

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## JULY 2016



### Community leaders complete spring session of Gwinnett 101

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently recognized 30 community leaders for completing the spring 2016 session of Gwinnett 101: Citizens Academy. Gwinnett 101 launched one year ago and is a 10-week crash course in Gwinnett County Government operations. The program is aimed at developing and nurturing informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in the county.

The weekly sessions included an interactive history lesson, an overview of the County's budget process, and a community planning session. In addition, class members toured the F. Wayne Hill Water Reclamation Facility and the Traffic Control Center, performed a mock trial with judges, and participated in demonstrations led by Fire and Emergency Services, Police, and Community Services.

Gwinnett 101 is held twice a year in the spring and fall, and there are no fees to participate. Each class is limited to 30 participants and candidates for the program will be selected by an independent committee. To apply for future classes, please visit [www.gwinnett101.com](http://www.gwinnett101.com).

General primary election runoff: July 26  
Election will be held at only one precinct;  
visit [www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com) for details.

## AROUND GWINNETT



### Have a super-powered month with Gwinnett Parks and Recreation

Get ready to discover your super powers this July with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation during National Park and Recreation month. Parks and Recreation will celebrate by hosting several events this month, including a Super Movie Matinee, Superhero Family Nights, and a Super Powered Kids' Night Out. For a complete list of events, visit [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com).

### Make your summer more comfortable with tips for reducing mosquitoes

With summer upon us and more children and families headed outside, Gwinnett Cooperative Extension wants you to check out an informative video on TVgwinnett's on-demand webpage, [www.tvgwinnett.com](http://www.tvgwinnett.com), for tips to reduce the mosquito population around your home and make your summer more comfortable. For more information, visit [www.gwinnettextension.com](http://www.gwinnettextension.com) or contact the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension at 678.377.4010.

### FOCUS ON: Gwinnett County's Customer Care Division

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 Department of Water Resources' Customer Care Division, which provides top-notch customer service to more than 400,000 customers throughout Gwinnett. To read more, please visit [www.gwinnettcounty.com](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com).

### New service disconnection policy

Beginning July 1, past due water accounts will be provided with a date for disconnection. Past due accounts will receive a second notice postcard when the bill is 20 days past due and will be disconnected when it is 30 days past due. The new process lets customers know when their service will be disconnected, providing them with the ability to better manage their accounts.

For more information, visit [www.gwinnetth2o.com](http://www.gwinnetth2o.com) or email [DWRresidential@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:DWRresidential@gwinnettcounty.com).

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).

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centennial Olympic Games

August 1 – August 20

Monday – Saturday • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Environmental and Heritage Center

2020 Clean Water Drive, Buford

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

### Lawrenceville Ghost Tours

August 5 – October 31

August – September: Friday and Saturday • 8:30pm

October: Sunday – Thursday • 7:30pm

Friday and Saturday • 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Aurora Theatre

128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

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

### Atlanta Salsa Festival 2016

September 8 – 12

The Hilton Atlanta Northeast

5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Peachtree Corners

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

### 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.



gwinnettSPLOST.com

your pennies  
for transportation

## County to upgrade intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Club Drive

Commissioners in June awarded a contract to Georgia Development Partners Inc., the lowest of five bidders at \$1,563,631.87, to upgrade the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road at Club Drive.

District 1 Commissioner **Jace Brooks** said, "These improvements are expected to make traffic in this area flow much more smoothly."

The project, funded by SPLOST, will install triple left-turn lanes on Pleasant Hill Road northbound to replace the existing dual left-turn lanes. In addition, eastbound dual right lanes will be installed at Club Drive to replace the existing single right-turn lane.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Beat the heat, check the backseat

Every year, children die of hyperthermia, also known as heat stroke, while unattended in vehicles. Just two years ago, there were 30 heat stroke deaths of children left unattended in vehicles; the first seven occurred in April and May. Remember to **ACT** to prevent more tragedies this summer:

**Avoid** heat stroke-related injury and death:

- Never leave your child alone in the car, even for a minute.
- Consistently lock unattended vehicle doors and trunks, even in your driveway or garage.

**Create** reminders and habits that give you a safety net:

- Establish a peace-of-mind plan. When you drop off your child, make a habit of calling or texting other caregivers so all of you know where your child is at all times.
- Place a purse, briefcase, gym bag, cell phone, or an item that is needed at your next stop in the back seat.

**Take** action if you see an unattended child in a vehicle:

- Dial 911 immediately and follow the instructions from emergency personnel – they are trained to determine if a child is in danger.

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



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Maintain that drain!

Do you know where your wastewater goes? Homes and businesses in Gwinnett County either send their wastewater to a septic tank or to the sanitary sewer system. A septic tank treats wastewater onsite while the sanitary sewer system sends it to a treatment plant. It is important to be aware of which system serves your home or business. Septic systems require different methods of maintenance to remain effective.

A septic system consists of a septic tank, a drain field, and the soil under the drain field. Inside the septic tank, solids settle to the bottom while floatables rise to the surface. The untreated wastewater remaining then flows out of the tank into the drain field. As the water infiltrates the soil, natural processes purify it before it reaches the water table.

A septic system failure can pose a threat to human and environmental health and can also be very expensive to repair. In order to prevent these impacts on your health and your wallet, consider the following steps:

- Have your septic tank pumped every three to five years
- Remember your toilet is not a trashcan
- Use cleaning chemicals as directed to avoid harming the system
- Do not drive or park over the drain field
- Implement water conservation tactics to reduce wastewater volume

For more information about how to locate your septic system, how the system functions, additives, or resources to help you find a good septic service provider, download the Homeowner's Guide to Septic System Maintenance from [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com). Select *Stormwater Management*, then scroll to *Additional Links* and choose *Septic Tank Maintenance Information*.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Paperless billing now available

The state of Georgia recently passed a law that gives property owners the option to receive an electronic property tax bill. To sign up for paperless billing, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Download these titles to enjoy at the beach this summer. You can find them online at [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Ida B – and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World*, by Katherine Hannigan

*Robert B. Parker's Slow Burn*, by Ace Atkins

*End of Watch: A Novel*, by Stephen King

*The Obsession*, by Nora Roberts

## Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Septic Tank Maintenance

August 11, 2016 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Buford Human Services Center  
2755 Sawnee Avenue, Buford

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 may qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Presented by: Carolyn Simonton,  
Gwinnett County Environmental Health

Please pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [DWRworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com) or call 678.376.7193 (press 5).