

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## FEBRUARY 2016



### Apply for the Gwinnett 101 Spring 2016 session

Have you ever wondered why a fire truck responds to your medical emergency? Why the County has a SPLOST program? Or how clean water gets to your house? The Gwinnett 101: Citizens Academy can help answer those questions and more.

Gwinnett 101 is a free program designed to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in Gwinnett. Class members will get a first-hand glimpse of how the County works and build a network with others who live, work, and learn in Gwinnett County.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm beginning with an orientation on April 12 and ending with graduation and recognition by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 28.

Interested candidates must be at least 18 years old and be a resident and/or business owner in Gwinnett or attend a Gwinnett college or university. Class size is limited to 30 participants who will be chosen by a selection committee.

Applications are available online and must be received by March 1, 2016. For more information about Gwinnett 101, visit [www.gwinnett101.com](http://www.gwinnett101.com) or contact Nicole Love Hendrickson at [nicole.hendrickson@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:nicole.hendrickson@gwinnettcounty.com).

Gwinnett Police and Animal Shelter have gone social!

 @GwinnettPd  Gwinnett Animal Shelter

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Make your voice heard this election season

The election season is underway, so make sure your voter registration is up to date. Please take note of the upcoming elections:

- **Presidential Preference Primary:** March 1
- **General Primary/Nonpartisan Election:** May 24
- **General Primary/Nonpartisan Election Runoff:** July 26
- **General Election:** November 8
- **State General Election Runoff:** December 6
- **Federal General Election Runoff:** January 10

To register to vote in Georgia, you must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Georgia and of the county in which you wish to vote, and at least 18 years old by Election Day.

You may not register to vote if you are currently serving any sentence imposed by the conviction of a felony or have been judicially determined to be mentally incompetent. Visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com) to download and complete a voter registration application.

You can now register to vote online if you have a Georgia issued personal identification card or driver's license. To register, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

If you need to locate your polling place, visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov). You can also get a list of candidates and their websites, view sample ballots, and get updates on your voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

Advance and absentee voting is available, so be sure to visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com) for dates and locations.

### FOCUS ON: Accounting Division

FOCUS ON tells the story of how your county government employees provide high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features the Department of Financial Services Accounting Division, which ensures the accurate and timely reporting of the County's financial transactions. Read more at [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit [www.gwinnett2o.com](http://www.gwinnett2o.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).

#### Walk The Talk • FREE!

March 5 • 9:00am to 10:00am  
Alexander Park  
800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville  
770.978.5270

#### Spring Lawn Care • FREE!

March 7 • Noon to 1:00pm  
Gwinnett Annex Building, Second Floor Conference Room  
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville  
678.377.4011

#### Blueberry, Blackberry, and Apple Class • FREE!

March 7 • 6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Gwinnett Annex Building, Second Floor Conference Room  
750 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville  
678.377.4011

#### Quince Girl Expo • FREE!

March 12 • 11:00am to 2:00pm  
Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center  
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake  
678.277.0920

#### Cooking For Cancer Prevention • FREE!

March 31 • 10:00am to 12:30pm  
Centerville Community Center  
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville  
770.985.4713

### 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.



## Gwinnett builds new morgue and medical examiner's office

Gwinnett commissioners in December approved a construction contract for a new morgue and medical examiner's office. The 2014 SPLOST is funding the 15,000 square foot facility that will be built on 5.6 acres the County owns at 320 Hurricane Shoals Road in Lawrenceville.

McKnight Construction Company Inc. was the lowest of three pre-qualified bidders at \$5.7 million. The building is designed by Precision Planning Inc. to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification through the U.S. Green Building Council.

The morgue space will have three state of the art autopsy stations plus a laboratory and space for evidence processing and storage. The facility will also have office space for the Medical Examiner, medical staff, investigators, and administrative staff along with a family conference room and respite area. The medical examiner conducts death investigations, including postmortem examinations of bodies, in order to determine cause and manner of death in cases that meet certain criteria as defined under state law, such as sudden or suspicious deaths.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Tips for safe driving in winter weather

Winter weather driving presents a number of challenges for you and your car, so it's best to stay off the roads during a severe winter weather event. If you have to go out on the road, consider these tips:

- Never warm up your vehicle in an enclosed area.
- Make sure your tires are properly inflated and keep your gas tank at least half full during the winter season.
- Make sure your exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow or ice to prevent a dangerous carbon monoxide leak into the passenger compartment.
- Keep a ready kit in the trunk with water, food, a flashlight, and first aid kit.

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



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Water leaks can run, but they can't hide

Are you ready to get to the bottom of the water leaks around your home? If so, race over to your plumbing fixtures, fix those drips, and save valuable water and money all year long. Fix a Leak Week, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program, encourages Americans to help put a stop to the 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year. This year's Fix a Leak Week is March 14 through March 20, 2016.

Water Resources is asking residents to help conserve water by checking, listening, and repairing:

- **Check** for dripping faucets, showerheads, tub spouts, and fixture connections. You can also perform a leak test using your water meter. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter reading changes, you probably have a leak.
- **Listen** for hissing or trickling noises coming from your toilet or water refilling the tank in between flushes. Also check for silent leaks by putting a teaspoon of food coloring in the tank and seeing if it appears in the bowl before you flush.
- **Repair** leaks by taking the defective part to your local hardware or plumbing store to find the correct replacement. If you buy a new fixture, look for WaterSense® labeled models, which are independently tested and certified to use 20 percent less water.

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

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Senior homestead exemptions available

In Gwinnett there are several special homestead exemptions available for seniors to save money on their property tax bill.

To learn more about these exemptions and their requirements, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or contact our office at [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8800. Apply online or request an application in person, by email or by phone. All applications are due April 1.

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings to get you organized in the new year. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload*, by Daniel J. Levitin

*Organized Simplicity: A Clutter-free Approach to Intentional Living*, by Tsh Oxenreider

*Organizing Your Life*, by Cindy Aldred

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!  
**Fix a Leak**

March 15, 2016 • 7:00pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
Conference Room A  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

High water bills are often caused by leaks inside or outside the home. Learn how to perform a test that will tell you if your home has a leak. We'll explain how to track down the leak and demonstrate simple repairs you can do yourself. A licensed plumber will be on hand to answer your questions and all attendees will receive a free low-flow home retrofit kit.

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