

county Line

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Meet Shirley Fanning Lasseter, District I Commissioner



Commissioner Shirley Lasseter

District I Commissioner **Shirley Fanning Lasseter** is no stranger to public service in Gwinnett County and brings with her 14 years of experience as mayor of the City of Duluth. Lasseter explained why she ran for county office, *"I felt I had given so much to the Duluth community out of love and enjoyment that I saw my next logical role as expanding my service to the people and businesses of District 1."*

She has noticed some differences working on a countywide level, mostly in the broader scale of development issues, *"but the way we handle these issues is similar to what I experienced on the city level. We have to work to make sure that any new project that comes along benefits the community it surrounds."*

This native of High Point, North Carolina, has been a Gwinnett resident for more than 30 years. She is an alumna of Brenau College for Women and received her master's of education degree from Georgia State University. She is a former teacher with the Gwinnett and DeKalb Counties Public School Systems and currently serves as Director of Public Safety Education for the Georgia Department of Insurance and Fire Safety.

In addition to finances and the current economy, Lasseter sees public safety as one of the County's greatest challenges. *"We face more dangers during hard economic times, therefore we must keep our public safety departments adequately staffed to keep our schools, parks, and neighborhoods safe,"* she said. Lasseter's goals are to work as a team with her fellow commissioners, maintain the services the County provides to citizens, and preserve the County's financial strength.

... cont'd on page 3

contents

Protecting Our Resources



Advice from Tax Commissioner



Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services



Pet Corner



Check it out!



Around Gwinnett



SPLOST: County expands greenways near Yellow and Alcovy Rivers



The future of greenways in Gwinnett got a boost in February when commissioners purchased land along two rivers. The County acquired 8.27 acres of land on the Yellow River west of Lawrenceville that will provide an access point on Lakes Parkway for a future 38-acre park. This area has been identified as a potential greenway corridor. Commissioners also added to a future greenway connection between the 715-acre Tribble Mill Park and the 290-acre Palm Creek park site along the Alcovy River.

District I Commissioner **Shirley Lasseter** said the \$1.16 million Yellow River land purchase was in line with recommendations in the 2007 Capital Plan Update for Parks that identified a "park gap" in the area.

The \$1.1 million Alcovy River land purchase includes 1,670 feet of river frontage that adjoins another 14 acres of County property to protect more than a mile of the riverbed.

District 3 Commissioner **Mike Beaudreau** said, *"The County's Open Space Master Plan identified the Alcovy River corridor as a preservation priority so we're excited to be able to take this big step toward completing it."*

Chairman **Charles Bannister** credited voters for approving the 2005 SPLOST program that funded both projects. *"This is another move forward in protecting waterways and providing greenspace for our nationally recognized park system,"* said Bannister.

department of water resources

Protecting Our Resources

A budget for safe, clean water

Gwinnett County has a responsibility to its citizens to practice and promote good stewardship of public resources, including surface water. One tool the County uses to help monitor and improve the health of our local waterways is a "Total Maximum Daily Load" or "TMDL."

A TMDL is the maximum amount of pollution that a body of water can absorb and still meet water quality standards. In other words, a TMDL is a pollution budget set for a stream, river, or lake. Staying within the budget means that the water body will continue to support uses such as swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

Monitoring and clean-up strategies are required by the federal and state environmental agencies. Gwinnett County is held accountable to Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to monitor the TMDLs in the County's waterways.

To learn more about TMDLs, go to www.gwinnettstormwater.com and look at the bar on the left side of the page, under **Stormwater Management**, click on **Water Quality Protection**, and click on **TMDL**.



Every Drop Counts

More than one trillion gallons of water are wasted in US homes each year from easy-to-fix leaks. That's why Gwinnett County is participating in **Fix a Leak Week** www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak, March 16 – 20, 2009, and we encourage you to join us.

Sponsored by the US EPA's WaterSense® program, this week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your homes by checking for and fixing leaks, which waste an average of 11,000 gallons of water per home each year. That's more than enough water to fill up a backyard swimming pool!

As a WaterSense partner concerned with preserving our nation's water supply, Gwinnett County can help you learn more. Visit our website at www.gwinnetth2o.com for more details.

Save money and time: Pay your water bill online!
Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com for details.

Advice from the Tax Commissioner

Tax Commissioner changes legal name

Katherine Sherrington, Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner, has changed her name to her legal married name. Her new name is **Katherine Meyer**.

Tax Commissioner sworn in for seventh term

Superior Court Judge James W. Oxendine swears in Katherine Meyer for a seventh term as Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner. This year marks 25 years of public service for Meyer.



Four ways to renew your vehicle registration

Your tag renewal notice should arrive in the mail at least 45 days prior to the renewal deadline. The renewal deadline is always determined by the birthday of the registered owner; if there are two registered owners, the renewal date will go by the first registered owner's birthday. The Department of Motor Vehicles offers several ways vehicle owners may renew their registrations:

- **Internet:** www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com
- **Telephone:** 770.822.8818 Monday – Saturday, 6:30am – 8:00pm
- **Mail:** Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner, PO Box 829, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
- **In Person:** Visit one of the five DMV offices in Gwinnett County

Katherine L. Meyer, Tax Commissioner

Property Tax Customer Service
770.822.8800 • tax@gwinnettcounty.com

Motor Vehicles Customer Service
770.822.8818 • tag@gwinnettcounty.com

www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services celebrates 10 years of helping to provide services to Gwinnett seniors. The non-profit, volunteer governed organization was established in March 1999 and raises funds to privately support or supplement select Gwinnett County Senior Services programs and offer volunteer involvement that directly address senior needs.

Friends has recognized Gwinnett to be the second largest senior population in Georgia. The organization has purchased and donated two fully-equipped Meals on Wheels trucks and two cars designated for homemaking services to Gwinnett County Senior Services.

Friends has also met budget shortfalls by funding the distribution of 133,825 meals and nutritional dietary supplements drinks and distributing funds for emergency assistance, home repair, food baskets, and dental and medical health screenings for seniors.

To volunteer your services or make a donation to Friends, call Celia Moore at 770.822.8775 or send a check to PO Box 390025, Snellville, GA 30039. You may also visit the website www.gwinnettseniorservices.com for more information on Gwinnett County Senior Services.

Commissioner Lasseter ...cont'd from page 1

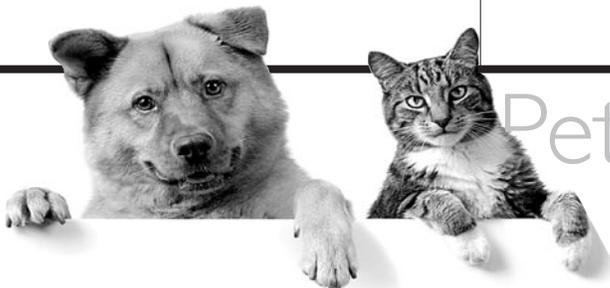
Deeply involved in her Gwinnett community, she is a member of the Duluth Kiwanis Club and the Duluth Merchants Association. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Safe Kids Georgia and Operation HOPE, an organization that promotes financial literacy by teaching youth personal finance skills. She said she loves Gwinnett County "because of its richest asset, the people. They will always help each other in time of need."

Lasseter has two sons and two daughters and is the proud grandmother of five. She lives in Duluth and is a longtime member

of Duluth First United Methodist Church. Her hobbies include visiting the mountains and the beach and, most of all, spending time with her family.

"The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it."

— Elaine Agather



Pet Corner
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.

Visit www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com to see photos of all the critters currently up for adoption or drop by the shelter located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call **770.339.3200**. In an attempt to prevent pet overpopulation, all cats and dogs are spayed or neutered before adoption.



Check It Out!

It's almost time to start your spring cleaning! Check out these titles to help get you started:

The Art of Organizing Anything: Simple Principles for Organizing Your Home, Your Office, and Your Life, by Rosalie Maggio

Organizing Your Home: Decluttering Solutions and Storage Ideas, by Emily Wilksa

Throw Out Fifty Things: Clear the Clutter, Find Your Life, by Gail Blanke

Clutter Rescue!: Just Minutes a Day to Get Organized—Forever!, by C.J. Peterson

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.

Stormwater BMP Inspection and Maintenance Training

For stormwater managers, engineers, city and county plan review staff, commercial landscapers, developers, and environmental and engineering consultants.

March 31 and April 1

8:30am – 4:30pm

Central Park Recreation Center
Cumming, Georgia

\$125 for two days

Lunch provided both days

PDH credits available

To register, visit www.etowahriver.org. For more information, contact Deborah Millsap at dmillsap@uga.edu.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Relax and enjoy live music with Ron Hipp and Carol Statella at **Grounds 'N' Sounds**, March 13 from 8:00pm – 10:00pm. Public admission \$5/person; Museum member admission \$4/person. Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville. Call 770.8220.5178 for more information.

Give your kids a fun day during spring break at **Kids' Day Out** March 13 from 7:00am – 5:00pm. Bring a sack lunch, drink, swimsuit, and towel. Ages 6 – 12; \$25/person. Pre-registration required; call 770.814.4914 to pre-register and use GCPR code: SHA-B14408. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Enjoy **Pizza and Puzzle Night**, March 13 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Ages 4 and up; \$5/person. Call 770.417.2200 to pre-register and use GCPR Code: PPCCI4102. Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross.

Join us for stories and music as we read about this year's theme, "**Neighbors**" at **World Storytelling Day**, March 14 from 10:30am – noon. Ages 3 – 10; \$5 child/parent; \$2/additional child. Pre-registration required; call 770.614.2060 to register and use GCPR Code: BPCCI4197. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Enjoy **Boogie Woogie Bullfrog** on March 14 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. \$15/person and \$25/family (GEHC members \$5/\$10), includes all programs and center admission. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford. Call 770.904.3503 for more information.

Enjoy a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal at the **St. Patrick's Day Social**, March 17 from noon to 2:00pm. \$5/person, ages 50 and up. Pre-registration is required, call 770.564.4680 to register and use GCPR Code: GCSCI4166. Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Get on the bus for a **Historic Tour** of west Gwinnett's momentous cities on March 18. Pick up at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center 9:00am and Gwinnett

Senior Center at Bethesda Park 9:30am. Ages 50 and up. \$10/person plus money for lunch; call 404.831.4173 for reservations; use GCPR Code: GPCCI5165.

Splash the night away at **Kids' Night Out**, March 20 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. Bring a swimsuit and towel. Ages 6 – 10; \$10/person; pre-registration required, call 770.614.2060 to register and use GCPR Code: BPCCI4198. Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford.

Enjoy an underwater treasure hunt and lots of fun activities at **Shamrock Shake Swim**, March 21, 6:00pm – 9:00pm. All ages; \$10/participant (children 10 and under must have an adult registered and present to participate); call 678.924.6334 to pre-register and use GCPR Code: BTACI1900. All pool rules apply. Bethesda Aquatic Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Put on your formal wear and join us for **All that Jazz**—the perfect prom experience for home schoolers, March 21 from 7:00pm – 10:00pm. Grades 9 – 12; must purchase tickets in advance; \$25/person or \$40/couple; call 770.822.5450 to register and use GCPR Code: GHCHI4102. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse, 185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville.

Enjoy 300,000 flowering Yoshino cherry trees at the **Cherry Blossom Festival** in Macon on March 25. Pick up at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center 8:30am and Gwinnett Senior Center at Bethesda Park 9:00am. Ages 50 and up; \$20/person plus lunch. Call 770.564.4680 for reservations; GCPR Code: GCSCI4102.

Take a walk back in time for **Women's History Month** at GEHC on March 28 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. \$5/person, \$10/family; GEHC Members free (includes center admission). Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, 2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford. Call 770.904.3503 for more information.

Clean out your garage and closets and sell your wares at the **Yard Sale and Craft Fair**, March 28 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Food or drinks cannot be sold. Rain or shine; no re-

funds. Space is limited. Register early, call 770.814.4914 to register; \$20/inside space – use GCPR Code: SHAB14400; \$15/outside space – use GCPR Code: SHAB14401. Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth.

Come out to the **Youth Track and Field Meet**, March 28 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Open to all Gwinnett county residents ages 7 – 14. \$15/child; pre-registration required by March 18, call 770.723.9516 to register.

Bark, roll-over, and sit-up for the second annual **Wolf-A-Palooza**, March 28 from 10:00am – noon. Pre-registration recommended; call 770.614.2060 to register. Little Mulberry Park, 3855 Fence Road, Auburn.

Experience Gwinnett's Cherokee and Creek heritage and culture at **Native American Day**, March 28 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Ages 5 and up; call 770.822.5178 to pre-register. Lawrenceville Female Seminary, 455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville.

March 21 Harbins Park Grand Opening

Come out and celebrate the grand opening of Harbins Park, Gwinnett's largest park to date, 2995 Luke Edwards Road, Dacula. The celebration will begin at 10:00am with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and will continue with free kids' activities and representatives from equestrian and mountain biking groups until 2:00pm.

Visit www.gwinnettparks.com or call 770.822.8840 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 770.822.7135 or e-mail shaunika.taste@gwinnettcounty.com. The *County Line* is also available on the County's website, www.gwinnettcounty.com.