

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

SEPTEMBER 2016

Make your voice heard in the General Election

The General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 8 at all polling locations in Gwinnett County. The deadline to register to vote and be eligible to cast a ballot in the election is Tuesday, October 11. There are several opportunities to vote before the election date, so take note of the dates below:

Advance Voting (Main Office):

October 17 – 28: 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 31 – November 4: 7:00am – 7:00pm

Saturday Voting (Main Office):

October 22: 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 29: 7:00am – 7:00pm

Satellite Voting:

October 29: 7:00am – 7:00pm

October 31 – November 4: 7:00am – 7:00pm

Seven satellite locations will be open: Bogan Park Community Recreation Center in Buford, Dacula Park Activity Building in Dacula, George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center in Suwanee, Lenora Park Activity Room in Snellville, Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center in Norcross, Mountain Park Activity Building in Stone Mountain, and Shorty Howell Park Activity Building in Duluth. Visit www.gwinnettelections.com for details.

Adopt-a-Poll for
the 2016 General Election.

Raise money for your organization
while serving your community!
Visit www.gwinnettelections.com
for more information.

AROUND GWINNETT



Commissioners lower millage rate again

Gwinnett commissioners approved property tax millage rates for 2016 in August. The new general fund rate is 5.6 percent lower than last year and down 7.8 percent over two years, Chief Financial Officer Maria Woods reported.

Board of Commissioners Chairman **Charlotte Nash** said, *“The tax digest, which is the assessed value of all property in Gwinnett, has gone up so we’re able to reduce the tax rate while maintaining a balanced budget and providing essential services.”*

The 2016 total property tax millage rate for the County will be 13.176, as compared to 13.579 for 2015. The millage rates for special service districts created in 2013 and countywide levies for voter-approved debt and recreation all remain unchanged from last year. Service district millage rates in Gwinnett are based on property location and county services provided, such as police, fire, and emergency medical. Visit www.gwinnettcounty.com for more details and to view the 2016 property tax rates.

Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer courses

The Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer classes for seniors ages 50 and older this fall. For more information, please visit www.gsrlc.org or call 770.564.4699.

Check out our FOCUS ON features

FOCUS ON features stories about how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. Those stories spotlight Gwinnett County Government work groups such as the Police Department’s Crime Prevention Unit, Transportation’s Road Assessment Team, and Fire and Emergency Services’ Swiftwater Rescue Team. Check out these articles and more on our website, www.gwinnettcounty.com.

Pay your water bill on the go!

Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com on your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Have your user-name or water account number and password to use this service for nonrecurring, one-time payments.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at www.gwinnettcountyevents.com.

Quinceañera Workshop

October 1 • 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center
4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Berkeley Lake
678.277.0920

Wedding Dances

October 8 • 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center
4651 Britt Road, Norcross
678.277.0860

Fall Into Health • FREE!

October 28 • 9:00am to 1:00pm

Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville
678.277.0179

“Dad”cula-Daughter Halloween Dance

October 28 • 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
678.277.0890

Healthy Habits – Healthy Life Series

October 17 • 10:30am to 11:30am

Bethesda Park Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville
678.277.0179

gwinnettcounty connection

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 678.376.6700.



Residents appoint members to SPLOST project selection committee

County residents gathered on Monday, August 15 to select volunteers to serve on the SPLOST citizens project selection committee for transportation. The committee will review and prioritize prospective project categories and funding levels for the transportation portion of proposed 2017 SPLOST. In addition, members will help maintain an open line of communication between the County and the public and help maximize the benefits of the tax proceeds. Residents were split into 11 interest groups and selected one member and one alternate among themselves to sit on the committee.

The referendum to renew the County's SPLOST program will go before voters on Tuesday, November 8. If passed, the program will last six years and raise an estimated \$486 million for County transportation projects such as roads, bridges, intersection improvements, and sidewalks. For details, visit www.gwinnettsplost.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The annual Public Safety Fall Festival is coming soon, so make plans to attend this year's event. The Gwinnett County Police Department and Department of Fire and Emergency Services will host the free event on Saturday, **October 8** from **10:00am to 2:00pm** at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves.

Come out for fire apparatus and police vehicle helicopter displays, 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.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Tax-free weekend saves water and money

We use more water in our homes than we do anywhere else. From washing machines to showers to toilets, the average person in Gwinnett County uses about 68 gallons of water per day. A few gallons saved here and there can really add up when you make conservation an everyday practice.

A great way to conserve water and save money is by replacing old appliances and fixtures with water efficient ones. From **September 30 to October 2, 2016**, purchases of WaterSense® and Energy Star® products are tax free (noncommercial home or personal use only up to \$1,500).

Replacing a standard showerhead with a WaterSense®-labeled fixture can save thousands of gallons of water a year. Replacing an old toilet with a water-efficient model can save more than two gallons a flush. Residents living in a home built in 1993 or earlier who replace an existing high-flow toilet with a new WaterSense® model may qualify for a rebate.

Washing machines have made great strides in conserving water as well, with new models using up to half the amount of water as older machines (pre-2000). When shopping for a washing machine, be sure to focus on the amount of water you can save in addition to the monetary savings on the purchase. A water-efficient machine will be cost effective for a long time, saving money on your water bill for as long as you have the machine.

Check out www.DWRConserve.com for more information on the tax-free weekend and other everyday water conservation tips.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

TAX COMMISSIONER

Property tax bills due October 15

The 2016 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August with a single due date of October 15. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. For more information about ways to pay and to pay online, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these historical titles to take you back in time. These and other titles can be found at your local branch or online at www.gwinnettpl.org.

The Tumbling Turner Sisters, by Juliette Fay

Land of the Afternoon Sun: A Novel, by Barbara Wood

The Bones of Paradise, by Jonis Agee

Three Sisters, Three Queens, by Philippa Gregory

Everyone Brave Is Forgiven, by Chris Cleave

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop!
**Homeowner H2O:
Water Conservation**

Thursday, October 13, 2016
7:00pm – 8:30pm
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 the water efficiency of your home. Attendees will receive a low-flow retrofit kit and information on how to apply for Gwinnett County's toilet rebate program.

Three ways to register: Visit the public education page at www.gwinnettH2O.com, send an email with your name, address, and phone number to dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com, or call 678.376.7126.