



# county Line

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## Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center opens

The public "soaked up the science" as the new Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center opened its doors September 30. Guests enjoyed a variety of children's activities, musical entertainment, and demonstrations of birds of prey and reptiles.

The heart of the center is a 59,000-square-foot facility that provides an innovative space for environmental science education, historic and cultural exploration, and outdoor passive recreation. The center houses



The Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center is a living laboratory of environmentally-sensitive construction methods and materials.

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Around Gwinnett



## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

October is Hispanic Heritage Month! Exhibits featuring Hispanic culture and Latin American artifacts will be on display throughout October on the first floor of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday through Fridays from 8:00am – 5:00pm.

On October 14, a Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be held from 11:00am – 4:00pm at the Wal-Mart shopping center located on Highway 29 at Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. Enjoy a great learning experience and fun-filled day featuring folkloric dances, music, and food samplings. Prizes for the winners of the *Mis Raices – What the Hispanic/Latino Culture Means to Me* essay contest will also awarded during the celebration.

Visit [www.gwinnettnhsc.com](http://www.gwinnettnhsc.com) for a complete schedule and more information on Hispanic Heritage Month.



Grupo Folclorico Internacional performed for more than 2,500 people at last year's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.



## Advice from the Tax Commissioner: Disabled person's parking placard

If you are an eligible Gwinnett County resident, you can apply for a disabled person's parking placard at any of the Tax Commissioner's five tag offices. Driver's license offices no longer issue these placards.

To obtain a disabled person's parking placard, first obtain a Disabled Person's Parking Affidavit from [www.motor.etax.dor.ga.gov](http://www.motor.etax.dor.ga.gov) (click on Forms and Manuals and Form MV-9D) or call 770.822.8818 to request a form. Once you complete the form, have your physician or licensed practitioner complete and sign the form, and bring the signed form to the tag office. There is no fee for the placard. The State of Georgia only allows one placard assigned per person. Gwinnett businesses may apply for a disabled person's parking placard by submitting a copy of the company's institutional license along with a completed MV-9D.

For more information, contact the Motor Vehicles Department at [tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8818.

### 2006 Property Tax Bills

Gwinnett County 2006 property tax bills have been mailed. As in the past, this billing will be the only one mailed. It included two payment coupons and reply envelopes for both installment payments. Taxpayers should mail the payment coupons with their payments.

Taxpayers making installment payments must pay at least the first installment amount indicated on the bill by October 15, or they can pay the entire amount by this date. The second installment is due November 15. Installments not paid by the stated due dates will have a five percent penalty added to the installment amount. In addition, interest will begin to accrue at the rate of one percent per month beginning on November 16.

For more information, call the Tax Talk 24-hour line at 770.822.8800, or send an e-mail to [propertytax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:propertytax@gwinnettcountry.com).

### The Elections and Voter Registration Office has moved!

455 Grayson Highway, Suite 100  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
(in the Town Center shopping center)

Hours: Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm

For more information, call 770.822.8787.



## GCPD holds 9<sup>th</sup> annual C.O.P.S. Festival

The Gwinnett County Police Department will hold the ninth annual Community Oriented Police Services (C.O.P.S.) Festival on October 3 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at the Gwinnett County Civic and Cultural Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth.

The festival celebrates the partnership between the Gwinnett County Police Department, neighborhoods that participate in the C.O.P.S. Program Neighborhood Watch, and the community as a whole. A moonwalk and other fun activities are available for children, with demonstrations and displays by the Gwinnett County Police Department aviation, motorcycle, DUI, SWAT Team, and K-9 units. Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services will offer fire and safety demonstrations, and representatives from District Attorney's Office/Victim Assistance Program, Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, Solicitor's Office, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, and Keeping Kids Safe will be available to answer questions.

The festival is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, call 770.623.2610 ext. 2619.



## Election 2006: Exercise the privilege and get out to vote

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7. There are several ways to vote early:

- Regular absentee voting through October 3 at the Elections Office
- Early voting by mail through October 3
- Early voting in person begins October 30 and ends November 3

Hours for the main Elections and Voter Registration Office located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville are 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Satellite locations for early voting are the Centerville Community Center, 3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville, and Singleton Road Activity Building, 5220 Singleton Road in Norcross; those hours are 9:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday.

For more information, visit [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or call the Elections Office at 770.822.8787.

## Gwinnett looks 25 years down the road

Where will Gwinnett be in 25 years, and what challenges will we face? These are just a few of the questions that brought on the creation of the Gwinnett County 2030 Unified Plan, designed to aid and direct Gwinnett County in future planning. The Unified Plan will be used as a guide for future land use and community development decisions in Gwinnett through the year 2030. It addresses challenges and concerns related to the County's growth, housing and homeless needs, diversity, capital investment, land use, redevelopment, transportation, waterways, forested areas, air quality, and water supply.

"Standing in Gwinnett 30 years ago, many people couldn't have imagined the county's growth," said **Steve Logan**, Gwinnett Planning Division Director. "That is what we are asking the Planning Advisory Committee to do to help us prepare for the future."

This planning process will address these challenges by creating and evaluating alternative scenarios of the future to identify the most desirable, yet achievable, future for Gwinnett County. A 23-member Planning Advisory

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## EHC opens

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both permanent and changing exhibits including *Discover H<sub>2</sub>O*, a hands-on water science exhibit for the younger set, *Rivers to Reefs*, spotlighting Georgia's riparian and marine habitats, and an audio-visual experience *Blue Planet* theatre.

The Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center is the first building in the county to be permitted for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, a living laboratory of environmentally-sensitive construction methods and materials, boasts the largest oxygen-producing vegetative roof in the Southeast.

The facility is nestled on 233 wooded acres located near the Mall of Georgia and features eight miles of walking trails, outdoor classrooms, historic mill remnants, and a rental pavilion. The next phase of the project will include a playground and an addition to the greenway trail system.

The center is available for corporate and event rental with amenities including a catering kitchen, multi-media conference room and lecture hall, and an outdoor pavilion.

The center is open to the public Tuesday – Friday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm, and Sunday 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Visit [www.gwinnettEHC.com](http://www.gwinnettEHC.com) or call 770.904.3500 for more information.

## Check it out!

For those with legal minds and interest in true crimes, forensics, and trials, check out one of these non-fiction selections.

*Facing Down Evil: Reflections of an FBI Hostage Negotiator*, by Clinton R. Van Zandt

*The Last Godfather: Joseph Massino and the Fall of the Bonanno Crime Family*, by Anthony DeStefano

*The Supermob: How Sidney Korshak and his Criminal Associates Became America's Hidden Power Brokers*, by Gus Russo

*Final Analysis: The Untold Story of the Susan Polk Murder Case*, by Catherine Crier

*The Unquiet Grave: The FBI and the Struggle for the Soul of Indian Country*, by Steve Hendricks

*The Beautiful Cigar Girl: Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Rogers, and the Invention of Murder*, by Daniel Stashower

*Thunderstruck*, by Erik Larson

*Bringing Down the Mob: The War Against the American Mafia*, by Thomas A. Reppetto

*Museum of the Missing: A History of Art Theft*, by Simon Houpt

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).

**Coming Soon!**  
**Grayson Branch Library**  
700 Grayson Parkway  
Grayson, GA 30017

**Grand Opening**  
October 28, 2006  
10:00am

# Pet Corner



## Pet Corner

Pet Corner

You can find lots of adorable cats, dogs, puppies, and kittens at the Gwinnett County Animal Shelter at Highway 316 and Hi-Hope Road in Lawrenceville.

To see pictures of cats and dogs currently up for adoption, visit [www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com). For more information, stop by the shelter, or call 770.339.3200.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GWINNETT

Enjoy a fun family outing at the **Open House** at the Medlock Pavilion at Pinckneyville Park in Norcross on October 1 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Free activities for the kids and food concessions will kick off the five-year anniversary of the pavilion, a popular rental for family and corporate events. All ages are welcome. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

See reptiles and amphibians at **Snake Day** on October 7 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Dacula Activity Building in Dacula. Classes and demonstrations will take place throughout the day. The cost is \$3 per person. Call 770.822.5404.

Pack a bathing suit and towel and gear up for fun and games at **Kids Night Out** at Bogan Park in Buford on October 13 from 5:30pm – 9:00pm. You must be on time to be able to swim. Dinner will be served after swimming; please give your child a light snack before arriving. Pre-registration required and the cost is \$10 per person. Call 770.614.2060.

Enjoy live music at **Coffeehouse Nights** at the Gwinnett History Museum with featured performers Kevin Danzig on October 13 and George Hergen on October 27. Doors open at 8:00pm, and music starts at 8:30pm. Starbucks coffee, drinks, and light desserts will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5. The museum is located inside the Lawrenceville Female Seminary in Lawrenceville. Call 770.822.5178 to receive the monthly newsletter, *Java Jottings*, or for more information about Coffeehouse Nights.

Old-fashioned festivities such as hay rides, animal exhibits, antique tractors, and blacksmithing and quilting demonstrations are just a few of the activities you will find at **Farm-Fest** at McDaniel Farm Park in Duluth on October 14 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Admission is \$3 per person and open to all ages. For more information, call 770.814.4920.

Kids who are out of school can beat the blues at **Kids Play Day** at Shorty Howell Park in Duluth on from 8:00am – 6:00pm October 16. Activities include games, a movie, karate class, and classes on building a bug through engineering and making a movie

using digital animation. Bring a sack lunch, drinks will be provided. \$50 per person. Call 770.814.4914.

Celebrate the day off from school with swimming and movies at **School's Out – Popcorn Panic** on October 16 from 8:30am – 4:30pm at Bogan Park in Buford. The cost is \$20 per person and pre-registration is required. Call 770.614.2060.

Enjoy a fun carnival with costume contests at the **Halloween Costume Carnival and Haunted Hall** on October 20 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. Cost is \$10 for a family of four, and \$3 for each additional person age four and up. Call 770.417.2200.

Kick up your heels at the **Mother and Son Halloween Dance** at Dacula Park in Dacula on October 27 from 6:00 – 9:00pm. Costumes are required to enter the dance. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$20 per couple and \$10 for each additional person. Fee includes a commemorative keepsake photo. All ages welcome. Call 770.822.5414.

Enter your pet in the **Hairy Halloween Parade and Costume Contest** on October 28 at 10:30am at Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross. Prizes will be awarded for pet/owner look-a-like, funniest costume, scariciest, and more. Open to all ages. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$5 per pet. Call 770.417.2200.

Enjoy an evening filled with pasta and intrigue at a **Murder Mystery Dinner** on October 28 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at the Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, or \$40 for a family of four. Call 770.564.3060.

Dress in your favorite costume and enjoy a unique version of karaoke at **Halloween Scar-e-okee** on October 29 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Shorty Howell Activity Building in Duluth. Prizes awarded for best costume. All ages welcome. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 770.814.4914.

The Pinckneyville Community Center sponsors **art exhibits** at the following locations.

*Expo/Teacher Show* will be on display through October 25 at the Pinckneyville Community Center in Norcross.

*Dunwoody Fine Arts Exhibition* will be on display at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville through November 30.

Exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public. Call 770.417.2200 for more information.

Take a look at Gwinnett LIFE magazine at [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com) for a listing of programs and classes. Call 770.822.8840.

## Unified plan

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Committee has been put into place to guide this effort. Focus groups and public information meetings are other key elements that will be used to gain input and help develop the plan. Completion of the final version of the Unified Plan is expected in June 2007, with a goal to have the plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners in early 2008.

Go to [www.gwinnettunifiedplan.com](http://www.gwinnettunifiedplan.com) for more information.

## countyline

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

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