

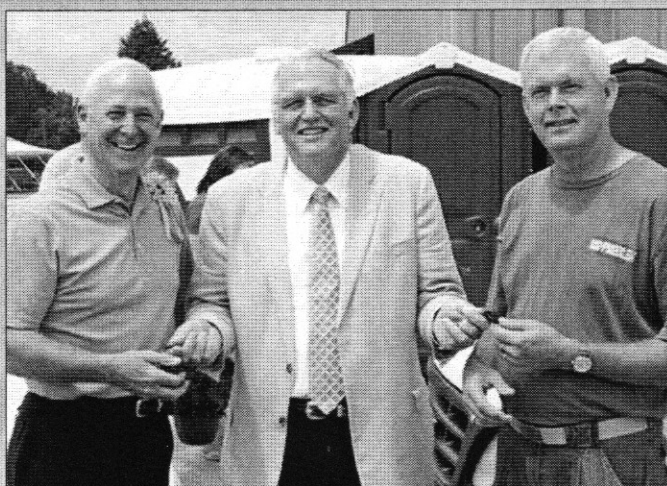


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Issue 11.25 | Friday, June 24, 2011



ATTENDING PAYS OFF: Two Walton EMC customers found it pays to attend the co-op's annual meeting. Duncan Cumming of Madison, left, and Art Canady of Monroe, right, receive the keys from Walton EMC President Ronnie Lee to the two grand prize vehicles at the 75th annual meeting. The prizes were a retired Toyota Prius and a retired Ford pickup no longer in service by the co-op. Walton EMC members also learned that, as Board Chair Bud Wiley said, "According to the Georgia Public Service Commission study at the 2,000 kilowatt-hour level, which is very close to what the average Walton EMC customer-owner used last winter, only one electric utility was lower than us." In addition, Walton EMC's subsidiary, Walton Gas, was recently ranked first by J.D. Power in their recent survey of Georgia natural gas providers. The study examines four key factors: price, billing and payment, communications and customer service. Besides the highest overall score of 724, Walton also scored highest in each of the four study areas. The industry average is 667.

TODAY'S FOCUS
:: Removing graffiti quickly

ELLIOTT BRACK'S PERSPECTIVE
:: Something good from e-cig?

FEEDBACK
:: Readers weigh in on crabcakes

UPCOMING
:: New HQ for Norcross; pool news

NOTABLE
:: Suwanee cuts taxes; AAA ratings

ALSO INSIDE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
:: First National Insurance Group

GEORGIA TIDBIT
:: The Makontents

LAGNIAPPE
:: Seasonal reminder

TODAY'S QUOTE
:: Even PR can't fool Mother Nature

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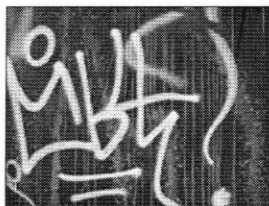
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TODAY'S FOCUS**Best way to curb graffiti is to report, remove it immediately**

By JOE ALLEN
Special to GwinnettForum

DULUTH, Ga., June 24, 2011 – The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) shares the common goal of our businesses to increase curb appeal and attract more customers and clients.

To that end, the CID is pleased to provide seven-day-a-week community patrols and ongoing landscape improvements along all of the roadways and interstate interchanges in the area.



The CID also works closely with Gwinnett Police and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful to assist commercial property owners in keeping crime low and graffiti invisible.

Graffiti is not a "victimless" crime. Everyone pays the price – business owners, taxpayers, children and parents. When left untouched, graffiti sends the wrong message—that nobody cares about an area, thus attracting more serious crimes. Graffiti negatively affects property values and is the most common form of property vandalism, according to the Justice Department. The CID works directly with property owners and

others to quickly remove incidents of graffiti when found.

Here are some important facts supplied by Gwinnett Police and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful about the role of property maintenance in overcoming crimes, including graffiti.

- **Report it. Remove it.** The single, most effect method of addressing graffiti is to report it to authorities and get it removed promptly. Studies show that repainting vandalized surfaces within 24 to 48 hours leads to a near-zero rate of recurrence.

Manage access. Adding shrubs, vines, fences and other simple structures will keep graffiti criminals away. Lessening access to walls and roofs brings greater advantages to business owners in preventing incidents.

TODAY'S QUOTE**Even public relations cannot fool Mother Nature**

"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled."

– U.S. physicist and Nobel Prize winner
in physics Richard Feynman
(1918-1988).

SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM

GWINNETT CALENDAR**Brown Bag Lunch in Duluth's Town Green Park:**

Noon to 1 p.m. on **June 30, July 14 and July 28**. Among entertainers will be Puppeteer Peter Hart, Magic Debbie, Juggler Ron Anglin and Solo performer Craver, presenting an upbeat party rock concert. For more information call 678-475-3512.

(NEW) **July 3 Fireworks** in downtown Norcross. Live music begins at 3 p.m. for family fun in downtown Norcross. Many bring blankets and enjoy picnics in Thrasher and Lillian Park for the fireworks, which begin at dusk. More info: www.aplacetoimagine.com.

MORE EEB PERSPECTIVE

- **Keep the lights on.** Make sure all outdoor lighting is in proper working order and illuminating desirable targets. More visibility will make spaces less attractive to someone interested in graffiti.

As always, anyone witnessing acts of vandalism or other criminal activity should immediately call 911. For non-emergency situations, consider these resources:

Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful
770-822-5187

Gwinnett County Police (Non-emergency)
770-513-5100

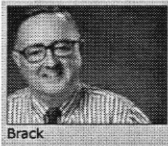
Please visit GwinnettPlaceCID.com for more information about the Gwinnett Place CID and its projects, plans and initiatives.

EEB PERSPECTIVE

E-cigarette's invention is weird, but may help break addiction

By ELLIOTT BRACK
Editor and publisher

JUNE 24, 2011 – Inventors come up with all kinds of weird ideas.



Brack

The latest crazy idea, one that has gone into production, is the Electronic Cigarette. Why in the world a person wants to puff on an electronic cigarette is beyond me! Of course, why anyone would start smoking cigarettes in the first place is outlandish in view of what we know about the hazards of the tobacco world. Yet with E-Cigs, there may be a glow of hope.

This new craze of E-cigs is often sold as a way for addicted smokers to curtail and possibly eliminate their smoking habit.

People hooked on tobacco may find this appealing as a way to quit smoking. If they are successful at stopping the puffing, well, OK, we're all for that. The electronic cigarette might be easier and cheaper than a smoking cessation clinic. Praise to the inventors if smokers use it as a mechanism to eliminate their smoking.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered plastic and metal devices that heat a liquid nicotine solution in a disposable cartridge, creating vapor that users inhale. Questions have been raised on whether the vapors (smoke) means E-Cigs should be banned in places that do not allow smoking. So far, New Jersey is the only state that specifically bans use of e-cigarettes where regular smoking isn't allowed.

The invention got the attention of the Food and Drug Administration. Back in April, this agency announced that it would regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products instead of under stricter rules for drug-delivery devices. That made some people raise an eyebrow, and was considered a victory for makers and distributors of the devices.

E-Cigs are being sold as a method to break smoker's addiction to standard cigarettes. That alone amounts to a substantial-sized market today, but fraught with peril if E-Cigs work to halt smoking. It's ironic that if the promise of halting smoking is successful, the company promoting the machines will not have an ever-expanding market. Its success does not bode well as a product for long-term sales.

Many American smokers have health concerns, and sincerely want to stop the cigarette habit. Yet with many having smoked a long time, many since childhood, shutting down an addiction to nicotine is not easy. There's no telling how much money has been sent down the drain in various programs of smoking cessation sessions. One big reason for the lack of success is the strong habit and addiction to tobacco products, one not easy to break. We can sympathize with those wanting to halt this costly and nasty habit.

Certainly non-smokers should offer encouragement to those seeking to break the nicotine habit. If E-Cigs can do that for lots of people, hurrah for the new device.

However, we also wonder if those in the E-cigarette industry are not merely playing on the weaknesses of smokers around the country, trying to sell them a device that many hard-core smokers may not find successful in halting their tobacco habit.

Perhaps the one hope for smokers wanting to stop the habit rests purely on their inner strength. Some smokers may never be able to give up smoking. If E-Cigs can quickly halt their habit, more power to the invention.

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6/14: Gwinnett: Polish credit unions
6/10: Immigration concerns global
6/7: Wally Odum Jr.
6/3: Gwinnett's redistricting
6/1: Tornado damages forests
5/27: Gwinnett will miss four
5/24: Briscoe Field and study
5/20: Classical evening model
5/17: The dogs of our family
5/13: OFS redevelopment
5/10: Berkeley Lake's lake
5/6: Worrying celebrations
5/3: Water plant surprise
EEB index of columns

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6/1: Chandler: Traveling with friends
5/27: Bolling: LanierWorld opens
5/24: Callina: For-profit school caution
5/20: Olson: Arts Center join forces
5/17: Mabin: Reverse mortgages
5/13: Watson: Clean Air entries
5/10: Nelson: Change is good
5/6: Wiener: Gwinnett Place CID to improve
5/3: Perez: Long view of Gwinnett
COMMENTARY INDEX

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