

gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

FEBRUARY 2017

Gwinnett Police and Fire Academy recruits graduate

New recruit classes recently joined the ranks of the County's Police and Fire and Emergency Services departments.

Fire Chief **Casey Snyder**, Fire and Emergency Services command staff, and family members presented badges and certificates to 19 graduates from the Fire and Emergency Services training program. The graduates participated in 16 months of classroom instruction, along with medical clinical rotations, practical lab scenarios, and basic fire-fighter training to become certified firefighters/paramedics. The graduates are: S. Baker, N. Beuschel, R. Black, P. Burks, J. Carter, I. Cassuto, G. Comer, R. Coneys, M. Costanzo, A. Creech, J. Fischer, D. Miner, A. Mujaddidi, R. Parr, S. Sack, D. Stiles, B. Stinnett, L. Underwood, and A. Wilkes.

Nineteen new officers graduated from the Police Department's 96th academy with nearly 1,000 hours of intensive law enforcement training. Family and friends of the new police officers, elected officials, and law enforcement personnel attended the ceremony held at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.

Police Chief **Butch Ayers** presented certificates and badges to the following graduates: B. R. Abraham, D.J. Call, J. P. Choi, A.L. Davis, J.L. Gairy, R. D. Gillespie, J. Grows, D.W. Helveston, W.J. Hilton, T. J. Ingle, T. J. Jacobson, R. D. Lindsey, H. A. Mesa, A. R. Peterson, M. T. Ricks, J.R. Sorensen, A.V. Truong, Z. J. Voigts, and R. D. Walsh.

If you have what it takes to serve on the police force, check out the police department's recruitment webpage at www.gwinnettpolicejobs.com.

Sign up for email newsletters from your smartphone!



AROUND GWINNETT

Buford Human Services Center closed for renovations

The Buford Human Services Center will undergo renovations through summer 2017. All services have been temporarily moved to different locations. For a list of locations, please visit the Buford Human Services Center webpage at www.gwinnettbhsc.com.

Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center offers computer courses

The Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center is offering computer classes for seniors ages 50 and older this spring. Seniors can register in person from 10:00am – 11:00am on **March 21** at Bethesda Park Senior Center or **March 22** at George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center. Seniors may also register online. For more information, please visit www.gsrlc.org or call 770.564.4699.



Tips for choosing a landscape professional

As spring approaches, many homeowners are considering hiring landscape contractors to improve their yards. The Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service offers tips to help you find the right landscape professional.

First, determine the type of work you want done and how much you're willing to pay for it. Next, look for companies that are well established, stable, and affiliated with professional organizations. Check to ensure the company is licensed and insured.

Get a list of references and contact their previous clients; you may even want to visit sites where the company has performed work. Once you select a company, be sure to get an agreement for the services in writing. If you plan to use the company to maintain your landscape, determine a maintenance schedule and the tasks that will be completed by the company.

Pay your water bill with your smartphone

Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com 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 nonrecurring, one-time only payments.

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

Park'nership Park Cleanup • FREE!

March 4 • 9:00am – 1:00pm
Graves Park
1540 Graves Road, Norcross
678.277.0900

Are and Be Adult Soul Line Dance Class

March 4 to April 1 • 11:30am – 12:30pm
Centerville Community Center
3025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville
678.680.3033

24/7 Dad® Fathering Seminar • FREE!

March 8 to 29 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Norcross Human Services Center
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross
877.814.0535

Coffee With a Cop

March 10 • 9:00am – 11:00am
Einstein Bros. Bagels
3410 Buford Drive, Suite G 400, Buford
678.442.5005

St. Paddy's Shamrock Social

March 17 • 11:30am – 1:00pm
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 678.376.6800.

Playground upgrades for Tribble Mill Park coming soon

Major SPLOST-funded upgrades are coming to the playgrounds at Gwinnett County's popular, 718-acre Tribble Mill Park near Lawrenceville. Commissioners awarded a \$997,899 construction contract in January to low bidder Professionally Engineered Structures & Associates LLC. The playground at Ozora Meadow will get new equipment, surfaces, drainage, fencing, retaining walls, a concrete plaza, a pre-fabricated pavilion, picnic tables, a bike rack, landscaping, and a pet drinking fountain.

The contract also includes similar improvements to the playground near the Oak and Maple Pavilions, including new climbing equipment, a bench swing, and a handicapped-accessible paved trail with two wooden footbridges connecting the playground to the pavilions and the restrooms.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Help protect your children from cyberbullying

Bullying is often seen as an unfortunate but natural part of adolescence. However, cyberbullying is a form of bullying that occurs online. Here are some tips to protect your children from cyberbullying provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

- Look for signs that your child is being cyberbullied. They may avoid using the internet, withdraw from family and friends, and in serious cases, consider suicide.
- If your child is being cyberbullied, teach them to not respond. Save the evidence and report it to the social media application or webpage. You may also consider meeting with school administrators or the bully's parent or guardian.
- If your child sees someone getting bullied, tell them to avoid forwarding or commenting on the message or photo. Instead, they should report it to the social media application or webpage, tell a teacher if it involves another student, and support the victim by being a good friend.

Learn more at www.gwinnettsafety411.com.



PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Fix A Leak Week: make every drop count!

One of the most common, yet often overlooked ways water is wasted results from leaks found in household fixtures. A leaky faucet that drips at a rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water per year, equal to taking more than 180 showers. An average household with leaky fixtures and appliances can leak more than 10,000 gallons of water over the course of a year.

Fix a Leak Week, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program and supported by local governments across the country, encourages residents to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year. This year's Fix a Leak Week is March 13 through 19.

Water Resources encourages residents to participate in Fix a Leak Week by checking their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. Here's how:

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.
- Check faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replace them if necessary.
- Tighten showerhead connections using pipe tape and a wrench, but be careful not to overtighten.
- Ensure irrigation systems are functioning properly and use a rain gauge to determine if your lawn needs watering.

You can learn more at the upcoming Fix a Leak workshop on **March 9 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm** at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Plumbers will be on-hand to provide guidance and tips on solving problems at home. To register for this free workshop, call 678.376.7126 or visit the *Public Education* page at www.gwinnettH2O.com.

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 property tax. To learn more about the exemptions and their requirements, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com, email tax@gwinnettcountry.com, or call 770.822.8800. Apply online or request an application in person, by email, or by phone. The deadline for all applications is **April 1**.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these selections to get your creative juices flowing in 2017. These and other titles can be found at your nearest Gwinnett County library branch or online at www.gwinnettpl.org with your library card.

Worthless, Impossible, and Stupid: How Contrarian Entrepreneurs Create and Capture Extraordinary Value, by Daniel J. Isenberg

The 20% Doctrine: How Tinkering, Goofing Off, and Breaking the Rules at Work Drive Success in Business, by Ryan Tate

Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Lawn Care with Integrated Pest Management Workshop

March 7, 2017
7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
Conference Room A
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn how proper lawn care techniques can help protect water quality in Gwinnett County. 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.

Register online by visiting the Water Resources Public Education Page at www.gwinnettH2O.com. You can also register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com or call 678.376.7126.