

March 2012

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Coming next month:  
Water Words  
Water Quality  
Report

## FEATURE

### County calls on residents, businesses to volunteer

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash announced the official launch of a countywide volunteer program, **Volunteer Gwinnett**, during the annual State of the County address in February and called on residents, businesses, and organizations to get involved.

The *Volunteer Gwinnett* program offers an easy way for interested residents and businesses to learn about countywide volunteer opportunities, sign up, track service hours, and submit project requests – all online. The program also includes a standardized training and registration process along with events to recognize volunteers for their service. For more information and access to Gwinnett's volunteer network, visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Spring cleaning with the environment in mind

Spring is quickly approaching, and along with warmer weather comes spring cleaning. This is a good time to get to the back of the closet or to that top shelf to clear out the old and make way for the new. Now that everything has been sorted in the keep, donate, and throw away piles, what do you do with the stuff that you can't put in the garbage, like that half-used can of flamingo pink paint or old batteries from your Walkman?

The one thing not to do is to dump it outside or pour it in a storm drain. Some of the most common materials we keep in our homes can have a negative impact on our environment's health. These materials are referred to as household hazardous wastes and if you don't know where to take them, disposing of these materials can be difficult.

Want to know where to recycle your household hazardous wastes? Check out the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division's online recycling directory. Visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) and click the *Recycling Directory* link. Select a category from the drop-down menu and the directory will generate a list of disposal facilities located near you. To learn more about hazardous materials in your home and how to properly store them, attend the free **Spring Cleaning and Hazardous Household Waste Management Workshop** on **Thursday, April 12** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm; see the advertisement below for more information.

### Department of Water Resources Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop

April 12, 2012 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Learn about hazardous substances in the home and how to store and dispose of them properly. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit towards their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Presented by: Tom Keith, Solid Waste and Recycled Materials Division, and Robert Brannen, Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service

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

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Safety tips for kids home alone

Like most states, Georgia does not have laws to determine when a child is considered old enough to stay home alone, but parents and guardians should use sound judgment to make sure their children are responsible enough to take care of themselves before deciding to leave them home alone. Parents, consider these safety tips:

- Post a list of emergency numbers including your cell/work numbers, and phone numbers for family members, trusted friends and neighbors, and emergency personnel
- Schedule a time to check in with your child and always call when you're running late
- Set ground rules for when you're away and make sure your child knows and understands the rules
- Make sure your house has working smoke detectors installed on every floor, a first aid kit, and snacks so your child can keep away from the stove or microwave
- Childproof your home; no matter how well your child follows the rules, secure anything that could be a health or safety risk and set parental controls on your TVs and computers

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these new additions to the e-book self-help collection! These and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Life Gets Better: The Unexpected Pleasures of Growing Older*, by Wendy Lustbader

*The Best Advice I Ever Got*, by Katie Couric

*Broken Open: How Difficult Times Help Us Grow*, by Elizabeth Lesser

*The Art of Non-conformity*, by Chris Guillebeau

*The Language of Emotional Intelligence*, by Jeanne Segal

## ELECTIONS

### Make your voice heard this election season

The 2012 Election season is underway, so make sure your voter registration is up to date and take note of the upcoming elections this year:

- **July 31:** General Primary/Nonpartisan Election
- **August 21:** General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff
- **November 6:** General Election
- **December 4:** General Election Runoff



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. Visit [www.gwinnettelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelections.com) to download and complete a voter registration application.

If you need to locate your polling place, please visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at [www.sos.ga.gov/mvp](http://www.sos.ga.gov/mvp). You can also get a list of candidates and their websites, view sample ballots, and get updates on your voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

Advance and absentee voting is available, so be sure to visit [www.gwinnettelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelections.com) to find out the dates and locations for early voting and instructions for absentee voting.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Gwinnett maintains ISO rating

Gwinnett County scored well on fire preparedness from the independent Insurance Services Office (ISO), a leading independent source of information about property/casualty insurance. Despite a 41 percent increase in population since the last ISO visit in 1996, Gwinnett County retained a Class 4 rating for its fire suppression capabilities.

The ISO conducts a scheduled inspection and assigns a rating on a scale of 1 to 10 that indicates how well a community is prepared to fight fires. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, while Class 10 indicates an area's fire suppression program does not meet the ISO's minimum standards. It considers factors like water supply, fire personnel, stations, and equipment. A community's ISO class rating is one factor that insurance companies consider when setting residential and commercial property insurance premiums.

### Court approves SDS consent order

Chief Superior Court Judge David Barrett of the Enotah Judicial Circuit signed a consent order approving the settlement reached by Gwinnett County and Gwinnett cities on February 7. These actions mark the end of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) litigation between Gwinnett County and Gwinnett's cities. For more information about the Service Delivery Strategy settlement, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### April Connection available at your fingertips

Next month's *Gwinnett County Connection* will be replaced in your water bills with *Water Words*, the Department of Water Resources' annual water quality report. But don't worry, the *Connection* will be in your water bills in May. You can still receive a copy of the *April Connection* and other weekly e-mail newsletter newsletters, such as *News for Neighborhoods* and *What's New on TVgwinnett* through our e-mail newsletter distribution. Sign up to receive e-mail newsletters at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Homestead Exemption application deadline: April 1

The deadline for the regular Homestead Exemption application for property taxes is April 1, 2012. Once granted, the exemption is automatically renewed each year. Apply online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or request an application by calling 770.822.8800 or e-mailing [tax@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcounty.com).

### Pay your water bills online

Reduce waste and save time: Please visit [www.gwinnett2o.com](http://www.gwinnett2o.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](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

**Parks & Recreation – 770.822.8840**

### Underwater Egg Hunt

April 7 • 11:00am  
Bethesda Park Aquatic Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville

### Comedy Competition Dinner

April 13 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

### Doll and Me Tea

April 21 • 11:00am – 2:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic  
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

### Enchanted Garden Concert

April 28 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center  
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

**Health & Human Services – 770.822.8842**

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends Silent Auction

April 26 • 6:00pm – 8:30pm  
Tickets: \$25 in advance  
Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett  
3100 Club Drive, Lawrenceville

### Sing, Dance, and Relax Health Fair

April 27 • 9:00am – 12:30pm  
George Pierce Park Community Center  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

### Month of the Young Child – Reading Festival • Free

April 28 • 11:00am – 4:00pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

### gwinnettcounty connection

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

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linkup

get county government  
information from the source

[gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com)

