



county Line

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SPLOST: County begins two new park projects



Gwinnett County continues its expansion of green-space with the approval of two new parks: Settles Bridge Park between Suwanee and Sugar Hill and Alexander Park in Lawrenceville.

The new Settles Bridge Park consists of 268 acres that adjoin federally-owned property. Classified as a large, open-space park, the new facility will be accessible from Johnson Road.

"The County worked with both the National Park Service and the state Department of Natural Resources to preserve this valuable land along the river," said District 4

Commissioner **Kevin Kenerly**. *"We're using just a small portion of the land to help meet recreational needs in the Sugar Hill area while keeping most of it as greenspace."*

The construction contract went to JHC Corporation for \$3.62 million.

The 91-acre Alexander Park will initially include a plaza area, horseshoe courts, picnic shelter, playground, open space play area, a disc golf course, outdoor classroom, small lake with a picnic shelter and fishing piers, a gazebo overlook, 1.5-mile multipurpose trail, and a one-

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Around Gwinnett



George F. Hutchinson III was recently appointed by the Superior Court Judges to serve as the Chief Magistrate Judge for Gwinnett County after serving four years as a full-time Magistrate Judge. In his new position, he is responsible for supervising the 26 full- and part-time Magistrate Judges who not only handle cases filed in their courts, but also preside on behalf of judges in other County courts.



George Hutchinson III

Prior to his tenure in Magistrate Court, he was an assistant district attorney for 15 years, first in the Coweta Judicial Circuit and then in Gwinnett County. In 1995, he became the attorney in charge of the White Collar Crime Unit in the Gwinnett County District Attorney's office.



Robert Walker Jr.

"As the Magistrate Court looks forward to the future, we expect that as Gwinnett grows we will also see the demands placed on the Magistrate Court grow. We hope to take advantage of the technology solutions available to manage our increasing case load, such as the County's comprehensive CJIS program and the Electronic Warrant System," he said.

Judge Hutchinson is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Magistrate Council of Georgia representing Region Nine and was a member of the 2006 – 2007 Leadership Gwinnett class. He resides in Gwinnett County with his wife Julie and two children.

To fill the vacancy left by Judge Hutchinson's promotion, a former military attorney stepped into the position. **Robert D. Walker Jr.** became the 26th Magistrate and the first full-time African-American judge in Gwinnett County this February.

Judge Walker brings with him 17 years of legal experience. He is a 1986 graduate of Emory University and a 1989

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Georgia license plate styles

Georgia offers a wide range of available license plate styles in addition to the standard Georgia peach plate; in fact, over 200 different plate styles are offered. Most styles have additional costs involved, and some styles have certain eligibility restrictions. For example, special qualifications must be met to order Certified Firefighter, Amateur Radio, and Georgia Emergency Medical Technician plates.

The most common plate style that Georgia residents may notice is the prestige plate. This is frequently referred to as a "vanity" or "personalized" plate. When choosing this style, Georgia vehicle owners can select their own word or phrase to appear on the plate. Passenger car owners can select up to seven letters, numbers, and spaces, while motorcycle owners can select up to six.

Vehicle owners can select a hobby antique plate if their vehicle is 25 years or older. A disabled person can order a disabled person's plate once a physician completes a special form (Georgia Department of Revenue form MV-9D), available on the Tax Commissioner's website. There are also several organizations that benefit financially when a commemorative plate is ordered. There also are 24 different college and university commemorative plates that can be ordered. These include Georgia State, Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, and Emory University. There are more than 70 different military and military campaign plates available as well.

For more information, visit the Tax Commissioner's website at www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com or call 770.822.8818.

Magistrate judges ... cont'd from page 1

graduate of the University of Florida College of Law. After law school, Judge Walker began his legal career in the United States Air Force. He served in a variety of positions during his eight years of active duty and earned the rank of Major.

Following his military service, Judge Walker returned to the Atlanta area and accepted a position in the Fulton County District Attorney's office. He later became a Senior District Attorney assigned to the Major Felony Unit. In 2001, Judge Walker left the District Attorney's office and started a private practice in Gwinnett County.

He became well known in Gwinnett County courts for handling some of the most challenging criminal cases. "This position is a wonderful opportunity for me to serve the residents for Gwinnett County and to make a significant difference in my community," he said. Judge Walker resides in Gwinnett County with his wife Melissa and their three children.

Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute

Interested in learning about community resources? The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI) is an eight-month leadership training program designed to train and empower ordinary citizens to become grassroots community leaders. Starting in the fall, the GNLI will hold training sessions one Saturday each month in which participants will meet leaders and learn about local current events.

Training session topics include:

- Community and communications
- Media relations
- Growth
- Education
- Government
- Crime prevention
- Human and social services/health issues

Participants will also work in groups to develop a service project as part of the experience. Please contact Nicole Love at 678.377.4137 or Nicole@gwinnettcoalition.org for an application or to learn more

May 2008: Older Americans Month

Currently, Gwinnett County is the second largest community in the state with adults over the age of 60. By 2020, one in five residents will be over age 60.

Gwinnett Senior Services provides services to encourage older adults to be more active and makes it possible for them to remain in their familiar surroundings. Senior Services consists of three senior centers for active older adults and provides in-home services such as Meals on Wheels, homemaking, and respite care.

For more information, visit www.gwinnettseniorservices.com or call our Information and Referral Specialist at 678.377.4150.

Adapted from: www.aoa.gov.

Toilet rebates

Rebates are available for toilets replaced in single family residential homes built before 1993.

For additional details and/or an application:

Visit www.northgeorgiawater.com

Call 404.463.8645

E-mail toiletrebate@northgeorgiawater.org

Summer pool hours

All outdoor pools operated by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will open for the summer season on Saturday, May 24, so jump in! Visit www.gwinnettparks.com or call 770.822.8840 for more information.

Admission fees

Best Friend, Bethesda, Bogan, Collins Hill, Lenora, Mountain Park, Rhodes Jordan, and West Gwinnett Park pools – 3-under, 50-up: \$2; ages 4-10: \$4; and ages 11-49: \$5

Dacula Park Pool: 3-under, 50-up: \$1; ages 4-49: \$2

*Admission is half-price one hour before closing at all pools, excluding Family Swim nights.



Check It Out!

Expand your knowledge with these expert guides:

How to Really Stink at Golf, by Jeff Foxworthy

What's Next: The Expert's Guide – Predictions from 50 of America's Most Compelling People, by Jane Buckingham

The Wisdom of Donkeys: Finding Tranquility in a Chaotic World, by Andy Merrifield

Going Public: Your Child Can Thrive in Public School, by David and Kelli Pritchard

The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart, by Bill Bishop

Easy Green Living: The Ultimate Guide to Simple, Eco-Friendly Choices for You and Your Home, by Renée Loux

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.

Gwinnett Senior Golden Games

More than 400 seniors participated in this year's ninth annual Gwinnett Senior Golden Games (GSGG) held April 16 through May 14. The games brought together senior citizens ages 50 and over who participated in 24 fun and challenging events at parks and other locations throughout Gwinnett County.

An opening ceremony was held on April 16 at the Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park to kick off the monthlong games. Participants competed against one another to earn gold, silver, and bronze medals in 24 events including archery, billiards, bowling, cycling, Rummikub, shot put, tennis, and walking.

GSGG began in 2000 when a few Gwinnett seniors met with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation with a desire to hold an athletic event designed just for seniors. That year, 76 participants eagerly signed up to take part in 15 events.

"The Gwinnett Senior Golden Games is something every senior can be a part of," said **Bob Giselbach**, Board Chairman/President of GSGG. "You don't have to be a world-class athlete to compete. The emphasis is on participation, not competition."

For more information on GSGG, call Bob Giselbach at 678.546.8722.

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 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.



Trail Mix celebration at Little Mulberry Park

Explore nature and find out what types of trails are available in Gwinnett on June 7 at Little Mulberry Park, 3855 Fence Road, Auburn. Free activities including hayrides, rock climbing wall, crafts, petting zoo, nature hikes, pony and equestrian rides, and fishing, nature, outdoor, and park safety programs. A two-mile fun run hosted by the Gwinnett Parks Foundation will begin at 8:30am.

Visit www.gwinnettparks.com for more information or call 770.822.8840.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Join the **Changing Role of Grandparents**, a free support group for grandparents raising grandchildren on Mondays, May 5 – June 30 (closed May 26); August 18 – October 20 (closed September 1) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Centerville Community Center, 3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville. Register by calling 770.985.4713; only 20 slots available.

Enjoy great food, moonwalk, face painting, and more at the **Dacula Family Fest and Yard Sale** on May 17 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations required for sellers; GCPR reserves the right to disallow inappropriate items. Indoor table rental: \$15 each (limit two per person); outdoor space: \$10 each. All ages; free admission. Event will be held at Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Road, Dacula. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

Learn about current health options, wellness programs, and services at the **Family Fun Day and Health Fair**, May 17 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. All ages are welcome; cost is free. George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center is located at 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee. Call 770.831.4173 for information.

The **Mom & Me Victorian Ice Cream Social** will be held on May 17 at noon and includes crafts and a special gift for Mom. Ages 5 and up; cost is \$10/person. Event will be held at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. For more details, call 770.822.5178.

There's nothing but line dancing at the **Line Dance-a-Thon**, May 17 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 May 10. Pre-registration required. Event will be held at Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth. Call 770.814.4914 for more information.

The Eric Culberson Blues Band performs live at the **Moonlight and Music Concert**, May 23 from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. Concert will be held on the lawn of Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 455 South Perry Street, Law-

renceville; \$60 reserves a table for six. For more information, call 770.822.5178.

A reception will be held for **Sharon Margolies' exhibit** on May 29 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Gwinnett History Museum, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Exhibit will be shown from May 23 – August 18 during regular courthouse hours. Call 770.822.5178 for more information.

Enjoy carnival games, face painting, live entertainment, and art activities at **Kids Connect**, May 31 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Food concessions available for sales by H.O.O.K.E.D. Teen Club. All ages; free admission. Pre-registration required. Event will be held at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. For details, call 770.417.2200.

Enjoy great food, moonwalk, face painting, and more at the **Rhodes Jordan Family Festival and Yard Sale**, May 31 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservation required for sellers; GCPR reserves the right to disallow inappropriate items during this event. Indoor table rental: \$15 each (limit two per person), outdoor space: \$10 each. All ages; free admission. Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center is located at 100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.822.5414.

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.gwinnettcountry.com under News and Events to download the *Gwinnett Life* and *One Stop* newsletters.

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mile soft surface trail loop along with other park amenities.

The 18-hole disc golf course will be the County's second, similar to the one at Lenora Park in southern Gwinnett that has been extremely popular for many years.

Gwinnett County purchased the land in 2002 from the estate of J.T. Alexander, a former Gwinnett County Extension Agent, and named the park in honor of the Alexander family. "We're very grateful to the Alexander family for working with us to preserve this land along Scenic Highway in Lawrenceville for a public park," said Community Services Director **Phil Hoskins**.

The construction contract went to CMES, Inc., for \$3.77 million. The park development will be funded through the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program for parks and recreation.

Memorial Day May 26, 2008

All offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, May 26, 2008, in observance of Memorial Day. All offices will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

The annual Memorial Day commemorative service will be held on May 26 at 1:00pm at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. Call 770.822.7180 for more information.

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 heathersawyer@gwinnettcountry.com. The County Line is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com.