

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day in Gwinnett County on May 10!

Come celebrate Earth Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on Saturday, May 10 from 9:00am to noon at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. This event will feature electronics (\$10 charge to recycle TVs) and tire recycling. The event will also include free kids' activities and the opportunity for residents to meet their haulers and learn about Gwinnett County's solid waste and recycling program. More recycling opportunities will be added soon, so visit our website at www.sustainablegwinnett.com for more information.

Calling all volunteers!

Looking for some volunteer service hours? Come help out during the Earth Day event. Volunteers will be assigned to serve from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Visit www.volunteergwinnett.net to sign up for this event.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Conserve water with a rain barrel

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be diverted as runoff to storm drains and streams. A rain barrel can sit under any residential gutter downspout. Usually a rain barrel is composed of a 55-gallon plastic drum, PVC couplings, a vinyl hose, and a screen to keep debris and insects out. Ready-made rain barrels can be purchased from a number of companies, including hardware stores and garden supply stores, or they can be easily and inexpensively constructed at home.

For an average homeowner, lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40 percent of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel captures water during rainfall events so it can be used to irrigate plants during dry periods. By watering with rainwater instead of highly-treated drinking water, you can save money on your water bills and help conserve our limited potable water resources. Rain barrels also help reduce the impacts of excessive stormwater runoff on our rivers and streams by decreasing the amount of water flowing into Gwinnett County's storm drains.



To discover more ways to conserve water at home, please visit www.DWRconserve.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tips to be safe while biking

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration encourages bicyclists to do their part to foster a safe transportation environment. Here are some tips to help you be safe while biking.

- **Always wear a helmet:** People of all ages should wear bicycle helmets. Helmets should fit properly and be strapped when worn.
- **Adjust your bicycle to fit:** Make sure there are 1 to 2 inches (3 to 4 inches for mountain bikes) between the rider and the top bar. Seats should be level front to back, and the height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be level with the seat.
- **See and be seen:** Wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding during the day or night and be on the lookout for motorists, pedestrians, and road hazards.

For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out the following titles to help your teens with homework. For more ideas, go to www.gwinnettpl.org and select *Homework Help* or visit any branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library.

Robotics: Discover the Science and Technology of the Future with 20 Projects, by Kathy Ceceri

Recentering the Universe: The Radical Theories of Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo, by Ron Miller

Python for Kids: A Playful Introduction to Programming, by Jason R. Briggs

Shapes and Symmetry: 50 Math Super Puzzles, by Thomas Canavan

Department of Water Resources

Free Workshops!

Water Wise Landscaping Workshop

May 15, 2014 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center • 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

A water-wise landscape is one that has been carefully designed, installed, and managed to maximize water efficiency. Any landscape, whether newly installed or well established, can be made more water efficient by carrying out a few simple steps. This workshop will present methods and tips to help you transform your yard into a water-wise landscape, saving you money and maintenance time. All participants will receive a free outdoor water efficiency kit.

Please pre-register by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com or by calling 678.376.6722.

ELECTIONS

Make your voice heard this election season

Election season is underway, so make sure your voter registration is up to date. Please take note of the upcoming elections:

- **General Primary/Nonpartisan Election:** May 20, 2014
- **General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff** (if needed): July 22, 2014
- **General Election:** November 4, 2014
- **State General Election Runoff:** December 2, 2014
- **Federal General Election Runoff:** January 6, 2015



To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote, and at least 18 years old by Election Day. You may not register to vote if you are currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or judicially determined to be mentally incompetent. Please visit www.gwinnettelelections.com to download and complete a voter registration application.

If you need to locate your polling place, please visit the Secretary of State's *My Voter Page* at www.mvp.sos.state.ga.us. You can also get a list of candidates and their websites, view sample ballots, and get updates on your voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

Advance and absentee voting is available, so be sure to visit www.gwinnettelelections.com to find out the dates and locations for advance voting and instructions for absentee voting.

AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett County celebrates National County Government Month this April

Gwinnett County is observing this year's theme of *Ready and Resilient Counties: Prepare. Respond. Thrive.* by providing helpful information on how Gwinnett County residents can prepare for and respond to natural or manmade emergencies. Check out the county's website, www.gwinnettcountry.com, to learn more about National County Government Month.

Join the Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge

The Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge is hosted locally by Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful now through May 31, 2014. It is open to businesses, local governments, school and church groups, civic groups, athletic teams, and individuals. Visit www.gwinnettcbo.org to learn more about taking the pledge to be an environmental steward. Once you have taken the pledge, you can choose from a list of projects or create your own and register it online with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2014.

FOCUS ON: Volunteer Gwinnett

FOCUS ON is a monthly feature that tells how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features Volunteer Gwinnett, the County's volunteer initiative. To read more, visit www.gwinnettcountry.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Reminder: Mobile home tax bills due May 1

Mobile home tax bills are mailed in January of each year and are due May 1. Once full payment is received, a decal for the current year is issued. All mobile homes in Gwinnett are required to have the current decal visibly posted. Please visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com for more information.

Celebrate National Drinking Water Week

Celebrate National Drinking Water Week with the Department of Water Resources on Saturday, May 10 at Shoal Creek Filter Plant, 1755 Buford Dam Road in Buford. The celebration takes place from 10:00am to 2:00pm and includes a tour of the filter plant, kids' activities, and free refreshments. For more information, please call 678.376.4200.

EVENTS

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

See these great events and more at gwinnettcountryevents.com.

Friends 12th Annual Silent Auction

May 1 • 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Delmar Gardens

3100 Club Drive, Lawrenceville

770.822.8067

Gwinnett Multicultural Festival • FREE!

May 3 • Noon to 5:00pm

North Atlanta Trade Center

1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross

770.513.5119

Quince Girl/Sweet 16 Expo

May 3 • 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Pinckneyville Park

Community Recreation Center

4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

678.277.0920

National Train Day

May 10 • 10:00am to 2:00pm

Vines Park

3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville

678.277.0900

Kids' Fishing Derby! • FREE!

May 17 • 10:00am to noon

Centerville Community Center

3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville

770.985.4713

Totally Tomatoes • FREE!

May 20 • Noon to 1:00pm

Gwinnett County Extension Office

750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

678.377.4010

gwinnettcountry connection

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

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

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get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

