

# gwinnettcounty connection

a monthly publication of gwinnettcounty government

County offices  
closed for  
Veterans Day:  
November 11

## FEATURE

### General election will be held November 4

The 2014 general election will take place Tuesday, November 4 from 7:00am to 7:00pm at all regular voting precincts in Gwinnett County. Voters have several options to cast their ballot in advance of the election including requesting an absentee ballot by mail or voting in person at one of six satellite locations on Saturday, October 25 from 9:00am to 4:00pm and October 27 – 31 from 9:00am to 7:00pm. In addition, voters may cast their ballots at the Voter Registrations and Elections Office Saturday, October 18 and October 25, and Monday – Friday, October 13 – 31. For more information on absentee and advance voting, visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com).

Voters can also visit [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov) to locate their polling place, view a sample ballot, and get the status of their absentee ballot request. The Secretary of State's office also offers GA Votes, a free mobile app available on Apple and Android devices.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Put your yard debris back to work

Autumn brings cooler temperatures and colorful leaves falling on our lawns. With the change in seasons comes an important responsibility: to properly dispose of all leaves and other yard debris before any of it ends up in a storm drain and causes pollutants to enter our waterways. The County's *Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance* was put in place to prevent the discharge of pollutants into our stormwater drainage system, which affects the health of our water bodies. You can help prevent yard debris in our stormwater drains by putting the waste back to work through composting.

Composting is the process of combining waste and yard debris such as leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps and allowing them to decompose in a moist and oxygenated environment over a period of time. You can help speed up the composting process with aeration and added moisture, but be careful not to make the compost pile too moist. Once the matter is decomposed, the finished compost is full of rich nutrients that are great for yards and gardens. In addition, compost allows air and moisture to better penetrate the soil and improves your plant's root systems and overall health.

You can start a compost pile by yourself or get others in your neighborhood to create a central composting site. A central location provides everyone with a way to get rid of their yard waste and in return get rich compost for their yards. For more information, contact the Gwinnett Extension Service at 678.377.4010 or visit [www.gwinnettextension.com](http://www.gwinnettextension.com).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Help keep kids safe on Halloween

Did you know on average, twice as many kids in the United States are killed while walking on Halloween than on other days of the year? Take these simple precautions to keep your kids safe:

- Remind your children to enter homes only if they are with a trusted adult and to never accept rides from strangers.
- Be sure to accompany all children under 12 while trick-or-treating. Make sure older kids go out in groups and stick to a predetermined route.
- Drivers should slow down in neighborhoods and be on alert for children, especially during peak trick-or-treating hours.
- Do not allow your children to accept homemade treats from strangers and do check all treats for signs of tampering.

For more tips, visit [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).

Department of Water Resources • Stormwater Management Division

## Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop

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

Learn about the purpose, function, and aesthetic value of your detention pond along with some troubleshooting tips at this free workshop. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, the city of Peachtree Corners, or the city of Lilburn may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit towards their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Please pre-register by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com) or calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these reads to excite the explorer in your child. These and other titles are available at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org):

*The True Story of Lewis and Clark*, by Susanna Keller

*Vikings*, by Marty Gitlin

*Who Was Christopher Columbus?*, by Bonnie Bader

*100 People Who Made History: Meet the People Who Shaped the Modern World*, by Ben Gilliland

## SPLOST

### Commissioners approve road improvements

Nearly \$5 million in SPLOST pennies will soon go to work to ease congestion on Gwinnett roads thanks to Board of Commissioners actions in September. Commissioners approved a project framework agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for a future interchange on I-85 at McGinnis Ferry Road and construction contracts for two projects that will connect two dozen traffic signals on Suwanee Dam Road and Indian Trail Road to the Gwinnett Traffic Control Center.

Gwinnett agreed to contribute \$4 million to purchase right-of-way and also agreed to manage the preliminary engineering of the new interchange. The state DOT will manage construction and supply \$13.3 million, including \$10.6 million in federal funds. County funding comes from the 2009 and 2014 SPLOST sales tax programs.

Eight cameras and 4.4 miles of fiber optic cable on Suwanee Dam Road will link nine traffic signals to the Traffic Control Center to allow traffic monitoring and real-time signal timing adjustments. The \$599,005 project stretches from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to State Route 20. A second fiber-optic project for \$817,684 will add nine more cameras and connect 15 traffic signals on 3.6 miles of Indian Trail Road between Beaver Ruin Road and U.S. Highway 29/Lawrenceville Highway. Both contracts went to low bidder ComTran Group Inc. of Buford and funded by the 2009 SPLOST program.



### County offices closed: Veterans Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the county, will be closed Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans Day.

All offices will resume regular working hours on Wednesday, November 12. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Veterans Day is not a trash and recycling holiday.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Veterans Day Ceremony: November 11

The public is invited to Gwinnett County's Veterans Day Ceremony on **Tuesday, November 11 at 11:00am** at the **Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial**, located on the grounds of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Gwinnett County commissioners, a special guest keynote speaker, and honor guard units from the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services and Police departments, the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, and the Lawrenceville Police Department will take part in this event.

### Save your stuff for America Recycles Day!

Come celebrate America Recycles Day with the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division on **Saturday, November 22 from 9:00am to noon** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. For a list of items that will be recycled during the event, visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com). Volunteer with us during the America Recycles Day event! Volunteers will be assigned to serve from 8:00am to 2:00pm. To sign up as a volunteer, visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net).

### FOCUS ON: Fire and Emergency Services Fire Prevention Program

*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' FLAME mentoring program. Read more at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Skip a trip to the tag office!

Renewing your vehicle registration online is quick and easy. Credit cards accepted online are American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and VISA (there is a 2.35 percent convenience fee charged by the Georgia Department of Revenue when you pay). If your vehicle is in the title tax system, unless you have a specialty tag, you can renew for a convenience fee of only \$1. Visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) for more information and to renew.

## EVENTS

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

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

### Garden Club Meeting

November 3 • 7:00pm to 8:00pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4713

### Conversational English • FREE!

Wednesdays • 1:00pm to 2:00pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
678.225.5400

### Arts and Crafts Market

November 8 • 11:00am to 3:00pm  
George Pierce Park  
Community Recreation Center  
55 Buford Highway, Suwanee  
678.277.09210

### Crafty Creations Bazaar

November 14 • 9:00am to 2:00pm  
Bethesda Park Senior Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville  
678.277.0179

### Civil War Holiday

November 15 • 10:00 to 4:00pm  
McDaniel Farm Park  
3251 McDaniel Road, Duluth  
770.904.3500

### Annual Lighting of the Tree

November 28 • 5:00pm to 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse  
185 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville  
770.822.5450

**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)

