

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

AUGUST 2016



Commissioners call for SPLOST vote on November ballot

Gwinnett commissioners on Tuesday, July 19 officially called for a referendum to be placed on the November 8 general election ballot for the renewal of the one-cent special purpose local option sales tax, or SPLOST. The current SPLOST program ends next March.

The County and all 16 Gwinnett cities have again agreed to share the proceeds, as they have since 2001. The new program could raise an estimated \$950 million over six years to be used for transportation improvements along with public safety, parks and recreation, library relocations and renovations, civic center expansion, senior service facilities, and city administrative, parking, and cultural facilities plus city water and sewer capital improvements.

Gwinnett County will receive 78.76 percent of the proceeds and the cities will receive 21.24 percent. The County has determined that 65 percent of its share, or an estimated \$486 million, will be dedicated to transportation projects such as roads, streets, bridges, and sidewalks, including \$30.8 million for joint city/county transportation projects. The County has also agreed to set aside approximately \$3.2 million for joint parks and recreation improvements. Additional information about SPLOST can be found online at www.gwinnettSPLOST.com.

County offices closed September 5
for Labor Day

AROUND GWINNETT



Gwinnett County lifeguards win state competition fifth year in a row

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation won first place at the annual Georgia Recreation and Park Association State Lifeguarding Competition, held at Lake Oconee in Greene County on July 18. The team consisted of veteran lifeguards Jordan Rubin, Holly Smith, Daniel Lammons, Reagan Balog, Brad Miller, and Philip Jenny and was coached by Arthur Bedard from Mountain Park Aquatic Center. The Gwinnett County team earned 43 points with high finishes in the majority of the events.

Make a difference for foster children

Did you know that on any given day, there are more than 450 children in foster care in Gwinnett County, with less than 50 foster homes to care for them? The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services urges Gwinnett families to make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster parent. Get involved by attending an upcoming orientation sponsored by the Gwinnett County DFCS held the second Monday of each month from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. To register, please call Kimberly Griffin at 404.852.3694 or send an email to Cathy Chapman at cathy.chapman1@dhs.ga.gov.

FOCUS ON: District Attorney's Investigations 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 District Attorney's Investigations Unit, which gathers and analyzes evidence to prosecute criminal cases. Find out more at 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 5 for Labor Day. All offices will resume regular working hours Tuesday, September 6. 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

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 11 • 8:30am
Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville
678.518.4824

Crafty Creations

September 14 • 6:15pm to 8:15pm
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake
678.277.0920

Budgeting for Holiday Shopping • FREE!

September 16 • 6:00pm to 7:30pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
770.985.4713

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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 678.376.6800.

Ronald Reagan Park gets a facelift

The 11-year-old park named after the 40th president has gotten a facelift. The \$1,116,000 renovation was completed at Ronald Reagan Park through a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and funding from the 2014 SPLOST. Renovations included removal and reconstruction of the skate park, reconstruction of footbridges and railings, construction of a gabion wall at stream, dog park reconfiguration, storm drainage improvements, sidewalk connections, erosion control, landscaping and reforestation.

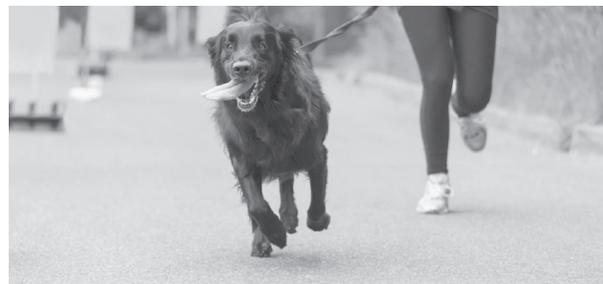
Ronald Reagan Park's colorful playground is the perfect way for kids to enjoy the outdoors. Other amenities in this 25-acre park include a dog park, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, bocce ball courts, two half-basketball courts, pavilions, and a multi-purpose trail. Ronald Reagan Park is located at 2777 Five Forks Trickum Road in Lawrenceville and is open from sunrise to sunset. For more information on the park or upcoming events and programs, visit www.gwinnettparks.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tips to prevent heat stroke for young athletes

Kids are back in school, which means many young athletes will head to sports fields for practices and games. With scorching high temperatures this summer, the dangers of heat stroke are apparent. Heat stroke can be deadly, so parents and coaches have an important role to play to keep kids safe. The easiest way to reduce the chance of heat stroke is to keep your child hydrated during physical activity. Here are some tips to follow:

- Give water to your young athlete at least 30 minutes prior to physical activity
- Make sure your child takes regular water breaks every 15 to 20 minutes
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that kids up to 88 pounds drink five ounces of water; kids up to 132 pounds should drink nine ounces.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Why pick up pet waste?

Pet waste is an obvious problem when you step in it, but what about when rain hits it? Doesn't it just absorb into the ground?

Pet waste is a contributor to the main type of water pollution found in Gwinnett County – fecal coliform bacteria. It is in a category of bacteria that originate in the gut flora of warm-blooded animals and is used as an indicator of fecal contamination in waterways. People who swim, fish, or boat in these waterways can be exposed to diseases that pet waste can cause. As pet waste decomposes in water, it can deplete the oxygen level or increase the ammonia level of the water and cause harm to fish and other water life.

When pet waste is left on the ground, runoff from the next rain event will carry small particles of waste and bacteria to the nearest storm drain or waterway where the bacteria can proliferate and the nutrients can cause excessive algae growth. This happens at home, in your neighbor's yard, at the park, or any location where pet waste is left on the ground.

We know what you're thinking: all animals and wildlife leave their waste on the ground—what's the problem? One could argue that animal waste is all the same. However, pet waste in the environment compounds the problems caused by natural sources. So, remember to take a bag and pick up after your dog when you take him outside. Your actions will help to keep potentially harmful bacteria out of Gwinnett's waterways, create a safer environment, and maintain good neighborly relations.

For more info, visit www.gwinnettH2O.com and click on *Stormwater Management*.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2016 Gwinnett County property tax bills will be mailed by **August 15** 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, which were selected as the Young Adult Library Services Association best fiction of 2016. These and other titles can be found at your local branch or online at www.gwinnettpl.org.

Hold Tight, Don't Let go: A Novel of Haiti, by Laura Rose Wagner

13 Days of Midnight, by Leo Hunt

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B, by Teresa Toten

The Porcupine of Truth, by Bill Konigsberg

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Fall Gardening and Composting

September 8, 2016 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how to use your autumn leaf fall to your advantage and prevent stormwater pollution at this free workshop. Residents from unincorporated Gwinnett County, city of Lilburn, or city of Peachtree Corners may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Presented by: Robert Brannen,
Gwinnett Extension Service

Please pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com or calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).