

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

## JANUARY 2017



### Apply for the next Gwinnett 101 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 that seeks to develop and nurture informed and engaged residents, students, and business owners in Gwinnett. Class members will get a firsthand glimpse of how the County works and have an opportunity to 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 Tuesday, April 11 and ending with a graduation and recognition by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 27.

Residents who are interested in participating in the program 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 3, 2017**. For more information about Gwinnett 101, visit [www.gwinnett101.com](http://www.gwinnett101.com).

County offices closed for MLK and Presidents Day holidays.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### January is National Radon Action Month

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Radon is an odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the normal decay of uranium found in most rocks and soil. It can move through the ground and enter your home through small, hairline openings in the foundation.

While radon is present around the world, exposure varies widely. Georgia is number one in the southeast for radon-induced cancer and Gwinnett County has been designated by the EPA as having the highest potential for radon exposure. It could be present at dangerous levels in your home, but the only way to know if your home contains radon is to conduct a radon detection test.

Test your home and protect your health during National Radon Action Month. Visit the Gwinnett County Extension Office at 750 South Perry Street, Suite 400 in Lawrenceville to purchase a radon test kit for \$10. For more information, contact Ines Beltran, radon specialist, at 678.377.4010 or [Ines.Beltran@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Ines.Beltran@gwinnettcounty.com).



### Extension hosts annual plant sale

The Gwinnett Extension is offering varieties of blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, figs, apples, pomegranate, goji berry, native azaleas, and other landscape plants as part of its annual sale. Pecan trees and Titan blueberries, which produce blueberries the size of quarters, have also been added to the list of pre-order options. Orders will be taken **January 3** through **March 7, 2017**.

Visit [www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett](http://www.ugaextension.org/gwinnett) or call 678.377.4010 to request an order form. All orders must be prepaid by cash or check and prepaid orders must be picked up on **March 16** from 9:00am to 6:00pm at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2406 Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville. Additional plants will also be available for purchase on pickup day.

### County offices closed for MLK and Presidents Day holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed January 16 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Offices will reopen January 17. Offices also will be closed on February 20 for the Presidents Day holiday and reopen February 21. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays.

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.exploreGwinnett.com](http://www.exploreGwinnett.com).

#### Alan Jackson 2017 Tour

Saturday, January 28 • 7:30pm  
Infinite Energy Arena  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

#### Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus

February 23 with shows through March 5  
Infinite Energy Arena  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

#### The Bridges of Madison County

March 9 with performances through April 16  
Tuesday – Saturday • 8:00pm  
Saturday and Sunday • 2:30pm  
Aurora Theatre  
128 East Pike Street, Lawrenceville

#### Eddie Owen Presents: Forever Abbey Road

Saturday, March 25 • 8:00pm  
Red Clay Music Foundry  
3116 Main Street, Duluth

### 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.



## Buford Human Services Center will be renovated, expanded

A Gwinnett County facility in Buford that has served as a base for the provision of various health and human services since 1997 will undergo an extensive renovation and expansion. Commissioners approved a \$1.76 million construction contract in December with Beatty Construction Inc. The architect is Lord Aeck Sargent.

Renovations to the center include replacing the HVAC system, ceilings, lighting, and roof; improvements to site drainage and pedestrian circulation; and interior reconfiguration to create additional community meeting areas. The 2014 SPLOST program will fund renovations to the Buford Senior Center, which include an expanded dining room, upgraded serving area, a new drop-off area and covered patio, and interior finishes and furnishings.

The total contract is funded 62 percent from the Capital Project Fund with the remainder coming from SPLOST.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Winter weather safety

With the temperatures getting colder and the potential for icy conditions, Gwinnett Emergency Management and Fire and Emergency Services encourage each household to prepare an emergency kit with the following items:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio and a portable AM/FM radio
- Non-perishable foods and water
- First-aid supplies
- Blankets, sleeping bags, and extra clothing
- A fully-charged cell phone and a spare charger

Remember to have all home heating appliances serviced annually by a qualified technician. Install and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Develop a home escape plan and conduct fire drills with the entire family.

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



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Detain the rain – stormwater ponds

Detention ponds come in all shapes and sizes. Some are old; some are new. Some hold water all the time; some drain within a few days after a rain event. Big or small, wet or dry, all detention ponds need some attention throughout the year. One of the best things you can do to make sure the pond on or near your property is functioning properly is to inspect it. If you see a problem you can react quickly before it turns into a bigger concern. Frequent inspections can save the pond owners time and money by catching problems early.

Detention pond inspections should occur after every large rain event. If there hasn't been a large rain event, inspect the pond every four to six months. Walk through the area to check the pipes where water enters the pond, then check the structure where water leaves the pond. Look for blockages or holes around these structures. While performing this sort of inspection, maintain your access paths through the pond and pickup any trash you see. Note any kind of disturbance, such as erosion, sinkholes, or overgrown trees, and determine if you can make an easy fix or if you need to contact a professional.

For more information about detention ponds, register to attend the upcoming free Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop. There you can learn about their purpose, how they function, and how you can maintain your own detention pond.

The workshop will take place **February 9** at the Collins Hill Library and from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. There are three easy ways to register: online, by email, or by phone. Check out the workshop ad for more information.

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Emissions testing update

For 2017, all gasoline-powered and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1993 – 2014 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations and more information, visit [www.cleanairforce.com](http://www.cleanairforce.com).

Once your vehicle has been tested, please renew online at [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings just in time for the winter season. You can find them at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*In The Name of Honor: A Novel*, by Richard Patterson

*A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines

*Let's Just Say it Wasn't Pretty*, by Diane Keaton

*Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

## Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Detention Pond Maintenance

February 9, 2017 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Collins Hill Library  
455 Camp Perrin Road, Lawrenceville

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: Robert Brannen, Gwinnett Extension Service, and John Butler, Department of Water Resources

Three ways to register: Visit the public education page at [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com), send an email with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com), or call 678.376.7126.