

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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FEATURE

Community emergency volunteer courses available to residents

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to Gwinnett County residents beginning January 28, 2014. Residents are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



Courses are open to all Gwinnett County residents 18 years and older who pass a background check provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department. The training consists of eight sessions that take place from 6:30pm to 9:30pm on Tuesdays. A course review and disaster simulation will take place on Saturday, March 15 from 8:00am to noon. For more information or to sign up for the course, please email ema@gwinnettcounty.com. Please sign up soon; class size is limited to 25 participants.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Do-it-yourself detention pond maintenance

Detention ponds are a vital part of the stormwater drainage system in a neighborhood. These ponds reduce the potential for downstream flooding and can enhance the quality of stormwater that flows through them. According to the Gwinnett County Development Regulations, it is the responsibility of the mandatory home owner's association to maintain the operational characteristics of the detention pond that lies on a common parcel. In a situation where there is no HOA, the responsibility for maintenance falls to the owner(s) of the property on which the pond lies. Some maintenance of the pond can be conducted by residents of the neighborhood or by a contractor with experience maintaining detention ponds.

Organized neighborhood cleanups of the detention facility can be very effective in preventing large-scale failures and expensive repairs. Residents can remove small trash, cut and remove trees, and inspect the entire facility to catch small problems before they become big problems. A few things to focus on when considering maintenance on the detention pond in your neighborhood should include keeping the outlet control structure free of debris and sediment so that water can be released at the proper rate. Make sure the dam has grass on it to prevent erosion and make sure to keep it free of trees that could weaken the dam's structure. Trees, large shrubs, sediment, and trash in the pond will decrease the capacity of the pond, leading to a reduction of the pond's effectiveness.

So what can you do at your next HOA meeting? Suggest taking a proactive approach to managing and maintaining the detention facility. For questions about detention pond maintenance, call the Stormwater Management Division at 678.376.7193 and select option 6.

Department of Water Resources

Rain Gardens Workshop

February 13, 2014 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how to choose a location, select a design, and build a rain garden at this free workshop. Attendees who live in 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.

Presented by: Robert Brannen, Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service

Pre-register by sending your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7193 and pressing 5.

PUBLIC SAFETY

5 tips to be safe this winter

With the temperatures getting colder and the potential for icy conditions on the rise, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services encourages residents to stay safe and enjoy the winter weather season by following a few simple rules:

- Avoid playing, skating, or driving over any frozen body of water. Only the surface area is frozen and the ice will not be thick enough to hold the weight of an adult, child, or a large animal.
- Dress warmly in layers and limit your time out in the cold weather to avoid hypothermia or frostbite.
- If you must drive, monitor weather and road conditions and be alert while driving.
- Use home heating appliances with caution and don't leave them on when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the home. Develop and practice a home escape plan.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these uncommon reads by literary and debut authors. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Betwixt and Between, by Jessica Stilling

The Lion Seeker: A Novel, by Kenneth Bonert

Where the Moon Isn't, by Nathan Filer

A Guide for the Perplexed: A Novel, by Dara Horn

Look for catalog upgrades! New features include auto-fill/spell-checker, checkout history, and saved searches that send alerts when new titles are added.

SPLOST

County approves funding for streetlights

Residents of streets and subdivisions built before streetlights were required can now get help lighting their neighborhoods. Gwinnett commissioners in December approved a resolution to use 2009 SPLOST funds to buy and install standard streetlights as long as property owners agree to pay operating and maintenance costs.

Since June 1997, Gwinnett has required developers to install streetlights in new subdivisions. Operating costs are billed annually to property owners as a fee on the property tax bill. The development ordinance allows residents in older areas to petition the Gwinnett Department of Transportation for streetlighting if they agree to pay electricity and maintenance costs.

Gwinnett Police Chief **Charles Walters** supports the move, saying, "Increased lighting has been shown to have a direct effect on reducing crime. This program is an important factor in improving the safety of our older communities."

Interested residents can get more information on the petition process by contacting the Gwinnett DOT Community Relations office at DOTCommunityRelations@gwinnettcountry.com or at 770.822.7400.



County offices closed for King and Presidents' Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of the County, will be closed January 20 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Offices will reopen January 21. Offices also will be closed on February 17 for the Presidents' Day holiday and reopen February 18.

EVENTS

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

See these great events and more at gwinnettcountryevents.com.

Chili Cook-Off and Cards

February 4 • 11:30am to 1:30pm
Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville
678.277.0179

Cervical Cancer Awareness and Prevention Class • FREE!

February 13 • 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Buford Human Services Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
404.949.6464

Valentine's Day Dinner Dance

February 14 • 6:30pm to 9:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

Create It Theater for Youth Ages 5 to 14 Years

February 18 to March 20 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
404.826.4227

Azaleas for the home garden class

February 25 • Noon to 1:00pm
Cooperative Extension Conference Room
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4010

Dr. Seuss Celebration • FREE!

February 28 • 10:00am to 11:00am
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

AROUND GWINNETT

Animal Welfare Center changes office hours

Effective Sunday, December 29, 2013, the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center's hours will change. The center will be closed on Sundays and Mondays; however weekday hours will be extended an extra hour for adoptions, rescues, and reclaims. Please see the times below for a complete listing or visit www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com.

Kennel Hours:

Tuesday through Friday – 11:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday – 11:00am to 4:00pm

Front Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday – 8:00am to 5:30pm
Saturday – 8:00am to 3:30pm

Animal Intake (no change):

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday – 11:00am to 3:30pm
Wednesday and Friday – Closed



FOCUS ON: Video production team

FOCUS ON tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. January features the video production team for TVgwinnett, your local government access cable channel. To read more, visit www.gwinnettcountry.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@gwinnettcountry.com

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

linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

