

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Updates to the County's solid waste plan

Starting in January 2013, about 15,000 seniors in unincorporated Gwinnett will get a 15 percent discount on trash service, and property owners with valid vacant structure or boarding up permits will be exempt from paying solid waste collection fees. The senior discount applies to seniors 65 or older who qualify for the L3A or L5A homestead exemptions. Disabled people with an L5A exemption also will qualify for the discount. The law defines a vacant structure as unoccupied with no utility usage for 60 days, unfinished when the building permit expired, or being held subject to foreclosure proceedings. Vacant structure permits are valid for one year and are renewable.

For more information about the ordinance changes, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com or call 770.822.7141.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Make every drop count this summer

July has been designated as [Smart Irrigation Month](#) by the Irrigation Association. This is traditionally the month of peak water demand for lawns, gardens, and landscapes, but by watering smarter, consumers can save water and money all summer long.

Established lawns and landscapes require only an inch of water each week to stay healthy in Gwinnett's temperate climate. Watering deeply but infrequently will encourage plants to grow deeper roots and make them more drought tolerant, in addition to reducing water loss from evaporation and improving soil absorption so water and nutrients get to plant roots where they're needed. To get the most benefit from every drop, water in the early morning between 4:00am and 8:00am. If you like to sleep in, set your irrigation system timer or purchase an inexpensive hose timer for manual sprinklers. When it rains, be sure to turn your timer off and skip a watering cycle. When sprinklers spray faster than your lawn can absorb, precious water is wasted. If you notice runoff on the sidewalk or street when you irrigate, switch to several short watering sessions during a three-to-four-hour period on your watering day.

To learn more about efficient outdoor watering practices, please attend our **free Smart Irrigation Workshop** on **July 31** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This money-saving program will be held at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. To register, call **678.376.6722** or e-mail dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Keep kids safe around water

Follow these water safety tips this summer:

Lock: Make sure your pool or spa is surrounded on all four sides by a fence at least 4 feet high with self-closing, self-latching gates, and compliant anti-entrapment drain covers and back-up devices.

Look: Always watch children when they are around any type of water. Designate a responsible, undistracted adult who is in charge of watching children while they are in or near water.

Learn: Learn how to swim – an important skill for children and adults. Learn to use life jackets – and don't rely on inflatable swim toys such as water wings and noodles. Learn CPR and teach your children water rules such as never swim alone or play near pool or spa drains.

For more information, call Safe Kids Gwinnett at 678.518.4854 or visit www.safekids.org/water.

Department of Water Resources Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

Learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary at this free workshop.

Attendees who live in unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

August 9, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

To register, send an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or call 678.376.7193 (press 5).

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these new audiobooks during your summer vacation travels. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org:

XO, by Jeffery Deaver

The Storm, by Clive Cussler

Monday Mornings: A Novel, by Sanjay Gupta

Sacre Bleu: A Comedy D'art, by Christopher Moore

One Summer, by David Baldacci

SPLOST

Diverging diamond interchange coming to Gwinnett

Gwinnett's first diverging diamond intersection won commission approval for construction to begin this summer on Pleasant Hill Road at I-85.

The design uses the existing bridge more efficiently by switching traffic to the left to allow smooth left turns onto the interstate. Pedestrians will use a new walkway in the median.

E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., of Snellville was the lowest of three bidders at just under \$4.3 million, which will come from SPLOST funds. The work involves widening a half-mile of roadway plus new retaining walls, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and traffic signals. The timing of other signals approaching the intersection will also get adjustments to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Gwinnett Transportation Director **Kim Conroy** said, "The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District has worked closely with our traffic engineers on the new design, which is similar to the diverging diamond that opened recently on Ashford-Dunwoody Road at I-285 near Perimeter Mall. We estimate this will extend the useful life of the existing bridge by about 10 years with no widening needed." The project is expected to be complete within a year.



Visit the customer self-service portal at www.gwinnetth2o.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.

Parks & Recreation – 770.822.8840

July is **National Park and Recreation Month** so be sure to visit your local award winning Gwinnett County parks!

Brown Bag Concert Series

August 3 • 11:00am – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Family Campout

August 17 at 7:00pm to August 18 at 8:00am
Tribble Mill Park
2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville

Back to the Future Movie Night

August 24 • 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Health & Human Services – 770.822.8842

Shohei Ryu Karate

August 7 – August 30 • 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

Fitness Express • Free!

Thursdays • 11:00am
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

Cooperative Extension Service – 678.377.4010

All About Rain Barrels

August 9 • Noon – 1:00pm
Cooperative Extension Conference Room
750 South Perry Street, Suite 400, Lawrenceville

Cooking for Cancer Prevention Class

August 21 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
Gwinnett Village
5855 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Suite 122, Norcross

AROUND GWINNETT

Don't tamper with water meters!

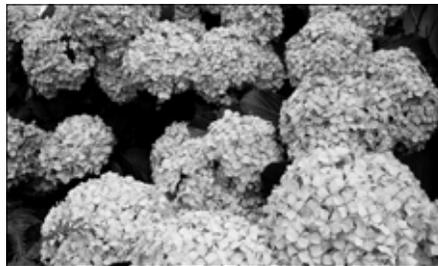
Taking unauthorized water from a fire hydrant or tampering with a water system meter is stealing!

Removing a Gwinnett County Water Resources water meter and piping water from a fire hydrant is illegal. Hoses that are connected to a fire hydrant that do not belong to the department of Water Resources or Fire and Emergency Services should be reported to the Water Resources Department. Please be sure not to cut off a lock after the meter has been locked for non-payment; this is also stealing water and is illegal.

To report any of these illegal activities, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com/WaterRestrictionViolation.

Helpful gardening tips from the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension

Prune summer-flowering shrubs, such as gardenias and some hydrangeas, after they finish flowering. Lightly prune overgrown hedges and deciduous shrubs as needed. If you would like more information on pruning, please call the Gwinnett Extension office at 678.377.4010 or e-mail extensionservice@gwinnettcountry.com.



TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills to be mailed August 15

The Tax Commissioner plans to mail the 2012 property tax bills on August 15 with a single due date of October 15. For more information about ways to pay and to pay online, please visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

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

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

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