

march 2010

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Coming next month:
Water Quality Report
View GC Connection
at gwinnettcounty.com

FEATURE

April 1 is Census Day! We can't move forward if you don't send it back

Census questionnaires from the US Census Bureau are being sent to every housing unit in March, so by April 1, please send your census forms back! 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 by April 1.

United States[®] Census 2010

For more information about the Census, visit www.2010census.gov or call 800.424.6974.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Clean up our roadways to protect our waterways

Georgians are proud of our beautiful state, but unfortunately, our roadways are becoming dumping grounds for illegal litter. The same state that inspired poet laureate Sidney Lanier to write of its beautiful rivers and trees is being threatened by litter, which is unsightly and expensive to remove. Roadside litter also poses a serious threat to motorists, wildlife, and streams.

Georgia's Adopt-A-Highway Program enlists citizen volunteers' help to remove litter from state roadsides. While saving taxpayer dollars, the program provides recognition for participating companies and organizations, brings the environmental and monetary costs of littering in the public eye and promotes civic responsibility and pride. The volunteers of the Adopt-A-Highway program serve as visible reminders to the public that we are all stewards of the land.

Please help clean up our state by volunteering with the Adopt-A-Highway Program, a partnership between the Georgia Department of Transportation and Keep Georgia Beautiful.

The Department of Water Resources encourages Gwinnett employees and citizens to participate in this program. In addition to making Gwinnett even more aesthetically pleasing, removing litter from our roadways reduces pollution in our local streams and rivers. This litter also attracts animals that leave waste, further increasing the bacterial content in our streams. If you know of or see individuals involved in dumping or discharging waste into storm drains or streams, please report it to the Stormwater Management Division by calling 678.376.7000.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Gwinnett firefighters raise top dollars for burn foundation

Gwinnett's Fire and Emergency Services department won first place in the 2009 Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation "Give Burns the Boot" Boot Drive. The department was recognized during an event at Georgia State University last month. More than 100 fire departments across the state participate in the annual boot drive to raise money for burn centers and burn prevention programs in Georgia.

Gwinnett firefighters collected \$77,980 by blanketing area businesses and shopping centers. "Our success is due to the generous outpouring from our citizens," said department spokesperson Captain **Thomas Rutledge**. "We want to express our appreciation to the citizens and business professionals in Gwinnett County. Even in tough economic times, they understand and support fire safety and burn prevention."

Boot drive donations help fund a statewide burn camp for burn injury survivors. About 10 percent stays local for the purchase of smoke alarms and fire safety education materials.

For more information about the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, visit www.gfbf.org.

Buford
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center • 770.614.2060

Dacula
Dacula Park Activity Building • 770.614.2060

Duluth
McDaniel Farm Park • 770.814.4920
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building • 770.814.4914

Lawrenceville
Gwinnett History Museum • 770.822.5178
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center • 770.822.5414

Norcross
Best Friend Park Gym • 770.417.2212
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center • 770.723.9516
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center • 770.417.2200

Stone Mountain
Mountain Park Activity Building • 770.564.4680

Suwanee
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center • 770.831.4173

gwinnettparks.com

Summer Adventure Camps

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these brand new titles in the widely-popular "...for Dummies" series. These new books and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Wireless All-in-One for Dummies, by Sean Walberg

Laptops for Seniors for Dummies, by Nancy C. Muir

Composting for Dummies, by Cathy Cromell

Detox Diets for Dummies, by Gerald Don Wootan

Fashion for Dummies, by Jill Martin

SPLOST

SPLOST: County's first "green" library opens this spring

Gwinnett officials will celebrate the opening of the County's 15th library branch and first green library, on Saturday, May 8 at 1:00 pm. The new Hamilton Mill Library branch is located at 3690 Braselton Highway, adjacent to the new Duncan Creek Park in Dacula. The grand opening is free and open to the public.



Located on a five-acre site, the library was built to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification standards to achieve better energy efficiency and lifecycle costing. In addition to its sustainability features, Precision Planning, Inc., the architects for this project, designed the 20,000-square-foot building with an "Art in Architecture" component that consists of specially-designed window glass depicting themes of water, earth, sun, and the use of language designed by Atlanta artist and sculptor Maria Artemis. Project contractor Garrard Construction completed the library's construction last winter.

The \$7.4 million project was funded through the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and a \$2 million capital outlay grant from the State of Georgia.

For more information about the new library, visit www.gwinnettpl.org.

AROUND GWINNETT

Planning and Development streamlines permit review process

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development has launched a new digital data submission program called **gwinnett Proj-x** that allows citizens, architects, and engineers to electronically submit drawings and documents for development and building permits. The program also integrates land use and infrastructure data that is incorporated into the County's GIS mapping system.

The program was developed by Accela, Inc., and Avolve Software Corporation and features a web-based County database that tracks the permitting process from submission to payment, updates to the County's current database for site and building inspections, and 24-hour customer access to inspection services. Although portions of the systems have been used in other jurisdictions in Georgia, Gwinnett County is one of the first local governments to incorporate both the Accela and Avolve systems into one program.

For more information about **gwinnett Proj-x**, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com and go to *Departments > Planning and Development > Online Services*, or call 678.518.6000.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Final 2009 tax bills in the mail, due May 15

The Gwinnett Tax Commissioner's office has mailed the final 2009 property tax bills that reflect the increase in the County millage rate adopted by the Board of Commissioners last December. Payment is due May 15. The final 2009 County millage rate of 13.25 is an increase of 2.28 mills over the temporary millage rate that was used to calculate tax bills mailed last September. Property owners are encouraged to read the important information included on the tax bill to help them understand this billing. Keep in mind that payment for this bill is due May 15 but previously unpaid balances may be due sooner.

If you have questions about your final bill, please contact the Gwinnett Tax Commissioner's Office at tax@gwinnettcounty.com or 770.822.8800.

Fix a leak to save water and money

Minor water leaks waste more than a trillion gallons each year in U.S. homes. Join Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conserve water in the community. Check your household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. You could even save money on your next water bill. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense and www.gwinnettcounty.com.

EVENTS

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

Kids Day Out

April 2 • 7:00am – 6:00pm
Best Friend Park Gym
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Festa Primavera Italiana

April 17 • 11:00am – 3:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Princess Dance and Play Party

April 17 • 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Pop Dance Star Party

April 17 • 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Backyard Ice Cream Bash

April 23 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Kids' Night Out

April 23 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Let's Fly a Kite!

April 24 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
Shorty Howell Park Football Field
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

Join the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center for its fourth annual **EcoRun and Earth Day Festival** on Saturday, April 17 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Bring your old sneakers and electronics to recycle, and your old documents to shred. Take a peak at the art exhibit **Water S(our)ce**, enjoy kids' activities, and visit the EcoExpo. There is fun for all at this free event.

For more information, please visit www.gwinnettEHC.org.

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

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