

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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## FEATURE

### Special election: March 15

A special election will take place on Tuesday, March 15 to fill the unexpired term of Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. Advance voting for the special election will take place March 7 – 11 at the Elections Office located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville from 9:00am to 7:00pm.



Voters can also request an absentee ballot for the special election beginning February 14. A completed application must first be received before an absentee ballot is issued. Please call the Voter Registration and Elections division at 678.226.7210 to request an application or complete the form online. A runoff election, if needed, will take place on April 12. For more information, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com) or call 678.226.7210. The special election results will be available on the County website and TVgwinnett on election night.

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Call before you dig

If you plan to do any digging around your house, call 811 first. There are multiple utility lines buried underground that supply your house with gas, power, and water. In order to avoid a potential disaster, these lines should be marked for visibility.

811 is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, landscapers, and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working.

Once you make the call, Georgia 811 will send someone to your location to mark your underground utilities for free. To identify the markings that are placed, below is the American Public Works Association's Uniformed Color Code.

| Color  | Utility Line   |
|--------|--|
| White  | Proposed Excavation  |
| Pink   | Temporary Survey Markings                                    |
| Red    | Electrical Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, and Lighting Cables |
| Yellow | Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials             |
| Orange | Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables, or Conduit     |
| Blue   | Potable Water  |
| Purple | Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines                |
| Green  | Sewer and Drain Lines  |

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Quality of Life Unit has expanded

Gwinnett County Police Department's Quality of Life Unit has moved from Dacula to One Justice Square at 446 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville, across from the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. This move was necessary due to the expansion of the unit to add five police officers. The unit's new location will also place it in close proximity to the Planning and Development Department, which will be beneficial to their close working relationship.

To report code violations, call 770.513.5004 or visit [www.gwinnettqualityoflife.com](http://www.gwinnettqualityoflife.com). Online reporting is encouraged as this method allows for a quicker response.

Residents can also call the Quality of Life main line at 770.513.5020 to receive general information, contact individual Code Enforcement Officers, or report violations.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books to learn how to be a true survivor. These and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Just in Case: How to Be Self-sufficient When the Unexpected Happens*, by Kathy Harrison

*Preparedness Now! An Emergency Survival Guide*, by Aton Edwards

*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Disaster Preparedness*, by Maurice Ramirez

*The Ultimate Suburban Survivalist Guide: The Smartest Money Moves to Prepare for Any Crisis*, by Sean Brodrick

## Free Workshops

### Department of Water Resources • Stormwater Management Division

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

#### Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

February 24, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration  
Building Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville  
Presented by: Carolyn Simonton  
Gwinnett County Environmental Health

#### Rain Garden Workshop

March 10, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration  
Building Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville  
Presented by: Robert Brannen  
Gwinnett County Cooperative  
Extension Service

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.

## SPLOST

### Second phase of Harbins Park begins

Gwinnett commissioners in January approved a contract for the second phase of Harbins Park in Dacula. Harbins Park is the County's largest park to date, totaling 1,960 acres. The \$409,800 contract was awarded to Lose and Associates, Inc. Funding for this phase comes from the 2005 SPLOST sales tax project.



Phase two will feature a multi-use field complex, a three-acre dog park, playground, pavilion, and multi-purpose trails, which will be completed by summer 2012. A baseball/softball complex with seven lighted fields will be completed in 2013.

The first phase was completed in 2009 with soft-surface trails for horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking. The park also features a tri-level playground and an equestrian-only parking area.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Take control of your health this year

Come out to [Age Well, Take Control – Keep Moving](#) to learn valuable information about programs and resources for aging well and increasing your overall health. The health fair will be held at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center on Friday, March 18 from 9:00am until 1:30pm. The fair is sponsored by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, Gwinnett Senior Services, and Senior Issues Action Team. For more information, please call Pat Milhous at 770.822.5180.

### Neighborhood Stabilization Program rehabilitates foreclosed home

Gwinnett County began rehabilitating another home in the Avington Glen subdivision on Friday, January 21. The County used federal and state Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to purchase this and 11 other foreclosed and/or dilapidated homes in the Sugarloaf Parkway/New Hope and rebuild them to livable standards. Mill Creek Construction Services, one of four contractors for the NSP program, is responsible for the environmentally friendly rehabilitation of this home.

Avington Glen is one of many communities that NSP has targeted for revitalization. NSP is a program of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners that helps individuals and families obtain affordable housing, stabilizes neighborhoods, and retains and creates jobs in the sagging real estate market. In total, the County has received \$10.5 million from HUD and \$3.9 million from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to fund the program. After foreclosed homes in targeted areas are purchased and remodeled, qualified homebuyers can receive an incentive up to \$22,500 to pay closing costs and reduce the amount financed, thus lowering the monthly payments on their NSP home.

For more information about NSP and how to qualify for the program, visit [www.nspgwinnett.com](http://www.nspgwinnett.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Tag office closed for computer maintenance

The North Gwinnett Tag Office, 2735 Mall of Georgia Boulevard in Buford, will be closed Saturday, February 26 while the Georgia Department of Revenue conducts computer system maintenance. The maintenance period will take place from 7:00pm Friday, February 25 until 6:00am Monday, February 28. During this period, Internet and telephone tag renewals will not be available.

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

### Water service self-portal

Gwinnett County Water customers can now start, update, or change automatic payment of their water bill online. For more information, visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) and click on the "Customer Self Service Forms" link.

## EVENTS

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

### Teens in Leadership Training (TILT)

March 11 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm

March 12 • 9:00am – 5:00pm

George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

### Skate Park Showdown

Dates and locations vary

### Breakfast with Veterans

Dates and locations vary

### Seniors' St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 17 • 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Bethesda Park Senior Center

225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

### Park'nership Workday

March 19 • 9:00am – noon

Yellow River Park

3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain

### Girl Scout Dance Party

March 19 • 2:00pm or 4:00pm

Bogan Park Community Recreation Center

2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Moon Over Paradise Homeschool Prom

March 19 • 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse

185 E. Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Take a Walk in the Park Day

March 26 • 8:30am

Little Mulberry Park, Fence Road Entrance

3855 Fence Road, Auburn

### Yard and Craft Sale

March 26 • 9:00am – 3:00pm

Shorty Howell Park Activity Building

2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

### gwinnettcountry connection

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division  
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linkup

get county government  
information from the source

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