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Issue 11.11 | Friday, May 6, 2011



WOOFSTOCK TOMORROW: Look for tongues lolling and tails wagging on Saturday, May 7, at Suwanee's Town Center Park, as Woofstock returns. Dog Demonstrations, clinics and contests are features of this line-up for two and four legged attendees. The fun begins at noon with dog sports demonstrations in agility and lure coursing. Frisbee catching starts at 1 p.m. More than 30 pet vendors and 15 non-profit and rescue groups will be on hand. Contests for biggest dog, smallest dog, pet/owner look-alike, and best dressed pet will be held throughout the day. Admission to Woofstock is free, and dogs, cats, birds, ferrets, etc. are welcome. All animals must be on a leash, and owners are reminded to please clean up after their pets. The Gainesville, Fla. alternative rock band, Sister Hazel, will perform at 6:30 p.m. Also performing on the Town Center stage during Woofstock are Ingram Hill, a Memphis-based rock trio, at 4:30 p.m. and soulful Atlanta-based singer/songwriter Gareth Asher at 5:15 p.m. For updated information about Woofstock, visit www.suwanee.com.

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TODAY'S FOCUS**New Gwinnett Place CID chair looks toward improvements**

By LEO WIENER
Special to GwinnettForum

(Editor's Note: we asked Leo Wiener, new chairman of the Gwinnett Place CID board of directors, to give his views on what he sees in the immediate future. He is principal and partner with Glenwood Development Company LLC, a firm specializing in multi-tenant retail properties, with more than 15 years in commercial real estate. -eeb)

DULUTH, Ga., May 6, 2011 -- The business leaders serving on the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID) Board of Directors are focused on executing the goals of our diverse stakeholders in all of our efforts.



Wiener

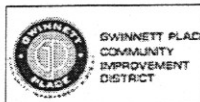
As commercial property and business owners with long-standing interests in the continued success of greater Gwinnett Place, we know the importance of financial responsibility and accountability. We take that into account with all of the plans we create and every decision we make on behalf of the CID.

I am committed to continuing our fiscally responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us as we make sound long term decisions and leverage every dollar possible through available funding opportunities.

One of the CID's chief priorities is reducing travel delays in our area. In the very near future, everyone driving in the Pleasant Hill Road corridor will witness and benefit from substantial improvements addressing traffic congestion relief.

As 2011 progresses, the CID will continue its work with state and local transportation authorities to re-create the existing Pleasant Hill Road bridge over I-85 into the innovative traffic pattern called a diverging-diamond interchange (DDI).

Construction for the DDI interchange will start in early 2012 and will be completed in three to four months. Traffic congestion delays are forecasted to decrease by as much as 40 percent during peak travel time, and the improved levels of service will likely remain effective for the next 10 years.



Accompanying the bridge project are plans to redesign the intersection of Venture Drive at Pleasant

TODAY'S QUOTE**Wondering about a mighty long subject**

"Eternity's a terrible thought. I mean, where's it all going to end?"

— British dramatist and screenwriter
Torn Stoppard (1937 -), Rosencrantz
and Guildenstern are Dead (1967).

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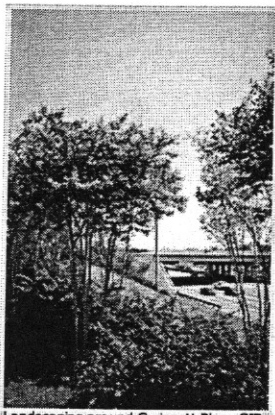
Health Forum: 7:30 a.m., **May 6**, at Gwinnett Technical College's Busbee Center. The subject will be "Stroke: Every Second Counts." Presented by Gwinnett Medical Center and Partnership Gwinnett. The program will highlight signs and symptoms of a stroke, risk factors, treatment and rehabilitation. There is no cost. [Registration](#).

(NEW) **Gwinnett Relay for Life:** Today from 6 p.m. until **Saturday**, at Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. (Survivors walk at 7 p.m.) Relay benefits the American Cancer Society with Gwinnett County having the world record for the most money raised during a relay. Come out and enjoy the activities. More details: [send email](#) or call 770-814-0123.

(NEW) **7th annual Barefoot in the Park Festival:** **May 6 to May 8**, Town Green in Downtown Duluth. Many activities on tap, including art walk, fashion

Hill. Venture Drive will be widened to include five lanes, a new two-way center left turn lane and upgraded pedestrian crossings.

And the CID is now in its third year of maintaining optimal traffic signal timing throughout the area. This cost-effective method of relief produces a 45 percent decrease in the number of stops and a 31 percent decrease in delays along Pleasant Hill Road alone.



Landscaping around Gwinnett Place CID.

On another front, the CID will update the market assessment and action plans completed for the area as part of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Livable Centers Initiative.

Incorporating fresh real-world economic and demographic data will help guide our long-range planning efforts as we continue to explore innovative solutions to keeping the area vibrant for the foreseeable future.

The CID is also reviewing the results from extensive studies of residential, business and consumer opinions and attitudes about the Gwinnett Place area. These findings will help to direct improvement projects and policy decisions aimed at benefiting the area as a whole and ensuring that we continue to meet the goals set forth by our board.

These and many other ongoing efforts are aimed at our overall objective -enhancing the vitality and economic development opportunities within Gwinnett County's central business district.

Please take a moment to page through our site at www.GwinnettPlaceCID.com to learn more about all of the initiatives underway. We welcome the opportunity to hear your ideas and have your participation as we work to keep Gwinnett Place the place to be.

EEB PERSPECTIVE

Manner Americans marked bin Laden's death is worrisome

By ELLIOTT BRACK
Editor and publisher

MAY 6, 2011 -- The way some Americans marked the death of Osama bin Laden worries me. Much of the outpouring of sentiment over his death was unseemly and barbaric to American values.



Brack

Don't get me wrong. The United States was right to hunt down this merciless renegade extremist. Osama bin Laden stood for the very worst in humans, trying to use terrorism and force to achieve his goals. He was the antithesis of a ideal person. He seemed to care little for human beings, and did not mind inflicting harm on others to get his point across.

Yet what really bothered us is the way in which many Americans actually "celebrated" his death. His death, we hope, is a turning point in the war on terrorism. We applaud the removal of a despotic leader. But crowds of people in many cities marked the occasion by chanting "USA, USA, USA?" Others reveled in this incident like it was a one-sided, totally American victory, where in reality, the bin Laden death benefited not only our nation, but all of mankind.

Such instances seemed to me far too celebratory. Relief at bin Laden's death....yes. An inner feeling like his death was deserved...yes. Knowing that the world is safer because of the demise of this person....yes. But celebration?

Perhaps it's because we usually see such outpourings of emotion when people cheer in such fashion at victory in a sporting event. This was nothing like a sporting event, but a major turn of history that could mark the beginning of a new chapter, or the end, of one phase of history. It is significant, but far more serious an event that mere outpouring of raw emotion indicate. Chanting cheers seemed sophomoric at best, crude in nature, and claw at what most Americans believe and stand for.

Maybe it was simply the unleashing of inexperienced of youth. Perhaps we should not take this celebration so seriously. But it bothers me.

A freshman student from McDonough, Ga., A.J. Archer, writing in *The Red and Black* at the University of Georgia this week, may have hit the nail on the head:

"The rally outside of the White House...is a strong testament to our nation's unity. But it portrays us as a nation that preaches hate toward those who hurt us. Hate, when satisfaction, is just as rewarding.

"Take pride for the accomplishments of your country, and rejoice that you have the opportunity to live here. But do not lose your humanity in the process."

Thanks, A.J.



Archer

We give President Obama thumbs up on two aspects of this operation.

First, the body was buried at sea in the tradition of bin Laden's religion. The body was not allowed to be a centerpiece of emotional outpouring.

show, artist's market, children's art, and lots of entertainment. For more information, [visit this site](#).

Master Gardener Plant Sale: Starting at 9 a.m., **May 7**, CoolRay Field parking lot, sponsored by the Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service. Items available for purchase will include perennials, annuals, and vegetable, blueberry, raspberry and blackberry plants.

Gardening Workshop: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **May 7** at Mary Kistner Nature Center, 2689 Lenora Road, Snellville. Master Gardener Shannon Pable of Buford will conduct a workshop on translating garden design concepts to a workable plan. Lunch will be served. [More](#).

Sustainability Summit: 9 a.m. To 1:30 p.m., **May 13**, presented by Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. Sessions will focus on case studies that make sense, plus provide information on smart grid technology. Participants are representatives from local firms.

Learning Collage Workshop: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., **May 13-15** at Kudzu Art Zone in Norcross. John Morse will lead the workshop, teaching technique and how to collect and use found paper. Cost is \$225. Call Kudzu Art Zone at 770-840-9844 to register and get supply list online.

Basket Weaving Class: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **May 14**, Berkmar High School. For more information about the Gwinnett Basket Weavers Guild, call 770-757-9146.

Spring Festival, Historic Buford: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., **May 14**, on East Main Street. (Rain date is May 21.) Highlight of the day will be a barbecue cook-off, with all contestants preparing pulled pork barbecue for tastings.

(NEW) **Book Signing,** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., **May 14**. The Little Shops of Arts and Antiques on Main Street in Lilburn, with Decatur's Doug Dahlgren, author of *The Son*, Silas Rising.

(NEW) **Ice cream social:** 7 p.m., **May 17**, Norcross Community Center. Norcross Neighbors hosts, and is seeking board member nominations.

State of County Address: 11:30 a.m., **May 18**, Gwinnett Civic Center Ballroom. Hear Charlotte Nash, newly-elected chair of the Gwinnett Commission, give her views on where the county stands and her outlook for the balance of the year. Hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth. To register, [contact Rachel Jeffers](#) at 770-232-8816.

Gwinnett Golden Games: Continuing through **May 20**. For a list of the places and times, [click here](#).

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5/3: Water plant surprise
4/29: Higher ed burden
4/26: Hog Mountain church
4/22: Briscoe Field
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4/12: Aviation school thrives
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5/3: Perez: Long view of Gwinnett
4/29: Peterson: Sons of Union Vets here
4/26: Austin: Airport privatization
4/22: Sutt: Barefoot festival
4/19: Myers: Preventing blindness
4/15: Moore: Hidden homeless