

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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## FEATURE

### Great things happening at the Animal Welfare Center

The staff at the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center has been very busy hosting special events and sponsoring classes geared toward improving the quality of life for our furry friends. This summer, the center hosted a month-long Adoption Explosion promotion and block party, which brought 1,800 people to the event and raised more than \$1,100 for the Society of Humane Friends. In addition, 425 animals were saved throughout the month of July. The improvements to the center's operations have significantly decreased the euthanasia rate from more than 65 percent in 2010 to less than 25 percent as of June 2013. If you are looking for a new addition to your family, visit [www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com](http://www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com). Also, save the date for Pet Revolution, a 24-hour adoption event that will be held Saturday, October 12 at the center, 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville! This event will feature family friendly activities, a motorcycle ride, and a 5K run.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Save water with Energy Star

The average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry every year. Older, agitator-style washing machines use an average of 40 gallons per load, while most new machines use less than 15 gallons. If you are in the market for a new washing machine, choose a model that is Energy Star certified and you'll save water as well as electricity. To earn the Energy Star certification, washing machines must have a water factor of 6 or less. The water factor value is calculated by dividing the number of gallons of water used per cycle by the total capacity of the machine in cubic feet. More water-efficient washing machines have a lower water factor.

Energy Star-certified washing machines are available in front-load and top-load models. Both styles clean using sophisticated systems that flip or spin clothes through high-pressure streams of water instead of agitating them in a full tub. In general, non-agitator-style machines are gentler on clothes, use less detergent, reduce drying time, and better accommodate bulky items.

Dishwasher technology has also improved dramatically over the last decade. Energy Star-qualified dishwashers are required to use no more than 5.8 gallons of water per cycle. By comparison, a dishwasher purchased before 1994 uses more than 15 gallons of water per cycle. A new Energy Star model uses 33 percent less water than a new, non-qualified model and will save an average of 1,300 gallons of water over its lifetime.

Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information about the Energy Star program. To learn more about home water conservation, please visit [www.DWRconserve.com](http://www.DWRconserve.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Change your clocks, change your batteries

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services offers tips for making sure your smoke alarms work when you need them:

1. As a rule, your alarms should be checked at least monthly and the batteries changed out twice a year. A good way to remember is to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks with the beginning or end of daylight saving time. Daylight saving time ends November 3 this year.
2. Maintain your alarms regularly by keeping them dust-free and testing them as part of your home safety plan.
3. Place at least one smoke alarm on each level of your house, especially outside bedrooms and at the top of staircase landings. These areas give you the earliest alert about a possible fire in your home.
4. Replace smoke alarms that are 10 or more years old.

## CHECK IT OUT

The Gwinnett County Public Library is constantly adding new books to their shelves. Check out these new titles and others by visiting one of their 15 locations around Gwinnett County or at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Longest Ride*, by Nicholas Sparks

*The Secret Keeper*, by Beverly Lewis

*Thankless in Death*, by J. D. Robb

*Seven for a Secret*, by Lyndsay Faye

*Dexter's Final Cut*, by Jeff Lindsay

Department of Water Resources

### Free Workshop!

## Homeowner H<sub>2</sub>O: Water Conservation Workshop

October 10, 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 register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) or calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).

## SPLOST

### New baseball complex opens at Harbins Park

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation celebrated the opening of the new seven-field baseball and softball complex at Harbins Park on August 10. The SPLOST-funded project also includes a playground and restrooms.

Harbins' 1,960 total acres make it Gwinnett County's largest park. In addition to the new ball fields, the park also features a 7-mile equestrian trail, 7-mile mountain biking trail, 3.8-mile hiking trail, tri-level playground, large rustic pavilion, and dog park. Harbins Park is located at 3200 New Hope Road in Dacula.

For more information about Harbins Park and other SPLOST projects in Gwinnett County, please visit [www.gwinnettsplost.com](http://www.gwinnettsplost.com).



### Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.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.gwinnettcounevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcounevents.com).

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Prepare for winter weather with these 6 landscaping tips

1. Begin planting spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Make sure the soil has adequate drainage and mix in organic matter such as topsoil, compost, or peat moss.
2. Drain your automatic irrigation systems and then turn them off for the winter. Shut off the water lines to any outdoor faucets and wrap the faucets with insulation.
3. After draining any gas left in the tank, put lawn mowers and other power equipment in storage sheltered from the cold weather and rain.
4. Fall is the best time of the year to plant trees and shrubs. Their root systems will continue to grow and develop during cold weather. The plants will become established, enabling them to tolerate next year's summer weather.
5. Plant debris left on the ground can harbor insects and diseases that can infest the plants again the following year.
6. Begin dividing perennials such as daylilies, irises, hostas, and purple coneflowers. The plants will have several weeks to become established prior to the onset of freezing temperatures.



For more landscaping tips, visit [www.gwinnetttextension.com](http://www.gwinnetttextension.com).

### FOCUS ON: Community Risk Reduction and Payroll

*FOCUS ON* tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. September features the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction section, which educates the public on fire safety and prevention, and the County's Payroll team, whose staff use efficient processes to ensure our employees are paid on time. To read more, please visit [www.gwinnettcounevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcounevents.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills due October 3

The 2013 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August with a single due date of October 3. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. For more information about ways to pay or to pay online, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

### Old Fashioned Picnic on the Grounds • FREE!

October 12 • Noon to 3:00pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville  
770.822.5450

### Breast Cancer Awareness and Breast Health Tips • FREE!

October 17 • 10:00am to 11:00am  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4715

### Buford Community Resources Expo • FREE!

October 19 • 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Buford Human Services Center  
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford  
770.614.2526

### Frontier Fair at Fort Daniel Historic Site

October 19 • 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Park at NorthView Church  
2000 Gravel Springs Road, Buford  
404.754.1139

### Flowering Bulbs • FREE!

October 23 • Noon to 1:00pm  
Cooperative Extension Conference Room  
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville  
678.377.4010

### Partners in Parenting • FREE!

October 26 • 10:00am to noon  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
404.826.4227

**gwinnettcounevents.com**  
send questions or comments to [shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounevents.com](mailto:shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcounevents.com)

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