

february 2010

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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## FEATURE

### The Census is coming! It's in our hands

This March, every housing unit in Gwinnett County will receive a census questionnaire from the US Census Bureau. Completing the form will be quick and easy and all answers are protected by law. It is estimated that, for the average household, the questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete. In addition to being quick, easy, and confidential, responding to the questionnaire is important. Census results will determine apportionment of representation and resources. Our response rate will help determine if Georgia gains another seat in the US House of Representatives as well as our portion of an estimated \$400 billion in federal funding distributed to communities each year. So be sure to complete and mail back your questionnaire.

**For more information about the Census, visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) or call 800.424.6974.**

United States®  
**Census  
2010**

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Local streams, rivers suffer from minor pollution sources

Death by a thousand cuts was an ancient method of torture and execution where the unfortunate recipient was subjected to 1,000 small cuts all over his or her body. Each cut was small enough that, while painful, could have been easily treated without any long-term consequences. However, when combined with 999 similar wounds, the effect was deadly.

So, what does this have to do with us today? Well, Gwinnett's streams and rivers face a similar death by a thousand cuts each day, and each one of us holds the knife.

You would hardly affect your local stream if you were the only one in your area washing your car in the driveway, poisoning weeds in the gutter, spilling fertilizer into the street, or not picking up after your pet. But you are not alone. There are thousands of others out there just like you doing the same things, and our waterways end up suffering a proverbial death by a thousand cuts as a result.

Storm drains are designed to stop flooding by quickly moving rainwater from roads, parking lots, and other areas into streams. County ordinances prohibit the use of storm drains for disposal of anything other than rainwater and provide penalties for violation. If you know of or see individuals involved in dumping or discharging wastes into storm drains or onto the ground, please report it to the [Stormwater Management Division](#) by calling 678.376.7000.

## Department of Water Resources Stormwater Management Division

### Rain Garden Workshop - March 10, 2010 • 7:00pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Please note that the maximum Stormwater utility fee credit that a property can receive per year is five percent.

For more information or to register, contact the Stormwater Management Division at [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) and include your name, address, and telephone number or call 678.376.7126.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Gwinnett Stops: Red light cameras stay on alert

Red light cameras will continue monitoring several Gwinnett intersections and recording moving violations by motorists caught in the intersection after their light has turned red. The Board of Commissioners in January approved a new contract with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona, for \$140,533.

The company installed the existing systems at the intersections of Jimmy Carter Boulevard and Singleton Road in 2005, Mall of Georgia Boulevard at Buford Drive/State Route 20 in 2008, and Steve Reynolds Boulevard at Beaver Ruin Road/State Route 378 in 2009.

Gwinnett Police Chief **Charles Walters** reminded drivers that "a yellow light means prepare to stop." He said red light cameras have proven effective in reducing serious accidents at problem intersections. The three cameras are expected to more than cover their cost of operation by bringing in as much as \$300,000 in revenue this year. "Public safety is far more important than the revenue," said Walters. "Protecting lives is our main priority."

## CHECK IT OUT

Keep those New Years' Resolutions for taking better care of yourself! These new books and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Feed Your Skin, Starve Your Wrinkles: Eat Your Way to Firmer, More Beautiful Skin with the 100 Best Anti-Aging Foods*, by Allison Tannis

*Marie Claire Gorgeous Face and Beautiful Body: A Guide to Total Skin Care*, by Josette Milgram

*Your Skin, Younger: New Science Secrets to Naturally Younger Skin*, by Alan C. Logan

*Return to Beauty: Old-World Recipes for Great Radiant Skin*, by Narine Nikogosian

## SPLOST

### Police Annex and E-911 center opens

The new Police Annex is home to the County's E-911 communications center, emergency operations center, and backup data center. The project came in with a lower price tag and two months ahead of schedule.

The one-story, 45,000-square-foot Police Annex and E-911 Center construction began in September 2008 and was completed in November 2009. Competitive market conditions permitted the County to reduce the original total project budget from \$20 million to \$18.7 million.



*"The police annex will provide Gwinnett County with a state-of-the-art facility that will serve the County well for the many years to come,"* said Commission Chairman **Charles E. Bannister**. *"The relocation of the 911 center and its personnel from police headquarters will make room for more law enforcement operations to occupy the extra space."*

The building and associated parking will accommodate 180 employees and was designed to meet standards for hardened facilities utilizing FEMA 361 guidelines. The pre-cast concrete was a natural envelope material for accommodating facility hardening required by FEMA 361.

The project was not required to have a LEED certification; however, the design team, led by architect Michael Katzin of HOK (Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc.), used a sustainable design approach to provide an environmentally responsible facility. Some of the sustainable design approaches for this project included minimized site disturbance and light pollution, water-efficient landscaping, low VOC materials, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and digital HVAC controls.

The general contractor for the project was Manhattan Construction Co. Funding for the project was provided by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and police capital project funds.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Engage Gwinnett committee studies desired services and funding mechanisms

Since September 2009, 42 citizen leaders representing stakeholder groups and the community at-large have been involved in a community engagement initiative called **Engage Gwinnett: Committee on the Future of Gwinnett County**. The committee has been tasked with studying government services and recommending to the Board of Commissioners desired service levels and funding strategies for the next five years. This citizen-led initiative is a partnership between Gwinnett County government and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

Engage Gwinnett committee meetings are held every two weeks at the Gwinnett Center in Duluth and are open to the public. Members hear from elected officials, County staff, and local residents, and participate in group discussions. You can follow the committee's progress by visiting [www.engagegwinnett.com](http://www.engagegwinnett.com) for meeting summaries, including presentations and materials provided to committee members, and other information. Video coverage of all sessions is available online, on TVgwinnett cable channel 23, and on-demand at [www.tvgwinnett.com](http://www.tvgwinnett.com).

Community meetings have been scheduled for the month of February. Details are available on the Engage Gwinnett website.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Important Emissions Reminder

For 2010 registrations, all 1986 to 2007 model year gasoline-powered cars or light trucks (up to 8,500 lbs) must have a valid Georgia emission inspection completed before registering or renewing tags.

Be first in line every time—renew your vehicle online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## News for water customers

It has come to our attention that some companies are soliciting Gwinnett County water customers to buy water line service insurance coverage. These companies are in no way affiliated with Gwinnett County Government or the Department of Water Resources. Gwinnett County is not responsible for any pipes or plumbing on the customer side of the water meter.

## EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities at [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com).

### Unbirthday Party

March 6 • 11:00am – 1:00pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Kids' Day Out

March 12 • 7:00am – 6:00pm  
Best Friend Park Gym  
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

### Kids Night Out

March 12 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Irish Afternoon Tea

March 14 • 3:00pm – 5:00pm  
Lawrenceville Female Seminary  
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

### Lucky's "Lucky" Arts and Crafts

March 17 • 3:00pm – 6:00pm  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

### Princess Dance and Play Party

March 20 • 2:00pm – 3:30pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Home School Prom

March 20 • 7:30pm – 10:30pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Free Yard Sale and Craft Fair

March 27 • 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building  
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

### Bunny Bash

March 27 • 10:00am  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

### Doggone Eggstravaganza

March 27 • 11:00am  
Little Mulberry Park – Fence Road Entrance  
3855 Fence Road, Auburn

## gwinnettcounty connection

send questions or comments to [shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com)

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linkup

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