

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

AUGUST 2015



New wireless alerts keep residents and visitors safe in an emergency

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management has tapped into an existing feature on wireless telephones that alerts users when an imminent threat to safety occurs in their area. The new wireless emergency alerts will be sent by the County to all wireless phones that are located in close proximity to an emergency in Gwinnett. Alerts will include the time and type of alert and any action residents and visitors in the affected area should take. The messages will not duplicate AMBER alerts or extreme weather messages from the National Weather Service.

“These alerts will be sent to any enabled mobile device in range of the broadcasting cell tower, so it helps us reach those who need to avoid or evacuate a specific area in the county or to shelter-in-place to maintain their safety,” said Emergency Management Director **Greg Swanson**. The alerts will be sent when emergency events—such as an earthquake, immediate evacuation, fire, or hazardous materials leak or spill—pose a threat to life.

To insure that you receive these lifesaving alerts, make sure the emergency alerts feature is enabled and activated on your mobile device. To find out if your mobile device is capable of receiving these messages, contact your service provider or visit the Gwinnett Emergency Management webpage at www.gwinnettema.com.

County offices closed for Labor Day

AROUND GWINNETT

Community emergency volunteer courses available this fall

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management is offering free Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, training to Gwinnett County residents beginning September 8. CERT courses educate residents about disaster preparedness for emergencies that may impact their community. Residents are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT training is 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 9:00pm on Tuesdays. A course review and disaster simulation will take place on Saturday, October 24 from 8:00am to noon. For more information or to register, please email ema@gwinnettcounty.com. Sign up soon; class size is limited to 25 participants.



Showcase your wares at the fair

The Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service invites you to showcase your canning products, artwork, needle work, crafts, and photography at this year's Gwinnett County Fair. For more information or to register, please visit www.gwinnettcountyfair.com.

FOCUS ON: Plan Review Team

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 Department of Planning and Development's Plan Review team that uses the latest technology to streamline the permitting process. To read more, please visit www.gwinnettcounty.com.

County offices closed: Labor 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 Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 8. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Labor Day is not a trash holiday for residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at www.gwinnettcountyevents.com.

Fall Lawn Care • FREE!

September 8 • Noon to 1:00pm
Gwinnett County Government Annex Building
Second Floor Conference Room
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville
678.377.4010

Job Readiness Workshop • FREE!

September 12 • 9:00am to Noon
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
678.225.5400

Night Treks at the EHC

September 25 • 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

6th Annual Honey Bee Festival

September 27 • 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford
770.904.3500

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

Gwinnett County Communications Division
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770.822.7180 • www.gwinnettcounty.com

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



South Gwinnett Park renovation begins soon

The Board of Commissioners recently approved an \$8.4 million contract with Multiplex LLC to begin redevelopment of the 23-acre South Gwinnett Park located in the Snellville area.

Originally purchased by Gwinnett County in 2006, the redeveloped park will feature six reconstructed baseball/softball fields; a new artificial-turf field for football, soccer, and lacrosse; concession/restroom buildings; a playground; picnic tables; benches; new parking lots; and a redesigned entrance on McGee Road. Existing facilities will be demolished except for the indoor hockey building, which will remain in operation throughout construction.

The multi-purpose field will have bleachers and a press box and the baseball complex includes batting cages, dugouts, fencing, irrigation, and shade structures.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tips to keep your kids safe at the bus stop

It's the beginning of another school year, which means many students will board the school bus to get to school. Safe Kids Gwinnett wants to help your kids get a gold star in bus safety with these tips.

- Walk with your kids to the bus stop and wait with them until the bus arrives.
- Tell kids to stand three giant steps back from the curb as the bus approaches and board the bus one at a time.
- Teach kids to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off and never to walk behind the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, he or she should take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver, and cross when the driver indicates it's safe.
- Teach kids to look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- Drivers, slow down in school zones, near bus stops, and near a school bus with flashing yellow or red lights.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Adopt-a-Stream to keep waterways clean

Gwinnett is home to thousands of waterbodies that play an integral role in maintaining the quality of life we all enjoy. The aquatic ecosystems that exist within our streams are delicate and highly sensitive to environmental changes such as nonpoint source pollution, which washes into storm drains with runoff during rain events.

In an effort to protect our water quality, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Adopt-A-Stream volunteer program empowers residents with the tools they need to monitor the condition of local streams. The program also provides information to the public about nonpoint source pollution, stream monitoring, and water quality protection.

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, administers the county's Adopt-A-Stream program. Teachers, students, and the general public receive training on water quality monitoring protocols, which helps promote the protection of our fragile aquatic ecosystems. In addition, volunteers can serve as "keepers" of a portion of a creek or stream by monitoring its condition with supplies, training, and certifications in chemical, bacterial, and macroinvertebrate testing provided by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and the Department of Water Resources.

To learn how you can get involved in Adopt-A-Stream, visit www.gwinnettcba.org/adopt-a-stream or call 770.822.5187. With your help, we can protect our waterways by keeping them clean, healthy, and beautiful.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2015 Gwinnett County property tax bills are in the mail and are due October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. You can make multiple payments as long as the total balance is paid by October 15. For more information about ways to pay or to pay online, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these reads to entice your curious mind. These and other titles are available at www.gwinnettpl.org.

The Doodle Revolution: Unlock the Power to Think Differently, by Sunni Brown

Who Built That: Awe-inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs, by Michelle Malkin

The Perfection of the Paper Clip: Curious Tales of Invention, Accidental Genius, and Stationery Obsession, by James Ward

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!
**Backyard Stream Restoration:
Part I, Evaluation**

September 27, 2015 • 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Environmental and Heritage Center Ivy Room
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

Many Gwinnett residents have small creeks or ponds or larger bodies of water on their property. This workshop will address a broad range of topics associated with having water on your property and will be informative to those who may not live near water but are concerned about water quality in Gwinnett. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, city of Lilburn, or city of Peachtree Corners can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

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