

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

County offices  
closed for  
Labor Day –  
September 5

## FEATURE

### Gwinnett Coalition to host 12<sup>th</sup> annual Great Days of Service

The Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services will host the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Gwinnett Great Days of Service* this year on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1. The event is designed to engage the community through volunteer time, sponsorships, and donations to support local community service projects. This is one of the largest volunteer initiatives in the country and addresses the critical project needs of nonprofits and schools in Gwinnett County.

Those who wish to volunteer can do so individually, as a group, or with a company. Projects are widely varied and are based on location, interest area, or by number of volunteers needed. Project registration will take place on August 15 through September 23. For more information, please visit [www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org](http://www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org).

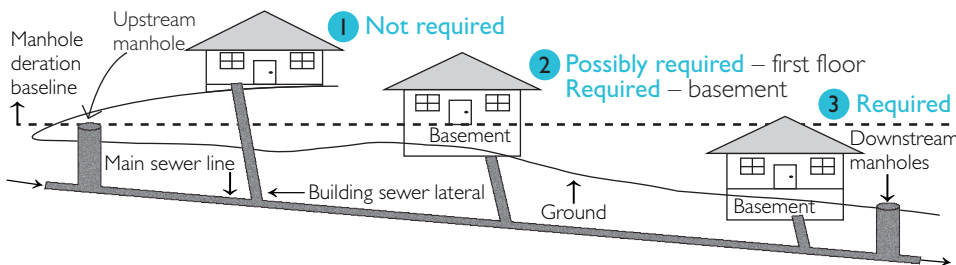
## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Flood-proof your home with a backwater valve

If you live in a flood prone area, installing a sewer backwater valve can be the difference between having your basement flood with raw sewage and keeping your home's lower level dry.

In the diagram below, the first house does not need a backwater valve. Because the home's basement is higher than the inlet to the building sewer lateral, water will drain from the first upstream manhole. The second house has sewer laterals that are slightly higher (must be at least 24" higher) than the first upstream sanitary sewer manhole cover, so the first floor doesn't need a backwater valve. Pressure could possibly build and temporarily allow water to flow at a level above the lowest sewer lateral. If a basement is constructed, it is wise to install a backwater valve. All sewer lateral openings in the last house are located below the level of the first upstream sewer manhole cover, so this home would require the installation of a backwater valve to prevent sewer flooding.

Please be aware that if your house floods with sewage and it does not have a backwater valve installed and maintained, Water Resources is not liable for the damage or clean-up costs. No claims will be processed by the County. Please take the necessary precautions to prevent a sewage flood by installing and maintaining the backwater valve. For more information, please contact the Dispatch Department at 678.376.7000.



### Department of Water Resources Fall Gardening/Composting Workshop

Attendees who live in unincorporated Gwinnett County or the City of Lilburn will qualify for a five percent Stormwater utility fee credit for the following year.

September 15, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) or calling 678.376.7126. Please arrive early.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Enjoy the river, check the dam

With more people visiting the Chattahoochee River this summer, Fire and Emergency Services wants to remind you to stay safe and enjoy this great natural resource.

The National Park Service requires that you wear a life jacket if you are boating, tube floating, or wading in the river between Buford Dam and the Highway 20 bridge. Firefighters suggest wearing a life jacket at all points along the river. Never dive or jump into the river to prevent injury from submerged rocks, trees, and other debris.

Water levels rise due to water releases at Buford Dam and significant rainfall. To find out when water is being released from the dam, call 770.945.1466. Be sure to get out of the water before the water releases and pay attention to sirens and posted warning signs. Be aware that the water released from the bottom of Buford Dam is about 50° throughout the year, so exhaustion and unconsciousness may occur within minutes.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings for do-it-yourself crafts, projects, and ideas. These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Hip Girl's Guide to Homemaking: Decorating, Dining, and the Gratifying Pleasures of Self-Sufficiency on a Budget*, by Kate Payne

*The Ultimate Guide to Growing Your Own Food: Save Money, Live Better, and Enjoy Life With Food From Your Own Garden*, by Monte Burch

*Sewing in a Straight Line: Quick and Crafty Projects You Can Make by Simply Sewing Straight*, by Brett Bara

## SPLOST

### Gwinnett expands traffic monitoring

Gwinnett County transportation will begin installing more traffic cameras and fiber-optic cables to monitor arterial and corridor traffic flow and allow real-time, remote control adjustments from the Gwinnett Traffic Control Center. This technology will be in place in two congested areas: a six-mile stretch of Pleasant Hill Road between Lawrenceville Highway/U.S. 29 and Buford Highway/U.S. 23 and three miles of Buford Drive/State Route 20 between I-985 and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard near the Mall of Georgia.

The new traffic cameras will be added to the Department of Transportation's GC Smart Commute program, which gives residents the opportunity to view live traffic feeds of heavily-traveled intersections and corridors to plan their daily commute. GC Smart Commute is available 24/7 at [www.gcsmartcommute.com](http://www.gcsmartcommute.com) and on TVgwinnett, the government access cable channel, weekdays between 6:30am and 8:30am and again between 4:00pm and 6:00pm.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Labor Day trash schedule

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, September 5, 2011, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

Solid waste haulers will follow the normal trash schedule on Labor Day. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center will be closed that day, but hauler call centers will be open. Visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) to find your hauler's contact information.

### Cooperative Extension promotes radon awareness

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially lethal gas that the Surgeon General lists as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. To raise awareness of this dangerous gas, Gwinnett Cooperative Extension is holding a radon poster contest in partnership with other cooperative extensions around the nation.

National winners will receive award plaques, gift cards, and will be recognized in the state and EPA region where they live. The winning posters will be reproduced and distributed nationally to promote radon awareness. The deadline for submission is October 12, 2011. Children ages nine to 14 are eligible. For guidelines and criteria, please visit [www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/housing/radon](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/housing/radon).

### Back-to-school drive

Gwinnett County agencies need your help! Back-to-School time is just around the corner, and many of Gwinnett's agencies are gearing up for another academic year in Gwinnett. They are collecting school supplies for families who cannot afford them. Items include book bags, pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, and much more.

To see a full list of items that can be donated and the agencies that are participating in the back-to-school drive, visit [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills to be mailed September 15

The Tax Commissioner plans to mail 2011 property tax bills on September 15 with a single due date of November 15. Contact the Department of Property Tax at [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8800 for more information.

### Get water outage information online

In an effort to improve communication with our water customers, both planned and emergency water outage information can be found at [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com).

## EVENTS

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

### Recycling/Hands On Atlanta Day

September 10 • 9:00am – noon  
Rhodes Jordan Park  
Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Yard Sale

September 10 • 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Best Friend Park Gym  
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

### Arts and Craft Market

September 16 • 10:00am – 3:00pm  
George Pierce Park  
Community Recreation Center  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

### Coffee House Rhythms

September 16 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Yard and Craft Sale

September 17 • 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building  
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

### Free! HOOKED-Teen Club

September 17 • 10:00am – noon  
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building  
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

### Friends Charity Golf Classic

September 12 at TPC Sugarloaf  
Take advantage of this unique opportunity and support *Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services*! Those interested in sponsoring or participating must register by September 6. Call 678.377.3020 to find out how you can sponsor, play, or volunteer for this event.

### Fall Vegetable Gardening Class

September 8 • noon – 1:00pm  
Gwinnett County Extension Conference Room  
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

### 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)

