

March 2014

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

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## FEATURE

### Volunteer Gwinnett reaches 1 million hours!

Volunteer Gwinnett is a countywide program designed to involve more residents in volunteer activities associated with County government, with a bold goal of reaching 1 million volunteer hours by 2015! To get there, the County set an incremental goal of 725,000 hours for 2013. Our wonderful volunteers blasted past that number and beat our target two years ahead of schedule with a total 1,025,925 hours last year.

We couldn't have achieved this milestone without you! Gwinnett County depends on volunteers to help provide residents with the best services and programs possible. Search for your next volunteer opportunity at [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net) today.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Unknown hazards in your home

"Nathan" painted a few rooms in his Gwinnett County home and used paint thinner to clean the brushes when his project was complete. To get rid of the remaining paint and paint thinner, he poured them down a storm drain near the edge of his property, thinking that the waste would be eliminated through the wastewater treatment process. In actuality, the storm drain leads to the stormwater system of inlets, pipes, and outlets that leads directly to the nearest body of water.

Gwinnett County adopted the *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* to help protect our drainage system and waterways from potentially dangerous pollutants like paint thinner and paint. This ordinance prohibits the discharge of potential pollutants to the stormwater system, which are damaging to the environment and surrounding wildlife. Potential pollutants commonly found around the home include paints, solvents, electronics, pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids, and some household cleaning products. If you need to use these products, please read the label carefully to find the best usage and disposal methods to prevent pollution. If you are unsure how to properly dispose of these materials, please contact the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Call Center at 770.822.7141.

To learn more about recycling, reducing, and disposing of household hazardous waste, register to attend the upcoming Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop. In addition, if you see any violations of the IDIC ordinance, please contact Gwinnett County Stormwater at 678.376.7193 and press 2.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Police Department hosts job fair

The Gwinnett County Police Department will host a job fair on Saturday, March 15 from 8:00am to 2:00pm for Police Officer and E-911 Communications Officer positions. The job fair will take place at the Gwinnett County Police Training Center, located at 854 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville.

The Gwinnett County Police Department is a nationally accredited, full-service department with specialized units such as SWAT, K-9, DUI Task Force, and more. The department offers a competitive compensation/benefits package along with on-the-job training.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply for positions online before attending the fair at [www.gwinnettpolicejobs.com](http://www.gwinnettpolicejobs.com). If you can't make the job fair, you are still encouraged to apply online.

Department of Water Resources

### Free Workshops!

Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management Workshop  
April 10, 2014 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Learn about hazardous substances in the home and how to store and dispose of them properly at this free workshop. Attendees from 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.

To register, call 678.376.7193 and press 5 or email [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) (include name, address, and phone number).

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these titles to help exercise your brain. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Brain Fitness Program (streaming video)*, by U.S. Public Broadcasting Service

*The Playful Brain: The surprising science of how puzzles improve your mind*, Richard Restak and Scott Kim

*Eye Yoga: How you see is how you think – Simple eye exercises to improve your vision and eye-brain connection*, by Jane Rigney Battenberg and Martha M. Rigney

## SPLOST

### Newly renovated Lions Club Park opens to the public

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation, along with the Greater Lilburn Athletic Association celebrated the newly renovated Lions Club Park in Lilburn on February 25. Gwinnett County assumed responsibility for the operation of Lions Club Park in 2005, and since that time, the size of the park has substantially increased from 17 acres to more than 82 acres. Now more than half of the park is preserved as greenspace.

The renovated park, funded by the 2009 SPLOST program, features a baseball complex with five lighted ball fields, an 1,800-square-foot concession/restroom building, a plaza, batting cages, a 60-foot pavilion area, a maintenance building, more than 850 parking spaces, a paved trail system with benches, adult swings, and picnic shelters. The new facilities have become a sister park to Bryson Park that opened in 2012. Lions Club Park is focused on baseball and softball, while Bryson Park has fields for football, soccer, and lacrosse. *"I appreciate the Lions Club for having the vision to carve out this space for ball players,"* said Chairman **Charlotte Nash**. *"It was truly a diamond in the rough that has now been polished."*



### Plots available in

#### Lanier Community Garden

The Lanier Community Garden is located on Gwinnett County property at Lanier Water Filter Plant in Buford. This is a thriving community garden that also maintains a food bank plot for vegetable donations to the North Gwinnett Food Bank Ministries. Garden plots are available for residents to grow their own vegetables, so please sign up to participate. For more information, please visit [www.laniercommunitygarden.org](http://www.laniercommunitygarden.org).

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Commissioner Howard's Listen and Learn Sessions

District 2 Commissioner Lynette Howard will host five listen and learn sessions to give residents an overview of what's going on in your county government. Please select the best date for you to attend:

- **March 10:** Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross
- **March 11:** Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road in Norcross
- **March 17:** Lilburn City Hall, 76 Main Street in Lilburn
- **April 21:** Five-Forks Trickum Library, 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lawrenceville
- **April 23:** Mountain Park Depot, 5050 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lilburn

### Sports Commission to host Greater Gwinnett Golf Championship

Watch Hall of Famer Bernhard Langer defend his title against Champions Tour greats like Tom Lehman, Corey Pavin, Kenny Perry, and Fred Couples when they compete in the Greater Gwinnett Championship presented by Mitsubishi Electric Cooling and Heating. Catch all the action this April 14 – 20 at TPC Sugarloaf. For more information and tickets, please visit [www.GreaterGwinnettChampionship.com](http://www.GreaterGwinnettChampionship.com).

### FOCUS ON: Fleet Management Division

*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 the Fleet Management Division that is dedicated to providing the most efficient and cost-effective maintenance and repair to all County vehicles, associated equipment, and fueling sites. To read more, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Homestead Exemption application deadline: April 1

The deadline for the Homestead Exemption application for property tax is April 1, 2014. Once granted, the exemption is automatically renewed each year. Apply online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or contact us at [tax@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcounty.com) or 770.822.8800 to request an application.

## EVENTS

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

See these great events and more at [gwinnettcountyevents.com](http://gwinnettcountyevents.com).

#### Twilight Hike

April 4 • 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Jones Bridge Park  
4901 E. Jones Bridge Road, Norcross  
678.277.0920

#### Teen Job Preparation Workshops for Ages 15 to 18

April 8 to 11 • 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4715

#### Art on the Chattahoochee

April 12 • 10:00am to 6:00pm

Jones Bridge Park  
4901 E. Jones Bridge Road, Norcross  
678.277.0920

#### Festive Family Campout

April 26 and 27 • 6:00pm to 8:00am

Little Mulberry Park  
3855 Fence Road, Auburn  
678.277.0850

#### Success to Succeed: Support and Resource for Veterans • FREE!

Mondays and Wednesdays • 10:00am to 3:00pm  
Buford Human Services Center  
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford  
678.580.7599

#### Create It Theater for Ages 5 to 14 Years

Tuesdays or Thursdays • 7:00pm to 8:30pm  
Norcross Human Services  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
404.826.4227

### gwinnettcounty connection

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

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

linkup

get county government  
information from the source

[gwinnettcounty.com](http://gwinnettcounty.com)

