

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## MARCH 2015



### Chairman Nash gives big picture view in 2015 State of the County speech

Gwinnett Board of Commissioners Chairman **Charlotte Nash** delivered her fifth annual State of the County speech on February 19 at Gwinnett Center in Duluth. Accompanied by stunning aerial videos flying over Gwinnett landmarks, she focused on the “big picture” as “a reminder of just how big and complex this community is—and how much opportunity we’re blessed to have.”

Nash pointed out Gwinnett’s many strategic advantages with outstanding schools and colleges, housing options, and infrastructure. The county’s healthcare systems, arts community, and professional sports teams also drew praise, along with voter-approved SPLOST programs, ethnic and cultural diversity, and economic development efforts. She applauded the growth of the film industry at Eagle Rock Studios and the new Atlanta Media Campus, and Comcast’s recent decision to expand its regional headquarters in Gwinnett.

Watch the  
2015 State of the County  
address now!



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Volunteer Gwinnett stays ahead of goal in 2014

When the Volunteer Gwinnett program was launched in 2012, the County set a goal to reach 1 million volunteer hours by 2015, but our wonderful volunteers blasted past that number in 2013 with 1,025,925 hours. In 2014, volunteers gave 1,054,431 hours, maintaining the 1 million mark and exceeding the previous year by more than 28,000 hours! We couldn’t have exceeded this goal 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).



### County hosts networking event for potential vendors

The Gwinnett County Purchasing Division will host the ninth annual Supplier Symposium on April 16, 2015, at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. The annual symposium provides vendors with an opportunity to meet buyers and contracting officers in Gwinnett County and other metro Atlanta agencies. Potential vendors may drop in between 8:30am and 11:30am. To register for this free event, view current projects open for bidding, or read about bidding procedures in Gwinnett County, visit the Purchasing Division’s webpage at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### FOCUS ON: Office of Emergency Management

*FOCUS ON* tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. March features the staff of the Emergency Management office, which coordinates the County’s response to emergencies and natural disasters and educates residents on how to stay safe in an emergency. To read more, visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit [www.gwinnett20.com](http://www.gwinnett20.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.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at [www.gwinnettcountyevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcountyevents.com).

#### Easter Eggstravaganza • FREE!

April 2 • 10:30am to noon  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4713

#### Earth Day at Coolray Field • FREE!

April 18 • 9:00am to noon  
Coolray Field  
2500 Buford Drive, Lawrenceville  
678.518.6112

#### Earth Day Celebration • FREE!

April 22 • 4:00pm to 7:00pm  
Sweet Water Park  
800 Bethesda School Road, Lawrenceville  
678.277.0179

#### Meals In Minutes Cooking Class • FREE!

April 23 • 5:00pm to 7:00pm  
Bethesda Senior Center  
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville  
770.822.8869

#### Earth Day Celebration at the EHC

April 26 • 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
Environmental and Heritage Center  
2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford  
770.904.3500

### 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 • [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6800.



## Simpsonwood property becomes County's newest park

Gwinnett County has closed on the \$14 million purchase of Simpsonwood from the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. The 223-acre property is located in Peachtree Corners. Funded by SPLOST, the Simpsonwood acquisition provides an opportunity to preserve green space and provide passive recreational opportunities for Gwinnett residents.

The Simpsonwood property is predominantly forested with hardwood and evergreen trees with approximately 2,140 linear feet of river frontage along the Chattahoochee River. A timeline has not yet been established for planned improvements to the park property. The first step in the process is to develop a park master plan, which is anticipated to begin within the year.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Tips to be a safe sitter

Babysitting is a popular job for teens, but it is a lot of responsibility. Here are some safety tips to share with your teen before he or she takes on a babysitting job.

- Gather as much information as possible before taking on a job, including the length of time scheduled to work, the babysitting responsibilities, and the children's routine. Don't be afraid to say no if the responsibilities are more than you can handle.
- Know emergency contact numbers and keep them visible.
- Stay focused on the children at all times. Avoid using headphones or other distractions that might prevent you from hearing the child even after the child is put to bed.



Find more safety tips at [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com)



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Fix a leak for big savings

The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks—that's the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. If that doesn't seem like a lot, consider that across the country, easy-to-fix household leaks can add up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost every year!

That is why Gwinnett County is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the annual Fix a Leak Week, March 16 – 22, 2015. Sponsored by the US EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week reminds homeowners of the easy steps they can take to help save water in their community now and for future generations.

Fixing household leaks not only saves water but reduces water bills—by about 10 percent. Start saving today with three simple steps: check, twist and replace.

- **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, and fixture connections. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots, too.
- **Twist and tighten pipe connections.** To save more water without a noticeable difference in flow, twist on a WaterSense® labeled faucet aerator.
- **Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently tested and certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

For more information and tips about how to save water during Fix a Leak Week, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) and [www.DWRconserve.com](http://www.DWRconserve.com).

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Homestead Exemption application deadline: April 1

The deadline for the homestead exemption application for property tax is April 1, 2015. Once granted, the exemption is automatically renewed each year. Apply online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or contact us at [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8800 to request an application.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these titles to get a glimpse inside the human mind. These and other titles are available at the Gwinnett Public Library, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Touch: The Science of Hand, Heart, and Mind*, by David J. Linden

*Creatures of a Day: and Other Tales of Psychotherapy*, by Irvin D. Yalom

*Tales from Both Sides of the Brain: A Life in Neuroscience*, by Michael S. Gazzaniga

*The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults*, by Frances E. Jensen with Amy Ellis Nutt

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!  
**Spring Cleaning and Household Hazardous Waste Management**

April 9, 2015 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, Georgia

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, 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.

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