

may 2010

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Recycle this  
newsletter and 34  
other items

See below  
for details

## FEATURE

### Recycle 35 items in the new Solid Waste Management Plan

Starting July 1, 2010, unincorporated Gwinnett County will be divided into five service areas as part of the new Solid Waste Management Plan. Each service area will be provided with one hauler, making solid waste service more efficient, cost effective, and environmentally friendly. This new plan applies only to households in unincorporated areas of Gwinnett County and does not affect city residents.

Under the new plan, homeowners will have the opportunity to recycle 35 different items as part of their regular solid waste pick-up service.

For more information about the new Solid Waste Management Plan, please visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Carwashes, pools, and sprinklers, oh my!

As the weather warms up, we spend more time outside washing the car, bathing the dog, filling the pool, and watering the lawn. As you use more water outdoors, please keep water conservation in the forefront of your mind. Here are some suggestions that will help you do so:

- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water or wash your car on the lawn and you'll water your lawn at the same time
- Install covers on pools and spas to prevent evaporation and check for leaks. To check, use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later to see if the water level dropped. If it did, you may have a leak
- Spread a layer of organic mulch around plants to retain moisture in the soil and save water, time, and money
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street
- Install a rain sensor on the sprinklers' irrigation controller so the system won't run when it's raining
- Water lawns or gardens before 10:00am or after 4:00pm when temperatures are cooler to reduce evaporation
- Your lawn only needs one inch of water per week, and the water can come from rain or your sprinkler



For more tips on outdoor and indoor water conservation, please visit [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Public safety heroes win five Valor Awards

Exceptional and heroic actions by employees in three County departments brought them well-deserved praise and recognition recently.

The Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place hotel was the scene on March 26 when the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and its presenting sponsors staged the fifth annual Valor Awards reception to honor local public safety professionals.

Gwinnett County Valor Award recipients:

- Gold Medal of Valor: **Scott Robertson**, Fire and Emergency Services
- Silver Medal of Valor: **Timothy Frates**, Corrections
- Public Safety Person of the Year: **Edward Restrepo**, Police
- Communications Person of the Year: **Leslie Leatherwood**, Police
- Public Safety Unit of the Year: **Swiftwater Rescue Team**, Fire and Emergency Services

**Chairman Bannister** commended all the winners saying, "Your work is clearly making Gwinnett a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you for setting an outstanding example for your coworkers and for your ongoing contributions to public safety in Gwinnett County."

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these great new resources for job searches and career building. These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Working World 101: The New Grad's Guide to Getting a Job*, by Bridget Graham and Monique Reidy

*Over 40 and You're Hired! Secrets to Landing a Great Job*, by Robin Ryan

*Making Job Loss Work for You: Get Over it and Get Your Career Back on Track*, by Richard S. Deems

*Nice Guys Can Get the Corner Office: Eight Strategies for Winning in Business Without Being a Jerk*, by Russ C. Edelman



## 2010 Election Dates

### General Primary • July 20, 2010

Voter Registration Deadline • June 21, 2010

Absentee Voting and Advanced Voting • May 28 – July 16, 2010

### General Primary Runoff • August 10, 2010

Voter Registration Deadline • June 21, 2010

Absentee Voting and Advanced Voting • TBA – August 6, 2010

### General Election • November 2, 2010

Voter Registration Deadline • October 4, 2010

Absentee Voting and Advanced Voting • September 17 – October 29, 2010

### General Election Runoff • November 30, 2010

Voter Registration Deadline • October 4, 2010

Absentee Voting and Advanced Voting • TBA – November 24, 2010

For voter registration and poll locations, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

## SPLOST

### SPLOST: Freeman's Mill Park opens

An old gristmill that resides along the banks of the Alcovy River is now the focal point of the County's newest park. **Freeman's Mill Park** features a playground that replicates a gristmill, picnic pavilion, half-mile multi-purpose trail, parking, restroom facilities, and the historic Freeman's gristmill. The County purchased the mill and surrounding property in 2002 with funding from the Georgia Greenspace Program and the 2005 SPLOST.

In 2009, the County raised and restored the mill and its surrounding 12 acres for educational and recreational use to offer Gwinnett County citizens a sense of the agricultural past. The mill was built sometime between 1868 and 1879 by brothers John Griffin and Levi J. Loveless. By 1996, it was said to be one of only 15 mills in the state in working order and the only one in Gwinnett County. At that time it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1913, W. Scott Freeman and his son, Winfield, owned it until it was purchased in 1915 by Newt Pharr. Winfield descendants continued to operate the mill through the 20th century.

Freeman's Mill played an important role in the local community in early Gwinnett County. Local farmers would bring their wheat and corn to the miller to be turned into flour and meal. Alcova Baptist Church, located up the street from the mill, used the mill pond for baptisms and the millhouse itself provided a gathering place for the surrounding rural community. The water-powered gristmill was preferred by many farmers because it would grind the corn more slowly than electric mills, resulting in a sweeter taste.

For more information about Freeman's Mill Park, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com) or call 770.822.5178.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Unified Plan earns national award

The County Planning Division of the American Planning Association and the National Association of County Planners (NACP) presented Gwinnett County with the Excellence in County Planning award for its 2030 Unified Plan. The award was presented during the NACP's first annual awards ceremony in New Orleans on April 11.

The NACP touted the 2030 Unified Plan as a very ambitious and detailed plan that incorporates excellent data and implementation steps to address a variety of issues that this community of 800,000 residents currently faces. The awards committee was particularly impressed with the scope of the project as well as the outreach efforts, including the website.

**Photo:** NACP Chair Dennis Sandquist and Chair-Elect Judy Francis present the NACP Excellence in County Planning Award to Gwinnett County Long-range Planner Nancy Lovingood and Consultant Holly Stork with PB Placemaking.



## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Tag office closed for computer maintenance

The North Gwinnett Tag Office, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford, will be closed Saturday, June 19 while the Georgia Department of Revenue conducts computer system maintenance.

The maintenance period will take place from 7:00pm Friday, June 18 until 6:00am Monday, June 21. During this period, Internet and telephone tag renewals will not be available.

Contact the Tax Commissioner's office by telephone at 770.822.8818, e-mail at [tag@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tag@gwinnettcountry.com), or visit [www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com](http://www.gwinnetttaxcommissioner.com) for more information.

### Reminder: Tiered water rates in effect

Single Family Residential rates per 1,000 gallons

**Tier 1** (up to 8,000 gallons): \$4.11

**Tier 2** (8,001 to 12,000 gallons): \$6.16

**Tier 3** (12,001 gallons and over): \$8.22

All water that passes through a separate irrigation meter is billed at 2.0 times the Tier 1 rate. For a complete list of rates and fees, visit [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com).

## EVENTS

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

### Free! Brown Bag Concert

June 4 • 11:00am – 1:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Free! National Trails Day

June 5 • 9:00am – 1:00pm  
Yellow River Park  
3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain

### Kids' Fishing Day

June 5 • 9:00am – 1:00pm  
Jones Bridge Park  
4901 East Jones Bridge Road, Norcross

### Sounds of the Skate Park

June 11 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
June 25 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Duncan Creek Park  
3700 Braselton Highway, Dacula

### Cast Off! Fishing Event

June 12 • 8:00am – noon  
Little Mulberry Park – Hog Mountain Road Entrance  
3900 Hog Mountain Road, Dacula

### Doubles Badminton Tournament

June 12 • 10:00am  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

### An Engaging Affair Bridal Show

June 13 • 5:00pm – 9:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### 4-on-4 Volleyball Tournament

June 26 • 10:00am  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

### Summer Camps

Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center  
5050 Clean Water Drive, Buford  
[www.gwinnettEHC.org](http://www.gwinnettEHC.org)

**gwinnettcountry connection**

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

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