

## FEATURE

### Gwinnett County celebrates health this April

Gwinnett County celebrates National County Government Month during the month of April to highlight county government programs and services to the public. We are observing this year's theme of *Healthy Counties, Healthy Families* with many free and fun events throughout the month of April. Most of the activities are designed to help residents learn about healthy living choices.

In addition, we will host a supply drive throughout the month to collect hygiene and cleaning items for Gwinnett's needy seniors and children. To learn more about the supply drive and the other events offered during National County Government Month, please visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### 8 tips to make your landscape waterwise

Often the biggest single use of water by homeowners is for lawn and landscape irrigation. It is estimated that the typical suburban lawn consumes 10,000 gallons of water above and beyond the rain that falls each year.

**Waterwise** is a style of landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment. The main objective is to match the right plants with your existing site conditions so that the use of additional resources—such as water, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor—is minimized. Waterwise landscapes not only save water, they also save time by requiring less routine care than most traditional landscapes. Follow these eight fundamentals for a waterwise landscape:

- Group plants according to their water needs
- Use native and low-water-use plants
- Limit turf areas to those needed for practical uses
- Use efficient irrigation systems
- Schedule irrigation wisely
- Make sure soil is healthy
- Remember to mulch
- Provide regular maintenance

In short, plan and maintain your landscape with these principles of water efficiency in mind and it will continue to conserve water and look attractive. Using less water does not mean landscaping only with cacti and rocks! With a little planning, you can have a low-cost, low-maintenance landscape with healthy plants and turfgrass that can tolerate summer heat and drought conditions and thrive while using much less water.

## Department of Water Resources Waterwise Landscaping Workshop

May 7, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Save money, water, and maintenance time by transforming your landscape into an easy-to-care-for waterwise landscape. Robert Brannen of the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service will present methods and tips to help you create a water efficient landscape. All participants will receive a free outdoor water efficiency kit.

There is no charge to attend but please pre-register by sending an e-mail to [dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com) and include your name, address, and telephone number or call 678.376.6722.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### 4 tips to avoid fishy guests

A very wise man once said that fish and visitors stink after three days. Well that's true of unwanted guests as soon as you see them coming. Here are some tips on how to handle unwanted solicitors:

1. If you don't know the person, don't open the door. Tell them from the closed door that you are not interested and ask them to leave. If they refuse to leave, call the police
2. Don't ignore the knock at the door; they may be checking to see if you are home before trying to break in
3. Don't leave your garage door open unless you are working outside in the garage or front yard; an open door is an invitation for someone to enter your personal space and a garage door is a door into your home
4. As always, if you notice any suspicious activity, call the police. Be sure to dial 911 for the quickest way an officer can be dispatched to assist you during any time of the day

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these new fitness DVDs to get ready for bathing suit season! These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Fit Family Fun Circuit*, by Tonya Larson

*Cardio Dance Club*, by The Firm

*Kickbox Fastfix*, by Jillian Michaels

*Just Walk*, by Leslie Sansone

*Exhilarate: The ultimate Zumba fitness DVD experience*, by Alberto "Beto" Pérez

## SPLOST

### County accepts state funds for Sugarloaf Parkway extension

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation in March for \$2.5 million in state funds for the Sugarloaf Parkway extension from Campbell Road to State Route 316.

Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "The Board's gratitude goes to the state DOT for contributing funds to this regionally significant project. This is just another example of how our SPLOST funds have been able to leverage state and federal funding to help improve mobility."

Work on the current section is the last of four projects to extend Sugarloaf Parkway from State Route 20 south of Lawrenceville to State Route 316 in the Dacula area. Once completed, the four-lane, divided, limited-access roadway will have interchanges at New Hope Road, Martins Chapel Road, Campbell Road, and SR 316. The state previously provided a total of \$5 million toward the construction of two other sections.

Construction of the final section is already underway by ER Snell Contractor, Inc., which previously won the contract. The ramps on the south side of SR 316 are anticipated to be opened to traffic in August with the north side ramps expected to open by the end of 2012.



### Visit the customer self-service portal at [www.gwinnett2o.com](http://www.gwinnett2o.com)

Customers can now schedule to start or stop water service, start, change, or stop automatic monthly payments, and update account information online. The website also has information about Water Resources, including water conservation tips and information about rates and billing.

## EVENTS

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

**Parks & Recreation** – 770.822.8840

#### Mom's Prom

May 11 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### Rock-in and Rhythm Concert

May 17 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
PrimeTimers Point at George Pierce Park  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

#### Veterans Breakfast and Remembrance

May 19 • 8:30am – 1:30pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

**Health & Human Services** – 770.822.8842

#### Asian Cultural Display

Month of May • 8:00am – 5:00pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

#### Kids' Fishing Derby • FREE!

May 12 • 10:00am – noon  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

#### Fourth Annual Friends Shrimp and Crawfish Boil

Proceeds benefit senior services programs  
May 19 • 4:00pm – 7:00pm  
The Hail Mary Sports Pub  
1950 Grayson Highway, Grayson

**Cooperative Extension Service** – 678.377.4010

#### The Basics of Landscape Design

May 1 • Noon – 1:00pm  
Gwinnett Annex Building, fourth floor  
750 South Perry Street, Suite 400, Lawrenceville

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Celebrate Earth Day in Gwinnett County

Come celebrate Earth Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on Saturday, April 14 from noon to 2:00pm at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. This free event will feature paper shredding, household battery and paint collection (limit 5 one-gallon cans per vehicle; dried-up paint is acceptable), kids' activities, and more! For more information about this event, visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com).

### Wanted: Leaders for Gwinnett's future

The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI) is a program of the nonprofit Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services. The institute is an eight-month program that meets one Saturday a month after kicking off with a two-day weekend retreat.

The program's curriculum focuses on five core areas: understanding community leadership, effective communication, group decision making, building communities through collaboration, and leading community change. Students will also be required to complete a community improvement project, which allows participants to put their training to work, all while making a practical, tangible difference in the community. For more information about joining the 2012 – 2013 class of the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute, visit [www.gnli.org](http://www.gnli.org) or call 678.377.4137.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Reminder: Mobile home tax bills due May 1

Mobile home tax bills are mailed out in January of each year and are due May 1. Once full payment is received, a decal for the current year is issued. All mobile homes in Gwinnett are required to have the current decal visibly posted. For more information, please visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### gwinnettcountry connection

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

