



Gwinnett County's community forum and idea exchange

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Issue 11.05 | Friday, April 15, 2011



REMEMBERING: The shooting began April 12...with reenactment of battles to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in the United States. This scene is from where the war began, in Charleston, S.C., as the smoke clears from a scene near Fort Moultrie. For the next four years, there will be re-enactments of battles all across the Eastern seaboard to mark various stages of the War. And as 2014 nears, and the actual time of the battleground shifted to closer to Atlanta, local re-enactors will be out in greater numbers. It's part of our heritage, though not a pretty picture. (Photo by Andy Brack.)

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TODAY'S FOCUS

Foundations seek to help "hidden homeless" now

By CLARENCE MOORE
Special to GwinnettForum

LOGANVILLE, Ga., April 15, 2011 -- Around 10:30 a.m. on a Sunday, a team arrived and began to set up for another morning at a hotel of reaching out to the residents and their families who live there.



Moore

For the past several weeks, the team from Cross Purpose Community Foundation has begun to serve the residents by providing food, clothes, and personal hygiene items, along with a listening ear. Most of the residents in the hotel are like many people that reside in similar locations.

They are referred to as "The Hidden Homeless." These folks have found themselves in a tough financial spot, trying to afford a safe place for their family to live, while still providing food and clothing.

Most of the rooms here are a typical hotel room with a small kitchenette. These families average in size from three to six members, creating tight quarters. They find they have one thing in common; a desire to survive, while fighting a feeling of

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TODAY'S QUOTE

There's a reason that you have two years

"Why did God give me two ears and one mouth? So that I will hear more and talk less."

-- Writer and humorist Leo Rosten (1908-1997).

designed to provide straightforward information.

An added highlight will be the sale of native plants from Buck Jones Nurseries. The fee for the session is \$50, lunch included. Go to www.gplt.org to access the registration form. Prepayment is required. All proceeds go to support GPLT's conservation work.

NOTABLE

Owners extend Gwinnett Place CID for 6 more years

Commercial property owners from throughout Gwinnett Place on Wednesday overwhelmingly voted in favor of continuing the efforts of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID).



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DISTRICT

Electors representing member properties agreed to extend the CID's lifespan by another six years. State law requires a formal vote prior to the expiration of a community improvement district's term, typically every five to six years.

CID Executive Director Joe Allen said the affirmative decision ensures the CID's continued role in leading on economic development and infrastructure improvement, especially with the much-needed conversion of the Pleasant Hill Road bridge over I-85 into a diverging-diamond interchange.

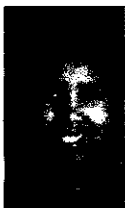
"Our property owners recognize the importance of maintaining our momentum for years to come," Allen said. "The bridge replacement project alone is nearing a crucial time when plans turn to action as construction begins in early 2012. It is good to know that the CID will remain in place to lead that and many other projects uplifting greater Gwinnett Place."

Also on Wednesday, CID Board members Leo Weiner and Joe Piccolo were re-elected to three-year terms. Weiner is a principal / partner with Glenwood Development Company LLC, owners of Mall Corners. Piccolo is the area general manager for both Mall of Georgia and Gwinnett Place Mall.

Weiner was also elected to serve as chairman of the CID Board. Member Marcy Adams, manager of the Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place, will serve as vice chairman; former Chairman Mark Williams, owner of Printing Trade Company, will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Lawrenceville student tapped as fellow

Yasmin Yonis of Lawrenceville, who is graduating in May from the University of Georgia, has been named a 2011 Merage American Dream Fellow. She is the sixth consecutive student in the UGA Honors Program to receive this award since 2006.



Yonis

Yonis, whose parents are Deqa Abdi and Mohamed Omer of Lawrenceville, is pursuing a bachelor's degrees in international affairs and journalism. She is one of 10 national winners of the fellowship, which provides up to \$20,000 over a two-year period to academically outstanding undergraduates who are immigrants to the United States. She also earned a 2010 Truman Scholarship. Born in Somalia, Yonis and her family came to the U.S. when she was three years old as refugees from the civil war.

While at UGA, Yonis has served as opinions editor of The Red and Black student newspaper and has written columns and institutional editorials. She gained international reporting experience as an intern for Voice for America through UGA's Honors in Washington Program in summer 2009. At the multimedia international public broadcasting agency, Yonis worked in the division focused on African events and affairs.

Yonis recently returned from a trip to Ethiopia's semi-autonomous Somali region where she worked as an intern with Mercy Corps, an international aid