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From: news@gwinnettforum.com
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To: jallen@gwinnettplaceid.com
Subject: 12/17: Gang violence; changes needed at county government? More

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TRADITION: An annual tradition for over 20 years has been the North Atlanta Metro Realtors Christmas party for Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers. The association has donated stuffed animals for holiday parties for the centers in Norcross, Duluth and Lawrenceville. According to Kristy Marshall, chair of the Community Service committee, Santa distributed the stuffed animals to over 275 children. Kneeling from left are Retta Christoforatos, Chris Hilmire, Kristy Marshall, Beth Steele and Inez Morton. Standing from left are Angel Head, Deborah Ayeni, Graham Edmunds, Richard Clendenin (Santa), Angie Rosen and Shelly Moore and a representative from the Norcross Center.

outline a branding scheme and economic sustainability strategy to promote Snellville as a destination for residents and visitors.

The plan's recommendations for development and redevelopment will be based on an interactive planning and design process. The project will include focus group meetings with key stakeholders, public informational meetings and a multi-day design program that will offer the community at-large opportunities for hands-on design input. The city is striving to create a place that focuses on "connecting the community."

Church continues Christmastide tradition starting Dec. 23

Christ Church Episcopal in Norcross will embrace the Christmastide tradition starting December 23 with an outdoor nativity. The Christmastide program ends January 5 with a Twelfth Night performance by the Christ Church Players. The church is located at 400 Holcomb Bridge Road in Norcross.

Christmastide, also known as the Twelve Days of Christmas, was the focus of the Christmas celebration dating to the early Christian church. Christians celebrated the birth of Christ starting Christmas Day and continued through January 5, the night before Epiphany begins with the coming of the Three Kings.

On December 23, the community is invited to join the Christ Church Players, a group of actors and musicians from the congregation, in quiet reflection and dramatic revelation. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Afterward, hot cider will be available at the Parish Hall.

Then, on January 5, the church will celebrate the close of Christmastide with a madrigal-style musical performance by the Christ Church Players from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The Christ Church Players performed a reading of Dickens at Christmas last year, and performed select songs from musicals during the annual "Cabaret" in August at Thrasher Park. For more information, call 770-447-1166 or visit www.ccnorcross.org.

NOTABLE

SPLOST funding additional sidewalks in 3 areas

Designing improvements and more sidewalks will be underway soon after Gwinnett commissioners approved three contracts with two Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) recently. Money for the projects comes from the 2009 SPLOST program.



An agreement with the Gwinnett Village CID allows the district to study feasibility and designs to accommodate increased capacity, improve safety and minimize congestion at Jimmy Carter Boulevard at Buford Highway. The project was identified and funded in the 2009 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

Program. The County will contribute \$962,500 and the CID will be responsible for contracting the design. They will work together to obtain funding for land acquisition and construction of the project.

Resurfacing of Indian Trail Road is covered by a second agreement with the same CID. It provides funds up to \$405,207 from the 2009 SPLOST in conjunction with a CID project to make improvements to the median and roadway.

The Gwinnett Place CID will add sidewalks on Sweetwater Road, Koger Boulevard, Steve Reynolds Boulevard, Old Norcross Road, Venture Drive and Pineland Road. Gwinnett County will provide \$590,662 that was identified in the 2009 SPLOST for building sidewalks at various locations within the limits of the CIDs.



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Sidewalks on Ross Road will be the result of an innovative pilot project for a combined design/build contract awarded to ISC, Inc., for \$299,180. The County also awarded a construction contract for sidewalks in the Gwinnett Center area on Sugarloaf Parkway and Satellite Boulevard. A bid of \$1.3 million from ER Snell Contractor, Inc., was the lowest of four. An agreement with the Georgia DOT for a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant will provide just under \$1.1 million toward the construction cost.

Chrysler donates 2 autos to Gwinnett Tech auto program

Chrysler Group LLC has donated two new vehicles to Gwinnett Technical College, expanding the training fleet for GTC's Chrysler College Automotive Program (CAP) with the addition of a 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT and a 2011 Jeep Liberty Limited.



CHRYSLER

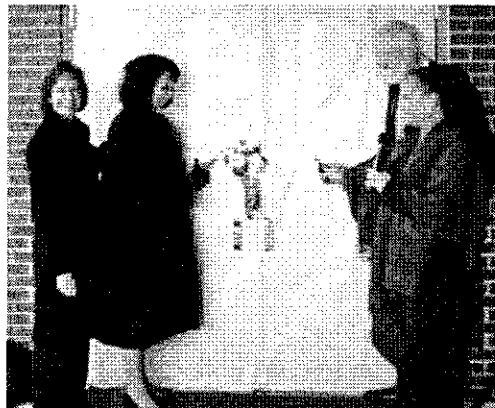
The donated vehicles have been added to the 14-vehicle Chrysler fleet, adding to the hands-on learning and training opportunities for

Gwinnett Tech students in the CAP program.

Graduates of Gwinnett Tech's program earn an associate of applied science degree. The college also offers an associate degree in automotive technology, plus a diploma program in automotive fundamentals and certificates in automotive engine performance, automotive suspension and steering, basic automotive and automotive service electrical systems.

Norcross Elementary readies 3-story expansion

Norcross Elementary School's new three-story addition was officially opened last week. The 24,303 square foot building was built to accommodate students now housed in 48 mobile classroom, which will no longer be used at the site. The students will move into the new structure on January 4. Present at the ribbon cutting were Area Principal Gale Hey, School Board member Mary Kay Murphy, Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson and Principal Dr. Dora Hill.



Hogan Construction was the general contractor of the addition.

County appoints two to executive team

Gwinnett County Administrator Glenn Stephens has made two appointments to key senior management positions within the organization. The move fills one of two Deputy County Administrator positions that have been vacant since the end of 2009.