the **Dad's Summer Cookout**, June 21 at noon at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. The day includes games, fun activities, and lunch. Ages 5 and up; \$10/person. Call 770.822.5178 for information.

Seniors, enjoy good friends and a good ol' **Watermelon Cutting** on a hot afternoon, June 27 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. Register by June 21; ages 50 and up. Cost is \$2/person. For information, call 770.564.4680.

Live music by *Honi Deaton & Dream* at the **Moonlight and Music Concert Series** on the lawn of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, June 27 from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for free seating on the lawn (reserve a table for six for \$60). Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.822.5450.

Grab your best friends or venture out on your own as the **Latin Dance Party** returns by popular demand on June 28 from 7:00pm to 11:30pm. Cost is \$12/person and includes dance lessons and refreshments; ages 14 and up. Event will be held at the Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For more information, call 770.723.9516.

Come out to the **Annual Aqua Aid Charity Event** and enjoy an aquatic triathlon: run, bicycle, and swim for 10 minutes each on June 28 from 9:00am – noon. Door prizes and food provided; all ages. Cost is \$10 donation/person; event will be held at the Mountain Park Aquatic Center, 1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain. For details, call 770.564.4650.

Get hundreds of wedding ideas at the **Summer Bridal and Fashion Show**, June 29 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Everything you need to plan your wedding will be available including information on cakes, catering, photographers, gowns, flowers, and more. Local wedding professionals, valuable prizes, and two fashion shows. All ages; cost is \$3/person. Show will

be held at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For information, call 770.822.5450.

Save the Date – July 24: **Lights, Camera, Auction!** Join the Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services for a winning performance of the Sixth Annual Silent Auction. The event will be held at Delmar Gardens, 3100 Club Drive, in Lawrenceville from 6:00pm until 8:30pm. For tickets or more information, call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775 or e-mail her at [celia.moore@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:celia.moore@gwinnettcounty.com). All proceeds will benefit Gwinnett County seniors.

Parks and Recreation sponsors 10 different **senior recreation clubs** at various parks located throughout the county. You can become active by calling 770.564.4680.

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

## Drug Court Graduations

Gwinnett County celebrated National Drug Court Month in May by honoring 10 graduates from the County Drug Court Program. Congratulations and best wishes to the program's graduates!

### 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](mailto:heather.sawyer@gwinnettcounty.com). The County Line is also available on the County's website, [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).