

News for Neighborhoods

A newsletter for gwinnettcountry homeowners

March 18, 2011

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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 information below 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!

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services celebrates 40 years

The [Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#) is celebrating its 40th anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, the department is hosting an open house at every Gwinnett County fire station on **Sunday, March 20** between **2:00pm and 4:00pm**.

Activities will include tours of the station and equipment, safety tips, and educational materials. Be sure to celebrate with your local firefighters this weekend!



Gwinnett County elects new Chairman

The results from the March 15 special election are in: Gwinnett voters elected Charlotte J. Nash as the new Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Click [here](#) to view the complete results of the special election.

County fills \$18 Million Gap in 2011

Gwinnett County's adopted [2011 budget](#) included an \$18 million deficit. While that gap represented less than one percent of the total budget, using fund balance to fill the deficit would have been unsustainable. Instead, commissioners and staff worked hard to find revenue enhancements, efficiency improvements, and service reductions where necessary, eliminating the last of the 2011 deficit on March 15, 2011.

The items approved by commissioners during their March 15 meeting will raise the County's 2011 revenue estimate by an additional \$1.66 million and establish a new Budget Stabilization Reserve within the general fund that will allow the County to draw up to \$3 million from this fund to pay for operations.

It is our goal to share the results of these efforts with the public. Click [here](#) to learn how we filled the gap.

Participate in the Great American Cleanup: Gwinnett Challenge!

The Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest annual community improvement program. Gwinnett County and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful challenge you to make a difference in your community between March 15 and May 15. Your hard work could help you win cash prizes! For more information, visit www.gwinnettcb.org.

Fix-a-Leak Week

National **Fix-a-Leak Week** is March 14 through 20. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it is a friendly reminder to homeowners to check for common leaks in toilets, faucets, and underground irrigation systems in the interest of conserving water.

"A slow leak in a toilet can waste 10,000 gallons a year - enough to fill a backyard swimming pool," said Lynn Smarr, Acting Director of Gwinnett County Water Resources. Underground leaks in the water line to the house or a sprinkler system can waste lots of water without the owner's knowledge.

Consider the following tips:

- Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the coloring shows up in the bowl within 10 minutes, the toilet has a flapper-valve leak
- If your family of four is using more than 10,000 - 12,000 gallons a month, you should definitely check for leaks
- All Gwinnett water meters have a small black triangle that spins when even a tiny amount of water is going through the meter, and a spinning triangle when no water is being used means there's a leak somewhere on the homeowner's side of the meter

These simple checks can save some property owners a lot of money on their water bills while helping to conserve one of Georgia's precious resources. Keep in mind that the County also offers a rebate program to encourage replacing pre-1993 toilets that use 3.5 gallons/flush with new WaterSense models that use only 1.28 gallons. If you're looking to dispose of your old porcelain toilet, read the toilet recycling article below.

Homeowners associations, schools, or community groups interested in helping save water can contact Conservation Coordinator Heather Moody by e-mail at dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com or by calling 678.376.6722. More information is also available online at www.gwinnetth2o.com.

Recycle your old toilets for free!

Gwinnett County residents have a **free** option for recycling old toilets. As part of its Toilet Rebate Program, the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is offering toilet recycling to homeowners and renters. Bring your old and broken porcelain toilets to the **Department of Water Resources Central Facility** located at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville for recycling. You must remove the toilet seat and any plastic parts, including handles.

The facility will accept toilets for recycling at any time. Access is only available from the Hosea Road entrance after business hours and on weekends.

For more information on the Toilet Rebate Program, please visit www.gwinnetth2o.com or call the Department of Water Resources customer service line at 678.376.6800.



Become partnership parents for foster children

There are about 9,000 children in foster care in Georgia and about 400 from Gwinnett County. The Gwinnett County office of the **Georgia Division of Family and Children Services** (DFCS) urges Gwinnett families to make a difference in children's lives by becoming partnership (formerly known as foster) parents. Get involved in partnership parenting by attending an upcoming orientation sponsored by the Gwinnett County DFCS.

Orientations are held the second Monday of each month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Clayton Commerce Center, 33 South Clayton Street in Lawrenceville. For more information, call 877.210.5437 or visit www.gapartnershipparents.org.

Recorder's Court offers amnesty in March

Just a reminder: If you have an unpaid traffic ticket from as far back as 1983, Gwinnett County Recorder's Court is giving you until **March 31, 2011**, to settle your case with no additional penalty.

The amnesty period offers several benefits for paying your fines:

- \$25 bench warrant fee waived
- Bench warrant recalled
- Forms provided for reinstating driver's license

If you have an outstanding ticket and don't take advantage of the amnesty program, the bench warrant will remain active and you'll be subject to arrest. For additional information on the Recorder's Court amnesty program, including how to pay your fine, visit www.gwinnettcourts.com.

Rabies alert

Please be aware that a bat found on Rocky Cove Trail in Lawrenceville tested positive for rabies. If you know of anyone handling the bat or if you or your child has been bit or scratched by a stray animal, please call the Gwinnett County Animal Welfare Enforcement Bite Office at 770.339.3200 extension 5576.

Also, please be aware that a feline found on Scales Road in Suwanee tested positive for rabies. If anyone sees any strange animals from the woods in the nearby area, please call 911 to dispatch an Animal Control officer and keep your pets inside. Contact Bite Officer L. Merck at 770.339.3200 extension 5576 for more information. Please be sure to get your pets vaccinated for rabies.

gwinnettcounty
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