

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Save the date:  
October 1  
Public Safety  
Festival at  
Coolray Field

## FEATURE

### County website gets new look

Gwinnett County announces the launch of its updated website with a fresh design and user-friendly experience for new and returning visitors to the site. The website features more photos and specialty pages tailored to residents, visitors, and businesses as well as a direct link to the County's online services. The newly redesigned *Services* section offers comprehensive information about the services that Gwinnett County Government and its partner organizations provide to residents. In addition, a *Your Money* webpage highlights the County's finances and shows residents the value of the services they receive for the property taxes they pay.

In-house County departments worked together to develop and launch the website makeover. The site's design was developed by Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Media in Buford. Visit the new website at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Cleaning up the litter in our community

Where does our trash go? The obvious answer is a landfill, but does all waste really make it there? Just take a look at the road shoulder or a stream bank and you'll see that litter exists everywhere. Litter poses a threat to wildlife, human health, and flood control.

To alleviate this problem, Gwinnett County adopted the *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* giving the County authority to investigate claims of water polluting behaviors and pose penalties to offenders. Visit [www.gwinnettstormwater.com](http://www.gwinnettstormwater.com) and click on *Documents* to read the ordinance. To report illegal dumping, call 770.513.5004.



Residents can do their part by participating in one of these two volunteer programs, *Adopt-a-Road* or *Rivers Alive*, to clean up the trash in their neighborhoods. The *Adopt-a-Road* program enables citizens to show their pride in Gwinnett by removing unsightly trash from roadsides. For more information about the *Adopt-a-Road* program in Gwinnett, please visit [www.gwinnettcba.org](http://www.gwinnettcba.org). *Rivers Alive* is a statewide stream cleanup effort organized locally by the Gwinnett County *Adopt-a-Stream* program. Cleanups take place all year and are open to the public. For more information about how to participate in or organize a cleanup event, visit [www.georgiaadoptastream.com/RiversAlive](http://www.georgiaadoptastream.com/RiversAlive).

## Department of Water Resources Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop

Attendees who live in unincorporated Gwinnett County or the City of Lilburn will qualify for a 5 percent Stormwater utility fee credit for the following year.

October 6, 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 678.376.7193.

Please arrive early.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Pedestrian safety

Now that school is back in session, there are a lot more people walking in our neighborhoods and around schools. As drivers and pedestrians, it is our responsibility to know the laws pertaining to pedestrian safety.

#### Drivers:

- Always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk
- Be careful at intersections when making right turns on red: 90 percent of pedestrians die if hit by a car at 40mph, compared to 5 percent at 20mph
- Use caution when driving where people gather, like neighborhoods and parks

#### Pedestrians:

- Be sure to cross the street at crosswalks
- In the absence of pedestrian signals, cross with the green light. In the presence of pedestrian signals, start crossing with the WALK light after looking both ways. The driver may also have a green light
- If there is no sidewalk, walk along the shoulder, facing traffic

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings to get ready for football season! These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Blood, Sweat, and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game*, by Tim Layden

*Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis From the NFL to the Youth Leagues*, by Christopher Nowinski

*Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, A Dream*, by H. G. Bissinger

## SPLOST

### Park projects approved for Harbins and Rabbit Hill

New facilities are coming to the County's largest park, Harbins Park east of Grayson. The park will have a multi-purpose field with bleachers, a concession/restroom building, and a lighted walking track. There will also be a rental pavilion, a playground, dog park, three-acre lake, and a 1.5-mile paved trail through the lowlands adjacent to Cedar Creek.

Rabbit Hill Park near Dacula will add two soccer fields, a concession/restroom building, and a trail extension. The park will also have seven new baseball/softball fields, a multi-purpose field with a lighted walking track, playgrounds, and a six-acre lake that will provide irrigation water from an on-site well. The nearly \$9.6 million project also includes road improvements with a traffic signal and turn lanes at the intersection of Hurricane Shoals Road and Rabbit Hill Road.

These facilities were part of the 2009 SPLOST sales tax program and will be under construction soon. Volunteers including the Mountain View Youth Athletic Association will assist the County in maintaining the park. For more information on these new park facilities or the SPLOST sales tax program, visit [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Register for your Peach Pass

Don't forget to get your Peach Pass to ride in the I-85 Express Lanes this fall. Transit buses, motorcycles, alternative-fueled vehicles, and vehicles with three or more passengers will be allowed to use the I-85 Express Lanes for free, while single- and double-occupant vehicles will be allowed to use the lane if they choose to pay a variably priced toll.

All vehicles must pre-register to ride in the I-85 Express Lanes through the Peach Pass program. Toll rates will vary based on the number of vehicles using the lane.

Construction is expected to be completed by September, and construction times and road closings are posted on [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com). For real-time traffic updates, visit [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

### Eco-friendly canopy adventure exhibit opening in Gwinnett

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation, in partnership with the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Rhone-Alps International, and Treetop Quest, Inc., – a French company specializing in outdoor education and recreation – will present the Canopy Adventure exhibit at the Environmental and Heritage Center. The Canopy Adventure exhibit will combine environmental education with physical activity.

A new concept in the U.S., this exhibit will allow visitors to blend environmental education and recreation, getting them up into the canopy to learn about local flora, fauna, insects, and wildlife. Families, friends, and individuals of all ages will be involved in healthy outdoor activities, building strength, endurance, and confidence, and adding to the overall quality of life for residents in the surrounding areas.

The exhibit will open to the public on September 3 at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, located at 2020 Clean Water Drive in Buford. For more information about the exhibit, visit [www.gwinnettEHC.org](http://www.gwinnettEHC.org).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Reminder: Property tax bills to be mailed by September 15

Gwinnett County property owners will receive their 2011 property tax bills in September 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 or visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) for more information.

## DWR billing enhancements

Gwinnett County water and sewer customers can now view and pay their monthly water bills, enroll in automatic payment, sign up for e-mail notification of bills, and opt-out of receiving paper bills online. Customers can also schedule a move-in, move-out, or transfer of service, in addition to updating personal information. Visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) to take advantage of these features.

## EVENTS

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

### Parks & Recreation

#### Great Days of Service Volunteer Day

October 1 • 9:00am – noon  
Rhodes Jordan Park  
Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### Dark in the Park Hike

October 22 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
Little Mulberry Park  
3855 Fence Road, Auburn

#### Senior Health Fair

October 28 • 9:00am – noon  
Bethesda Park Senior Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

### Health & Human Services

#### Fall Tree and Shrub Planting

October 17 • 7:30pm – 8:30pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

#### Positive Puppets: Puppet Making Workshops

October 22 • 10:30am – 11:30am  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

#### AARP Drivers' Education Class

October 15 • 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

### Environmental & Heritage Center

#### Falling Leaves Moon Hike

October 10 • 6:30pm – 8:00pm  
Environmental and Heritage Center  
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

### 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)

