

❖ today's focus

Experience Gwinnett Place again and see vast improvements

By Mark Williams

Chairman, Gwinnett Place CID
Special to GwinnettForum.com

DULUTH, Ga., Nov. 27, 2007 -- The holiday season is yet upon us. These busy times bring with them a heightened interest in finding that perfect gift or the right location to hold that extra-special family or corporate gathering.



Williams

The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) has been busy making changes and upgrades just in time for the holidays. It includes removing illegal signs and collecting trash in the public right-of-ways, to maintaining area landscaping and planning for long-range traffic upgrades. Also on tap in the future is replacing the Pleasant Hill Road/I-85 bridge, as well as crafting a redevelopment strategy to transform the area into Gwinnett's urban center. The Gwinnett Place CID is working full-time to support Atlanta's most vibrant and energetic community.

We believe this year's holiday season will be one of the most exciting in the history of Gwinnett Place as families visit our retail stores, hotels, restaurants and other attractions. With world-class shopping destinations just a short drive from your home, you can choose from thousands of shopping venues at Gwinnett's foremost retail super center, and you will be sure to find something for everyone on your holiday list. While you are shopping, treat yourself to one-of-a-kind dining from the grand to fast food. And, if you have guests coming in town for the holidays, be sure to check-out one of Gwinnett Place's hotels and enjoy all the comforts of home with first-class amenities, great location and value.

Those coming to Gwinnett Place will find many new stores and renovated establishments that you have enjoyed for years. Our area is benefiting from millions of dollars in reinvestments being made by commercial property owners and business leaders that realize the strength of Gwinnett's foremost retail super center. Businesses are finding success at Gwinnett Place and are making a reinvestment back into the area.

And the CID itself is meeting the communitywide enhancement needs of the District. Among the many improvements area commercial property owners have funded, the CID has added streetscape enhancements and colorful "welcome" banners along all of our major roadways and new gateway monuments along with new sidewalks to make the area more pedestrian friendly. We have added enhanced landscaping along the roadways and at the ramps along Steve Reynolds Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. Of course, we

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HONORED: The Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority honored Arthur Shackelford, former Chairman of the Department of Transportation, at a special luncheon ceremony at the South Gate entrance to the Tower will be renamed Way Arthur Shackelford Boulevard. Jarrod Sutherland, chairman, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, presents Shackelford with a commemorative plaque at the National Fairgrounds and Agricultural Perry. From left are Charles IV, Mary S. Edenfield Gibbs Greer, Jr.; Tommy E. Waldi Sutherland; Danny J. Brown Rhodes, vice chairman; Sherry Robert M. Williams, Jr.; and Arthur Shackelford. (Photo from Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricultural Perry)

continue to plan for the complete reconstruction of the Pleasant Hill Road/I-85 interchange into a new single-point urban interchange.

Business leaders are eager to share in the excitement of everything taking place in greater Gwinnett Place. At the forefront of the CID's efforts are the members of its Board of Directors: Marcy Adams of the Atlanta Marriott-Gwinnett Place; Casey Coffey of Gwinnett Place Ford and Gwinnett Place Nissan; James "Nick" Nicolosi of Simon Property Group/ Gwinnett Place; Tom Wheeler of Wheeler/Kolb Management Company; Leo Wiener of Glenwood Development Company LLC; and Glenn Wisdom of JC Penney.

And our Board of Directors invites you to let us know what you think about the Gwinnett Place District. We invite you to visit GwinnettPlaceCID.com to participate in an on-line survey that will help guide our efforts as we take Gwinnett Place to even greater success in the heart of Gwinnett County.

❖ **elliott brack**

Paying for unfunded needs of county could get hairy

By *Elliott Brack*
Editor and Publisher

NOV. 27, 2007 -- When county commissioners headed to Brasstown Valley Resort for their retreat November 4-6, they heard detailed descriptions of how the county is doing, and what is needed for the future.



Brack

One thing they heard over and over: Gwinnett could not be in the position it is when it comes to infrastructure without the continual voter approval of the one-cent sales tax for county operations. This special purpose local option sales tax brings in \$13 million each month, helping fund the always rising cost of governmental projects in a county that keeps growing.

Yet with all this money being spent on vital infrastructure improvements, still there are areas where there are insufficient tax monies to fund other projects that are

sorely needed to help this county move forward.

Among them:

Transportation: extension of Ronald Reagan Parkway to Interstate 85; Phase II of the Sugarloaf Parkway extension; improvements to State Highway 316; widening of Georgia Highway 124 and Harbins/New Hope Roads; and adding HOV lanes on U.S. Highway 78.



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❖ **thought for the day**

"You will find that the State organization which, though things badly, does small things too."

— Economist, Author, Professor, President, Counselor and US Ambassador to India John Kenneth Galbraith (1908 - 2006).