

various projects make a special effort to send their own volunteers to other sites. Volunteering promotes team building, leadership development and is an excellent way to show that you too believe that Success Lives in Gwinnett.

Things you can do to help make Great Days of Service successful:

- **Hold a "supply" drive:** Your group can hold a supply drive and collect things like canned food, toiletries and pet supplies to name a few.
- **Dollar Makes a Difference:** Make cash donations that will be used to purchase additional supplies needed to complete projects.
- **Collect School Supplies:** Help ensure that each child in Gwinnett County has all of the school supplies that they need to have a great school year. Needed items include: backpacks, notebook paper, pencils, erasers, calculators and binders.
- **Donate landscaping materials:** Each year, we receive project requests from agencies that ask for assistance in beautifying their grounds. Mulch, fertilizer, potted plants, pine straw and trees are all useful.

There is something that anyone who wishes to help out can participate in. If you or your company would like to volunteer or if you would like to donate specific items, visit the Great Days of Service website at [www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.com](http://www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.com) or call 770.995.3339 for more information.

## ELLIOTT BRACK

### Gwinnett begins to reap benefits from organized CIDs

By Elliott Brack  
Editor and Publisher  
[GwinnettForum.com](http://GwinnettForum.com)

AUG. 29, 2006 -- One of the more promising aspects of Gwinnett life these days is the way communities are taking hard looks at themselves, and doing something about it.



Brack

It's happening within cities, and within areas outside cities in the county. You can see it all through Gwinnett. Virtually even Gwinnett city is on an improvement binge.

Outside the cities, the most organized and far-reaching aspect is the creation of the Community Improvement Districts. One came first along U.S. Highway 78, then around Gwinnett Place. Most recently came the area from Norcross calling itself "Gwinnett Village." These specific areas have property owners agree to tax themselves to fund improvements throughout the district. It is seen as a way

for an area that has fallen into disrepair to pull itself up by its boots in

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"The time not to become eighteen years before

– Author E. B. L  
(1899 - 1985)

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improving itself.

The formation of the first district came from Emory Morsberger, who got the (U.S.) Highway 78 Association going, concentrating on the corridor between Snellville and Stone Mountain.

These CIDs lobby for and leverage tax dollars to secure projects to improve the districts. The upshot is that you see immediately vast improvements in the area.

Near Gwinnett Place CID, improvements already visible include replacing broken gutter covers and landscaping along roadways. It has improved the Interstate interchange along Pleasant Hill Road, and is picking up litter. It recently completed a transportation study, to develop a master plan for the roadways of the area.

For the Highway 78 CID, the most visible aspect is landscaping of the corridor. Each week the CID maintains the right of way, picks up litter, removes graffiti and illegal signs and keeps the curb and gutter noticeably cleaner.

It also has a public safety campaign of 2,500 hours a year of off-duty police patrols. These policemen stop in and talk to merchants, and make their presence known.

Among the 78 CID's long range projects is its identification of \$27 million in transportation funding improvements for the area, some to begin in early 2007.

A recent project of Gwinnett Village includes tackling problems at one of the deadliest intersections in the county, at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Singleton Road. The CID is seeking to address pedestrian safety at this corner, and working with the county to move along a \$400,000 grant to improve this intersection. Construction is expected in 2007.

Another aspect of CID impact is seen in simply getting property owners of an area together. On August 23, some 75 individuals of Gwinnett Village CID met to discuss potential improvements for the area. On August 30, Wednesday night, these comments will be summarized in a presentation at Global Mall at 6:30 p.m. Such gatherings would not be taking place without the push by the CID to pull these people together. It's a way to get neighbors to talk to one another, and band together to move an agenda along.

Up until now, it has taken a potential deterioration of an area to push property owners to consider organizing and taxing themselves to improve their area. With the initial successes these community improvement districts are gaining, perhaps other key business areas of the county will consider a similar organization as a first step in ensuring that their neighborhoods do not deteriorate.

We applaud these efforts. It's a good sign of real progress to make sure that

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## FEEDBACK

### Group seeks to form national Negro Baseball League

Editor, the Forum:

M.E. Mayden Productions Inc. will be starting a new professional baseball league in the spring of 2009, to be called the Resurrected National Negro League Baseball Association. The league format will consist of six teams initially, with future plans for expansion.

The Resurrected National Negro League Baseball Association will have an 80 to 90 game schedule from June to the end of August. Each game will be Monday through Saturday (no Sunday games) in addition to league play-offs.

To honor those who faced adversity and paved the way, invitations will be extended to former Negro League Players and managers to take part in this exciting new venture.

The league is accepting bids and identifying the six cities that would be interested having one of these professional teams. In order to begin the schedule in the spring of 2009, I need to have this process completed by March 1, 2007. In addition I am currently in the midst of identifying individuals, partnerships and/or business leaders that would be interested in partnering with me as part owner in one or more of these teams. You may contact me at (773) 744-1040.

-- Shannon King, Chicago, Ill

**FEEDBACK****9/1: Likens new CIDS to putting lipstick on a pig**

Editor, the Forum:

At various times before their bankruptcy, Delta Air Lines announced new customer service initiatives and then applied new paint to their planes. I never got the connection between customer service and new paint.

In the same vein, fixing broken gutters and new landscaping is nice but until we get serious about crime in these Community Improvement Districts, as well as the rest of the county, we will continue the long slow slide to become the "next DeKalb." The recent \$50 million drug bust in Buford is only the tip of the iceberg. Knowing that only a small percentage of the flow of illegal drugs are intercepted, Gwinnett's drug dealers are living proof that Success Lives Here.

While I applaud the efforts of our law enforcement professionals, Gwinnett's crime problem is a total community problem. We tolerate neighborhood vandalism which grows to neighborhood breaking and enterings, which grows to aggravated assaults, which grows to murder, drugs, gangs and organized mayhem.

So putting lipstick on this pig might make the planes prettier or dress up Jimmy Carter Boulevard, but until we get serious about the real issue and get the entire community involved in crime prevention, we will continue our slide to mediocrity.

— *Patrick Malone, Snellville*

(Dear Pat: Did you see that part of what the Gwinnett Village CID is doing is initiating a study for a security patrol? Gwinnett Place CID is working with retailers on crime, and the US 78 CID pays for added police patrols. All three CIDs are alert to this problem. The work they do on security you may never see, but these CIDs think important. -eeb)

**UPCOMING****Flicks on the Bricks set Sept. 9 in Duluth**

The City of Duluth presents Flicks on the Bricks featuring Nanny McPhee, Saturday, September 9 at the Duluth Festival Center and Amphitheater. Admission is FREE and the movie will begin at dusk.

Oscar winner Emma Thompson wrote and stars in this adaptation of the "Nurse Mathilda" books. Nanny McPhee comes to the house of Mr. Brown and his seven ill-behaved children. They have dispensed with 17 nannies before her and see Nanny McPhee as no different. However, she seems to have mystical powers that start to control them and lead to startling consequences in this magical comedy.