



county Line

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SPLOST: Gwinnett begins park construction, opens aquatic center



Development of Gwinnett County's largest park yet got underway following a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, February 5, at 3:30pm.

The new Harbins Park, on the eastern edge of the county at the intersection of Luke Edwards Road and Indian Shoals Road southeast of Dacula, will have more than 1,900 acres. The park will include three miles of paved, multi-purpose trails plus others for mountain biking or horseback riding.



Harbins Park groundbreaking ceremony

"As a runner myself, I'm excited about all the trails we'll have in this huge park," said District 3 Commissioner

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Around Gwinnett



Board Chairman **Charles Bannister** gave his annual State of the County speech on January 24 at the Gwinnett Place Marriott.

"Whether from a standpoint of public safety, education, transportation, or infrastructure, we remain the envy of Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia. Success still lives in Gwinnett," he said.



Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles Bannister

"We're holding the line on the county millage rate for the fifth year in a row," he said, pointing to 10 years of triple A credit ratings from all three major rating agencies as evidence of conservative, responsible budgeting and management.

Chairman Bannister also warned that "we are entering a period of considerable challenge" as he discussed the drought, the declining economy, falling sales tax collection, and a 47 percent decline in residential building permits.

Noting that economic downturns usually produce rising crime rates, he emphasized recent advances in public safety including 36 new police jobs and the addition of a 10th superior court judge.

His speech also covered transportation, water, quality of life, and economic development, including the new minor-league Braves baseball team that will move to Gwinnett next year.

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Renew your vehicle registration online

Did you know that you can renew your vehicle registration online? It's fast, easy, and can be done in the comfort of your home or office. Go to www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com and select the *Vehicle* category to access the renewal registration website; a dropdown box will appear. Click *Online Services* and select *Online Vehicle Renewals*.

To use this renewal service, you will need:

- Your 12-digit Renewal Identification Number (RIN). The RIN is found on your vehicle registration renewal bill in the area directly below total amount due
- Emissions inspection certificate
- Valid insurance electronically submitted by your insurance company to the insurance database
- A VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express

The Georgia Department of Revenue assesses a convenience fee to use this service. Please note that renewals cannot be processed online if you need to make any changes such as a change of address. Also, tags that require annual written documentation, vehicles that weigh more than 8,500 pounds, and vehicles with a fleet insurance policy cannot be renewed over the Internet.

If you have questions about using the online renewal registration feature, contact the Tax Commissioner's Office.

2008 Mobile Home Taxes

Reminder: Mobile home tax bills were mailed on January 15. Payment deadline 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

"Nothing will work unless you do."

— Maya Angelou

Gwinnett Firefighters receive award at state capitol Recognition Day

Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended the *Give Burns the Boot* Boot Drive Awards luncheon at Georgia State University in Atlanta. The luncheon was held on February 5 as part of the Firefighters Recognition Day activities at the State Capitol in Atlanta. The luncheon was hosted by the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF). Gwinnett County was awarded fourth place for the total amount of money collected (\$61,001.22) during the 2007 Boot Drive Campaign.

The annual Boot Drive is held during the spring and firefighters visit local shopping centers and establishments throughout the county to accept donations from members of the community. The donations from citizens help support burn centers across the state, a burn camp each summer for survivors, and burn prevention and education programs. We look forward to an amazing 2008 campaign in Gwinnett County.



Firefighter Virginia Watson (left) and Programs and Services Section Training Technician James Mason (right) show off their department's award

Save the Date!

National County Government Day
Open House

Saturday, April 26, 2008

11:00am – 2:00pm

Rhodes Jordan Park Community Center

SPLOST projects, ...cont'd from page 1

Mike Beaudreau. "This park is going to be a great asset not only to the residents of my district but to the county as a whole."

The park also includes an open-field play area, a large, rustic picnic pavilion, playground, restroom, maintenance facility, and an equestrian-only parking lot.

"Once again, we have the voters to thank for approving the SPLOST program that is paying for land purchases and park development costs for this and many other parks," said Board Chairman **Charles Bannister**.

Aquatic center features two-story seating, competition pool

The 23-acre West Gwinnett Park and Aquatic Center opened to the public on Tuesday, February 26, following the 3:00pm ribbon cutting. The grand opening celebration was held on March 1 and included free activities throughout the day such as SCUBA and life-guard demonstrations, Whales Tales Safety Activities, water volleyball and water basketball, a balloon artist, and kids' activities.

The two-story, 43,100-square-foot aquatic center features spectator seating on the upper level for up to 750 people, as well as restrooms, offices, and locker rooms on the lower level. Inside, there is a 25-yard x 30-foot instructional pool with an entry ramp as

well as a 25-yard by 25-meter competition pool, which includes a diving pool with two one-meter springboards.

The 9,529-square-foot outdoor leisure pool features two 22-foot long open slides, a 149-foot closed-tube slide, river channel, beach-style entry, and play structures. The outdoor leisure pool will open in May. The park also includes two lighted multi-purpose fields and a ¼-mile walking track. Designed by Lyman Davidson Dooley, Inc. and completed by Juneau Construction Company, LLC, West Gwinnett Park and Aquatic Center was funded by the 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Speech, ...cont'd from page 1

"Shared pride," he said, "is what motivates everybody here to get up every morning thinking about how we can make this county a better place to live, work, and raise our families."

"My prayer for all of us is that those who follow will appreciate our contributions as much as we appreciate those of the leaders who came before us," he concluded.

Check out Chairman Bannister's State of the County speech on TVgwinnett or the County website www.gwinnettcountry.com.



Check It Out!

Revisit the past with these newly published history books:

Big Enough to Be Inconsistent: Abraham Lincoln Confronts Slavery and Race, by George M. Fredrickson

Voices from St. Simons: Personal Narratives of an Island's Past, edited by Stephen Doster

The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy, by Bell Irvin Wiley

Franklin and Lucy: An Intimate Portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Rutherford, and the Other Remarkable Women Who Shaped FDR's Life, by Joseph E. Persico

The Age of American Unreason, by Susan Jacoby

Eight Lives Down: The World's Most Dangerous Job in the World's Most Dangerous Place, by Chris Hunter

The Sailing of Old Glory: The Story of a Photograph That Shocked America, by Louis P. Masur

The Teapot Dome Scandal: How Big Oil Bought the Harding White House and Tried to Steal the Country, by Laton McCartney

Setting the Desert on Fire: T.E. Lawrence and Britain's Secret War in Arabia, 1916-1918, by James Barr

The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace, by Aaron David Miller

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



Pet Corner

Beckett is a black Lab that was found under a bush near a police station. Beckett had been hit by a car and needed major surgery to save his rear leg. Thanks to friends from the Atlanta Dog Squad, Beckett had a successful surgery and even did some swimming rehab therapy. Beckett is now a welcomed member of the DelaRue family.

You can find a companionable addition to your household like Beckett by visiting the center located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or go to www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com. All cats and dogs are spayed and neutered before adoption.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Come and **be a ballerina for a day!** Enjoy a fun craft activity, dancing, and a delicious treat on March 8 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Ages 3 to 5; \$7. Call 770.822.5414. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center is located at 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority Board** will be meeting on March 13 at 3:00pm in conference room B at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Leave the driving to us and join us as we travel by van to one of Georgia's finest sights, the Atlanta show of the **American Craft Council** on March 14 at 10:00am. Pre-registration required. Ages 12 and up; cost is \$10. Call 770.417.2200. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

Parents, **drop off your youngsters while you go out for a night on the town** on March 14 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. We'll entertain your children with St. Patrick's Day themed activities and arts and crafts projects. Ages 6 to 12; \$25. Call 770.822.5414. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center is located at 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Come on out to **Pizza and Puzzle Night** on March 14 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Each family will be given a puzzle and the first to finish wins a prize! Pre-registration required. Ages 4 and up; \$10/family of 4, \$3 each additional person. Call 770.417.2200. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

Moms, bring your little ones out to the **Jiggle and Giggle Contest**, an exciting Jell-O® making and tasting contest, on March 15 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. We are looking for your special Jell-O recipes. Bring your special Jell-O dish and win the first ever *Jiggle and Giggle Championship* trophy. Ages 2 to 6; \$2. For information, call 770.564.3060. The Mountain Park Activity Building is located at 1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain.

Run the **Tribble Trot 5K** road race, a paved 3.1-mile course, on March 15 at 8:00am. Pre-registration fee includes a t-shirt. Early registration is \$15; race day registration is \$20. Please arrive by 7:30am. Medals will be given to top three runners and winners in multiple age categories. For ages 8 and up. For information, call 770.822.5150. Tribble Mill Park is located at 2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville.

Join us for an Irish dinner and music at the **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** on March 17 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Ages 50 and up; \$5. Pre-register and pay by March 12. Call 770.564.4680. The Gwinnett Senior Center is located inside Bethesda Park at 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Come learn the newest dances at the **Bunny Bop Hip Hop!** Enjoy a fun craft activity, dancing and a delicious treat on March 22 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Ages 3 to 5; \$7. Call 770.822.5414. The Dacula Park Activity Building is located at 2735 Auburn Avenue, Dacula.

Clean out your attic and sell your wares at the **Shorty Howell Yard Sale and Craft Fair** on March 29 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Reservations required for sellers. Come pick out your space or one will be chosen for you. Space is limited, so sign up early. Event held rain or shine; no refunds. All ages welcome. Cost for table rental is \$20 (inside), \$15 (outside). Call 770.814.4914. Shorty Howell Park is located at 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Enjoy contests, demonstrations from frisbee and agility dogs, and more at the **Woof-A-Palooza Dog Walk** on March 29 from 10:00am to noon. Bring the entire family. Event begins at Fence Road entrance pavilion. All ages welcome. \$9 per dog/owner. Registration fee includes a t-shirt. Pre-registration required. Call 770.614.2060. Little Mulberry Park is located at 3855 Fence Road, Auburn.

Hit the pavement and compete for a chance to advance to district, state, or national competition at the **Youth Track and Field Meet**, March 22 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. This is a local qualifier for the Hershey Track and Field

Competition. Ages 7 to 14; \$15. For more information, call 770.723.9516. South Gwinnett High School is located at 2288 East Main Street, Snellville.

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.

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.

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.