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FAIR CONTINUES: Gwinnett County's Fair continues through the weekend at the Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. Among the rides is a traditional Ferris wheel, shown in this night scene by Frank Sharp.

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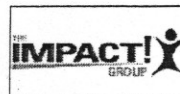
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GwinnettForum.com is a twice-weekly online community commentary for exploring pragmatic and sensible social, political and economic approaches to improve life in Gwinnett County, Ga. USA.

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TODAY'S FOCUS

New book about Duluth combines art and storied past

By VALLY SHARPE
Special to Gwinnett Forum

DULUTH, Ga., Sept. 20, 2011 — It's easy in the midst of Atlanta's urban sprawl to forget that it wasn't always so, to be so caught up in the everyday stuff of life that we seldom think about how we got here. We may briefly wonder while sitting at a stoplight why the road we're on, like McGinnis Ferry, or Abbott's Bridge, is named what it is. Then the light turns green and ends our musing that just a couple of centuries ago only Indians were here, until families moving around in search of prosperity settled in just because the soil was rich and the rivers flowed clear.

But Ann Parsons Odum has never forgotten. Great-great-granddaughter of Evan Howell, the founder of Duluth, she set out a few years ago to memorialize the landscapes and character of her

hometown in paintings, first in batik and later in pastel.

I first heard of the "Parson girls," Margaret, Kathryn and Ann, in 2008. Though I'd had an office in the Duluth postal area earlier in the decade, a year or so before our company ventured into helping authors who wanted to self-publish produce and market their books, it wasn't until I worked briefly at Rainbow Village that I began to put the two together in earnest. So it was mere chance when Ann decided to move forward with the vision of putting a collection of her Duluth paintings into a book that I was around, and could assist her.



Ann Parsons Odum at her easel.

While choosing paintings to include, Ann and her daughter, Sharon, began telling me stories, not just about the houses and farms and rivers and trains, but of the people of prosperity and hardship, celebration and tragedy, church and community. From that I suggested Ann put those stories in the book, beside the paintings. In the space of the year, we'd laughed and cried and gossiped a little, and by the time we were finished, I felt like Duluth was my hometown, too.



I am excited and honored to announce the arrival of *Duluth, Georgia: Through the Eyes of One of Its Own* by Ann Parsons Odum. A delightful collection of over 80 paintings, historical facts, and personal stories about the people and places of Duluth past and present, it will be a treasured keepsake for Duluth natives and newcomers alike. I can speak from experience—you're gonna love the view.

Ann will be signing copies of her book on Thursday and Friday (September 22 and 23) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Parsons Cards and Gifts in Duluth Station. This weekend she'll be in the General Store at

TODAY'S QUOTE

What stand-patters do when they are under attack

"The instinct of stand-patters under attack, after all, is to stand even more pat."

— Biographer Edmund Morris in his book, *Theodore Rex*, page 432.

SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM

GWINNETT CALENDAR

One of the highlights of Duluth Fall Festival will be the carnival put on by Gold Medal Show. It is a full scale midway complete with a Ferris Wheel, Merry Go Round, and much, much more. It will be open evenings from Wednesday, September 21 to Friday, September 23 and then all day during the Festival which is September 24-25 in Downtown Duluth. There will be a parade, almost 400 booths, entertainment on three stages, a road race and much more. For more information, visit www.duluthfallfestival.org.
(Paid Advertisement.)

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, at Lionheart Theatre, Norcross: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through September 25. Reservations recommended at www.lionhearttheatre.org. Not recommended for children.

Meet the Author: 7 p.m., Sept. 21, at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center. Author Stuart Woods will discuss and sign his books. Sponsored by Gwinnett County Public Library. For more information, visit www.gwinnettpal.org or call 770-978-5154.

(NEW) **Cruise-In in Suwanee:** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sept. 22, Town Center Park. About a dozen stylish cars are anticipated for the Cruise-In, featuring antique cars and hot rods. This is a regular fourth Thursday event, with merchants offering special prices, in-store events and entertainment.

Gateway International Food and Music Festival:

proven capabilities to connect with customer business processes for ordering and inventory management; web-based customer support features, including Request for Quotes, literature request and competitor product cross reference; and an Online Customer Center for checking orders, shipping, product availability and lead times. More: Wika.com.

The Brack Group.

FEEDBACK

Cheers for Berkeley Lake; condolences for America

Editor, the Forum:

The recent posting on the Berkeley Lake web site of the mayor's comment on the repair of the Berkeley Lake dam I view with mixed feelings. While I am happy that the government is going to help bail out Berkeley Lake, what I should be doing is taking out a full page advertisement in most national newspapers thanking the American citizen who, while having a rough time of late and having trouble putting milk on their tables, have once again had their tax money put to use.....fixing other people's problems...

Maybe if the City of Berkeley Lake did what most families have to do, that is, set aside capital reserve funds for those big ticket items, like replacing the AC system in your house, or the refrigerator, or the roof, Berkeley Lake citizens wouldn't have to spread the financial management decisions of municipalities across the country. Anyone who lives in the immediate area can attest that our impending disaster is every bit as bad as the disasters Irene brought to the northeast.



My thought was if the people on the lake wanted to keep the lake, that they should pay for it. Now the people on the lake can thank the potato farmers in Idaho for allowing them to continue to live the kind of life they deserve.

We were once a country of savers. Now we are a country of debtors, which will be the undoing of this nation. Congratulations Berkeley Lake. My condolences, America.

-- David M. Garramone, Berkeley Lake

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UPCOMING

Gwinnett Place CID to offer 2-day design workshop

The Gwinnett Place CID announces the upcoming Community Design Workshop for the Gwinnett Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) 10-Year Update. The two-day Community Workshop will take place on the evenings of Tuesday, October 4 and Thursday, October 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Ferguson Elementary, 1755 Centerview Drive, Duluth. Community members are invited to participate in the two-day interactive workshop.



WINNETT PLACE
COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Leo Wiener, Gwinnett Place CID board chairman, says: "The Gwinnett Place CID is proud to lead the 10-Year Update to the Gwinnett LCI in partnership with Gwinnett County and the Atlanta Regional Commission. The joint effort will identify implementable public and private investments that will strengthen the area moving forward."

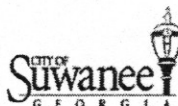
Another property owner, Casey Coffey, Gwinnett Place Ford, feels: "The Gwinnett LCI Update represents the public's ongoing dedication and investment in the area - solidifying my confidence in the area's great possibilities. The anticipated transportation and public improvements to result from the study will provide new impetus for private investment."

Professional planners, designers, and market analysts will work with Community Workshop attendees to refine the needs of the study area through various interactive activities and educational sessions. The Thursday meeting will utilize findings from input received on Tuesday. The workshop will build upon the Gwinnett County Unified Plan, the 2001 initial Gwinnett LCI study, and other relevant studies. The findings from the workshop will play an important role in developing a new Master Plan for the area and will be incorporated in the final study area report.

Suwanee plans another Citizen's Police Academy

The next session of Suwanee's Citizens Police Academy will begin Tuesday, October 4. This eight-week, hands-on program allows participants a chance to get to know many of Suwanee's officers personally and provides a better understanding of the responsibilities and risks of being a police officer - plus it's a lot of fun!

Some of the topics covered include crime scene processing, traffic stops, building searches, crime prevention, and narcotics identification. Class sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Suwanee Police Department, 373 Buford Highway.



Consider these comments from two participants in last fall's program:

- "I particularly enjoyed the building search and burglaries [activities]. Overall, the entire program has made me more aware and smarter about my environment."
- "[Citizens Police Academy] is a great way for the citizens of Suwanee to become