

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## SEPTEMBER 2015



### Save the date for the annual fall festival with police and fire

Make plans now to attend the sixth annual Public Safety Fall Festival! The Gwinnett County Police Department and Department of Fire and Emergency Services will host the free event on **Saturday, October 3** from **10:00am to 3:00pm** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves.

Come out for displays of fire trucks and police vehicles, safety training demonstrations, kids' activities, pet adoptions, lots of giveaways, and a softball face-off between police officers and firefighters. Everyone is invited to attend, so bring the whole family. You won't want to miss out on all the fun!

For more information about the festival, please contact the Gwinnett Police Crime Prevention Unit at 770.513.5119 or Gwinnett Fire Community Risk Reduction – Education Section at 678.518.4845.

Paid poll officials needed for  
November 2015 election!

Visit [www.gwinnettcountyjobs.com](http://www.gwinnettcountyjobs.com)  
and select the Elections Poll Official  
position to apply.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Parents, help prevent teen drinking

Teen drinking can reduce a teen's ability to learn new information and make clear decisions and can lead to accidents, injuries, and fatalities, not to mention lower grades in school and DUIs or other charges. The good news is alcohol use among Gwinnett youth continues to decline. According to the 2014 Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services Youth Health Survey, less than 20 percent of teens in Gwinnett reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.

Parents and adults, teens are going to be safer and healthier when you talk about the risks of underage drinking, set clear rules and expectations, ensure an alcohol-free environment, monitor your teen's whereabouts when unsupervised, and know your teen's friends and activities. Most teens who believe their parents would disapprove of them drinking alcohol choose not to drink. Does your teen know how you feel? For more information on underage drinking prevention, visit [www.guideinc.org](http://www.guideinc.org).

**Thank you  
for NOT serving  
alcohol to minors.**  
*You're the reason MOST  
teens don't drink!*  
**SaveBrains.org**

### Volunteer for Great Days of Service

Join the cause and volunteer for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Gwinnett Days of Service on October 23 – 24. Great Days of Service, one of the nation's largest volunteer efforts, gives Gwinnett residents the opportunity to donate their time and energy to doing community service and helping those in need. Visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net) where you can sign up and choose from more than 300 projects. For more information about this year's event, please visit [www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org](http://www.gwinnettgreatdaysofservice.org).

### FOCUS ON: Family and Consumer Sciences Unit

*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 Cooperative Extension Services' Family and Consumer Science Unit, which educates residents on valuable life development skills. To read more, please 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 non-recurring 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).

### Wills, Estate Planning – Documents You Need on Hand • FREE!

October 8 • 1:00pm to 2:30pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4713

### Howell at the Moon Zombie Walk and Fun Run • FREE!

October 14 • 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Shorty Howell Park Activity Building  
2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth  
678.277.0906

### Touch-A-Truck and Treat • FREE!

October 24 • 3:00pm to 6:00pm  
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center  
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford  
678.277.0850

### Homebuyer Education Workshop • FREE!

October 30 • 8:30am to 5:00pm  
Norcross Human Services Center  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross  
866.625.0129

### 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 678.376.6700.



gwinnett**SPLOST**.com

your pennies  
for city share

### SPLOST funds city sidewalks

Commissioners approved an agreement in July with the city of Lawrenceville to help fund pedestrian improvements along U.S. 29/State Route 8/East Crogan Street from Stanley Court to Village Way near Rhodes Jordan Park east of downtown. Gwinnett County will contribute \$100,000 from the 2014 SPLOST program with the city responsible for the rest.

The County also agreed to use 2005 SPLOST funds to pay half the cost of pedestrian improvements in the city of Peachtree Corners. CMEC LLC will build new sidewalk on the east side of Crooked Creek Road from Jay Bird Alley to the existing sidewalk at the entrance to Mary Our Queen Catholic Church. Curb, gutter, and drainage improvements are also included. CMEC was the lowest of seven bidders at \$198,779. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Stay on the line when dialing 911

Since the beginning of 2015, hang up calls to the 911 Center have increased from nearly 15 percent of all calls in January to almost 27 percent in June. It is important to remain on the line with a 911 Communications Officer even if the call was an accident. When a person hangs up on a 911 call, the Communications Officer calls the person back to insure that police or fire response is not needed, taking valuable time that could be spent addressing a true emergency call.

If you no longer need a public safety response, tell the 911 Communications Officer. It takes less time to cancel your call than to hang up and force the Communications Officer to call you back to determine the nature of your call. If you are a witness to a crime or traffic accident, please call 911. Your statement could be valuable to the investigation. Never assume that someone else is calling 911 in an emergency.

Learn more at [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Save water and sales tax in October

Georgia's sales tax holiday for ENERGY STAR and WaterSense products will take place October 2 – 4, 2015, making it a great time to change from standard to water and energy-efficient products. WaterSense is a partnership program of the U.S Environmental Protection Agency that offers people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products for homes, yards, and businesses. WaterSense labeled products use at least 20 percent less water, and perform as well as or better than conventional models.

The following items will be exempt from sales tax if they have the WaterSense label and a purchase price of \$1,500 or less per item:

- Bathroom sink faucets
- Faucet accessories (such as aerators)
- High-efficiency toilets
- High-efficiency urinals
- Showerheads
- Weather- or sensor-based irrigation controllers

In the average home, toilet flushing accounts for the largest percentage of indoor water use. Replacing an old toilet with a new WaterSense-certified toilet can save more than two gallons per flush, which adds up to thousands of gallons of water saved each year. In addition, Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources participates in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's regional toilet rebate program for single-family homes. By replacing an old toilet, residents may qualify for a \$100 rebate. Customers may apply for up to two rebates per household for a maximum of \$200 of account credit.

For more information about water efficiency, please visit [www.DWRconserve.com](http://www.DWRconserve.com). For questions about the Georgia sales tax holiday, please contact Georgia's Taxpayer Services Division at 1.877.423.6711.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### New Tax Commissioner website

The Tax Commissioner's Office launched a brand new [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) in June. In addition to its brand new look, it's now mobile-friendly. Another added feature is the ability to translate the site into 90 different languages using Google Translate. Check it out!

## CHECK IT OUT

### September is library card sign-up month

Whether you want to get involved in your community, find a job, start a business, or simply get ahead, your library card is the key to opportunity. Libraries are transforming. Visit your local Gwinnett County Public Library branch this September during Library Card Sign-Up Month and find out how or visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).



Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!

### Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation Workshop

October 15, 2015 • 7:00pm to 8:00pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
Conference Room C  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

This free workshop will provide the knowledge and tools you need to increase water efficiency in your home. Attendees will receive a low-flow retrofit kit, outdoor water efficiency kit, a do-it-yourself home water audit guide, and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Please pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com) or by calling 678.376.7126.