

FEATURE

Check out the annual water quality report

The Department of Water Resources has published *WaterWords*, an annual report containing important information about the quality of your drinking water. While the department detected 12 contaminants in the drinking water it produced in 2012, these contaminants were below allowable levels and no health-based violations were reported. To view the 2012 *WaterWords* and to learn more about your drinking water, visit www.gwinnettwaterwords.com.

Contact the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources Environmental Laboratory at 770.614.2080 for more information or with questions about this report. You can reach Water Production Director Alan Berg or request tours of the water plants by calling 678.376.4200. For information about how Water Resources maintains the safety of your water, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Save water with a new showerhead

Showering is one of the leading ways we use water in our homes, accounting for nearly 17 percent of all residential indoor water use. The *Water Stewardship Act* mandates that all new showerheads sold in Georgia use 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) or less. However, showerheads installed prior to 1994 can have flow rates as high as 5.5 gpm! Showerheads that have earned the U.S. EPA's WaterSense certification use no more than 2 gpm and provide a shower experience that is equal to or better than conventional models. By increasing the velocity of the water, these low-flow showerheads still perform very well on tasks such as rinsing shampoo out of hair.

If you are unsure if you need a new showerhead, you can measure the flow rate of your old model. Just place a bucket marked in gallon increments under the showerhead, turn it on at the water pressure you normally use, and time how long it takes to fill the bucket to the 1-gallon mark. If it takes less than 24 seconds, you could save water with a low-flow showerhead.

The Gwinnett Department of Water Resources provides free low-flow home retrofit kits for homes built before 1994. The kits include a low-flow showerhead and a flow meter bag that can be used to measure the flow rate of your old showerheads. The kits are available by request from the DWR billing counter at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville during our normal operating hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. There is a limit of one kit per household.



PUBLIC SAFETY

3 tips for safe swimming

Summer is almost here, and pools will soon be open. Safe Kids Gwinnett urges parents to actively supervise their children when they are in or near water at all times. Here are three tips they offer to keep kids safe while swimming:

- 1. Lock:** Make sure your pool is surrounded by a fence with self-closing and self-latching gates. Install anti-entrapment drain covers and backup devices.
- 2. Look:** Always watch children when they are around any type of water, even if they know how to swim. If a child is missing, check the water first.
- 3. Learn:** Learn how to swim and use a life jacket. Don't rely on inflatable swimming toys. Learn CPR and how to use rescue equipment.

For more information about drowning and water safety, please call Safe Kids Gwinnett at 678.518.4854 or visit www.safekids.org/water.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these books that have been recently reviewed by library staff. These and other good reads are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Some Kind of Fairy Tale, by Graham Joyce

Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat, by Bee Wilson

Letters from Berlin, by Kerstin Lieff

Speaking from Among the Bones, by Alan Bradley

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshop! Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation

June 6, 2013 • 7:00pm – 8:00pm
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 emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or by calling 678.376.6722.

SPLOST

Board approves improvements to Little Mulberry Park

A new disc golf course in the woods, a playground complex, picnic pavilion, overlook deck, trail expansion, restrooms and parking are coming soon to Little Mulberry Park, funded by the 2009 SPLOST program. Gwinnett commissioners in April approved a \$1.9 million construction contract with the lowest of five bidders, the Astra Group Inc. Work is expected to take about a year.

A new entrance off Hog Mountain Road is also included in the phase-three plans for the popular 890-acre passive park near Auburn. Existing facilities there include five miles of hiking and equestrian trails, a fishing lake, a scenic overlook at one of the highest points in the county, and the Karina Miller Preserve Loop Trail, which the U.S. Department of the Interior named a National Recreation Trail last year.

Board Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, "Little Mulberry Park is a key component of the greenspace we preserved when I served as County Administrator, so I'm especially glad that we can build these improvements that will make visiting the park even more enjoyable to use."

Current entrances to the park are at 3800 Hog Mountain Road, 3855 Fence Road, and the equestrian trailhead at 1300 Mineral Springs Road.

Visit www.gwinnettsplost.com for more on SPLOST projects in Gwinnett County.

AROUND GWINNETT

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

In celebration of Foster Care Awareness Month, the Gwinnett County DFCS is sponsoring a Business Attire and Heels Drive on behalf of Gwinnett County's Women's Shelter. The purpose of this event is to provide business attire for women to have to continue or enter into the workforce. They will be collecting gently used (clean) attire and heels (dress shoes).

In addition, DFCS will be providing information on how to adopt or become a foster parent. This event will be held on May 25 from 10:00am to 1:00pm, 33 South Clayton Street in Lawrenceville. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call 678.518.5624.

Now is the time to start your summer vegetable garden

Soil temperatures are warm enough now to begin planting summer vegetable seeds, such as beans, squash, corn, and cucumbers. Plant them at the depth indicated on the seed packet instructions, cover them with soil and apply water. In a few days to a couple of weeks, the seeds will germinate. Visit www.gwinnettextension.com for more tips.

FOCUS ON:

FOCUS ON is a monthly feature that tells you how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

New motor vehicle title tax: Opting in

If you purchased a vehicle in Georgia between January 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013, you have the option of paying the new title tax instead of the current annual ad valorem tax. You have from March 1, 2013, to February 28, 2014, to opt in. For required forms and more information, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.



County offices closed for Memorial Day

Please note that all offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County, will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

The public is invited to a **Memorial Day Ceremony** at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville at 1:00pm to celebrate and remember the men and women who have served and protected us throughout our nation's history.

EVENTS

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

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

Organic Foods: The facts

June 6 • 11:00am – noon
Norcross Senior Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.377.4010

CDA Credential Course

June 8, 22, 29 • 9:00am – 3:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
404.479.4230

Movie Under the Stars • Free!

June 15 • 5:00pm – 10:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
678.277.0900

Trivia Night • Free!

June 15 • 6:00pm – 8:00pm
George Pierce Park Community Center
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
678.277.0910

Princess and Me Father/Daughter Dance

June 21 • 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

gwinnettcounty connection
send questions or comments to shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounty.com

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

