

**COLLABORATION:** This painting, "Nature's Symphony," a collaboration from three award-winning artists, will be awarded to one attendee of the Kudzu Art Zone exhibit, which ends on August 27. The show, "Three Women, Three Friends, Three Artists: A Kaleidoscopic Approach," is to open with a summer-themed reception on August 6 in Norcross from 7-9 p.m. Three Kudzu members, Kathy Kitz of Norcross, Anne Labaire of Duluth and Gwen McDonald of Lilburn, have come together in celebration of friendship and creativity to produce this three-woman show. The winner of the collaborative painting will be announced at the end of the exhibit. Regular exhibit hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Kudzu Center is located at 116 Carlyle Street in Norcross.

#### TODAY'S FOCUS

##### Snellville Trade and Tourism looks back on first year

By DON BRITT  
President, Snellville Tourism and Trade Association  
Special to GwinnettForum

SNELLVILLE, Ga. July 29, 2011 – It's hard to believe that Snellville Tourism and Trade Association (STAT) is one year old. Building on the success of starting the Snellville Farmer's Market, over the last year we have focused on putting on events designed to make city residents proud of their hometown. Last year's Fall Festival, Christmas Tree Lighting, the large crowd at Star Spangled Snellville and last weekend's Popcorn in the Park movie night are examples of recent activities.



We will continue to produce top-class events in Snellville as the year continues, including the upcoming Fall Festival. We are grateful for the support of our members and sponsors, which allows us to make these events happen.

As we get ready to begin our second year, we will be placing a larger emphasis on the second part of our mission, that of promoting Snellville businesses. We have taken the first step by establishing a tighter relationship with the Snellville Commerce Club.

The Commerce Club has been meeting regularly since 1984. With the purpose of establishing and promoting programs that strengthen ties between members, businesses and the community, the Commerce Club holds monthly meetings featuring networking and a guest speaker. The Commerce Club supports local charities, and provides two \$1,000 scholarships each year to students from Brookwood and South Gwinnett High Schools. You can learn more about the Commerce Club at their Web site, [www.SnellvilleCommerceClub.org](http://www.SnellvilleCommerceClub.org).

As we considered how the Commerce Club and STAT could work together, we realized that it didn't make sense to have separate memberships in Commerce Club and STAT. In fact, some STAT members also are members of the Commerce Club. We decided that it made the most sense to transition STAT memberships to Commerce Club memberships, since the Commerce Club will be the part of Snellville Tourism and Trade that represents and promotes the city's businesses.

What will that mean going forward? Every Commerce Club member will now enjoy the membership benefits of STAT members and vice-versa. For the \$150 annual Business Level membership, this includes:

- Free admission to the monthly lunch meetings of the Commerce Club;
- Listing in the Commerce Club Membership Directory;
- Discounts for advertising in our Snellville Spirit quarterly magazine;

#### Issue 11.35 | Friday, July 29, 2011

##### TODAY'S FOCUS

:: [Snellville group marks first year](#)

##### ELLIOTT BRACK'S PERSPECTIVE

:: [Many will buy Peach Pass to be faster](#)

##### McLEMORE'S WORLD

:: [Debt ceiling](#)

##### FEEDBACK

:: [Incident on train, Ptree update, media](#)

##### UPCOMING

:: [Alternates under study, more](#)

##### NOTABLE

:: [National citation, promotion, grants](#)

##### ALSO INSIDE

##### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

:: [FMC Security](#)

##### RECOMMENDED

:: [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows](#)

##### GEORGIA TIDBIT

:: [William Schley busy as governor](#)

##### TODAY'S QUOTE

:: [On modern-day thought](#)

##### LAGNIAPPE

:: [Hi-Hope check presentation](#)

#### OUR SPONSORS



#### ABOUT US

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.

:: [Contact us today](#)  
:: [Subscribe for free](#)  
:: [GeorgiaClips.com](#)

#### TODAY'S QUOTE

What would happen if economists were laid end-to-end

"If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion"

– Irish dramatist, literary critic, and a leading figure in the 20th century theater  
George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950).

#### SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM

#### GWINNETT CALENDAR

(NEW) The Duluth Fall Festival Committee will host the Duluth Merchants Association: 6 p.m., Aug. 2, at the Duluth Festival Center on the Town Green in Downtown Duluth. This is an annual event leading up to the Festival, which is Sept. 24-25. Everyone is invited! Festival volunteers, Costco and Duluth Fine Wines work together to assure that the food and drink will be spectacular. Many DMA members are DFF sponsors and this is to thank them for their participation. (Both groups have a common purpose – to make Duluth a better place to live, work and play!) More info: [www.duluthfallfestival.org](http://www.duluthfallfestival.org).  
(Pd. Adv.)

**Splash and Bash:** 1 p.m., July 30, Rhodes Jordan Park Pool. Enjoy wacky games, prizes and cool treats. Regular admission fees apply.

**National Night Out in Lilburn:** 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Aug. 2, in the City Park Pavilion. This safety event is sponsored by Safety Smart Lilburn Inc. and the City of Lilburn, aimed at all residents of the 30047 Zip Code.

**Duluth Open House** for traffic improvement: 6 p.m., Aug. 4, at Duluth City Hall. Subject of the Open House will be the McClure Bridge Road improvements and the

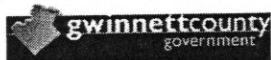
*you mention the Big Three networks. Does that mean you actually watch Public Broadcasting to get a more balanced view? I anticipate not, but suspect you anchor in on Fox? -eeb*

- **Send us your letters.** Our policy: We encourage readers to submit feedback (or letters to the editor). Send your thoughts to the editor at [elliott@brack.net](mailto:elliott@brack.net). We will edit for length and clarity. Make sure to include your name and the city where you live. Submission of a comment grants permission for us to reprint. Please keep your comments to 300 words or less. However, we will consider longer articles (no more than 500 words) for featuring in Today's Focus as space allows.

#### UPCOMING

#### County to invest \$1.1 million to study transit alternates

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is appropriating just under \$1.1 million to study transportation alternatives and opportunities in the I-85 corridor from I-285 to the Gwinnett Center. This project is funded 50 percent by the 2009 SPLOST Program and 50 percent by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration.



The study, to take 18 months to complete, will compare no-build, baseline/transportation system management, express bus, bus rapid transit, light rail and commuter rail options and look at their respective effects on traffic, travel patterns, the environment and land use. Estimates

of capital and maintenance costs for each option will be included along with proposed operation plans, ridership forecasts, cost-effectiveness analysis and an overall evaluation of options.

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash says: "Gwinnett's population has increased so much over the last few decades. Today's commuters need more transportation options. This study will include public hearings with advisory committees on policies, technical issues and community concerns."

Executive Director Chuck Warbington of the Gwinnett Village CID, says: "This project has been a major priority for businesses in the CID for the past several years. We can improve the southern core of Gwinnett by increasing transportation options and providing a significant economic development boost."

Gwinnett Place CID Chairman Leo Wiener adds: "We're pleased to collaborate with the county, regional and federal transportation officials to pursue this much-needed transit alternative analysis and are committed to improving access throughout the greater Gwinnett Place area."

The highest-scoring firm, Atkins North America, Inc., was awarded the contract. Others contributing to the study include the Gwinnett Village CID, Gwinnett Place CID and the Federal Transit Administration.

#### Art by Chris Hamman to be featured at George Pierce Park

George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center is honored to showcase a 35-year art career retrospective by Chris Hamman. Witness Hamman's evolution in development and style over his distinguished career. The exhibit will be available for viewing and open to the public beginning August 1, to November 29, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hamman's passion for painting began in the 1970s while living in the Midwest where he studied with Ernie Haring, a regional water colorist, and started painting using watercolors. After getting married and moving to the West Coast, he began to work with oils, acrylics and other mediums. In 2004, desiring a place to live offering four seasons, Hamman and his family moved to this area. Now residing in Sugar Hill, he is a member in the North Gwinnett Artist Association.

George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center offers classes in cultural arts, dance, martial arts, wellness, fitness and much more. For information and rentals contact 770.831.4173

#### Norcross Cluster Partnership celebrates inaugural year

The Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership (NCSP) is celebrating its inaugural year by being engaged in exciting initiatives with Norcross schools since its inception in July 2010. Its vision is "A community actively supporting the Norcross Cluster Schools, to empower all students to grow in their learning, to achieve high school graduation, and embrace their potential as contributing members of the community."

NCSP has made a significant impact in its first year of activation. Because of the support of many friends and firms, the Foundation raised over \$20,000. Dale Marlow, right, chairman of annual Corners to Crossing Runs, presents a \$4,500 check to Ranae Heaven, treasurer of the Cluster Partnership. For more information, visit [www.norcrosscsp.org](http://www.norcrosscsp.org).



#### NOTABLE

#### Malones win National Compassionate Friends citation

Blairsville residents Kathy and Patrick Malone were honored with the prestigious Simon Stephens Award at the 34th National Conference of The Compassionate Friends. The award was presented before a sold out banquet of more than 1300 attendees in Minneapolis, Minn., recently.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an international nonprofit,