

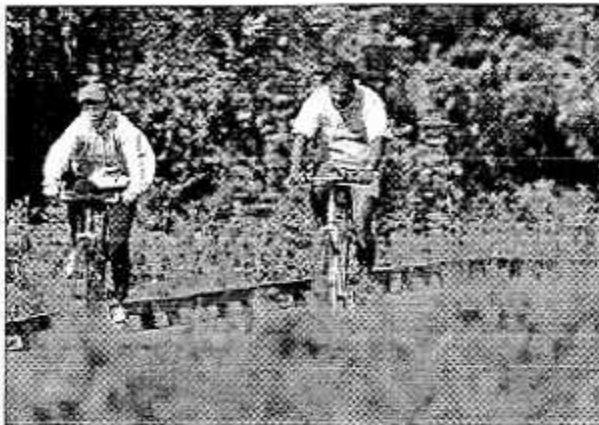


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Issue 9.76 | Friday, Dec. 4, 2009 | Forward to your friend



KEEN ON GREEN. The City of Suwanee is the only community in Gwinnett County and one of only nine in metro Atlanta to be certified "green" by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). This shows bicyclists on the Suwanee Creek Greenway. The ARC's Green Communities certification program recognizes communities that have taken measures to reduce their environmental footprint and promote sustainability. Some of Suwanee's efforts noted by the ARC include: requiring that all new City-owned buildings larger than 5,000 square feet be LEED certified; adoption of a lights out/power down policy requiring employees to turn off lights and all other non-essential electronic equipment when not in use; City Hall's Energy Star-rated cool roof; the City's Open Space initiative and protection of nine percent of total land area as greenspace; implementation of a green fleet policy, no idling policy, and environmentally preferable purchasing policy; the Suwanee Farmers Market; and Suwanee's encouragement of mixed-use redevelopment and implementation of smart-growth practices in the Downtown Master Plan. (Photo by David Douglas, *lent1 photography*.)

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TODAY'S FOCUS
Yule shoppers will see improvements around Gwinnett Place

By JOSEPH PICCIOLO
 Area general manager, Gwinnett Place Mall
 Special to GwinnettForum.com

DULUTH, Ga., Dec. 4, 2009 -- The holiday season always brings the desire to find that perfect gift, that just-right item to add joy to the lives of those we care about. And now more than ever, Gwinnettians have an even stronger desire to get the most of every holiday dollar. This includes finding bargains that are close to home.



Picciolo

This year greater Gwinnett Place has welcomed dozens of new businesses, adding names that you already know in addition to international companies coming here for the first time. These new locations enhance and compliment our area's existing base of dining, shopping, hotel and entertainment venues.

To help make this holiday season even easier, the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) has initiated numerous efforts benefiting those spending time in the county's central business district.

Before you even get in the car, there is a unique resource to get an inside track on area destinations. The CID created the www.VisitGwinnettPlace.com site to serve as a one-stop-shop of information for businesses and retailers throughout Gwinnett Place. The site even includes special discounts and coupons available exclusively online.

Once in the District, you will find traveling from point to point is more easily accomplished because of the CID's ongoing traffic signal retiming efforts throughout this year. In peak travel times, drivers will collectively save 98,000 hours and nearly 59,000 gallons of gas annually because of the CID-funded initiative to make the signals function more efficiently.

Our visitors will see enhanced landscaping and street signage, including direction assistance, added by the CID. The area is also well maintained through the CID's daily community patrols and routine roadway cleaning to ensure it remains attractive and inviting.

In the future, area travel will be even smoother with the redesign and reconstruction of the Pleasant Hill Road bridge over I-85. This month the CID's Board of Directors approved an agreement with a professional engineering firm to complete preliminary planning to replace the

TODAY'S QUOTE
It is all depending who does the fearing

"When the people fear their government, there is tyranny, when the government fears the people, there is liberty."

-- Thomas Jefferson, the third US president, via Roy McCreary, Dacula.

MODERN HISTORY OF GWINNETT



Those interested in the history of Gwinnett need to know that the recently published book, *Gwinnett: A Little Above Atlanta*, has sold fast, with the first editions about sold out. Get yours before they're gone. Go to www.elliottbrack.com to order, or buy the book at a local bookstore shown on the site.

The books are available at:

- Books for Less in downtown Snellville and Lawrenceville (Highway 20 near the Braves park);
- Labarre Pottery, downtown

now outdated interstate crossing. Having these efforts completed ahead of time will help speed up the eventual construction.

To coincide with the bridge replacement, the CID is pursuing another key area roadway improvement. This month the Board of Directors secured funding for engineering assistance for widening and relocating Venture Drive between Steve Reynolds Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. The realignment will allow faster, safer access to major thoroughfares.



Another recent undertaking shaping our future is the approval of a tax allocation district (TAD) to provide redevelopment incentives for greater Gwinnett Place. With TAD-supported improvements and revitalization, our area could experience as many as 11,233 new jobs resulting in \$470 million in annual payroll in the coming decade.

While there are many great projects and improvements destined for our area, the CID would like for everyone seeking shopping and entertainment options to remember that greater Gwinnett Place is their best choice for neighborhood convenience.

EEB PERSPECTIVE

Obama's latest move could put stamp on his presidency

By ELLIOTT BRACK
Editor and publisher

DEC. 4, 2009 – The move that President Obama announced Tuesday night to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan may be the central item that will put a stamp on his presidency for some time.



Brack

The Obama Administration may be known, as much as anything else, for the outcome of the moves in Afghanistan.

If the move proves positive...if the Taliban is neutralized more than they have been...if the Afghan government can begin to offer solid policing within its boundaries...and if the troop deployments can be reduced by 2011 as the president has indicated...the

Obama fortunes will prove successful.

However, if this effort goes badly, it might even cause the Democrats to lose control of the Congress, and possibly could bring about a Republican president, either in two or six years.

So far the efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan through deployment of friendly forces have not worked as anticipated. The continued bad news out of this country, along with what appears to be a strengthened Taliban, plus problems in nearby Pakistan, have caused more and more people to be concerned.

After all, why do we in the United States think that we can bring peace to a country mired in problems within its borders, when none other than the Soviet Union a few years ago could not? And take note that the Russian forces were a whole lot closer, geographically, than is the United States, which must supply men and material from halfway around the world! It gives you pause.

Yet President Obama has taken the time to listen to the different voices giving him advice, and has taken the counsel of his top military man in Afghanistan in agreeing to send in more force. We can only pray that this additional strength can prove sufficient to thwart the enemy. (And we haven't even addressed if we can afford the war's cost and what it is doing to our economy!)

Interestingly, President Obama did not have to take this route. After all, he inherited a war in both Iraq and Afghanistan from his predecessor. We must say that the earlier decision by President Bush to strengthen the forces in Iraq appears to have been a good move militarily. Coupled with an improvement in the political situation in Iraq, we can now see an eventual pull-out of most American forces in that country.

President Obama has taken a similar move to the adding of forces in Iraq. We can only hope and pray that this will lead to a more stabilized Afghanistan, and indeed, a quick reduction in forces by 2011 that the president seeks.

We are also reminded of another former president who inherited a war. Lyndon Johnson sought to prosecute the war in Vietnam that was not of his choosing. That war took a toll on LBJ, to the extent that he did not seek another term in office as president. We remember when President Johnson told the nation on March 31, 1968 that "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

Though the war ended much later, the signal that LBJ would not run was a



Notcross

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Georgia Clips offers a similar daily news compilation for the scores of newspapers in Georgia's 159 counties.

SC Clips – a daily news compilation of South Carolina news from media sources across the state. Delivered by email about the time you get to work every business day. Saves you a lot of money and time.

CharlestonCurrents.com – an online community commentary for exploring pragmatic and sensible social, political and economic approaches to improve life in Charleston, S.C.

SC Statehouse Report – a weekly legislative forecast that keeps you a step ahead of what happens at the South Carolina Statehouse. It's free.

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