

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Celebrate National Drinking Water Week at open house

Ever wonder where your water comes from? Find out on Saturday, May 11 at Shoal Creek Filter Plant as Water Resources celebrates National Drinking Water Week. The celebration takes place from 10:00am to 2:00pm and includes a tour of the filter plant, kids' activities, and free refreshments. County departments will set up informational displays and representatives will be on hand to answer any questions. The Shoal Creek Filter Plant is located at 1755 Buford Dam Road in Buford. If you have any questions about this event, please call 678.376.4200.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Growing a water wise landscape

Warmer weather has arrived, and many Gwinnett residents are already busy sprucing up their yards for spring. If you are planning to make improvements to your landscape this season, be sure to follow these water wise principles:

1. **Choose drought-tolerant plants:** consider your yard's drainage patterns, soil conditions, and sun exposure to find plants that will thrive without much water.
2. **Group plants wisely:** when landscaping, group plants that have similar water needs. During periods of little rainfall, you can provide water just to the areas that need it most and avoid irrigating plants that are more tolerant of dry conditions.
3. **Don't over fertilize:** the nitrogen in fertilizer can stimulate lush growth, but new leaves also increase the plant's need for water. Furthermore, when shoot growth increases, root growth decreases, reducing the plant's ability to extract moisture from the soil.
4. **Mulch:** natural mulches such as pine straw, pine bark, and shredded hardwood even out temperature extremes, allow for better water penetration, and help plants retain moisture. For maximum benefit, maintain 3 to 5 inches of mulch on the soil surface at all times.
5. **Keep weeds in check:** weeds not only make the landscape unattractive, they compete with other plants for moisture and nutrients. Landscape fabrics can be placed under mulch to serve as an added barrier to weeds.

To learn more, attend our free Water Wise Landscaping Workshop on May 16. See the ad below for more information and how to register.

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshop! Water Wise Landscaping Workshop

May 16, 2013 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center • 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

A water wise landscape has been carefully designed, installed, and managed to maximize water efficiency. Any landscape, whether newly installed or well established, can be made more water efficient by carrying out a few simple steps. This workshop will present methods and tips to help you transform your yard into a water wise landscape, saving you money and maintenance time. All participants will receive a free outdoor water efficiency kit.

Please pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or by calling 678.376.6722.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prevent work-from-home scams

We've all seen ads from companies offering work-from-home opportunities, and though they may seem appealing, please proceed with caution. The Federal Trade Commission suggests that you ask the following questions before you begin a work-from-home program:

1. What tasks will I have to perform?
2. Will I be paid a salary or will my pay be based on commission?
3. When will I get my first paycheck?
4. What is the total cost of the work-at-home program, including supplies, equipment, and membership fees?
5. Can you put all of this information in writing and send it to me?

If you believe you've been scammed by a work-from-home company, contact your local consumer protection agency, the state Attorney General's office, or the Better Business Bureau or visit www.ftc.gov.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books that were nominated for the 2012 – 2013 Georgia Children's Book Award. These and other good reads are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Hero, by Mike Lupica

Kick, by Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman

Ready Player One: A novel, by Ernest Cline

Divergent, by Veronica Roth

SPLOST

Gwinnett Fire to build maintenance facility

A new state-of-the-art maintenance building will consolidate and improve repair and testing of Gwinnett's Fire and Emergency Services firefighting equipment. The building will provide climate-controlled, indoor space for testing hoses and ladders, repairing small engines and tools, and maintaining self-contained breathing apparatus.

Low bidder CRS Building Corp. will start construction of the new building at 620 Swanson Drive in Lawrenceville next month with completion set for the end of the year. Commissioners approved the \$685,800 construction contract in March. Funding for the nearly 6,000-square-foot, pre-engineered, warehouse-style building will come from the SPLOST sales tax program.

"We don't need any additional personnel because we're consolidating existing repair and maintenance operations in a single location," said Fire Chief **Bill Myers**. "This building provides a safe, efficient facility that will help extend the useful life of the vital equipment we use every day to serve and protect the community."

AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett County celebrates public safety this April

Gwinnett County celebrates National County Government Month during the month of April to highlight county government programs and services to the public. We are observing this year's theme of *Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities* with many free and fun events throughout the month of April. Most of the activities are designed to help residents learn how to be safe. To learn more about the events offered during National County Government Month, please visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

FOCUS ON: Performance Analysis and Crime Prevention

Gwinnett County's traditional internal audit function has expanded into a more comprehensive unit that helps county government operate more effectively and efficiently. The performance management team works with department leadership and staff to assess operations and figure out what to measure and track in order to drive process improvement. "When the right things get measured, the right things get done," says Business Analyst **Kevin Mylander**.

Officers **Eric Rooks** and **Humberto Garcia** are showing apartment communities that deterring criminal activity in their neighborhoods can be as easy as changing a light bulb. Since last April, the Crime Prevention Unit has been hard at work getting apartment communities on board with the Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program. So far, 26 communities have joined the program, with one site becoming fully certified already.

FOCUS ON is a monthly feature that tells how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. Visit www.gwinnettcountry.com for the full articles.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reminder: Mobile home tax bills due May 1

Mobile home tax bills are mailed in January of each year and are due May 1. Once full payment is received, a decal for the current year is issued. All mobile homes in Gwinnett are required to have the current decal visibly posted. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or contact the Tax Commissioner's Office at tax@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8800 for more information.



your pennies
for protection

Important Notice

For information about your annual notice of assessment, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

EVENTS

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners wants to hear from you! Join them for a series of Town Hall Meetings in April and May. The evenings begin with an open house at 6:15pm followed by questions and comments at 7:00pm. Representatives from County departments will be at the open house to answer your questions and talk about the different services they provide. Beginning at 7:00pm, the commissioners will invite you to share your thoughts and ideas about County government services.

Tuesday, April 2

Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Tuesday, April 30

George Pierce Park Community Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee

Wednesday, May 1

Grayson High School
50 Hope Hollow Road, Loganville

Thursday, May 9

Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross

For more information about these meetings, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents.

See these great events and more at www.gwinnettcountryevents.com.

2012 Grants Activity Report: a showcase of grant projects

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved an estimated \$21 million in grant funds secured from federal and state agencies in 2012. This funding allowed the completion of various infrastructure projects and programs with little support from the county's general tax base. Check out the full report at www.gwinnettcountry.com.

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

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get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

