

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Early voting available for March 6 election

The Presidential Preference Primary and Nonpartisan Election will take place on Tuesday, March 6. Advance voting for the election will take place February 13 – March 2 at the Elections Office located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Voting will also take place on Saturday, February 25 at the Elections office and at satellite locations from February 27 to March 2. Please visit www.gwinnettelelections.com for locations. Voters can request an absentee ballot for the general election through March 2. A completed application must first be received before an absentee ballot is issued. Call the Voter Registration and Elections division at 678.226.7210 to request an application or complete the form online. For more information, visit www.gwinnettelelections.com or call 678.226.7210. The election results will be available on the County website and TVgwinnett on election night.

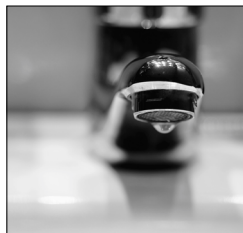
PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Fix a leak week: March 12 – 18

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week encourages Americans to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year.

To help save water in our community, Gwinnett County is asking residents to check, twist, and replace leaking water fixtures:

- **Check for leaks:** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, and fixture connections. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots, too
- **Twist and tighten pipe connections:** To save more water without a noticeable difference in flow, twist on a faucet aerator with a WaterSense® label
- **Replace the fixture if necessary:** Look for WaterSense® labeled models, which are independently tested and certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models



To learn more about how to find and fix leaks in your home, attend our **free Fix a Leak Workshop**. This money-saving program will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012**, from 12:30pm to 1:30pm at the Suwanee branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. Seating is limited, so participants must register by calling 678.376.6722 or e-mailing dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

5 ways to keep kids safe on the Web

The Gwinnett County Police Department urges parents to be aware of their children's activities on the Web:

1. Set rules for when your children are allowed to surf the Internet and for how long
2. Keep the computer in a high-traffic area such as the living room or kitchen and closely supervise your kids' usage
3. If you child has a Facebook or Twitter account, make sure you have access to those accounts
4. Research the technology you buy for your children so you'll have an understanding of what they're using
5. Don't rely on monitoring software alone to protect your children; technology can't replace your time and attention as a parent

Another important tip: Please call 911 if you ever need a police officer to arrive at your house, an accident, or even a non-emergency incident. This is the quickest way that an officer can be dispatched to assist you during any time of the day.

Free Workshops!

Department of Water Resources • Stormwater Management Division

If you live in unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn, you will qualify for a 5 percent Stormwater utility fee credit in the following year.

Rain Garden Workshop
March 8, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and
Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville
Presented by: Robert Brannen, Gwinnett
County Cooperative Extension Service

Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop
March 15, 2012 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
Presented by: John Butler, Stormwater
Management and Robert Brannen, Gwinnett
County Cooperative Extension Service

Register by e-mailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7193 and pressing 5.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books that have been recently reviewed by library staff. These and other good reads are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Mr. Fox, by Helen Oyeyemi

Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea, by Donovan Hohn

Deadly Campaign, by Alan Orloff

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin, by Erik Larson

Camouflage, by Bill Pronzini

SPLOST

New trail, other amenities open at Rhodes Jordan Park

Visitors to Rhodes Jordan Park are enjoying the improvements from a major renovation project. The park now offers better lake access and enhanced recreational opportunities.

One new feature is a 1.1-mile paved multi-purpose trail and boardwalk around the perimeter of the existing 23-acre lake that connects to the existing trail and sidewalks. Other new amenities include three picnic pavilions, outdoor basketball and horseshoe courts, a restroom building, and parking area. The project also rerouted the main park drive and added lake irrigation for the sports fields.

The approximately \$7.37 million park renovation project began in 2010 and was funded by the SPLOST sales tax. The last phase of this renovation includes a new soccer complex scheduled to open this spring.

Gwinnett County and the city of Lawrenceville entered into a long-term lease contract for Rhodes Jordan Park in 1991. Since then, the park land has expanded to 162 acres and also includes youth baseball, softball and football fields, a community center, outdoor aquatic center, tennis complex, and senior center. Rhodes Jordan Park is located at 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Learn more about County parks at www.gwinnettparks.com.



AROUND GWINNETT

New state law changes business license process

Businesses in Gwinnett County are receiving occupation tax certificate renewal forms in the mail, but before certificates can be renewed, applicants must comply with new state requirements that went into effect on January 1. During the 2011 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed the *Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act* (House Bill 87), that places new requirements on local governments and businesses to ensure they comply with federal and state immigration laws.

All occupation tax certificate applicants must now submit an affidavit called *Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements*, along with a secure and verifiable identification document, such as a passport, driver's license, or military ID. Renewal applications will be accepted in person at the License and Revenue Office located at 446 West Crogan Street in Lawrenceville from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, or through License and Revenue's new electronic renewal system at www.gwinnettlicrev.com.

Private employers with 500 or more employees must register for and use the federal E-Verify program that checks the employment eligibility of all new hires. For more information, visit www.gwinnettlicrev.com or call 678.377.4100.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Senior homestead exemptions available

In Gwinnett County there are three special homestead exemptions available to seniors to save money on their property tax bill. To learn more about these exemptions and their requirements, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com, or contact our office at tax@gwinnettcounty.com or 770.822.8800. You may request an application in person, by e-mail, or by phone. All homestead exemption applications are due April 1.

Pay your water bills online

Reduce waste and save time: Please visit www.gwinnetth2o.com to pay your water/sewer bill and to sign up for paperless billing. Water customers can also enroll in automatic payment; schedule a move-in, move-out, or transfer of service; and update personal information.

EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities through the Community Services Department at www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Parks & Recreation – 770.822.8840

Yard Sale and Craft Fair

March 3 • 9:00am – 3:00pm
Best Friend Park Gym
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Park'nership Volunteer Day

March 17 • 10:00am – noon
Ronald Reagan Park
2777 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville

Run for Your Wife! Dinner Theatre

March 17 • 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

Line and Swing Dance Marathon

March 31 • 6:00pm – midnight
Best Friend Park Gym
6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Health & Human Services – 770.822.8842

Tips and Tools for the Teenage Job Search

April 2 to April 6 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Drivers Ed taught in Chinese

March 17 • 9:00am – 4:00pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Cooperative Extension Service – 678.377.4010

Understanding Nutrition Labels

March 30 • noon – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Annex Building, second floor
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

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

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

