

July 2014

gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

Take the
ASPCA/Rachael Ray
\$100K challenge!
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FEATURE

Show your love for Gwinnett County parks this July

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation is celebrating National Park and Recreation Month and you are invited to join the celebration! During the month of July, show your love for parks and recreation by visiting your local park to experience some of the many programs that inspire healthy, active lifestyles or activities that cultivate an appreciation of nature and the environment. You'll definitely want to grab a friend or family member and venture out to one of the parks that is hosting a special event this month. You can enjoy a free movie night with B98.5 FM at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville or Dog Daze of Summer at Rabbit Hill Park in Dacula, a celebration of our canine friends as well as National Hot Day and Ice Cream Day. Many other events are planned as well. For details, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

3 tips for efficient outdoor watering

Water demand typically peaks in July when property owners water their lawns, gardens, and landscapes during the heat of the summer. You can save money, conserve water, and get better results by following a few easy tips.

Keep it on the green. Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Be sure to direct your sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape where it's needed.



Don't overdo it. Did you know the typical homeowner overwaters his or her plants by up to 30 percent? Established lawns and landscapes require only one inch of water per week to stay healthy. Placing empty tuna cans around your yard can help you learn how long it takes your sprinklers to deliver the recommended amount.

Timing is key. The *Georgia Water Stewardship Act* of 2010 allows landscape and lawn irrigation only between the hours of 4:00pm and 10:00am, so be sure to set your irrigation system or hose timer to water at the right time of day. By avoiding outdoor water use during the hottest part of the day, you will reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation. Also don't forget to turn your timer off and skip a watering cycle whenever you get enough rain to soak the soil.

For more information about outdoor water use and efficiency, visit www.DWRconserve.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Avoid heat-related illnesses

Summers in Georgia are usually very hot. Too much exposure to high temperatures can cause heat exhaustion or heat stroke, which can lead to death.

Heat exhaustion: Symptoms include rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, heavy perspiration, weakness, muscle cramps, and possible loss of consciousness. It can rapidly progress to heat stroke if the victim remains in the heat and does not replenish lost fluids.

Heat stroke: Symptoms include all those mentioned above along with fluctuation in pulse, dry, hot skin, dilated pupils, loss of consciousness, and possible seizures or muscular twitching.

If you notice these symptoms, get the person out of direct sunlight and call for medical help as soon as possible. For more tips, please visit www.gwinnettsafety411.com.

Department of Water Resources Free Workshop! Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

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

Learn how your system works, how to prevent problems, and how to determine when a repair is necessary at this free workshop. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, the city of Peachtree Corners, or the city of Lilburn can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

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

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these fantasy reads during the summer break. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library.

New Watch, by Sergei Lukianenko

Rogues, by George R. R. Martin

Hot Lead, Cold Iron: A Mick Oberon Job, by Ari Marmell

Zinio, a service offering digital full-issue popular magazines, is now available free with your library card. Visit our website for more details, www.gwinnettpl.org.

SPLOST

Gwinnett fire academy expansion continues

Commissioners in June approved a \$9.7 million contract with low bidder Cooper & Co. General Contractors Inc. to build the second phase of an expansion to the Gwinnett County Fire Academy.

Construction will include a two-story, 35,000-square-foot education building and a three-bay storage building for fire apparatus and a training pavilion. The new academic building replaces a smaller, 30-year-old building and will have eight large classrooms plus a conference room, a kitchen, office space, and a student resource center.

Work will get underway by fall of this year with completion expected in two years. The project is funded by the voter-approved 2009 SPLOST sales tax.

The first phase of the expansion was recently completed and added a heavy duty driving training pad and a storage building with an observation deck for driving instructors. The existing burn building and high-rise training tower on the site located at 3608 Braselton Road near Dacula will remain.

Fire Chief **Casey Snyder** said, "These new facilities continue a planned expansion of our Fire Academy to meet our training needs for both entry-level and existing firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs."



Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit 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.

Brown Bag Concert • FREE!

August 1 • 11:00am to 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

Amateur Art Classes for Seniors • FREE!

August 4 • 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Buford Human Services Center
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford
678.225.5360

Night Trek

August 8 • 8:00pm to 9:30pm
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

Herbs in the Garden Class • FREE!

August 14 • Noon to 1:00pm
Gwinnett County Extension Office
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4010

Family Trivia Night

August 15 • 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
770.822.5450

AARP CarFit Program • FREE!

August 26 • 9:00am to 1:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

Fall Vegetable Gardening Class • FREE!

August 27 • Noon to 1:00pm
Gwinnett County Extension Office
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4010

AROUND GWINNETT

Recycle the right way

We've been asked by readers to offer reminders about curbside recycling in Gwinnett County. Always rinse your cans, bottles, containers, and paper plates before placing them in the recycling bin. Do not put recycling in plastic bags; those are not recyclable at the curb. Neither are paper towels, light bulbs, or batteries. Numerous items can be recycled, however, so remember you can use additional bins – including your old trash cart – as long as they are clearly marked "recyclables." For more information about recycling, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

Animal welfare's Adoption Explosion: July 26

As part of the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge, the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center will host the third annual Adoption Explosion Saturday, July 26 at the shelter, located at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. The event kicks off with the **Bone to Ride motorcycle ride** at 8:00am and continues with the **Cars for Critters Mega Hot Rod and Car Show** at 11:00am, along with food trucks, a live dog show, and vendor displays. Pets will be available for adoption at a reduced fee! For more about this event, visit www.gwinnettanimalcontrol.com.



FOCUS ON: Park Maintenance

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 will feature the Park Maintenance team and their efforts to keep Gwinnett's parks clean, safe, and healthy for all patrons. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills to be mailed in August

The Tax Commissioner plans to mail the 2014 property tax bills in early August with a single due date in early October. For more information about ways to pay and to pay online, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

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

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information from the source

gwinnettcounty.com

