

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## JULY 2015



### Community leaders complete the County's first citizens academy session

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently recognized 26 community leaders for completing the County's inaugural citizen academy session. Gwinnett 101: Citizens Academy launched in April 2015 and included a nine-week crash course in Gwinnett County Government operations. Gwinnett 101 is a program aimed at developing and nurturing informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in the county.

Applications are being accepted for the fall session, which will begin September 10. Classes will be held Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at various locations around Gwinnett. Interested applicants must be 18 years or older, a resident and/or business owner in Gwinnett, or a student at a Gwinnett college or university.

Applications are available at [www.gwinnett101.com](http://www.gwinnett101.com) and must be received by **July 31** in order to participate in the fall session.

Online pavilion rentals just got easy!

[www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com)

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Celebrate National Park and Recreation Month's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will host a "totally rad" celebration throughout the month of July in honor of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Park and Recreation Month. Venture out to your local parks to experience the many benefits, like programs that inspire healthy, active lifestyles and activities that help visitors appreciate nature and the environment. Parks and Recreation will host several events to celebrate National Park and Recreation Month including ongoing activities such as a Kids' Art Show and four Walk the Talk events, along with special events such as a free brown bag concert, an 80s party, and a movie matinee with music, games, swimming, food, and more. For a list of events, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com).

### Clerk of Court offers notary classes

Gwinnett Clerk of Court Richard Alexander will offer two notary public training classes for the public. Working in conjunction with the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority, the Gwinnett Clerk of Superior Court's office will host two training classes on August 21 from 10:30am to noon and 2:00pm to 3:30pm. Training will be held at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. There is no charge to attend these workshops, but registration is requested. For more information about the workshops or to register, please visit the Clerk of Courts website at [www.gwinnettcourts.com](http://www.gwinnettcourts.com).



### FOCUS ON: Public Relations 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 Communications Division's Public Relations team that keeps residents in the know about their County government. To read more, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### Save money and time... manage your water bill online

Did you know you can start, stop, and transfer your services online at [www.gwinnett20.com](http://www.gwinnett20.com)? You can also make a one-time online payment, schedule a future payment, or enroll in our free Automatic Payment Advantage program. Just have your username or water account number and password ready.

Explore Gwinnett is Gwinnett's official tourism agency and promotes Gwinnett as a place to meet, stay, and play.

View the complete events calendar at

[www.exploreghwinnett.com](http://www.exploreghwinnett.com).

### Memphis

July 23 – August 30

Wednesday – Saturday • 8:00pm

Saturday – Sunday • 2:30pm

Aurora Theatre

128 Pike Street, Lawrenceville

[www.auroratheatre.com](http://www.auroratheatre.com)

### The Cup Show: The Hudgens 1<sup>st</sup> National Juried & Invitational Cup Exhibition

July 14 – September 19

Tuesday – Saturday • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Hudgens Center for the Arts – Kistner Atrium

6500 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

[www.thehudgens.org](http://www.thehudgens.org)

### Norcross Art Splash

October 3 – 4

Saturday • 10:00am – 6:00pm

Sunday • 11:00am – 5:00pm

Historic Downtown Norcross

1 Park Drive, Norcross

[norcrossartfest.splashfestivals.com](http://norcrossartfest.splashfestivals.com)

### gwinnettcounty connection

send questions or comments to  
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Gwinnett County Communications Division

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Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

your pennies  
at work

## County officials break ground for joint city hall, branch library building

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and officials from the city of Lilburn and Gwinnett County Public Library broke ground on the new Lilburn City Hall and Lilburn branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library on June 8 at the building site. Gwinnett County Government and city of Lilburn previously agreed on cost-sharing details for the project in May of last year after signing an initial understanding in 2011.

The two-level building will include 5,217 square feet of shared community and support space in addition to the 18,864-square-foot library and 24,927-square-foot city hall. It is designed to meet LEED Certification Version 3.0 through the U.S. Green Building Council. Hogan Construction Group LLC of Norcross will construct the \$11.3 million facility, which will take about 14 months to complete. Gwinnett County will manage construction and the two entities will share in the cost. Funding comes from the County's SPLOST program.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Tips to beat the heat this summer

Summer in Georgia is a time for camping trips, cookouts, and afternoons by the pool. However, it's also a time to be aware of the dangers soaring temperatures can bring.

Follow these tips from Gwinnett County Emergency Management and Georgia Emergency Management Agency's Ready Georgia to beat the heat this summer:

- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Stay well hydrated. Drink plenty of water, even when you're not thirsty.
- Stay indoors in air-conditioned spaces as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Check on elderly neighbors, family members, and friends who do not have air conditioning.

For more tips on how to stay safe in the summer heat, visit [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com) or [www.gwinnettema.com](http://www.gwinnettema.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Save water outdoors this summer

As we move into the peak heat of summer, many Gwinnett residents are using more water outdoors to maintain their lawns and landscapes. By following these water wise tips, you can keep your plants healthy without wasting water.

**Keep the time in mind.** Only irrigate between 4:00pm and 10:00am. By watering during the cooler parts of the day, you reduce water lost to evaporation and are complying with the requirements of the *Georgia Water Stewardship Act*.

**Mulch it up.** Use mulch, such as pine straw, pine bark, or shredded hardwood on lawn or landscape. Mulch allows water to infiltrate more effectively into the ground and can help plants and soil retain moisture. For maximum value, maintain 3 to 5 inches of mulch on top of soil.

**Check for leaks.** Be sure to regularly check your irrigation system for leaks and replace any broken sprinkler heads. Also keep an eye out for pooling water or soggy areas in your yard, which can point to an underground leak. Leaks as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste up to 6,300 gallons of water per month!

**Pick your plants properly.** Drought-tolerant plants require less watering, which saves you time and money. Be sure to group plants by their water needs—high, moderate, or low—so you can irrigate only in the areas that require it.

For more tips about outdoor watering and landscaping, attend our free Smart Irrigation Workshop on Thursday, July 23 at 7:00pm. To register for this workshop, please email [dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com) or call 678.376.7126.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills to be mailed in August

The Tax Commissioner plans to mail the 2015 property tax bills by August 15 with a single due date of October 15. For more information about ways to pay and to pay online, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these summer reads for kids. Don't forget the Summer Reading Program continues through August 15. To check out these titles or sign up for the Summer Reading Program, visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Bedtime in the Forest*, by Kazuo Iwamura

*Mr. Putter & Tabby Clear the Decks*, by Cynthia Rylant

*Now It Is Summer*, by Eileen Spinelli

*It's Summer, Dear Dragon*, by Margaret Hillert

*The Summer Visitors*, by Karel Hayes

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!

## Septic Tank Maintenance

August 6, 2015 • 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, 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 pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcountry.com) or calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).