

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcounty homeowners

February 17, 2012

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Dear Homeowner:

As a resident of Gwinnett County, you know there is always a lot going on in the community. [Gwinnett County Government](#) would appreciate your help keeping your neighbors informed by sharing the following information through your homeowner association newsletter, website, and e-mails and by talking to your friends and family. Click on *forward this e-mail to a friend* below to share this newsletter!

Multiple options to cast your vote for the March 6 election

The Presidential Preference Primary and Nonpartisan Election will take place on Tuesday, March 6. In addition to the Presidential Preference Primary, the Sunday alcohol sales question will be on the ballot, and residents of the new City of Peachtree Corners will select the members of their city council. A separate runoff election will also take place on March 6 for the Georgia House of Representatives District 107. The runoff election will only take place in certain voting precincts in Gwinnett County. For more information, visit the [Elections webpage](#).



Advance voting for the elections will take place now through Friday, March 2 at the Elections Office located at 455 Grayson Highway in Lawrenceville, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Voting will also take place on Saturday, February 25 at the Elections office and at satellite locations from February 27 to March 2. Please visit www.gwinnettelelections.com for locations.

Voters can request an absentee ballot for the election through March 2. A completed application must first be received before an absentee ballot is issued. Call the Voter Registration and Elections Division at 678.278.7210 to request an application or [complete the form online](#).

The elections results will be available on the County website and TVgwinnett on election night.

County offices closed for Presidents' Day holiday

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the citizens of the County, will be closed Monday, February 20 for the Presidents' Day holiday. County offices will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, February 21.

A Magistrate Court judge is available 24 hours a day at the Gwinnett County Detention Center, including holidays.

Presidents' Day is not a trash and recycling holiday. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recycling Call Center will be closed February 20, but hauler call centers will be open. Residents can [search for their solid waste hauler](#) to get their hauler's contact information.

2012 State of the County address

Board Chairman Charlotte Nash delivered her State of the County address ([read the text](#)) on Wednesday, February 15 at the Gwinnett

Center during the annual State of the County luncheon hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Quality Growth.

"I'm not pretending we have no challenges. However, we already have the key to continued prosperity in our hands, building on the firm foundation this community has created to this point," she said.



The State of the County address is now available for viewing on

www.tvgwinnett.com and will frequently air on TVgwinnett beginning at 8:00pm, which is accessible on the government access cable channels of Charter, Comcast, and AT&T- U-verse.

New trail, other amenities open at Rhodes Jordan Park

Visitors to Rhodes Jordan Park can now see the improvements from a major renovation project. The park now offers better lake access and enhanced recreational opportunities.

One new feature is a 1.1-mile paved multi-purpose trail and boardwalk around the perimeter of the existing 23-acre lake that connects to the existing trail and sidewalks. Other new amenities include three picnic pavilions, outdoor basketball and horseshoe courts, a restroom building, and parking area.



The project also rerouted the main park drive and added lake irrigation for the sports fields.

The approximately \$7.37 million park renovation project began in 2010 and was funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The last phase of this renovation includes a new soccer complex scheduled to open in spring 2012.

Gwinnett County and the City of Lawrenceville entered into a long-term lease contract for Rhodes Jordan Park in 1991. Since then, the park land has expanded to 162 acres and also includes youth baseball, softball and football fields, a community center, outdoor aquatic center, tennis complex, and senior center. Rhodes Jordan Park is located at 100 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.

Court approves SDS consent order

Chief Superior Court Judge David Barrett of the Enotah Judicial Circuit has signed a consent order approving the settlement reached by Gwinnett County and Gwinnett cities on February 7, 2012. These actions mark the end of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) litigation between Gwinnett County and Gwinnett's cities.

Under the settlement terms, Gwinnett County will provide services, such as police and fire, only to cities that elected to participate in the special service district for each service. Read more at www.gwinnettcounty.com.

County calls on residents, businesses to volunteer

Gwinnett Commission Chairman Charlotte Nash announced the official launch of the countywide volunteer program, *Volunteer Gwinnett*, during the annual State of the County address on February 15 and called on residents, businesses, and organizations to get involved.

The *Volunteer Gwinnett* program offers an easy way for



interested residents and businesses to read about countywide volunteer opportunities, sign up online, track service hours, and submit project requests. The program also includes a standardized training and registration process along with events to recognize volunteers for their service. In addition, each County department, agency, and office has designated staff to manage their volunteer opportunities and volunteers, and *Volunteer Gwinnett*

volunteers will have the unique opportunity to learn firsthand how local government impacts the community. For more information and access to Gwinnett's volunteer network, visit www.volunteergwinnett.net.

GIS conducts annual system update

Gwinnett County is currently acquiring aerial photography and survey ground control to update its Geographical Information System (GIS). Surveyors will place temporary 10-inch to 12-inch black and white plastic targets in the shape of a "V," "X," or "T" within the public right-of-way and other public access lands in the county. All targets will be removed after completion of the aerial flight and quality control of the images by mid-April.

Please be careful to not disturb these targets. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Barry Puckett, ITS Deputy Director, at 770.822.8031 or barry.puckett@gwinnettcountry.com or Sharon Stevenson, GIS Manager, at 770.822.8033, sharon.stevenson@gwinnettcountry.com.

Manage your PeachPass on the go

Carpoolers who use the I-85 HOT lanes can now manage their PeachPass account using a new mobile app from the State Road and Tollway Authority. It's free, and it works with iPhones, iPads, and Android phones. Get more information at www.peachpass.com.

Black History Month exhibit

In celebration of Black History Month, the Gwinnett United Ebony Society is displaying a *Black Women in American Culture and History* exhibit. The exhibit has a focus on African American Women of Valor in Gwinnett County and will be on display during the month of February at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville. Come check out the exhibit Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm.

9 timely tips for winter

During the winter months, lawn care is not always on your mind, but here are some timely tips from the [Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service](#) to help you prepare for spring growth:

- Keep pesticides sheltered from cold weather to preserve their effectiveness. If any product is stored below the manufacturer's suggested minimum storage temperature, it may lose its potency
- Have your soil tested for pH and essential nutrients by the [Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service](#) office before spring planting. Apply lime and fertilizer according to recommendations
- Tip-burn or edge-burn on leaves of houseplants is a sign of water stress. The heating systems in our homes can dry them out. Check soil periodically for dryness and apply water as needed
- Prune hybrid tea roses in February by removing old canes and reducing the plant height to 12 to 15 inches
- Prune fruit trees and grapes in late February or early March
- Continue to plant shrubs and trees. Even though the air temperatures are cold, the soil is still warm enough to encourage root growth

- Use a broadleaf herbicide to spot spray or dig out winter weeds in your lawn such as chickweed, henbit, violets, and wild garlic

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