

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

County offices
closed for
Veterans Day:
November 11

FEATURE

Special election will be held November 5

A special election will take place Tuesday, November 5 at your regular voter precinct to consider renewing Gwinnett County's one-cent special purpose local option sales tax after the current program ends next March. In addition, some municipalities in Gwinnett County have separate elections scheduled. To find out if your city is having an election, please contact your city hall.

Registered voters may request an absentee ballot by mail beginning Monday, October 14 or cast their ballots in person from October 14 to November 1 at the Gwinnett County Elections Office. Saturday voting will also be available at the elections office on October 26 and satellite offices will be open from October 28 to November 1. For more information, visit www.gwinnettelelections.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Don't let FOG cause a clog

Few problems cause a homeowner more grief than a backed up toilet or sink. Gwinnett County has one of the most advanced sewer systems in the world, but even the best systems only work if the wastewater is able to make it to the treatment plants. The leading cause of collection system failure is fats, oils, and grease that build up in the sewer lines. Collectively known as FOG, fats, oils, and grease cost the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and man hours spent removing it from the pipes, lift stations, and plants. Fortunately much of this damage can be prevented simply by making sure FOG doesn't get into the system in the first place.



The best way to prevent FOG from causing clogs is to put as much food waste in the trash as possible. Remember the drain is not a dump. So what can we do about it? A good place to start is banning the garbage disposal. Garbage disposals simply chop clog-causing food scraps into smaller pieces; they don't get rid of them. Scrape leftover food from dishes and cookware into the trash before you wash them and pour grease and oil waste into containers to throw away. These simple tips will help make sure unwanted sewer backups don't ruin your fun.

For more information on Gwinnett's FOG Program, visit www.uncllogthefog.com.

Department of Water Resources • Stormwater Management Division

Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop

November 7, 2013 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn about the purpose, function, and aesthetic value of your detention pond along with some troubleshooting tips. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County or the city of Lilburn may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit towards their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Please pre-register by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).

PUBLIC SAFETY

5 tips to keep kids safe

Halloween should be a time of treats, not tragedies! Please observe the following tips to keep kids safe while trick-or-treating:

- Decorate your children's costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers, and choose light-colored costumes to improve visibility.
- Use non-toxic face paint and makeup instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Kids should not carry sticks, swords, or other sharp objects.
- Kids should carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better and be seen by drivers. Liquid in glow sticks is hazardous, so parents should remind children not to chew on or break them.
- Check treats for signs of tampering before allowing your children to eat them. Throw away any candy that is unwrapped or if the wrapper is faded or torn.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these scary reads to get you in the mood for Halloween! These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org:

Doctor Sleep, by Stephen King

The Classic Horror Stories, by H.P. Lovecraft

Four Summoner's Tales, by Kelley Armstrong

Last Days, by Adam Nevill

Dead Until Dark, by Charlene Harris

SPLOST

28 years of SPLOST and counting

Seven SPLOST programs have raised more than \$2.5 billion for pay-as-you-go capital improvements over the past 28 years, allowing other tax revenues to meet basic service needs for a growing population. If voters approve the new program on November 5, SPLOST collections will continue for three more years, raising an estimated \$498 million.

The new program will fund primarily transportation improvements – roads, intersections, bridges, and sidewalks – all over the County, plus parks facilities, public safety equipment, library renovation/relocation, and for the first time, senior facilities.

Gwinnett County and its 16 cities have agreed that the cities' share will be 21.1 percent while the County will receive 78.9 percent. The County will devote 70 percent of its share – an estimated \$275 million – to transportation, including \$25 million for joint city/county projects.

Sales tax in Gwinnett will stay the same: a 4-cent state tax, a penny for schools, and a penny for County government infrastructure, facilities, and equipment. All spending will be audited annually with required reports posted on city and county websites. For more about SPLOST in Gwinnett, please visit www.gwinnettsplost.com.



County offices closed for Veterans 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, November 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday. Veterans Day is not a trash and recycling holiday.

EVENTS

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

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

Harvest Dance for ages 50+

November 1 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
678.277.0190

Parkinson's Support Group • FREE!

November 6 • 9:30am to 11:00am
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Eagle 7 Power of One Leadership Institute (POLI)

November 11 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Beaver Moon Night Hike

November 16 • 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

Family Pizza and Pool Party (Therapeutic Recreation)

November 16 • 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Bethesda Park Aquatic Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville
678.277.0900

Partners in Parenting • FREE!

November 23 • 10:00am to noon
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
770.638.5660

Annual Lighting of the Tree • FREE!

November 28 • 5:00pm to 8:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

AROUND GWINNETT

Save your stuff for America Recycles Day!

Come celebrate America Recycles Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on **Saturday, November 23** from **9:00am to noon** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. This free event will feature batteries, electronics and tire recycling (limit eight tires per vehicle, no dealer tires), kids' activities, and more! Please bring your **old sneakers** to be donated to those in need or recycled into reusable surfaces for playgrounds and running tracks.

Volunteer with us during the America Recycles Day event. Volunteers will be assigned to serve from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Please visit www.volunteergwinnett.net to sign up as a volunteer for this event.

Veterans Day Ceremony: November 11

The public is invited to Gwinnett County's Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11 at 11:00am at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Lawrenceville. This event is held each year to celebrate our county's military veterans and public service personnel.

Members of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and honor guard units from the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services, Police Department, Sheriff's Office, and the Lawrenceville Police Department will take part in this event.

The Fallen Heroes Memorial is located on the grounds of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. For more information about the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial, visit www.gwinnettfallenheroes.com.



TAX COMMISSIONER

Motor vehicle title tax: Opt in reminder

If you purchased a vehicle 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 until February 28, 2014, to opt in. Visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for the required forms and more information.

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division
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information from the source

gwinnettcoune.com

