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gwinnettcounty connection

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FEATURE

Got too much garbage? Recycle!

Some households may generate more garbage each week than a 95-gallon trash cart can hold, but haulers are not required to collect extra trash beyond the 95-gallon limit. To help reduce the volume of solid waste going into the landfills, residents are encouraged to recycle 35 different materials.

The method of collection is called single-stream recycling, which means that you do not have to sort your recyclables. Just throw everything together in the recycling bin – glass, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, cardboard, newspapers, junk mail, etc. – and you're all set. But don't put your recyclables in a plastic bag. If your trash collector cannot see what's inside the bag, he or she can't assume it's recycling and may have to throw it in the trash after all. Also, plastic bags are not recyclable at the curb, but many grocery stores and other retailers collect bags for recycling. You can use more than one bin for recycling as long as all containers are clearly marked "recyclables."

To find out which items can be recycled and for more recycling tips, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com or contact the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Division Call Center at 770.822.7141 weekdays between 7:30am and 5:30pm or e-mail your questions to gsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Water conservation in Gwinnett

Water Resources is promoting water conservation in the community by renewing its participation in the [toilet rebate program](#), which gives qualifying customers \$50 or \$100 for replacing old, inefficient toilets with new ones. To find out if you're eligible, visit www.northgeorgiawater.org/html/315.htm or call 404.463.8645.

DWR's [reclaimed water program](#), started in 2003, has made Gwinnett County a pioneer of reclaimed water use in Georgia. At the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center in Buford, wastewater undergoes a treatment process that returns it to a nearly pristine state. The reclaimed water is then used to irrigate commercial landscaping, golf courses, and parks.

You can contribute to the water conservation effort—and save money at the same time—by [finding and fixing leaks](#) in your home and business. To check a toilet for leaks, put a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within a few minutes, the flapper is leaking. If the flapper is fine but you can hear water running, you may have problems with the water inlet valve. Repair parts are available at most hardware stores.

Another way to find leaks is to check the water meter outside. If the triangular indicator is moving when no water is being used, there is a leak somewhere. You can confirm underground leaks in the service line by checking the meter when the main shutoff valve is closed.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Department offers free community education classes

On July 22, the Police Department held its first community education class at the West Precinct. Representatives from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Georgia International Crimes Against Children Community discussed cyber safety. Attendees from a range of age groups said they found the class interesting and informative.

Future free community education classes will be offered once a month in the West Precinct classroom, 6160 Crescent Drive, Norcross. Classes will begin at 6:30pm and last for one to two hours. Anyone can attend, but pre-registration is required.

To learn more about upcoming classes, visit www.gwinnettpolice.com/copswatch, select the *C.O.P.S. Watch* link on the left side of the page, and then select *West Precinct*.

For more information and to register for a class, contact Officer Richter at 770.417.2376 ext. 5720, or jeffery.richter@gwinnettcounty.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these titles that focus on the economy. These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

False Economy: A Surprising Economic History of the World, by Alan Beattie

How the Economy Works: Confidence, Crashes, and Self-fulfilling Prophecies, by Roget E.A. Farmer

The Relentless Revolution: A History of Capitalism, by Joyce Appleby

The Art of Barter: How to Trade for Almost Anything, by Karen S. Hoffman and Shera D. Dalin

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SPLOST

SPLOST: Lawrenceville Highway in Lilburn to be studied

The stretch of U.S. 29/Lawrenceville Highway that runs through Lilburn from Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Ronald Reagan Parkway will be the subject of a new transportation study jointly funded by Gwinnett County and the new Lilburn Community Improvement District (CID).

On August 3, Gwinnett commissioners approved an agreement with the CID that calls for the County to provide \$100,000 from 2009 SPLOST transportation planning funds for the study. The Lilburn CID will provide any additional funds necessary to hire a qualified planning and engineering firm and complete the project. The study will examine transportation issues, potential land uses, and revitalization opportunities to support improved transportation through the corridor.

"We are pleased to partner with the Lilburn CID on this important study," said Commission Chairman **Charles Bannister**. "Because U.S. 29 is such a major artery through the County, it's important to make it as efficient, safe, and attractive as possible as our population continues to grow."

"The results of this study will allow us to participate in the Atlanta Regional Commission's Livable Centers Initiative and compete for funds to build whatever projects may be identified in the study," said Gwinnett Transportation Director **Brian Allen**.



Changes to Water Resources self-service portal

The Department of Water Resources is working hard to improve our service options to better serve our customers. Look for our enhanced Customer Self-Service portal in January 2011, which will provide 24-hour account access to process routine account requests such as stopping, starting, and transferring service, updating contact information, and electronic delivery of billing statements.

EVENTS

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

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Fridays in October • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

A Perfect Crime...Or Is It? Murder Mystery Dinner

October 15 and 16 • 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Mountain Park Activity Building
5050 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn

Camp In!

October 15 • 7:00pm – 9:00am
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Haunted Night at the Museum

October 15 and 16 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Lawrenceville Female Seminary
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

Fall Festival Swim

October 16 • 11:00am – 3:00pm
Bethesda Park Aquatic Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

Mother/Son Halloween Dance

October 22 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Hip-Hop Halloween Dance Party

October 23 • 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Free! McDaniel Farm Fest

October 23 • 10:00am – 4:00pm
McDaniel Farm Park
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

Play It Safe This Halloween

October 30 • 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Halloween Costume Ball

October 30 • 7:00pm – 9:30pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

AROUND GWINNETT

Planting and maintaining trees to sustain the environment

The Gwinnett County Community Shade Coverage Requirements Policy reflects the County's commitment to planting and maintaining existing trees. Trees provide shade, which reduces the amount of heat given off by pavement, and clean the air by converting daily pollutants into oxygen. By planting trees and establishing tree save areas on developing sites, we can eliminate the impact of tree loss associated with new construction.

The County's Buffer, Landscape and Tree Ordinance fulfills the objective of the Shade Coverage Requirements Policy by establishing tree placement and quantity requirements. The ordinance requires that each developer plant one tree for every seven parking spaces. Each commercial site requires 16 to 20 tree density units per acre, which is equivalent to 32 to 40 two-inch caliper new trees per acre on a developed site. For each single-family detached residential development, 16 tree density units per acre is required in addition to two trees per lot along with street trees.

A joint effort by the County and the community is necessary to protect and maintain trees. County inspectors monitor each job site to ensure that the appropriate tree planting and preservation requirements are followed. After completion of site development and construction, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the trees on the premises.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reminder: 2010 property tax bills due

The 2010 property tax installment due 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.

Tag office closed for computer maintenance

The North Gwinnett Tag Office, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford, will be closed Saturday, September 25 while the Georgia Department of Revenue conducts computer system maintenance. The maintenance period will take place from 7:00pm Friday, September 24 until 6:00am Monday, September 27. 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, or visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for more information.

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

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