

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Great American Cleanup now through May 15

## FEATURE

### Get in the saddle for the Great American Cleanup!

Gwinnett County and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful invite you to get in the saddle and "giddy up" to make Gwinnett America's greenest and cleanest community. Participate in Keep America Beautiful's **Great American Cleanup**, the nation's largest community improvement program.

Beginning March 15, any interested local community groups and organizations can look in their own backyards for a project or visit [www.gwinnettcb.org](http://www.gwinnettcb.org) to select a Great American Cleanup activity. All projects must be completed between March 15 and May 15 to compete for cash prizes. Prizes will be awarded based on the biggest transformation and impact on the community. To get more information, download an application packet, and report your results, visit [www.gwinnettcb.org](http://www.gwinnettcb.org).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Program helps homeowners be good water stewards

**Homeowner H<sub>2</sub>O** is a new program designed to teach Gwinnett County citizens how to be good water stewards in their communities. Representatives from the Department of Water Resources are available to speak to your homeowner's association or other neighborhood group. Program topics include water conservation and stormwater management.

The water conservation presentation focuses on leak detection and repair, installing water-efficient fixtures, and increasing water-saving behaviors inside and outside the home. In addition, participants will learn about Gwinnett's toilet rebate program and free low-flow retrofit kits for residents living in older homes.

Our stormwater presentation describes activities carried out under Gwinnett County's Stormwater Utility Program, including mapping, infrastructure maintenance, water quality monitoring, and watershed improvement projects. Property owners will also receive guidance on ways to earn stormwater credits that can reduce utility fees.

If you would like to schedule a speaker for your next community meeting or event, please contact Heather Moody at 678.376.6722 or [dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com).

These programs are offered free to Gwinnett County residents.

## Recycle your old toilets

Bring your old and broken porcelain toilets to the **Department of Water Resources Central Facility** at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville to be recycled for free. You must remove the toilet seat and any plastic parts, including handles.



Toilets are accepted at any time. After business hours and on weekends, access is only available from the Hosea Road entrance.

For more information, visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) or call 678.376.6722.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Fire and Emergency Services celebrates 40 years of service

The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of saving lives and protecting property.

The department formed in January 1971 and responded to its first emergency call on March 30, 1971, at 10:15am from its Norcross fire station. Since that time, the department has evolved to become a premier fire and emergency medical services provider. "The citizens of Gwinnett County are served by some of the most highly skilled and dedicated fire and emergency medical professionals anywhere in the country," said Gwinnett Fire Chief Bill Myers.

Today, the department is the largest fire protection district in the state of Georgia, covers an area of 437 square miles, and protects a population of more than 800,000 people. Over the years the department has expanded its services to include hazardous materials response, swiftwater rescue, and technical rescue.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these selections to learn the importance of pets to families and how to take care of them. These and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Cats: Everything About Purchase, Care, and Nutrition*, by Brigitte Eilert-Overbeck

*Dog Years: A Memoir*, by Mark Doty

*On the Road With Your Pet*, by Mobil Travel Guide

*Tell Me Where it Hurts: A Day of Humor, Healing, and Hope in my Life as an Animal Surgeon*, by Nick Trout

## SPLOST

### Killian Hill, Lee Road to get bridge repairs

SPLOST money designated for bridge replacements will fund two major bridge projects approved by Gwinnett commissioners in March.

The bridge that carries Killian Hill Road over the Yellow River south of Five Forks will be replaced by a new, wider bridge under a \$4.16 million contract. Sunbelt Structures, Inc., of Tucker was the lowest of six bidders for the project. The work also includes vertical alignment improvements, roadway widening, and adding turn lanes. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late 2012.

The bridge on Lee Road over No Business Creek in the southern tip of Gwinnett will also be replaced. The new roadway will have improvements to the roadside shoulders and vertical alignment of Lee Road. The project was awarded to E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., of Snellville, the lowest of eight bidders at \$1.5 million. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2012 and will remain open during construction.

Funds for the bridge repairs are provided by the 2009 sales tax program.



### Visit the customer self-service portal at [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com)

Customers can now schedule to start or stop water service, start, change, or stop automatic monthly payments, and update account information online. The website also has information about Water Resources, including water conservation tips and information about rates and billing.

## EVENTS

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

### Fiesta FUNtastic Parent's Night Out

May 5 • 6:30pm – 8:00pm  
Mountain Park Activity Building  
1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain

### Meteor Madness

May 7 • 3:30am  
Little Mulberry Park, Fence Road Entrance  
3855 Fence Road, Auburn

### Spring Fling and Yard Sale

May 7 • 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center  
651 Britt Road, Norcross

### Night Ride

May 10 • 6:00pm  
Tribble Mill Park  
2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville

### Saturday in the Park and B @ the Movies

May 14 • 1:00pm – 8:00pm, 8:30pm – 10:30pm  
Tribble Mill Park  
2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville

### Pinckneyville EXPO

May 14 • 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center  
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

### Princess and Me Dance

May 20 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Celebrate Older Americans Month

Parks and Recreation will celebrate **Older Americans Month** in May with a *Seasoned with Thyme* cookbook recipe contest, a senior art show, and SeniorFest on May 24 at Prime Timers Point in George Pierce Park. For more details on these events and more, visit [gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com).

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Chairman Charlotte Nash begins term

Charlotte J. Nash was sworn in as Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on March 28. The ceremony took place at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. She will preside over her first Board meeting on April 19, 2011. To view the swearing in ceremony, visit [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

### Meyer retires from Tax Commissioner post

Tax Commissioner Katherine Meyer has announced that she will retire at the end of April. Gwinnett County voters originally elected Katherine Meyer as tax commissioner in 1984, and last year she celebrated 25 years in office. Meyer was the first woman elected tax commissioner and one of the first two women elected to a countywide office in Gwinnett's history.

Richard Steele, currently Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner, assumes the duties of tax commissioner on May 1. Steele became chief deputy in October 2010 and before that served as property tax director.

### Celebrate Earth Day around the world

Join your friends and neighbors as we celebrate **Earth Day Around the World** at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center on Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 11:00am until 3:00pm. The date also marks the last day of Your House, My House interactive exhibit exploring houses around the world. Discount admission is available during the Earth Day event.

For more details, visit [www.gwinnettEHC.org](http://www.gwinnettEHC.org).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Reminder: Mobile home tax bills due May 1

Mobile home tax bills are mailed out in January each year and are due on or before May 1. Decals are issued when taxes are paid. All mobile homes in Gwinnett County are required to have a current decal posted visibly. For more information, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### gwinnettcountry connection

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

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linkup

get county government  
information from the source

[gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com)

