

August 2010

gwinnettcounty connection

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Guidelines for
cart placement

www.sustainablegwinnett.com

FEATURE

Set out guidelines for trash carts

All garbage and recyclables are picked up between 7:00am and 6:30pm, Monday through Friday. To ensure smooth collections week after week, keep these tips in mind:

- Place garbage carts and recycling bins curbside no earlier than 3:30pm the day before pickup day, but prior to 7:00am on collection day
- Emptied carts and bins must be removed no later than the day following collection day
- Carts should be placed within three feet of the curb or the edge of the street and away from any obstacles
- Only approved solid waste carts, provided by haulers, should be set out
- All trash must be inside the cart – overflow won't be collected. One method to reduce your household waste volume is to recycle!

If you need another cart, contact your hauler. For more set out guidelines and a list of the 35 recyclable items, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Protect ponds and lakes from nutrient loading

Gwinnett County has over 5,000 ponds and lakes, and the majority of these are man-made. Some were designed for storm-water retention alone, while others include landscape features that add aesthetic and monetary value to properties.

Though they offer many benefits, man-made landscapes require care if they are to continue serving their intended purpose. If left in a natural state, lakes and ponds ultimately deteriorate as a result of erosion and nutrient-loading. Excessive amounts of nutrients leach from dead or decaying organic material and lead to the depletion of the oxygen in the bodies of water. Various human impacts, including fertilizers, leaking septic systems, and manure from agricultural operations, dramatically quicken this destructive process.



You can help reduce nutrient loading by using low-dose fertilizers, maintaining your septic systems, keeping dog pens away from drainage areas and yard clippings out of nearby catch basins or streams, and putting litter in its place.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Beat the summer heat

Temperatures in Georgia can easily reach 100 degrees or even higher during the summer season, and too much exposure to the sun can be harmful and can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Fire and Emergency Services offers these tips to stay safe this summer:

- Drink plenty of cold water to keep hydrated
- Take a cool shower after long exposure to the sun
- Wear light-weight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes, a brimmed hat, and sunglasses to protect your body
- Use plenty of sunscreen and look for shaded areas to rest or take breaks

Some of the symptoms of heat exhaustion include: rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, heavy perspiration, weakness, muscle cramps, and possible loss of consciousness. Heat exhaustion can quickly progress to a heat stroke if the victim remains exposed to the heat and doesn't replenish lost fluids.

Heat stroke symptoms include deep breaths followed by shallow breathing, a rapid, strong pulse followed by a rapid, weak pulse, dry hot skin, dilated pupils, loss of consciousness, and seizures or muscular twitching.

If any of the above symptoms are present, get the person to a cool, shaded area and loosen tight clothing. Rapidly cool the person by placing cold, wet cloths under the arms, between the legs, and behind the neck. If the person is conscious and breathing normally, hydrate with cold water. Call for medical help as soon as possible.

Lawn Care with Integrated Pest Management Workshop

September 9, 2010 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Attendees can apply for a Stormwater utility fee credit

Presented by: Robert Brannen
Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service
Hosted by: Department of Water Resources
Stormwater Management Division

Please pre-register at dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com and include name, address, and telephone or call 678.376.7126

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these titles to get your student ready for the school year! These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

What's Going on? Collecting and Recording Your Data, by Kylie Burns

What Do We Know Now? Drawing Conclusions and Answering the Question, by Robin Johnson

Mummies: Truth and Rumors, by Heather L. Montgomery

SPLOST

Diverging diamond interchange advance with SPLOST and CID funds

Plans for short-term improvements at two I-85 interchanges in Gwinnett are moving into the design phase after the Board of Commissioners approved agreements with two Community Improvement Districts (CID) on July 20. Both interchanges will use the diverging diamond design that improves traffic flow on existing bridges by rerouting vehicles to make left turns possible without waiting for oncoming traffic.

The County's Citizens Project Selection Committee recommended using \$8.6 million of 2009 SPLOST sales tax funds for longer-term interchange reconstruction projects. The Gwinnett Village CID will contribute \$1 million and the engineering designs for the Jimmy Carter Boulevard/I-85 interchange. The Gwinnett Place CID will do the same for the Pleasant Hill Road interchange. The County will buy any necessary right-of-way and will manage construction in cooperation with the state Department of Transportation.

Gwinnett DOT Director **Brian Allen** said, "The long-term solution is a complete overhaul of these interchanges that will require federal financial assistance in addition to the CID matching funds and County SPLOST dollars that are already approved and budgeted."

For now, however, the diverging diamond interchanges will require traffic to drive briefly on the left side of the overpasses, allowing both right and left turns to flow freely onto interstate entrance ramps.



County offices closed for Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of the county, will be closed September 6 for the Labor Day holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on September 7.

A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center.

EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities at www.gwinnettparks.com.

Family Fun Social

September 4 • 2:00pm – 5:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Free! Pinckneyville EXPO & Awesome Artist Contest

September 4 • noon – 3:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

Free! Yard Sale

September 11 • 9:00am – 2:00pm
Mountain Park Activity Building
5050 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn

Grandparent's Day Tea

September 14 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Swamiji Workshop

September 15 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Free! Fun Day Club Picnic

September 17 • 11:00am – 1:00pm
Bethesda Park Pavilion
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

Mother/Son Campout

September 18 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Free! Tisiuc Art Festival

September 25 • 10:00am – 5:00pm
September 26 • noon – 5:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Free! Yard Sale

September 25 • 9:00am – 4:00pm
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett home buying program aims to stabilize neighborhoods

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is a program of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners that assists individuals and families in obtaining affordable housing in Gwinnett. Through this program, the County buys and renovates foreclosed homes in an effort to stabilize hard-hit neighborhoods, help provide affordable housing, and create jobs in the struggling housing and construction industries.

Chief Financial Officer **Aaron Bovos** said, "The County has already bought 60 homes, ranging from \$75,000 to \$200,000 and rehab work is underway. So far, we've sold 20 of them." Some of the homes are new and have never been lived in. All have energy saving features, upgraded kitchens, and new flooring. The program is funded by HUD with additional funds from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

The program also offers up to \$22,500 for eligible home buyers to purchase the rehabilitated homes. Eligible buyers under the program include first-time homebuyers, single parents, surviving spouses of military service persons, and anyone who works in the healthcare, education, or government sectors such as nurses, teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

Buyers need a down payment of just one percent of the purchase price and will get a second mortgage that has no interest and no payments to help make the home affordable. As an additional benefit, each homebuyer will receive a two-year home warranty.

Maximum income limits range from \$60,250 to \$113,000, depending on family size. For example, a family of four can have household income up to \$86,150 to qualify. All homebuyers in the program must also qualify for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage.

For more information about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, please visit www.nspgwinnett.com or call 770.822.5424.

TAX COMMISSIONER

2010 property tax bills mailed

Property tax bills for 2010 have been mailed. Payment installment dates are **September 22** and **November 15**. After each installment due date, a five percent penalty will be added to any unpaid installment amount. Also, one percent interest per calendar month (12 percent annually) will begin to accrue on the total unpaid amount on November 16, 2010.

Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for more information.

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send questions or comments to shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com

Gwinnett County Communications Division
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linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

