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March 15, 2013

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#### Dear Emily,

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 emails and by talking to your friends and family.

 Forward to a Friend

#### Meet Ruthie

Ruthie is a domestic long hair calico cat. She is approximately 3 years old. Ruthie is an extremely sweet and loving cat that desperately wants an owner and a place to call home. She was brought to the shelter on February 27 after she had been found roaming in a subdivision in Lawrenceville.

Ruthie has already been spayed, combo tested, and microchipped and has received her first round of vaccinations. She is part of the new Homeless Pet Clubs program and can go to a loving home for only \$30 (adoption fee).

If you are looking for a companionable addition to your household like Ruthie, visit the [Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center](#) at 884 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville or call 770.339.3200.



#### Reduce your tax bill: Apply for homestead exemptions



The best way to reduce your property tax bill is to apply for a homestead exemption. The application deadline is **April 1**. For all exemptions, you must own and occupy the property as your primary residence as of January 1 of the tax year in which application is being made. **Applications for 2013 exemptions will not be accepted after April 1.**

You may apply online at our website or contact the Property Tax Department for an application. If you mail the completed application, we recommend using

certified mail; the signed certified signature card, along with a postmark on or before the deadline, will serve as proof of timely application. Once granted, the homestead exemption is automatically renewed each year.

To find out more about the 14 exemptions available and eligibility requirements, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or contact the Tax Commissioner's Office at [tax@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:tax@gwinnettcountry.com) or 770.822.8800.

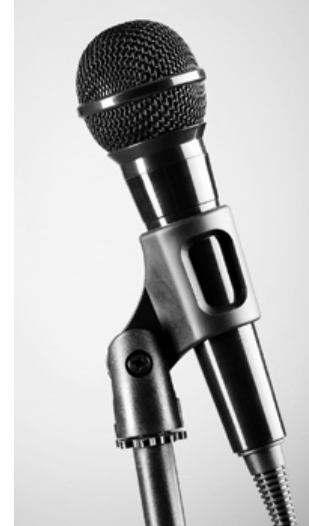
### Commission hosts Town Hall Meetings

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners wants to hear from you! Join them for the first in a series of Town Hall Meetings on **Tuesday, April 2**. The evening begins with an open house at 6:15pm and questions and comments will be heard at 7:00pm.

The open house and meeting will take place at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse located at 185 Crogan Street in Lawrenceville.

Representatives from County departments will be at the open house to answer your questions and talk about the different services they provide. Beginning at 7:00pm, the commissioners invite you to share your thoughts and ideas about County government services.

Additional meetings will be held in the near future, so please be on the lookout for information on locations, dates, and times.



### SR 316 construction calls for overnight lane closures



The Georgia Department of Transportation is moving dirt and excavating State Route 316 at its intersection with State Route 20 to lower the grade of SR 316 by 20 feet. The dirt will be recycled and used to build new roads and ramps that are planned for the interchange construction project.

Overnight lane closures began Sunday, March 10 and continue nightly as weather permits. The left lane of SR 316 westbound will close from 9:00pm to 6:00am for several weeks. Georgia Department of Transportation is advising drivers to exercise caution, slow down, and pay special attention the directional signs and barrels.

Once the intersection construction is complete, drivers will be able to access SR 316 from Collins Hill Road and SR 20 on ramps instead of through the existing traffic signal intersections. The project is expected to be complete on December 31, 2014. More information on the project can be found on the [Georgia Department of Transportation's website](http://www.gadot.com).

### Second diverging diamond to get underway soon

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners in February approved a contract to build Gwinnett's second diverging diamond interchange. Construction will begin this spring on the bridge at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and I-85 and is expected to be complete within a year. Gwinnett's first project of this type is currently under construction a few exits away at Pleasant Hill Road.



The design uses the existing bridge more efficiently by switching traffic to the left to allow smooth

left turns onto the interstate. Pedestrians will use a new walkway in the median. The work involves widening approximately a half-mile of roadway and adding new retaining walls, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and traffic signals. In addition, the timing of other signals approaching the intersection will be adjusted to ensure smooth traffic flow. Find out more about how to drive the diamond at [www.gwinnettDDI.com](http://www.gwinnettDDI.com).

### Spring Vegetable Gardening Class | April 4



Learn the many vegetables that can be grown in our area and how to care for them and produce a bountiful harvest at the Spring Vegetable Gardening Class on **April 4** from **noon to 1:00pm**.

The class will be held in the Cooperative Extension Conference Room, located on the fourth floor of the Gwinnett County Government Annex Building at 750 South Perry Street, Suite 400, in Lawrenceville.

There is no charge, but registration is required by April 2. To register, contact Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010 or [timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:timothy.daly@gwinnettcountry.com).

### County celebrates Fix a Leak Week

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is partnering with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to participate in this year's Fix a Leak Week, a nationwide water conservation effort sponsored by the EPA's WaterSense® program. During the week of March 18, the County will encourage residents to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year from easy to fix leaks.

"A leaky faucet may seem like a little drip, but those drops of water can add up to thousands of gallons of wasted water and more money spent on residents' water bills," said Heather Moody, Gwinnett County's water conservation coordinator. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American home leaks more than 10,000 gallons of water per year, equivalent to the water needed to wash 280 loads of laundry or take more than 600 showers.

#### What can you do?

Water Resources is asking all residents to save water by checking, twisting, and replacing:

- **Check** for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank and waiting 15 minutes to see if color appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to also check irrigation systems and spigots.
- **Twist** on a new aerator. To save water without seeing a noticeable difference in flow in the bathroom, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator. Also, tighten hose and pipe connections.
- **Replace** the fixture if necessary. Look for WaterSense-labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.



Gwinnett County is also hosting two Fix a Leak workshops on **March 19** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at

the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville, and **March 23** from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at Centerville Community Center, 3025 Bethany Church Road in Snellville. The workshops are free to the public, but registration is required by calling 678.376.6722 or emailing [dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcounty.com).

Residents can also participate in the **Water Drop Dash 5K Race and Family Water Festival** on **March 16** at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell. The event begins with a children's fun run, followed by a festival full of prizes, kids' activities, and utility mascots. Race participants will get free admission to the Chattahoochee Nature Center during the festival. For more information, visit [www.waterdropdash.com](http://www.waterdropdash.com).

### Greater Gwinnett Championship PGA Golf Tournament

The Gwinnett Sports Commission invites you to attend the Greater Gwinnett Championship PGA Golf Tournament, April 15 to 21 at TPC Sugarloaf. Purchase your tickets or sign up as a volunteer for this event at [www.greatergwinnettchampionship.com](http://www.greatergwinnettchampionship.com).

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