



FEATURE

Board of Commissioners begins the new year with new members

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners will have some new faces as the 2013 year begins. Tommy Hunter was elected to the District 3 seat in November. In District 1, Jace Brooks will begin his first full term this January. Chairman Charlotte Nash also begins her first full term after serving the unexpired term of chairman since March 2011. The first commission meeting of the year falls on Thursday, January 3, 2013.

Typically the Board holds official business meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 2:00pm. On those days, the Board conducts work sessions at 10:00am. The Board also holds a public hearing to consider zoning requests on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. These meetings are open to the public and held in the auditorium of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. For more information about your commissioners, including meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes, visit gwinnettcounty.com.

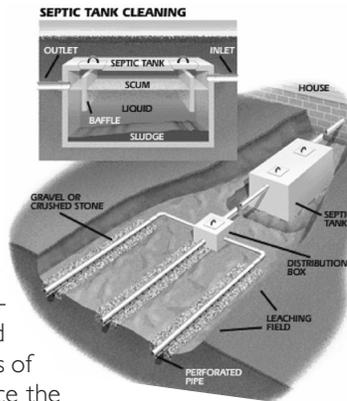
PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Maintain your septic system to protect Gwinnett's streams

Many homes in Gwinnett County have septic systems, and keeping your system from failing can help you save money and protect Gwinnett's streams.

Septic systems consist of three main parts: the septic tank, the drain field, and the soil beneath the drain field. The septic tank provides temporary storage for wastewater that allows bacteria to start the filtering process. Wastewater then enters the drain field that consists of gravel-lined trenches and perforated pipes or trenches with other types of products that allow wastewater to soak into the soil. Once the wastewater is in the soil, natural processes purify it before it is released back into groundwater.

Septic tanks should be pumped every three to five years. Limiting the amount of solids, fats, oils, and greases that are added to your tank can help prevent clogging and reduce system failure. Pesticides, paints, solvents, disinfectants, and other household chemicals may kill the bacteria that helps purify the sewage and should not be disposed of into a septic system. Remember, your toilets are not trash cans! For more information, please visit gwinnettstormwater.com and view the public education page.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Tips to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning in your home

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is hard to detect, and can cause illness or possibly death before you know it's there. Fire and Emergency Services provides the following tips to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning in your home:

- Make sure that all home heating appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in the hallway near the bedrooms and on every level of the home. Make sure that everyone in the household knows the sound of the CO detector and the smoke detector.
- Never use gasoline-powered tools and engines (such as generators) indoors.

For more tips, visit gwinnettcounty.com.

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshops!

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Homeowner H2O Water Conservation

February 7 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Receive a free water conservation kit for attending!

Call 678.376.6722 or email dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com for more details or to register.

Rain Gardens

February 21 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm

You may qualify for a 5 percent credit toward your 2014 stormwater utility fee for attending!

Call 678.376.7193 or email dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com for more details or to register.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these selections to motivate your New Year's resolutions. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, gwinnettpl.org.

The Art of Doing: How Superachievers Do What They Do and How They Do It So Well, by Camille Sweeney

The Way of the Wise: Simple Truths for Living Well, by Kevin Leman

The Slow Fix: Solve Problems, Work Smarter, and Live Better in a World Addicted to Speed, by Carl Honore

SPLOST

Bogan aquatic center undergoes renovation

Commissioners in December approved a major renovation of the 15-year-old Bogan Park Aquatic Center. The project includes new roof panels, new HVAC and filtration systems, and locker room renovations to improve operational and energy efficiencies.

The aquatic center provides year-round recreational swim opportunities for people of all ages and includes two indoor swimming pools – a competition pool used for swimming lessons, lap swimming, and swim/dive teams and a family leisure pool consisting of a water playground, lazy river, and water slide.

Funding for the renovation project comes from the 2005 SPLOST program. The \$3.15 million contract was awarded to low bidder Bryson Construction Inc.

The aquatic center will close in February and reopen in September. Gwinnett's other indoor aquatic centers at Bethesda Park, Collins Hill Park, Mountain Park, and West Gwinnett Park will be open as usual. Pool pass holders can use their passes at any Gwinnett County aquatic facility. Visit gwinnettparks.com for more information.



County offices closed for King and Presidents' Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the County, will be closed January 21 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen January 22. Offices also will be closed on February 18 for the Presidents' Day holiday and reopen February 19. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during these holidays.

EVENTS

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

See these great events and more at gwinnettcouyevents.com.

VITA Income Tax Preparation

Fridays, January 25 – April 12 • By appointment
Buford Senior Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
770.614.2537

AARP Tax Aid • FREE!

Tuesdays and Thursdays
February 5 – April 11 • 9:00am – noon
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
770.638.5661

Daddy-Daughter Dance

February 8 • 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross
770.417.2200

Family Valentine Dance

February 8 • 7:00pm – 10:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
678.277.0890

Rain Gardens Workshop

February 21 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville
678.376.7193

Soup and Salad BINGO! For ages 50+

February 25 • 11:30am – 1:30pm
Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville
678.277.0179

AROUND GWINNETT

County gets silver green building certification

Gwinnett County recently earned silver certification through the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Program, an improvement over the bronze level Green Communities certification the County achieved in 2010. Green Communities is a voluntary certification program for jurisdictions in the 10-county Atlanta region, which encourages local governments to be more sustainable and to recognize those that demonstrate leadership in reducing their environmental impact by investing in programs that lead to a more sustainable region.

Gwinnett County achieved the silver certification for initiatives such as LED light bulb replacement, alternative fuel vehicles for the transit system, and a fats, oils, and grease/high-strength waste receiving station at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center. These projects were completed through a collaborative effort of County departments to meet environmental goals and responsibly manage resources.

Protect your plants from the winter cold

Cold winter days can be harsh on your household plants, so the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service suggests the following tips to protect your plants during the winter. Keep houseplants watered on a regular basis. The heating systems in most homes cause the air to be dry, which can cause plants to suffer water stress. Apply a 3- to 4-inch layer of mulch beneath trees and shrubs. Avoid piling excessive amounts around the base of the plants.

If the temperature falls below 20 degrees, cover gardenias and camellias nightly with plastic anchored to the ground on all sides to prevent freeze damage, and remove it the following day. For more gardening and landscaping tips, contact the Cooperative Extension Service at 678.377.4010 or visit gwinnettextension.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

New motor vehicle title tax effective March 1

House Bill 386 removes sales tax and annual ad valorem tax on newly-purchased vehicles. New car owners will pay a 6.5 percent **title tax** beginning on March 1, 2013. For more information, visit GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or call 770.822.8818.

gwinnettcouy connection

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

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcouy.com

