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LOCAL NEWS



Capitol should be calm before legislature's frenzied final 2 days



via Gwinnettdailypost
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UGA defensive lineman, Tucker High grad arrested



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Karen Huppertz
For the AJC

At Issue: Is Gwinnett County ready for its own BeltLine?

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The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District released a survey last week asking residents to weigh in on connecting McDaniel Farm Park to the larger commercial district and existing trail network. The 134-acre park is nestled just off Satellite Boulevard within short walking distance to Gwinnett Place Mall and visible, but not easily accessible, to several office towers.

Nearly every city in Gwinnett has, or is planning to build, a multi-use trail with most working to connect to the 150 miles of existing county trails.

According to Gwinnett Greenspace Planner Marcie Moore, the county has long-range plans to create a "loop" trail to provide connections to Shorty Howell Park, McDaniel Farm Park, Peachtree Ridge Park and Suwanee Creek Park. The loop will consist of portions of the Western Gwinnett Bikeway, Sweetwater Creek Greenway, Singleton Creek Greenway, Satellite Boulevard Multi-Use Path and the Lower Suwanee Greenway.

Eventually this loop trail would be part of the greater planned trail system by linking to the existing Suwanee Creek Greenway as well as the future Chattahoochee Greenway, Central City Greenway and Bromolow Greenway.

In repeated surveys, residents state they want more walking trails and ways to connect to existing parks. Gwinnett officials want to understand how residents envision themselves using these trails. Is it for recreation or health reasons? Are residents looking for transportation alternatives? What destinations do they want to reach? Do

they want to bike or walk to neighborhoods, playgrounds, schools, nature, shopping, work, restaurants, grocery stores?



Gwinnett residents enjoying a day on the trails. Courtesy of Gwinnett Parks and Recreation

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Can Gwinnett envision this network of trails becoming their own integrated approach to connecting neighborhoods, transportation, land use, greenspace and sustainable growth like Atlanta's BeltLine?

Send comments to communitynews@ajc.com.

LAST WEEK: SHOULD GUNS BE ALLOWED ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES?

The Georgia Legislature recently approved and sent to Gov. Nathan Deal a measure, House Bill 859, that would allow anyone 21 or older with a weapons license to carry a gun, concealed, on college and university campuses except for inside dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses and at athletic events.

Here's what readers had to say about it:

Assaults will never be eliminated on and near campuses. With wide-open borders allowing in criminals from all over the world, times have changed. What the new carry law will do is allow vigilant and cautious students and faculty to neutralize a situation quickly. More veterans are in college on the GI Bill. These men and women are weapons-trained. Off-duty police and fire personnel also are students. To deny them the right to protect themselves is lunacy. This bill is needed and long overdue. – **Kermit Smith**

Passage of House Bill 859 is a bad idea for several reasons, but the greatest being that there is no requirement for any weapons qualification attached. Law enforcement and military personnel are required to qualify on gun ranges so there is a good chance they'll hit the target they shoot at. Handguns are generally less accurate than long guns, and the lack of accuracy is deadly when combined with a stressful situation, adrenalin rush, and a lack of weapons qualification. How many innocent bystanders might be killed or injured? – **Mike Deal**

The campus carry legislation is a horrific idea, especially as far as the college professor is concerned. All students do not get an A+, nor do they deserve one, but whether deserved or not, some might be offended if their grade is not what they expected. How does a professor defend him/herself from a disgruntled individual? – **Dewey Teal**

No guns on campus! – **Amy DeLoach**

Please publish the number and percentage of students 21 or older when you put up articles about campus carry. I would worry if ALL students were allowed to carry, but I am thinking the number of 21-and-older students is much smaller and more mature. Unfortunately, the crooks will just be sure to target younger students. – **Jim Nealand**

If the students with carry permits had to show proficiency with the firearms and a thorough knowledge of when to shoot or not shoot, as police officers are trained, it would be more comfortable for all. – **Bill Kohler**

I am a native Georgian, a university professor, and a gun owner. I grew up on a large farm in Haralson County, and hunting with my father is one of my favorite memories from childhood. I was taught how to shoot, and most of all, I was taught