

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Coming next month:
Water Words
Water Quality Report

FEATURE

Gwinnett County to celebrate National County Government Month

Gwinnett County will celebrate National County Government Month during the month of April to highlight county government programs and services. The theme for this year's celebration is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families."

National County Government Month is an annual celebration of county government. The National Association of Counties encourages counties to use this celebration to actively promote the services and programs they offer in addition to raising public awareness and understanding about the various services in our community.

For more information about National County Government Month and a list of events, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Don't forget to mention detention

Detention ponds are an integral part of a neighborhood's stormwater drainage system. They reduce the potential for downstream flooding and can enhance the quality of discharged water. Unfortunately, they are often forgotten until an inspection or pond failure occurs. According to the Gwinnett County Development Regulations, homeowners associations are responsible for maintaining the detention pond. If there is no HOA, the property owner(s) is responsible for the pond's maintenance.

Ponds can be maintained by residents of the neighborhood or by an experienced contractor. Many ponds constructed after 2000 will have maintenance agreements that specify their maintenance requirements. So at your next HOA meeting, don't forget to mention detention and take a proactive approach to managing and maintaining the detention facility. Here are some tips to maintain your neighborhood detention pond:

- Organize a neighborhood cleanup: Residents can remove trash, cut and remove trees from the dam and the access easement, and regularly inspect the ponds to catch small problems before they become big problems
- Keep the outlet control structure free of debris and sediment so water can be released at the designed rate
- Keep the dam wall free of trees; grass should be on the dam to prevent erosion. Trees, large shrubs, sediment, and trash will decrease the capacity of the pond, thus reducing the pond's effectiveness

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

April 7, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Presented by: Carolyn Simonton
Gwinnett County Environmental Health

Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop

April 14, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Presented by: Stormwater Management
Division and Gwinnett County
Cooperative Extension Service

Both workshops will be held in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7126. Please arrive early.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire and Emergency Services honors academy alumni

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services honored 50 alumni from the Citizen Fire Academy in January. Last year, the alumni contributed a total of 2,965 volunteer hours in 125 programs, completely renovated the Youth Fire Safety Training Facility, and assisted with distributing 190 bike helmets for the Safe Kids program. Their contributions saved the County approximately \$100,000.

The academy is an 11-week program that gives citizens an opportunity to learn how their fire department operates. The academy includes hands-on service demonstrations and classroom discussions. After citizens complete the academy, many of them join the alumni association and assist with CPR Training, Citizen Fire Academy classes, community events, and the Safe Kids program.

For information about the Citizens Fire Academy, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com and select [Departments > Fire and Emergency Services > Citizen Groups](#).

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these selections to plan for a beautiful kitchen garden this spring! These and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Homegrown Harvest: A Season by Season Guide to a Sustainable Kitchen Garden, by Rita Pelczar

Urban Pantry: Tips and Recipes for a Thrifty, Sustainable, and Seasonal Kitchen, by Amy Pennington

Fresh Food from Small Spaces: The Square-inch Gardener's Guide to Year-round Growing, Fermenting, and Sprouting, by R.J. Ruppenthal

SPLOST

McGinnis Ferry Road extension on schedule

Gwinnett County originally established the McGinnis Ferry Road Extension project with funding from the 2001 and 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Programs. The County provided the design and land acquisition on the project and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is constructing the road using stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Construction began in the fall of 2009, and GDOT remains on target to open the new road to traffic this fall. In addition to the extension of McGinnis Ferry Road from Satellite Boulevard over I-85 to Lawrenceville Suwanee Road, Northbrook Parkway will also be extended to Lawrenceville Suwanee Road from its current end north of Old Peachtree Road.



Save money and time, pay your water bill online

Customers can now view and pay their monthly bills, enroll in autodraft, change account information, and get information about Water Resources online. Other enhancements are coming soon. Keep checking www.gwinnetth2o.com as we work to serve you better.

AROUND GWINNETT

Spay or neuter your pets for a longer, healthier life

Did you know that neutering your pet will increase its chance of living a longer and healthier life? Altering your canine friend will increase his or her life by an average of one to three years. For cats, this increase can be three to five years.



Altered animals have a very low to no risk of mammary gland tumors/cancers, perianal tumors, pyometra, and uterine, ovarian, prostate, and testicular cancers. In addition to the medical benefits, neutering reduces your pet's urge to roam, which decreases the risk of contracting diseases and getting hurt. Surveys indicate that as many as 85 percent of dogs hit by cars are unaltered! Do your dogs or cats a favor: have them spayed or neutered. If you think you can't afford this life-saving surgery, think again!

Gwinnett is home to at least two low-cost spay/neuter clinics, Planned PETHood of Georgia, 678.561.3491 and Society of Humane Friends, 770.962.4301. Please call them today for an appointment. If their prices are still out of reach, ask them about options for subsidizing the costs.

April Connection available at your fingertips

The April *Gwinnett County Connection* will not be distributed through your monthly water bills; however, you can still receive a copy of the newsletter through our e-mail newsletter distribution. Sign up to receive e-mail newsletters on www.gwinnettcountry.com and receive the electronic version of the *Connection* and other weekly e-mail newsletters, such as *News for Neighborhoods* and *What's New on TVgwinnett*. You can also sign up to receive the *Property Tax Almanac*, an e-mail newsletter that provides information to property owners.

TAX COMMISSIONER

2011 Homestead Exemption application deadline

New for 2011: The deadline for the Homestead Exemption application for property taxes is April 1.

You may request an application by e-mailing tax@gwinnettcountry.com, or you may apply online at our website, www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

EVENTS

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

Tracking History Scavenger Hunt

April 5 – April 7 • 10:00am – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

An Evening with Mark Twain

April 8 • 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Teens in Leadership Training (TILT)

Times and locations vary

Eggs-treme Easter Fun

April 16 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
McDaniel Farm Park
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth

Underwater Egg Hunt

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

Doggone Eggstravaganza

April 16 • 11:00am
Little Mulberry Park, Fence Road Entrance
3855 Fence Road, Auburn

Battle of the Bands

April 16 • 1:00pm – 5:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

Kids' Night Out

April 29 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Bark-In-the-Park

April 30 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Rabbit Hill Park
400 Rabbit Hill Road, Dacula

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046 • 770.822.7180

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

