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## Community News

By Eric Stirgus, Gracie Bonds Staples, Nancy Bardertscher, Shane Blatt, Ty Tagami, D.L. Bennett, Craig Schneider, Ariel Hart, Patrick Fox, Andria Simmons, Shelia Poole, Bill Rankin

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Atlanta

City Council approves notes to cover expenses

The Atlanta City Council voted unanimously Wednesday to issue nearly \$60 million in tax anticipation notes to help pay for city operations in lieu of money expected later this year from property taxes and other revenues.

The notes must be repaid by Dec. 31, according to the legislation passed. The interest rate is 1.75 percent, finance officials said. ERIC STIRGUS

Mentors sought for African-American males

Mentors and life-skill coaches are needed for at-risk young African-American males who are participating in the Priority Male Program, which works to help young men between the ages of 18 and 28 reach their full potential academically, vocationally, economically and personally through a series of workshops.

Mentoring training will be provided.

For more information, call 404-935-5859 or contact the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta at [cemacorp@aol.com](mailto:cemacorp@aol.com). GRACIE BONDS STAPLES

Cobb

Acworth \* Austell \* Kennesaw \* Mableton \* Marietta \* Powder \* Springs \* Smyrna \* Vinings

Haven Academy to get help with greenhouse

Haven Academy, a Cobb County school for students with autism and severe emotional behavior disorders, will be receiving a \$4,200 grant today to help fund the school's new greenhouse outdoor learning center. The center will provide a place for the students to learn practical, hands-on life skills by growing and tending to plants, fruits and vegetables. It is located on West Atlanta Road in Smyrna. NANCY BARDERTSCHER

### Grady Health System awarded for stroke work

Grady Health System has received the American Stroke Association's Get With the Guidelines—Stroke Gold Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes Grady's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care for at least 24 months according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations. Grady is situated in the heart of the stroke belt — an area in the southeastern United States that sees more strokes and stroke-related deaths than other parts of the country.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the GWTG-Stroke Gold Performance Achievement Award addresses the important element of time," said Dr. Michael Frankel, Grady's chief of neurology and the director of the Marcus Stroke and Neuroscience Center at Grady.

"Grady Health System has developed a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. This includes always being equipped to provide brain imaging scans, having neurologists available to conduct patient evaluations and using clot-busting medications when appropriate."

Bernie Marcus, a co-founder of Home Depot and the force behind the Georgia Aquarium, recently committed \$20 million of his financial might to expand Grady's trauma center and stroke care. CRAIG SCHNEIDER

### Gwinnett

Berkeley Lake \* Buford \* Dacula \* Duluth \* Grayson \* Lawrenceville \* Lilburn \* Norcross \* Snellville \* Sugar Hill \* Suwanee

### Study to look at possible routes for light rail

Gwinnett County business districts have won a \$30,000 grant to study the cost and possible routes of a light-rail line to connect Norcross, Gwinnett Village, Indian Trail, Gwinnett Place and the Gwinnett Arena. The districts will pitch in an equal amount to match the grant.

Gwinnett Village-Gwinnett Place, Spalding County, Norcross, Forest Park and four other cities won grants from the Atlanta Regional Commission to help plan more livable community layouts. The program is designed to reduce car travel by building places where walking is easier, and homes, businesses and leisure spots are closer together.

ARC, metro Atlanta's official planning agency, announced \$204,000 Wednesday for the program. The awards are meant to advance plans already under way and come on top of other grants already awarded to the communities. ARIEL HART

### Clean and Beautiful calls off court appeal

The attorney for Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful said he is filing papers to withdraw the organization's appeal to an injunction that prohibited it from implementing the county's solid waste plan.

"If we win the appeal, we lose," Michael Tennent said, pointing out that Clean and Beautiful no longer has a contract with the county. He added that Clean and Beautiful is not conceding the legal points of the case.

Wednesday's action comes one day after Gwinnett County dropped its appeal of the court order. The court granted the injunction Dec. 18, two weeks before the county and Clean and Beautiful were to implement the new plan. Superior Court Judge Michael Clark ruled the county acted improperly by giving Clean and Beautiful governmental powers. Advanced Disposal, one of two waste haulers awarded exclusive franchises under the plan, also appealed the judge's ruling. It is not considering withdrawing at this time, said Mary O'Brien, chief marketing officer. PATRICK FOX

### Improvements unveiled for JCB-Singleton Road