

**GOAL 3: Quality of Life****Gwinnett Wins National Sustainable Communities Award**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recently announced that Gwinnett County is one of 10 recipients of its prestigious 2006-2007 Center for Sustainable Communities Awards and earned special recognition as one of three Outstanding Practices Award winners, which carries a cash prize of \$2,500.

The awards, presented every two years by NACo's Center for Sustainable Communities, recognize the most effective and innovative county-led partnerships with the private sector, other governments or community groups in developing economically prosperous, environmentally safe, and socially equitable communities.

The county was honored for the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. (See project description below.) Honorees received their awards during a reception at NACo headquarters in Washington, D.C. Winners were selected by a panel of independent judges.

"I commend everyone who was involved in developing these outstanding community partnerships," said NACo President Eric Coleman, commissioner, Oakland County, Mich. "It is our hope that the national awards will spotlight your communities' great achievements and inspire others across the country to explore similar strategies to develop vibrant and sustainable communities."

**VICI Real Estate Opens The Plaza at Breckinridge**

**Gwinnett CID gains strong momentum with new retail market opportunity**

Development began in January for a new retail facility, The Plaza at Breckinridge, located in the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) off Interstate 85 and Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth, GA. The Plaza is a unique opportunity to

combined with local CID funds; the CID is taking the first steps toward renewing Gwinnett Place's overall image and strengthening its economy. For more information on Vici Real Estate please contact Olga Teseniar, 678-218-1700 oteseniar@vicirealestate.com or visit [www.vicirealestate.com](http://www.vicirealestate.com).

*The* **PLAZA** *at*  
**BRECKINRIDGE**

acquire investment grade retail real estate and contains approximately 24,748 square feet of Class-A retail condominium units, including an end unit with a drive-thru. The project boasts excellent visibility and a modern upscale design - in close proximity to hotels and office parks.

The mission of the Gwinnett Place CID is to enhance the economic vitality of Gwinnett's central business district by strengthening the area's role as the center of commercial activity. The renewal of this commercial district requires that a sense of place and activity be created in order to draw people to its shopping and entertainment venues. With funding from the Federal Government, State of Georgia and the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

**Strengthening the Arts in Gwinnett**

**Partnership Gwinnett** recently contracted The Schapiro Group to conduct a thorough study of the arts in Gwinnett and develop a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance the arts.

This first-class consulting firm is currently assessing the County's arts scene, including festivals, cultural events, visual and performing arts. Some of its preliminary findings are remarkable, touting Gwinnett as home to 112 non-profit arts organizations alone. The Schapiro Group will conduct a poll of Gwinnett's residents to gauge interest in the various forms of art.

Partnership Gwinnett is working in collaboration with the Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Bureau, Cisco, City of Norcross, Community Foundation of Northeast Georgia, Gwinnett Village CID, and Jackson EMC on the funding and implementation of the Arts Study.