

FEATURE

Celebrate America Recycles Day in Gwinnett County

On Saturday, November 19, the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Division will host its second annual America Recycles Day celebration at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. America Recycles Day is a nationally-recognized initiative dedicated to encouraging people to recycle more at home, at work, and on the go.

This celebration is free to the public and includes free paper shredding and electronics recycling (\$10 cash to recycle TVs), touch-a-truck, kids' activities and face painting, giveaways, and refreshments. Residents are encouraged to bring canned foods to fill local Salvation Army shelves for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

"This event emphasizes the importance of environmental sustainability for the future of Gwinnett County, in addition to giving back to those in need," said **Tom Keith**, Solid Waste Division Director. For more information about this event, visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Unclog the FOG this fall

Fall means family, fun, and food. And with food preparation comes FOG! FOG stands for fats, oils, and grease and is the byproduct of everyday food preparation. When poured down the drain, it can cause blockages in your pipes. These blockages restrict the water from flowing down the pipes, forcing it to back up into your sinks, bath tubs, and toilets. This is what is referred to as a sewer overflow. As bad as this is in your house, it is even worse when it happens in the environment. The overflow can affect rivers and streams, including all the wildlife that calls them home.



By following a few simple practices, you can help prevent this from happening. First, scrape off food residue from your pots, pans, and dishes and place the waste in the trash can. Next, use a mesh drain strainer to catch any solids that you may have missed when you scraped the plates. Lastly, pour liquid food scraps into a container, seal it, and throw it into the trash can.

Following these best practices will help reduce FOG in our systems and prevent blockages. To learn more about FOG, visit www.unclogthefog.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

New firefighter recruits graduate

On September 13, 2011, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services graduated 24 new recruits. Family and friends of the new firefighters, elected officials, and Fire and Emergency Services personnel attended the ceremony held at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The group is the first class of Gwinnett fire recruits ever to pass state level certification testing for both firefighter and emergency medical technician on the first attempt.

Fire Chief Bill Myers presented certificates and badges to all 24 graduates: Ryan Black, Corey Dale, Jeremy Edwards, Adam Ewing, Joshua Gary, Mark Gerrin, Sean Henry, Jared Joiner, Timothy Joiner, Alan Krieg, Jeremy Lancaster, Justin Martin, Justin McCarty, Rebekah McInnes, Jose Pagan, Benjamin Pierce, Titus Pugh, David Sargenski, Blake Taylor, David Thrasher, Daniel Todd, Jose Torres, Joseph Wilson, and Samuel Yoder.

If you are interested in being a firefighter, visit Gwinnett County's website at www.gwinnettcounty.com and select *Departments>Fire and Emergency Services>Fire Employment*.

Homeowner H2O:

Water Conservation Workshop

November 3, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center – Conference Room C
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learning how to reduce your water use means lower water bills every month. Each participant will receive a free low-flow retrofit kit, an outdoor water efficiency kit, a do-it-yourself home water audit guide, and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Please pre-register at dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com and include name, address, and telephone or call 678.376.6722.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these new e-books and read them from your home, office, or anywhere on your e-book device! Visit digitalbooks.gwinnettpl.org to browse this collection.

A Red Herring Without Mustard, by Alan Bradley

The Fifth of March, by Ann Rinaldi

Kenny and The Dragon, by Tony Di Terlizzi

Waiting, by Ha Jin

Academ's Fury, by Jim Butcher

SPLOST

New section of Sugarloaf Parkway opens

The next-to-last section of the current Sugarloaf Parkway extension project opened to traffic on August 18. The project was designed to improve mobility in the central and eastern part of Gwinnett County.

The 1.4 mile section runs from an interchange at Martins Chapel Road to one at West Campbell Road. The project also includes another mile of road upgrades in the area with a new Bramlett Shoals Connector and a realignment of Campbell Road.

E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., of Snellville built the new section at a cost of about \$15.5 million. Precision Planning, Inc., engineered the four-lane divided highway and two bridges over the Alcovy River. Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., provided project management.

The final leg from West Campbell Road to State Route 316 is under construction and will open in the second half of 2012. Most of the funding for the extension comes from the voter-approved SPLOST sales tax program.

"We are pleased to open this section of the Sugarloaf Parkway extension on budget and ahead of schedule," said Gwinnett Department of Transportation Director **Brian Allen**. "This is part of our ongoing commitment to complete the road to Peachtree Industrial in Sugar Hill."



AROUND GWINNETT

Find out where your property taxes go

Did you know that the average Gwinnett household pays less than one quarter a day to provide Parks and Recreation programs and maintenance?



You can see where all your property tax dollars go by using the new **Where Your Property Taxes Go** tool on the Your Money webpage on the County's website. Just enter your address or the fair market value of a home to get a complete breakdown of how much per day – or per year – goes to various local government services.

Health and Human Services hosts Family Caregiver's Conference

The Family Caregiver's Conference will take place on November 5 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville, 395 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville. The conference will include two breakout sessions, *Caregivers of Adults* and *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, and other community resources. The cost for this event is \$10 per person. For more information, contact Julie Lucas at 678.377.6721. To be a vendor, contact Harriet Wharton at harriet.wharton@gwinnettcountry.com.

I-85 Express Lanes open

The State Road and Tollway Authority will open the I-85 Express Lanes on October 1. Don't forget to get your Peach Pass to ride in the Express Lanes. Toll rates will vary based on the number of vehicles using the lane. For more information, please visit www.peachpass.com or call 1.855.724.7277.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reminder: Property tax bills due November 15

The 2011 property tax bills are due November 15. After this date, unpaid bills are subject to a 10 percent penalty, and any unpaid amount is subject to a 1 percent monthly interest charge. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or call 770.822.8800 for more information.

County offices closed for Veterans Day

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 Friday, November 11, 2011, in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.

The public is invited to a **Veterans Day Ceremony** at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville at 11:00am to celebrate and remember the men and women who have served and protected us throughout our nation's history.

EVENTS

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

Parks & Recreation

Junior Girl Scout Sleepover

November 4 at 7:00pm to November 5 at 7:00am
Lawrenceville Female Seminary
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

Holiday Craft Market • Free Admission!

November 19 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

Lighting of the Tree • Free!

November 24 • 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Breakfast with Santa

November 26 • 8:30am – 10:30am
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Health & Human Services

Weatherization Program • Free!

November 1 and 15 • 10:00am – noon
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

American Red Cross Blood Drive

November 8 • 2:00pm – 6:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Environmental & Heritage Center

Living In Space Exhibit

November 1 • 9:00am – 4:00pm
Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

gwinnettcountry connection

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

