



Ice Skating

Despite the moderate weather conditions of Georgia, you can go ice skating outdoors at Centennial Olympic Park! The rink opened November 15 and closes January 4, 2009. A great way to "break the ice," ice skating will give you that "White Christmas" feel!

Holiday Issue 2008

Holiday Volunteer & Community Service Opportunities

Douglasville & Marietta Programs

Don't be a Scrooge this holiday season! Plenty of opportunities exist to help provide for those in need this year. Here are two of them:

For Douglasville residents, the Douglas County Adoptive and Foster Parent Association is looking for Secret Santas to make a donation to help foster care children in Douglas County enjoy a merry Christmas. According to the organization, there are over 200 foster care children in the county. Anyone wishing to volunteer to sponsor a child or make a donation can contact Cheri Chappuies at 678-213-0474 (cchappuies@gmail.com) or Laurie Nelms at 770-489-3189 (lmlnelms@dhr.state.ga.us).

If you work or live near the Marietta area, you may wish to help the Center for Family Resources (with the Cobb County Department of Family and Children Services) provide Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. The Thanksgiving Program has been giving the baskets to families for over twenty years, with 1,000 families receiving the gift baskets just last year. Opportunities include helping with packing, sorting, and distributing food at the Cobb Civic Center November 24 through November 26. Shifts are available in two hour increments.



A Thanksgiving program in Marietta hopes to give food baskets to 1,450 families.

HOLIDAY ISSUE
2008

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- Traumatic Brain Injury & Nerve Damage
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Workers' Compensation

Happy Holidays!

We at Murphy & Associates want to wish you a happy holiday season and wonderful new year! In this special holiday issue, you will find information about local events, holiday celebrations, volunteer opportunities, and free books to order. Whether you choose to visit the Alliance Theatre for "A Christmas Carol" to warm your heart with thoughts of generosity or tour the historic homes and watch the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Douglasville, we hope that your holiday season is a great one. Happy reading, and happy holidays!

New Year's Resolutions & Douglas County Transportation Plans

What do New Year's resolutions have to do with Douglas County transportation plans, you may ask? The Douglas County Board of Commissioners may not be making any resolutions this year, but it is certainly spearheading change. According to the Celebrate Douglas County Georgia website, a Comprehensive Transportation Plan including the cities of Douglasville, Austell, and Villa Rica was to be completed in June 2008 and implemented over the next 25 years in attempt to improve transportation conditions. Key to the plan was the assessment of current and future transportation demands, predicted residential growth, and predicted business growth over the next 25 years. Analyzing the accessibility of different types of transportation (and alternative transportation opportunities such as mass transit and even bicycles) and their effects on air quality and the environment was also crucial in designing the plan. Other areas of discussion were congestion issues, new needs for construction, current (as well as future) planning for land use, and maintenance for existing roads and highways. For more information

about the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, visit www.celebratedouglascounty.com.

Traveling (or going on at least one trip) is listed on some top ten lists for New Year's resolutions. With the new Transportation Plan underway, the goal may become less difficult to achieve! Other resolutions are listed on www.about.com's top ten list of New Year's resolutions: spending more time with family and friends (number one on the list), getting "fit" by embracing a healthy lifestyle, getting out of debt, learning something new, becoming more organized, and helping others. Alicia Bodine of the Associated Content website lists others: going back to school, getting a better job, and working on spiritual growth. What are your New Year's resolutions this year? Feel free to email us with your inspiring, unusual, funny, or interesting resolutions (whether you are making them or have overheard others mentioning them), and we will publish the best ones in the next newsletter.

At Murphy & Associates, we resolve to continue helping clients with compassion and professionalism, working with diligence in all that we do, and helping those seeking compensation for their injuries or losses by obtaining fair and just settlements for their claims. Happy new year!

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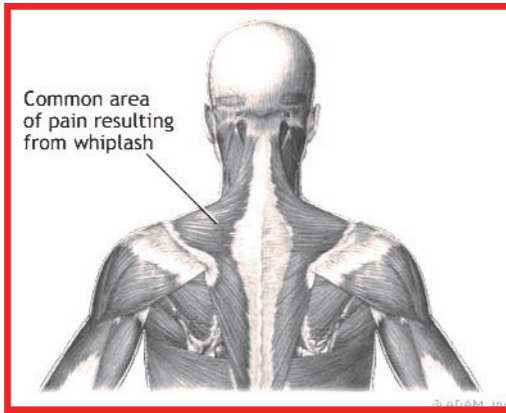
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A CHRISTMAS CAROL: The Alliance Theatre's Annual Production

While there are several different venues performing Charles Dickens' famous "A Christmas Carol" all over the United States and Britain this time of year, the Alliance Theatre is well-noted for its nineteen-year run of the story of Ebenezer Scrooge. Filled with some of your favorite Christmas carols, heart-warming performances, and Chris Kayser's portrayal of Scrooge, the play offers something for all ages. "A Christmas Carol" will run from November 28 to December 24.

REFERRALS: Thank You!

As always, referrals are the best way to keep our business going. Many thanks to those of you who sent referrals our way! If you have friends or family who need the assistance of an experienced attorney, please feel free to give them our information. If you would like to talk about your experience with us and satisfaction with the results in a video testimonial, contact us at 770-577-3020.



Whiplash injuries can result in pain not only in the neck but in the back, shoulders, and even the legs.

How Much is a Claim for Whiplash Worth?

The Factors That Affect Your Case

In auto accidents, whiplash and other neck injuries are common occurrences. Due to the frequency of these injuries, claiming compensation for whiplash after an accident is sometimes viewed negatively, but pursuing compensation for medical bills, lost wages, other expenses, and pain and suffering is often necessary and your legal right. Any car accident or other type of crash involving an injury to the neck or shoulders is painful, and with U.S. roadways seeing more and more traffic each day, it is important to understand whiplash itself and the benefits of making a claim for a whiplash injury.

Since there are several different types of injuries involving the neck, many of them existing alongside other injuries (such as shoulder or back problems), the amount of compensation awarded for a whiplash injury varies with each case. Injuries associated with whiplash range from severe disability to minor sprains and strains, all resulting in different settlement award amounts. Some victims of accidents suffer serious neck injuries that lead to chronic headaches or even paralysis of the neck or body; others, however, recover from whiplash without sustaining more serious injuries. Damage to soft tissues or tendons may also occur alongside a whiplash injury, most likely affecting the amount an insurance company may offer you in your case.

Another factor in determining how much a claim for whiplash is worth is the length of time in which a patient treats with medical providers. The type of treatment and diagnoses also contribute to settlement

"Regardless of the degree of your injury, you have a right to claim compensation."

amounts. Injuries requiring treatment with medical doctors and specialists (for example, fractures, dislocations, and head or spinal cord injuries) will typically lead to different results than injuries requiring chiropractic treatment alone. Even moderate cases of whiplash

can lead to cervical spondylosis, a condition involving limited movement, chronic pain and stiffness and, sometimes, the need for surgery. While such factors affect the value of one's claim for compensation, insurance companies also look at the total amount in medical expenses billed to the injured and the final medical prognosis for the patient when determining settlement offers.

Regardless of the degree of your whiplash injury, you have a right to claim compensation if you have been injured as a result of someone else's negligence. If you have been injured in an auto accident and feel that you may have suffered from whiplash, please feel free to call us at 770-577-3020 for free answers to any questions you may have.

Douglas County Spotlight: Local Information

No matter how active you are in your community, it is difficult to find out about all the events, meetings, area planning discussions, and job or volunteer opportunities occurring locally. Some websites based in Douglas County, however, make the task much easier.

For those looking for general information about the area, the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce website, www.douglascountygeorgia.com, includes a history of the county, demographics and other interesting information, and provides links to



The Douglas County Chamber of Commerce is always a part of ribbon cuttings!

businesses, events, publications, and even jobs. To visit the employment opportunities website directly, go to www.douglasjobs.com. The site lists jobs available by category and provides descriptions of the qualifications and expertise employers are seeking in potential employees.

County planning meetings, government-related activities, and fun things to do are all listed at www.celebratedouglascounty.com. We hope you enjoy celebrating Douglas County!

Holiday Happenings

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, this holiday season is full of opportunities to celebrate, no matter where you live or where you're willing to drive for entertainment! Enjoy looking over these ideas, and have a wonderful series of holidays!

Douglasville

If you wish to enjoy holiday activities in the Douglasville area, the Douglasville Old Fashioned Holidays and Fountain Tree Lighting may be a good choice for you and your family. The annual event, which takes place December 6, is free to the public and includes food, live entertainment and, of course, a tree lighting ceremony. Also on the 6th (and continuing through December 7th) is the Candlelight Tour of Homes in Downtown

Douglasville, which showcases the historic and beautiful homes of old Douglasville decorated for the holiday season.

Carrollton

For theatre and concert lovers, the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center is providing holiday-themed events this December. "The Nonsense Christmas Musical," performed by the Carroll County Community Theatre Nuncrackers, is said to be a hilarious yet still sentimental take on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet. The Nuncrackers will perform December 4-6 at 7:30p.m. and December 7 at 7:00p.m. The Cultural Arts Center Theatre is also the venue for the holiday concert "Christmas in Carroll County" presented by the Carroll County Community Chorus (December 12 at 7:30p.m. and December 13 at 4:00p.m. and 7:30p.m.) and the "Children's Hour Holiday Concert" featuring children from different performing art programs (December 16 at 6:00p.m.).

Atlanta

No one's gonna rain on our parade! Rain or shine, the Children's Christmas Parade sponsored by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta will brighten the days of spectators. Over 300,000 people visit the 1.5 mile area in downtown Atlanta where the floats, bands, and characters march annually. This year, the largest Christmas parade in the Southeast will take place on Saturday, December 6, from

10:30a.m. to 12:00p.m. and begin at Peachtree Street near Baker Street. The event includes dance groups, character balloons, cheerleaders, and other entertainers with an appearance by Santa Claus as the grand finale. This year's beneficiary is Critical Care Services, the area of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta that focuses on the recovery and care of children who are seriously ill or injured.

Ready to ring in the new year downtown? Another annual Atlanta holiday event is the tradition of the Peach Drop. Though many metro Atlanta residents are familiar with the free Peach Drop countdown and celebration during the evening of New Year's Eve, some may not realize that the event begins with children's activities during the daylight hours of December 31. Special family entertainment begins the celebration in Underground Atlanta, followed by live entertainment at 6:00p.m. and continuing through the evening. Among celebrity performers this year is Dancing With the Stars professional and new country music sensation Julianne Hough.

No matter which events you choose to include in your activities this holiday season, we at Murphy & Associates wish you a merry holiday and bright and happy new year!

FROM YOUR ATTORNEY: Free Booklets!

You may not know this about your attorney, but James Murphy has authored two booklets that may assist you, your friends or family when buying insurance or being involved in a car wreck.

"How to Buy Car Insurance in Georgia" gives you the information the insurance industry does not want you to know, and it makes clear the choices that will protect you if you are involved in a crash.

"Mistakes to Avoid if You Want to Win Your Car Wreck Case" describes the most common mistakes of car accident victims and provides helpful tips to help your case should you choose to claim compensation. Taking good photographs after an accident, for example, is a tip from the report.

To order the free booklets, call 1-800-503-7598. Visit our website for more information.

www.murphyllawyer.com