

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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## FEATURE

### Solid Waste earns international award

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) awarded Gwinnett County's Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division the **Silver Excellence Award in Communication**. The award recognizes excellence in the creation and use of communications tools to inform audiences about new or existing solid waste management programs, projects, or organizations.

The Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division earned the award for the success of its communication plan. The award highlighted the successful implementation of the County's new solid waste and recycling program and the use of a variety of communications tools to educate residents who were affected by the program. Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Director **Tom Keith** said, "We are honored to receive this award from SWANA and hope that our experiences will be helpful to others as they deal with the implementation of complex community-wide programs."

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Stream restoration project improves water quality

North Fork Peachtree Creek is a dynamic little creek that winds its way through western Gwinnett County and joins Peachtree Creek in Fulton County before flowing into the Chattahoochee River. A tributary to the creek located off South Norcross-Tucker Road had been identified by Water Resources as being severely degraded with severe bank erosion, lack of flood control, and a high percentage of impervious surfaces in the drainage basin, contributing to nonpoint source pollution in the creek.

The department restored the 1,200-foot stream and created a stormwater treatment area. The restoration project raised the creek bed back to natural elevations and incorporated in-stream structures to stabilize the stream banks. The stormwater treatment area consists of a wetland that was constructed through reclamation of an abandoned oxidation pond. The wetland captures stormwater runoff, while native plant species filter the polluted water before it flows into the nearby streams. The new habitat created by the restoration encourages the growth of beneficial aquatic organisms and helps control pests that thrived in the degraded stream.

This project, funded through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 grant, was completed in 2011. It received awards from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the Georgia section of the American Water Works Association. Similar projects are currently underway in the county to improve water quality and enhance the environment. For more information on these stream restoration projects, please visit [www.gwinnettstormwater.com/WatershedImprovement](http://www.gwinnettstormwater.com/WatershedImprovement).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Safety tips for drivers and pedestrians

Another school year is here, which means more people are walking in our neighborhoods and around schools. It is everyone's 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 traveling 40 mph, compared to 5 percent at 20 mph
- Use caution when driving where people gather

#### Pedestrians:

- Be sure to cross the street at crosswalks
- If there are no pedestrian signals, cross with the green light
- When crossing with 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 that tie in to recently released movies. These and other movie-inspiring titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org):

*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel: A Novel*, by Deborah Moggach

*Red Tails: An Oral History of the Tuskegee Airmen*, by John B. Holway

*The Vow: The True Story Behind the Movie*, by Kim and Krickett Carpenter, with Dana Wilkerson

*Battleship*, by Peter David

gwinnettcounty parks & recreation  
[gwinnettparks.com](http://gwinnettparks.com)

play \* live \* learn



pools \* gymnasiums  
community rooms \* pavilions  
tennis courts \* sports fields  
special event venues

live  
rental venues

## SPLOST

### Commissioners approve road safety improvements

Gwinnett commissioners approved construction contracts for two SPLOST- and grant-funded transportation upgrades in June.



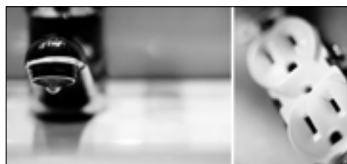
The intersection of Webb Gin House Road and Bennett Road is getting a traffic light and left turn lanes this summer. The same safety improvement contract will add a deceleration lane with a right turn lane along Grayson Parkway/State Route 84 at the intersection with Pinehurst Road. The work also includes adding curbs and gutters and extending the existing sidewalks along Grayson Parkway. CMES Inc. was the lowest of seven bidders for the two projects at \$579,847.50. These improvements are being funded by the 2009 sales tax program.

Upgrades to Jimmy Carter Boulevard at Singleton Road will give a boost to pedestrian safety. The project will add turn lanes on three legs of the intersection along with improvements to sidewalks, curb and gutter, and retaining walls. CMES Inc. was the lowest of four bidders at \$918,964.10. Less than eight percent of the cost comes from local SPLOST funds, while the Georgia Department of Transportation will pay 43 percent and the State Road and Tollway Authority almost 49 percent.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Beware of utility bill scams

There is currently a scam circulating throughout the nation claiming that the president or federal government will provide credits or apply payments to utility bills. Residents may be contacted by email, U.S. mail, social media, text, or direct phone calls. The scammers request Social Security numbers and other personal information and then give victims fraudulent banking information to use to pay their utility bills.



The Department of Water Resources offers the following tips to prevent becoming a victim:

- Do not provide your personal or financial information to anyone you do not know
- If you suspect you have been contacted by a scammer, contact your local police
- Do not attempt to make payments for utility bills using financial information from someone else

### Friends hosts third annual Charity Golf Classic at TPC Sugarloaf

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services will host its third annual Charity Golf Classic at TPC Sugarloaf on September 10. Proceeds from the event will support Gwinnett County senior programs such as the home-delivered meals program. Sponsorship opportunities and team participation are available. Senior Shootout players must register by August 17, and regular players must register by September 5. Those who wish to sponsor the event or donate must register by August 24. For more information, call 678.377.3020 or visit [www.fogcss.com](http://www.fogcss.com).

### Helpful gardening tips from Gwinnett Cooperative Extension

During prolonged dry periods, raise the lawn mower blade one-half inch. The longer leaf blades will shade the soil, keeping the grass roots cooler and reducing moisture loss. When adjusting the mowing height, measure the distance of the mowing blades to the ground and make sure all four wheels are set at the same height.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills to be mailed August 15

Gwinnett County property owners will receive their 2012 property tax bills in August with a single due date of October 15. For more information about ways to pay and to pay online, please visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### County offices closed: Labor Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of the county, will be closed September 3 for the Labor Day holiday. All offices will resume regular working hours on September 4. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Labor Day is not a trash holiday.

## 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

### Blast From the Past Prom

September 14 • 6:30pm – 10:30pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Celebrate Ability Festival • Free

September 22 • 10:00am – 4:00pm  
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

**Health & Human Services** – 770.822.8842

### ABC Math Tutoring for Ages 7 to 10

Tuesdays • 5:00pm – 7:15pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

### ABC Language Arts Tutoring for Ages 7 to 9

Saturdays • 12:30pm – 2:45pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

**Cooperative Extension Service** – 678.377.4010

### Fall Vegetable Gardening

September 5 • Noon – 1:00pm  
Cooperative Extension Office, Suite 400  
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

### Correction to solid waste plan article

The *Updates to the County's solid waste plan* feature article (July 2012) contained an error regarding the definition and application of vacant structure permits. Please note the following correction:

Vacant real property is property that is: (1) intended for habitation, has not been lawfully inhabited for at least 60 days, and has no evidence of utility usage within the past 60 days; or (2) partially constructed or incomplete without a valid building permit. For details on registration requirements, please contact the Department of Planning and Development at 678.518.6000.

### 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)

