

## FEATURE

### Recycle this summer!

Summer is here, which means many of us are having fun in the sun! Even though we are having a great time outside with friends and family, we can remember to reduce the amount of waste that goes into our landfills. One of the easiest ways to do this is to recycle.

Be sure to recycle your sunscreen bottles. After you protect your skin, protect the environment. You can also recycle water and soda bottles, plastic plates, and cups. Clean off any food before you place these items in the bin. Empty aluminum and aerosol cans are also recyclable at the curb. If you're wondering if any of your pool essentials can be recycled, check the bottom of the item! If it's plastic, look for a number inside a recycle symbol. If it's a number one through seven, it can be recycled. And please remember that Independence Day is not a trash and recycling holiday, so pickup service will take place as usual. Show your patriotism by keeping our country clean!

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Tap water is smarter

Gwinnett County's Lake Lanier is an exceptionally high-quality raw water source that meets or exceeds all standards for drinking water. At our two state-of-the-art water filtration plants, the Department of Water Resources continuously monitors water quality parameters to ensure the delivery of affordable, high-quality tap water to our customers.

Despite having excellent water available at the tap, the average American drinks around 30 gallons of bottled water each year, most of it from single-serve plastic containers. Bottled water is not safer, healthier, or more strictly regulated than tap water, and in many cases it comes from a source that is less pure than the local water supply. Not only does bottled water contribute to excessive waste, but it costs more than 1,000 times the water from your faucet at home. It is estimated that 17 million barrels of oil are used each year to make plastic water bottles. That's enough oil to fuel 1 million cars for 12 months!

People in the U.S. drink and discard more than half a billion bottles of water each week. That's enough bottles to circle the Earth five times! On average, only 25 percent of those plastic bottles are actually recycled and the other 75 percent (1 million tons) end up in landfills, as roadside litter, or in our waterways. Choosing tap water over bottled water helps protect the environment, conserves natural resources, and saves you money. We encourage you to grab a reusable bottle and fill up at the tap instead!



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Why a burn ban?

During the summer months in Georgia, the ozone in the air we breathe can reach unhealthy levels. Consequently, open burning in metro Atlanta and larger counties is restricted during the warm weather season. In Gwinnett County, the burn ban takes place from May 1 to September 30.

During the burn ban, you may not burn trees, limbs, or any other yard waste. Specific types of burning is allowed, but only if you get a permit from the Gwinnett County Fire Marshal.

If you live in incorporated Gwinnett County and need to get rid of yard waste, contact your solid waste hauler to add yard waste pickup service. To locate your hauler, visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com).

For more information about the burn ban, contact the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division at 678.518.4980 or visit [www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com](http://www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com).

## Department of Water Resources Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation Workshop

July 12, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

This free workshop will provide the knowledge and tools you need to increase water efficiency in your home. Attendees will receive a low-flow retrofit kit, outdoor water efficiency kit, do-it-yourself home water audit guide, and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Please pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com) or by calling 678.376.6722.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these curious reads this summer that are perfect for inquiring minds! These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*A World of Curiosities: Surprising, Interesting, and Downright Unbelievable Facts from Every Nation on the Planet*, by John Oldale

*How the Hot Dog Found its Bun: Accidental Discoveries and Unexpected Inspirations that Shape What We Eat and Drink* by Josh Chetwynd

*The Burning House: What Would You Take?* by Foster Huntington

## ELECTIONS

### Register to vote in the July 31 election

The 2012 General Primary/Nonpartisan election will take place on Tuesday, July 31. The deadline to register to vote and be eligible to cast a ballot in the election is Monday, July 2.

To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote, and at least 18 years old by Election Day. You may not register to vote if you are currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent.

Registered voters may request an absentee ballot by mail or cast their ballots in person from July 9 to July 27, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Gwinnett County Elections Office, located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville. Saturday voting will also be available at the elections office on July 21.

In addition, satellite offices will be open July 23 – 27 from 9:00am to 7:00pm at the Centerville Community Center in Snellville, George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center in Suwanee, Dacula Park Activity Building in Dacula, and Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center in Norcross. For more information about voter registration and advance voting, visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com).



### County offices closed: Independence Day

Gwinnett County government offices will be closed July 4 for Independence Day. Offices will resume regular working hours on July 5. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Independence 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

### New! Daybreak Dash Fun Run

July 14 • 7:30am registration, 8:00am run starts  
Settles Bridge Park  
380 Johnson Road, Suwanee

### Free! Dog Day at the Park

July 21 • 10:00am-2:00pm  
Pinckneyville Park  
4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross

### Youth Sports Expo

July 28 • 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

**Health & Human Services** – 770.822.8842

### Mathematics Workshop

July 23 – 27 • Two-hour sessions  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

### Free! Traveling senior art show

June 28 – July 25  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

**Cooperative Extension Service** – 678.377.4010

### Interactive Demonstration on Canning and Preserving Fruits and Vegetables

July 12 or August 24 • 1:00pm – 2:30pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

**Environmental & Heritage Center** –  
770.904.3500

### Crime Lab Detective Exhibit

July 14 – October 15  
Environmental and Heritage Center  
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Two county buildings receive LEED® Gold certification

The Gwinnett Senior Services Center and the new Operations Center at the Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility have been LEED Gold certified. LEED® is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings.

The Senior Services Center, at 567 Swanson Drive in Lawrenceville, is a one-stop center where seniors' needs are matched with available resources such as information and assistance, counseling, and care management.

The Yellow River Water Reclamation Center was constructed using recycled concrete, metal, wood, and gypsum. In addition to its everyday function as the facility's operational hub, the center will be used as a teaching tool on water efficiency and treatment, as well as other environmental issues.

### Protect yourself and your home from mosquitoes

To reduce the mosquito population around your home, eliminate their breeding areas by cleaning gutters, replacing the water in birdbaths, draining flowerpot saucers, and removing any other sources of standing water.

If you would like more information on preventing mosquitoes, contact the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service at [extensionservice@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:extensionservice@gwinnettcountry.com) or 678.377.4010.

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### New! Flat fee for online motor vehicle transactions

If you own multiple vehicles, you can now renew them all online in a single transaction for a total convenience fee of \$4.95, which will be charged by the Georgia Department of Revenue when you pay. Credit cards that are accepted online include: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. To renew your tag or to get more information about tag renewals, 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)

