

July 2010

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Questions about the
trash plan?

www.sustainablegwinnett.com

FEATURE

New garbage and recycling program goes into effect

Residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County are now part of a new garbage and recycling program that offers more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally-friendly service. Five haulers have been contracted to serve five different areas of the County. This new plan does not affect city residents. You should have received your 95-gallon wheeled trash cart and recycling bin during the month of June. If you have not received your trash cart or recycling bin, or if you need a smaller, 65-gallon trash cart, contact your assigned hauler to request it.

Call the [Gwinnett County Solid Waste Call Center](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) at 770.822.7141 weekdays between 7:30am and 5:30pm with plan questions or contact your assigned hauler with service questions. Visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com to get a list of the 35 recyclable items.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Use the three P's of water wise landscaping

Plan

Plan your landscaping to group plants together according to watering needs. This will prevent blanket watering to ensure all plants are thriving.

Fall planting is best. The cooler season is less stressful on plants. Planting in the fall gives roots a chance to grow throughout the winter, establishing them for a hearty spring. Fall planting also helps curb water loss through evaporation from foliage due to decreased temperatures.

Plant

Prepare the soil before you sow your plant. Till soil and make sure to include organic materials (composted yard waste, manure, or peat moss) to help retain moisture and provide nutrients to the plant.

Check soil drainage. Dig a hole 15 inches deep by 15 inches in diameter and fill it with water. If the hole remains filled with water after one hour, the site may be poorly drained. Adding pea gravel to the area may improve drainage.

When digging a hole for your plant, make sure that the hole is two times the size of the plant bulb. Water the bulb thoroughly, unwind the roots, and pull back any burlap. Make sure that the top of the root ball is level with the surface soil for best results. Once the hole is filled, cover with approximately three to five inches of organic mulch to help retain moisture. Keep in mind that organics decompose and will need to be replenished regularly.

Preserve

Placing a drip irrigation system under the mulch will keep the soil moist. Only water the plants that need it. Remove weeds as frequently as possible. Weeds compete with plants for moisture and nutrients.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Protect your home during summer vacation

It's summer vacation time—time to pack your bathing suit and head to the beach. But before you hit the shores, remember to take precautions to protect what you can't take with you: your home.

Prevent burglaries:

- Stop your mail, newspapers, and any other home deliveries
- Ask a relative or neighbor to housesit
- Lock all doors and windows, including the garage door
- Never leave messages on your answering machine that say you're on vacation
- Lock up valuables
- Arrange for someone to cut the lawn; nothing gives away an unoccupied home faster than grass that is over a foot high
- Install motion-sensor spot lights at exterior doors and use timers on your interior and exterior lights
- Take pictures or video of your home before you leave in case you have a break-in and need to identify your items

Save resources:

- Unplug everything you can and turn off all appliances
- Turn down the setting on your hot water heater
- Consider shutting off the water if you will be away for more than two weeks

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these great movie tie-ins! These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Sex and the City 2: The Stories, the Fashion, the Adventure, by Eric Cyphers

Broadway: the American Musical, by Laurence Masion

Shutter Island, by Dennis Lehane

Dear John, by Nicholas Sparks

Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation, by John Carlin

Department of Water Resources Water Wise Landscaping Workshop

August 5, 2010 • 7:00pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Presented by Robert Brannen,
Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service

For more information, call 678.377.4010

SPLOST

SPLOST: Road, bridge, sidewalk improvements approved

Several Gwinnett County roads will get major upgrades that are designed to improve road and foot traffic in specific areas. Five Forks Trickum Road will get major improvements, Patterson Road will get a new bridge, and Head Elementary School will soon have a new sidewalk to nearby neighborhoods after the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners approved the projects in June. The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) will fund all three projects.

The three intersections on Five Forks Trickum Road that will get turn lanes and full pedestrian access are Pounds/Garner Road, Winchester Drive, and Cole Drive. The project will add a center turn lane and sidewalks on both sides for its full length from Cole Drive to Garner/Pounds Road. Construction will take about a year: C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc., submitted the lowest of 10 bids at about \$1.17 million.

Patterson Road will close for about five months while crews replace a bridge over Pew Creek, realign the roadway, and improve the road shoulders. The project includes a new sidewalk on Hewatt Road from Corral Way to Head Elementary School that is to be completed by fall. C.W. Matthews was the lowest of eight bidders at about \$1.3 million.

Commission Chairman **Charles Bannister** said, "These projects continue the County's emphasis on fixing traffic bottlenecks and improving safety for motorists and pedestrians."



Save money and time... pay your water bill online

Please visit www.gwinnett20.com for information on current watering restrictions, billing and rate information, or to view your account history and pay your bill online.

EVENTS

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

Free! Brown Bag Concert

August 6 • 11:00am – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Free! Sounds of the Skate Park

August 6 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Duncan Creek Park
3700 Braselton Highway, Dacula

Back to School Blow-out

August 6 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Cat Eye Night Hike

August 6 • 7:00 – 9:00pm
Harbins Park
2995 Luke Edwards Road, Dacula

Free! World Bazaar

August 7 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan St, Lawrenceville

Cheerleading Clinic

August 7 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Line Dance Workshop and Dance-a-Thon

August 7 • 10:00am – 4:00pm; 6:00pm – midnight
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

Ice Cream Social

August 21 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Conference supports caregivers

Come out to the Family Caregiver's Conference to receive valuable resources to help deal with difficult issues families face when caring for a loved one. The conference will be held on August 28 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville, 395 Crogan Street.

There will be eight different topics covering issues such as burnout, difficult behavior, communication, legal, and financial issues. Cost is \$10 per person. Contact Julie Lucas at 770.614.2359 to register.

AROUND GWINNETT

Check your polling place online

Many polling places in Gwinnett have changed since the last election. Please check the Secretary of State's new [My Voter Page \(MVP\)](#) before voting. It provides **personalized information for all Georgia voters** including poll location with map and directions, a list of candidates and their websites, sample ballots, election districts, and current representatives with links to the local voter registration and elections office and for absentee ballot requests.

Secretary of State Brian Kemp has also announced a new website designed to stop voter fraud at www.sos.ga.gov/StopVoterFraud. Report questionable election-related activity there or by calling 877.725.9797.

Check out TVgwinnett, the County's cable television station

TVgwinnett offers more than just commission meetings and speeches. It also carries specially-produced shows on County services and facilities, police and fire academy graduations, groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies, talk shows, military news, and special events. The channel also carries messages about government programs, policies, events, and facilities.

Viewers can access TVgwinnett on channel 23 or 25 depending on their cable provider. TVgwinnett programming is also available streaming and on-demand at www.tvgwinnett.com, where viewers will also find a program guide.

Seniors – Improve your PC skills

The **Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center** offers courses for beginning and advanced PC users ages 50 and over. Instructors are knowledgeable senior volunteers. Classrooms are located at Bethesda Park Senior Center and Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park.

Register for fall 2010 courses on Tuesday, September 14 from 9:00am – 11:00am at Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville and Wednesday, September 15 from 10:00am – noon at Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park located at 55 Buford Highway in Suwanee. For more information and class schedules, visit www.gsrlc.org or call 770.564.4699 and leave a message.

TAX COMMISSIONER

New fees for special license plates

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly passed HB 1055, which was signed into law on May 12 and is effective immediately. This bill increases the fees for prestige plates and most special tags. For more information and a list of plates affected by this change, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

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

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linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

