

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Volunteer Gwinnett exceeds 2012 expectations

Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide volunteer program designed to involve more residents in volunteer activities associated with County government with a bold goal of reaching 1 million volunteer hours by 2015! To get there, the County set a goal of 600,000 hours for 2012. With the help of more than 41,000 volunteers, we beat that goal with a total of **991,122 hours!**

We couldn't have exceeded this goal without you! Gwinnett County depends on volunteers to help provide residents with the best services and programs possible. Search for your volunteer opportunity at www.volunteergwinnett.net.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Dispose of household hazardous waste the right way

Household hazardous wastes are items that contain hazardous and harmful substances. Examples of these products include herbicides, pesticides, paints, solvents, batteries, automobile fluids, and some cleaning products. Improper disposal of these products through the stormwater drainage system—which includes drains, pipes, and ditches—can harm the health of our rivers, lakes, and streams because these drains lead directly to surface waters. Discharges to the stormwater drainage system are also considered violations of the County's *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance*. If you know of or see individuals dumping hazardous substances into storm drains, drainage ditches, or streams, please call 678.376.7193 to report the violation.

If you have leftover products, an alternative to disposal is to give it to someone who can use the remainder. There are also local retailers who participate in recycling programs for your old electronics and certain household wastes such as used motor oil, batteries, and light bulbs. Always be sure to consult the label for guidance concerning proper usage and disposal methods. There are many resources available to find the best disposal method for these wastes, such as www.Earth911.com and the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Call Center at 770.822.7141.

To learn more about recycling, reducing, and disposing of household hazardous wastes, attend the Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop this April. See the advertisement below for more information. You can also attend next month's Earth Day recycling event. Check out www.sustainablegwinnett.com for details.

Department of Water Resources

Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop

April 18, 2013 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center • 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Presented by: Tom Keith, Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division

Learn about hazardous substances in the home and how to store and dispose of them properly at this free workshop. Attendees from 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.

To register, call 678.376.7193 and press 5 or email dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com (include name, address, and phone number).

PUBLIC SAFETY

4 tips for safe babysitting

If you have a teen who wants to begin a babysitting career, make sure he or she is ready. Babysitting is a big responsibility, so Safe Kids Gwinnett shares these tips for safe babysitting:

- 1. Be prepared:** Safe Kids Gwinnett offers Safe Sitter® babysitter training courses including infant and child CPR; for more information, visit www.safekidsgwinnett.org.
- 2. Screen job requests:** When someone asks your teen to babysit, make sure he or she knows what the responsibilities are and that they will be safe while babysitting.
- 3. Obey the house rules:** Set an example for the children being watched and avoid dangerous or embarrassing situations.
- 4. Watch children at all times:** Remember, injuries are the leading cause of death in young children.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books that tell exciting stories of inventions, discoveries, and scientific exploration. These and other good reads are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Storm Kings: The Untold History of America's First Tornado Chasers, by Lee Sandlin

Fifty Machines That Changed the Course of History, by Eric Chaline

Physics in Mind: A Quantum View of the Brain, by Werner R. Loewenstein

SPLOST

Second diverging diamond to get underway soon

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners in February approved a contract to build Gwinnett's second diverging diamond interchange. Construction will begin this spring on the bridge at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and I-85 and is expected to be complete within a year. Gwinnett's first project of this type is currently under construction a few exits away at Pleasant Hill Road.

Commission Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "The Gwinnett Department of Transportation worked closely with the community improvement districts in these areas to design the diverging diamonds. We are pleased to partner with both groups to make mobility and livability improvements."

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. The work involves widening approximately a half-mile of roadway and adding new retaining walls, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and traffic signals. In addition, the timing of other signals approaching the intersection will be adjusted to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Transportation Director **Kim Conroy** said, "The diverging diamond interchange is a cost-effective solution to relieve traffic congestion. As with the Pleasant Hill Road project, we estimate this interchange improvement will extend the useful life of the existing bridge by about 10 years with no widening needed."

E.R. Snell Contractor Inc., of Snellville was the lowest of three bidders at just under \$6 million. SPLOST funds will pay for the transportation improvement while the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement District will fund project enhancements including fencing and landscaping.

Gwinnett Village CID Executive Director **Chuck Warbington** said, "The Gwinnett Village CID business community is excited to partner with Gwinnett County on this project. The project will significantly reduce traffic congestion in an innovative way and transform the interchange into a gateway to Gwinnett that will certainly continue the message that this is a great place to invest and do business."

AROUND GWINNETT

Be a part of the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute

The Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (GNLI) is an eight-month leadership training program designed to train and empower ordinary citizens to become grassroots community leaders. Starting in the fall, the GNLI will hold training sessions one Saturday each month for participants to meet leaders and learn about local current events.

Class members will also work in groups to develop and complete a service project as part of the experience. Please contact Nicole Hendrickson at 678.377.4137 or Nicole@gwinnettcoalition.org for an application or to learn more about the program. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2013.

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 March 1, 2013. For more information, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com or contact the Tax Commissioner's office at tag@gwinnettcountry.com or 770.822.8818.



Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnett2o.com using your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Just have your username or water account number and password ready. You can use this convenient service for nonrecurring, one-time only payments.

EVENTS

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

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

Spring Vegetable Gardening

April 4 • Noon – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Government Annex Building
Cooperative Extension Conference Room
on the fourth floor
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4010

Prostate Cancer Awareness Workshop

April 11 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
770.614.2400

Art on the Chattahoochee • Free!

April 11 • 10:00am – 6:00pm
Jones Bridge Park
4901 East Jones Bridge Road, Norcross
678.277.0920

Friends 11th Annual Silent Auction

April 25 • 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Delmar Gardens
3100 Club Drive, Lawrenceville
770.822.8067

Wheels & Deals Car Show • Free!

April 27 • 10:00am – 2:00pm
George Pierce Park
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
678.277.0910

Self-defense Awareness & Familiarization Exchange for Women

April 30 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Police Department South Precinct
2180 Stone Drive, Lilburn
678.442.5032

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division
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linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

