



county Line

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SPLOST: Two new fire stations coming to northeast Gwinnett



Gwinnett's Fire Station 18 will soon relocate to a bigger facility and new Fire Station 29 will be built in northeast Gwinnett. Both stations will be built by C.P. Richards Construction Co., Inc., and paid for with funds from the 2005 SPLOST program. Gwinnett officials broke ground on the two new fire stations August 19 at the future sites.

Station 18 will be located on four acres at the corner of Mineral Springs Road and Hog Mountain Road in

the growing Hamilton Mill area. It will be a three-bay station with 12,800 square feet and will replace the current smaller station on Braselton Highway.

Farther north, Station 29 will be at 2800 Thompson Mill Road just east of Sardis Church Road. The two-bay station with 8,600 square feet will occupy a five-acre site. Construction for both stations will cost \$4.6 million and will take about a year.

Taking it to the streets: A house on the road

by David Knope, Staff Writer

It was a long day, the first really hot one of the summer, but for dozens of County staffers it was exciting.

Led by Bette Conaway whose house-moving experience is part of her duties in Parks and Recreation, the challenge was to move the historic Adair House to a new location in downtown Lawrenceville. Over the Memorial Day weekend, professional house movers got the two-story, 100-ton house on a truck and drove it across the construction zone of the Sugarloaf Parkway extension.

On the morning of May 22, it stood at the edge of Grayson Highway/SR-20 waiting to enter the roadway. With helicopters hovering overhead and reporters and photographers everywhere, a small army of police and various utility crews including several from Gwinnett DOT reviewed their carefully laid plans.

Six signalized intersections lay along the four-mile route the house would take. **Tom Sever**, Chief of the Traffic Signals and Intelligent Transportation Systems Section, and the signal construction staff had studied every wire and every pole. Moving a house that is 37 feet high and 35 feet wide requires a lot of planning



and coordination not only within his group, but also between many public and private entities.

About 10:00am, the house hit the road. Crews in bucket trucks sprang into action, taking turns working on particular poles. They leap-frogged each other along the road, minimizing traffic disruptions and utility outages. Other crews followed, putting everything back up after the house had passed. Some traffic signals were still cycling even as they sat on the ground.

Without a planned lunch break, crew members grabbed food and snacks along the way. At least one fast-food place was closed in anticipation of the power outage

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Advice from the Tax Commissioner

How to obtain a surety (title) bond for your vehicle

If you cannot obtain the required proof of ownership documents or the Georgia title is not available for a vehicle that you have purchased, you may apply for a title by obtaining a surety (title) bond.

Important: Some vehicles are excluded from title bond guidelines, including abandoned vehicles, 1985 or older model year vehicles, mopeds and certain boat trailers. To find out which vehicles are excluded, visit www.motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/motor/titles/required.

Here are the documents needed in order to obtain a Georgia title based on a surety bond:

- A completed title application (Form MV-1)
- A *Certificate of Title Bond* (Form MV-46) backed by an insurance company licensed to issue surety insurance in Georgia naming the vehicle owner as the principal. The bond must be written in the amount of the average retail value of the vehicle according to values used by the state and established by the Georgia Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division
- A typed *Certificate of Title Bond Affidavit* (Form MV-46A); all information on these two documents (MV-46 and MV-46A) must agree
- A *Certificate of Inspection* by a Law Enforcement Officer or County Tag Agent (Form T-22B) completed after making a visual inspection of the vehicle's serial plate. This vehicle identification number must agree on all forms
- Any available ownership papers such as bill of sale, lien release, old titles, or certificate of registration

Pick up any of the Georgia motor vehicle forms at any tag office location or download them at <http://motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms>.

Computer system maintenance

The State of Georgia will shut down the vehicle registration system while computer system maintenance is performed. The next maintenance period is scheduled from Friday, September 19 at 7:00pm to Monday, September 22 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, September 20
- Internet and telephone tag renewals will also be unavailable

Reminder: 2008 property tax payments

Residents may pay in two installments due September 15 and November 15. Payment in full is also accepted by the due date. Penalties and interest apply for late payments.

Katherine Sherrington
Tax Commissioner

Property Tax Customer Service
770.822.8800 • tax@gwinnettcountry.com

Motor Vehicles Customer Service
770.822.8818 • tag@gwinnettcountry.com

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com

Gwinnett Reading Festival: October 18

The Gwinnett County Public Library proudly presents the second annual Gwinnett Reading Festival, 10:00am – 4:00pm, Saturday, October 18, at the Gwinnett County fairgrounds. Kids' activities will include storytelling, crafts, and a special appearance by Spider-Man™; activities for teens will include sumo wrestling, gaming, and artist workshops. Adults will have the opportunity to meet local, regional, and national authors including Rick Bragg, Carmen Deedy, and Steve Martini. Every child who attends the festival will receive a free book.

For more information, visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770.978.5154. For sponsorship opportunities, call 770.822.5375.

Another successful auction

FOGCSS (Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services) raised more than \$30,000 at its sixth Silent Auction, held on July 24 at Delmar Gardens in Lawrenceville. It was a red carpet extravaganza where everyone was a celebrity for the night. A special thanks goes out to all of the supporters of this year's event. Proceeds from the silent auction will go towards Gwinnett County senior programs.



Gwinnett at forefront of skate sport

Teens are often looking for something new and exciting to do and Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation has hit upon a popular solution. Parks and Recreation opened five new skate complexes within the last five years and has two more under construction. Eight more skate parks are being considered for future development.

"We are now designing our park skate complexes so that they better accommodate not only skateboarders, but now four of our five skate complexes are designed to allow for BMX bikes and roller blades so that we are able to serve a variety of users," said **Sharon Plunkett**, Division Director of Operations.

The County opened its first skate complex in 2001 at Pinckneyville Park. The complex was originally designed by a pool construction firm. Since then, Parks and Recreation has expanded and refined Pinckneyville's features to include a roller hockey rink, deeper bowls, reinforced edges, stairs, rails, and other elements that are found in many of the top skate complexes in the United States.

An expansion at Bay Creek Park in Loganville will feature a 20,000-square-foot skate complex similar to the new one at Duncan Creek Park. The new Settles Bridge Park in Suwanee will boast a 10,000-square-foot complex.

Parks and Recreation has been at the forefront of the skate complex concept to keep pace with the rapidly growing demand for this growing recreational need for residents of all ages. Sometimes, you can find many middle-aged to senior citizens skating on the bowls until the parks close. For more information, visit www.gwinnettparks.com or call 770.822.8840.

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and road closing. When **Chuck Bailey**, Director of Traffic Engineering and Planning, found an open drug store, he loaded up on energy drinks for his hard-working crews. After traveling north on South Perry Street, the house finally turned in near the old Lawrenceville Female Seminary at 4:30pm. The house will settle down on a new foundation at 155 Clayton Street, less than two miles from its original 1827 site.

Soon the Adair House, third oldest in the county, will be open to the public as part of a history complex not far from Gwinnett's 1885 Historic Courthouse. The move cost \$40,000—plus a lot of sweat equity from DOT crews and many others.



Check It Out!

Check out these fascinating new non-fiction works for armchair scientists:

Thirteen Things That Don't Make Sense: The Most Baffling Scientific Mysteries of Our Time, by Michael Brooks

Flat Earth: The History of an Infamous Idea, by Christine Garwood

Trick or Treatment: The Undeniable Facts About Alternative Medicine, by Simon Singh and Edzard Ernst

What the Nose Knows: The Science of Scent in Everyday Life, by Avery Gilbert

Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees, by Nalini Nadkarni

What's Math Got to Do With It: Helping Children Learn to Love Their Least Favorite Subject—and Why It Is Important for America, by Jo Boaler

Butterfly, by Thomas Marent

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 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.



Last day to register to vote: October 6, 2008

Get information about registering to vote, the voting process, your polling location, sample ballots, and more by visiting www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Click on *Departments* and follow the link to the Elections site.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Join **Toastmasters** of Centerville to become a better public speaker, deliver great presentations, lead teams effectively, and give and receive constructive evaluations. Thursdays at 7:00pm. Call 770.985.4713 for details.

Join the creator of the **Yoga in Daily Life**, H. H. Paramhans Swami Maheshvaranda, for an inspiring lecture and workshop, September 9 and 10 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Pre-registration is required. Ages 18 – up. Cost is \$30/person. Event will be held at the Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. For details, call 770.641.2060.

Come out to **Coffeehouse Nights – Grounds 'n' Sounds** on September 12. Doors open at 8:00pm; music from 8:30pm – 10:00pm. Live performance by *The Skillet Lickers*. Admission: \$5/\$4 for museum members. Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for details.

Check out what Lucky Shoals has to offer sport enthusiasts at the **Fall Sports Celebration**, September 13, 10:00am – 2:00pm. Moonwalks, parents/kids' kickball challenge, face painting, and more. Food concessions available. Free sport clinics for players and coaches. Event will be held at the Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross. For more information, call 770.723.9516.

Meet at the Gwinnett Senior Center for the **Gone With the Wind Experience**, September 17, at 8:30am. Enjoy the Road to Tara Museum, Love of the Land historical tour, lunch, and tour the Stately Oaks Plantation. Ages 50 – up. Cost is \$48/person; fee includes lunch. The Gwinnett Senior Center is located at 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. Call 770.564.4680 for details.

Enjoy a low country boil, activities, and games, and meet recreation club members at the **Fun Day Picnic**, September 19, from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Ages 50 – up; cost is \$2/person. The Gwinnett Senior Center is located at 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. Call 770.564.4680 for details.

Meet new friends for an afternoon of **Casino Games**, September 18 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. No experience necessary; no cash prizes. Ages 50 – up; cost is \$5/person. The event will be held at Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth. For more information, call 770.814.4914.

Babysitter's Training will be held September 20, from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Youth ages 12 – 15 will receive basic child care safety and leadership skills. Cost: \$55 for materials and certification by the American Red Cross. For information, contact kimlafourche@aol.com. Pre-registration and payment required. Call 770.985.4713 for more information.

Kids, grab a camera and show us what the world looks like to you at **I Spy with My Little Eye Photo Contest**, September 20. All entries will be presented at our Fall Fling on October 4, and awards will be given. Entries due by 6:00pm on September 20. Pre-registration required; cost is \$4/person. Ages 4 – 18. Event will be held at Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Call 770.641.2060 for details.

Live music by Randall Bramblet at the **Moonlight and Music Series**, September 26 from 8:00pm – 10:00pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for free seating on the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse lawn. Reserve a table for six for \$60. All ages; the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse is located at 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. For more information, call 770.822.5450.

Come and enjoy folkloric dances, music, and food sampling at the free **2008 Hispanic Heritage Celebration**, September 27, from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Event will take place in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 630 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville. For information, call Sharon Maloney at 770.294.6362 or Ingrid Hervej at the Norcross Human Services Center, 770.638.5668.

Kids, come out to **Ballerina Day** at Bogan Park, September 27 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm and be a ballerina for a day. Learn ballet, make crafts, and see a real ballet dancer perform.

There will be a short performance for parents. Pre-registration required. Ages 3-10; cost is \$12/person. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center is located at 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford. Call 770.641.2060 for more information.

Local musicians will perform Celtic and Scottish/Irish music at **Coffeehouse Nights – Coffee Ceilidh**, September 27. Doors open at 8:00pm, music from 8:30pm – 10:00pm. Live performance by *Caledonia Swing*. Admission: \$5. The event will be held at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 for details.

Singers, songwriters, poets, musicians, and storytellers; share your talents at **Music in the Garden**, September 27 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Pre-registration required; event is free and will be held at the Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross. For more information, call 770.417.2200.

Enjoy great food and lots of good deals at the **Yard Sale and Craft Fair** at the Gwinnett Senior Center in Bethesda Park, September 27 from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Reservation required for sellers. Indoor table rental: \$15 each (limit two per person); outdoor space: \$10 each. All ages; free admission. Event will be held at Gwinnett Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. Call 770.564.4680 for more information.

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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 770.822.7135 or e-mail shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com. The County Line is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcounty.com.