

GWINNETT INSIDER: Huntsville copies Gwinnett's anti-illegal immigration law

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Byline: BEN SMITH

Staff

Body

Beginning Oct. 1, contractors looking for work from the government of Madison County, Ala., will have to abide by the same **anti-illegal immigration** policies that the **Gwinnett** Board of Commissioners adopted in June.

Madison County Commissioner Mo Brooks told the **Huntsville** Times a couple of weeks ago that the ordinance he drafted was specifically modeled after **Gwinnett's** amended purchasing ordinance.

Among changes approved by the **Gwinnett** commissioners on June 26, all county contractors must verify that all of their employees are legal U.S. residents. The changed ordinance also empowers county auditors to periodically inspect the records of these companies and interview their workers.

Some contractors initially balked at **Gwinnett's** ordinance over the employee-verification requirements, which they considered difficult, if not impossible, to comply with.

A friendly follow-up interpretation of the ordinance by county staff allayed many of the contractors' concerns.

Pirkle. Now where have we heard that name before?

It turns out that Glenn Pirkle, the unknown running for chairman of the Board of Commissioners, is politically connected. Sugar Hill Mayor Gary Pirkle is his second cousin.

Glenn Pirkle said he and the mayor are close.

"We have family gatherings up at our family pavilion," Glenn Pirkle said.

But does he expect to have his cousin's political support?

"I haven't talked to him about that yet," Glenn Pirkle said.

Last week, Glenn Pirkle filed the necessary paperwork to begin raising money for his campaign. In doing so, the electrical contractor from Buford jumped ahead of a couple of political heavyweights who are also expected to run.

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Among them are incumbent Chairman Charles Bannister and Commissioner Lorraine Green.

Last week, we told you that Pirkle's opposition to the county's year-old stormwater tax compelled him to run. Pirkle said he wasn't really all that upset about his own bill.

But the devout Baptist told us on the Friday evening before Memorial Day that he was incensed that churches must pay the tax. We didn't report that detail last week because we couldn't confirm it. It turns out to be true.

In **Gwinnett**, it's a doggy-dog world

Since we ran the story about the doggy and kitty oxygen masks recently donated to the fire department, we've gotten a bunch of e-mails and calls from people who'd also like to purchase and donate these masks to animal rescuers.

H.E.L.P. Animals Inc., in Orange City, Fla., has a program through which dog and cat lovers can purchase the masks and donate them to their local fire and rescue departments.

For information, go to www.helpanimalsinc.org or call 386-775-4966 or contact oxygenmaskinfo@helpanimalsinc.org.

Shafer appointed to regional energy panel

State Sen. David Shafer (R-Duluth), was appointed Thursday by Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle to the Southern States Energy Board.

The panel, based in Atlanta, promotes policies and provides technical assistance for southern state lawmakers on economic development, environmental protection and energy security.

The panel is made up of governors and state lawmakers from around the South.

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THE TAXMAN COMETH ... AGAIN

This is just a friendly reminder to all **Gwinnett** property owners: The deadline for paying the first of two property tax bills is Sept. 15.

You can pay in person at the **Gwinnett** Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville or the North **Gwinnett** Motor Vehicle tag office in Buford.

Taxpayers can pay their bills in several other ways:

* By mail: **Gwinnett** County Tax Commissioner, Department of Property Tax, P.O. Box 372, Lawrenceville, GA 30046---0372.

* In person: The **Gwinnett** Justice and Administration Center's property tax office at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, GA 30045; or, the North **Gwinnett** Motor Vehicles Tag Office at 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd. in Buford. Both offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. this week.

* By telephone: call 770-822-8800.

* By Internet: www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

For more information, go to the Web site and telephone number listed above, or e-mail tax@gwinnettcountry.com

Graphic

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Person: MO BROOKS (58%)

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